MACMILLAN STUDENT'S DICTIONARY

Second Edition

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Introduction

This dictionary is written for students with a basic knowledge of the English language but who have not yet reached an advanced level of ability. It has been prepared with two particular groups of users in mind: students for whom English is a Second Language, that is those who are taught school subjects such as geography, mathematics, physics, and literature in English; and students studying for examinations at intermediate level. The choice of entries and meanings given reflects the needs of both such groups: for example, greater attention has been paid to 'study language'—words and phrases common to many subjects—than is usual in dictionaries of a similar size.

In this second edition, the text has been completely revised and updated. About 2000 general, scientific, and technical words have been added, about 1000 new examples have been included, and 120 illustrations have been revised or added.

Students sometimes use a learner's dictionary that is too advanced for their real needs. It is hoped that this medium-sized dictionary will indeed be a useful reference book and will be found to develop the knowledge and abilities of the intermediate learner of English.

Martin H. Manser

Why a dictionary is helpful

This dictionary gives help in three areas of language skills: how to speak English, how to write it, and how to read it.

Speaking English

To be able to speak English well, you must pronounce the words accurately. English spelling is unreliable as the same written letter may represent different sounds. For example, the letter *a* stands for different sounds in the words *cat, came, mare,* and *ago*. For this reason we use a phonetic spelling in this dictionary. This is a way of writing the pronunciation where one symbol always represents one sound. To check how to pronounce the word, look it up in the dictionary, and you will find its phonetic spelling. A list of the symbols used is given on page vii.

Writing English

If you want to write good English, you must be able to spell words correctly. A dictionary will help you to check the right spelling of a word. To find out how a word is spelt, look up the ways you think it might be spelt and you will find the one that is right. In writing it is often not enough to know how to spell a word; you also want to know how to use it. The grammatical information, notes on the kinds of situation in which a word is suitable, and examples given, will guide you in this.

Reading English

When you meet a word whose meaning you do not understand, think and try to work out what the word means from the rest of the sentence. Then, if you still can't understand it, look it up in the dictionary. Remember that many of the dictionary entries have more than one definition, so it is important to look at all the meanings of the word to find the one that fits your particular sentence.

The dictionary will be found helpful in these three ways. But to get the best use from your dictionary, you should read the next few pages to discover how it works.

How to use this dictionary

1 Headwords

The information in the dictionary is arranged in entries and the first word in the entry is called the *headword*. This word is printed in thick type. The headwords are all listed in alphabetical order from A to Z.

collect (kə'lekt) **1** *vti* gather together: *I collected everyone's books; Water collected in the bucket.* *vt* **2** obtain and put with others for interest: *I collect stamps.* **3** fetch; call for: *I'll collect you tomorrow.* **4** regain control of (yourself). **collection** **1** *ncu* (an example of) collecting. *nc* **2** a body of collected things or material. **3** a collected sum of money. **collective** *adj* **1** formed by or forming a collection. **2** to do with a group of people acting together: *collective bargaining.* ● *nc* something, such as a farm, that is run collectively. **collectively** *adv* **collector** *nc*
college ('kɒlɪdʒ) *nc* **1** (a part of) a university. **2** a place of education, esp. of a particular kind, for students who have left school: *an art college.*
collide (kə'laɪd) *vi* strike violently together.

If you want to look up the word *college,* you look among the words beginning with C. But there are many such words, so you look at the next letter: *co.* Words beginning *co-* come after words beginning *cl-* and before those beginning *cu-*. But there are still many such words, so you look at the third and fourth letters, and so on, until you find the word *college.*

Not every word that you want to look up will be a headword. Some will be derived words—see section 7 below.

The words printed at the top of each page help you to find a word quickly. At the top of a left-hand page the first new headword on that page is printed; at the top of a right-hand page, the last headword on that page.

Some headwords have small raised numbers by their sides.

case[1] (keɪs) *nc* 1 an example of something. 2 a situation; state of affairs: *If that is the case, I'll go.* 3 an example of or a person with a disease: *a bad case of smallpox.* 4 an example of a crime to be solved: *Sherlock Holmes' most famous case.* 5 *law* a court action: *a murder case.* 6 a set of reasons for a court action: *He hasn't a good case.* 7 *grammar* a class of nouns in some languages: *the possessive case.* **in any case** whatever may happen; anyway: *Is it raining?—I'll go in any case.* **in case** so as to be safe (if): *He took his umbrella in case (it rained).* **in case of** *fml* in the event of; should happen: *In case of fire, shout 'Fire!'*
case[2] *nc* 1 a container or covering. 2 short for **briefcase** or **suitcase**.

This means that they are spelt the same, but have different histories, and are best thought of as different words.

Other information about the headword is given where needed:

calf[1] (kɑːf) *nc, pl* **calves** 1 (of cattle) a young cow or bull. 2 a young seal, elephant, etc.

irregular plurals

calm (kɑːm) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 peaceful; not worried. 2 (of the sea) flat; without

comparative and superlative forms of an adjective

caster (also **castor**) (ˈkɑːstə*) *nc* a small wheel fixed to furniture for moving it

other English spellings

colour *US* **color** (ˈkʌlə*) *nc* 1 a quality of the light produced or reflected by something,

American spellings

Notes

1 Irregular forms of verbs are included as headwords, for example there are entries for *brought* and *written*. A full list of irregular verbs is on page xix.
2 There are a number of differences in spelling between American and British English, and many of these are noted at the entries. The main differences are:

American	British
ONE OR TWO CONSONANTS	
canceling	cancelling
focusing	focussing or focusing
traveler	traveller
OR → OUR	
color	colour
favor	favour
ER → RE	
center	centre
theater	theatre
S → C	
defense	defence
-IZE → -ISE	
realize	realise
(The *-ize* spelling is also becoming more common in British English)	

2 Pronunciations

Each of the headwords has its pronunciation shown in the phonetic spelling of the International Phonetic Association. The form of speech shown is the kind of British English spoken by educated native speakers in England. The symbols used for the phonetic transcriptions are from *Everyman's English Pronouncing Dictionary* by Daniel Jones, revised by A.C. Gimson (14th edition, Dent). Here is a list of symbols used in this dictionary (a comparison is made with the symbols in the Macmillan *New Basic Dictionary* where slightly different symbols are used for some sounds):

List of phonetic symbols

Consonants

p	*p*ad	f	*f*ish	h	*h*ot
b	*b*ig	v	*v*ase	m	*m*an
t	*t*oo	θ	*th*in	n	*n*o
d	*d*og	ð	*th*en	ŋ	lo*ng*
k	*k*eep	s	*s*it	l	*l*eg
g	*g*o	z	*z*ero	r	*r*ed
tʃ	*ch*in	ʃ	*sh*ip	j	*y*es
dʒ	*j*am	ʒ	measure	w	*w*in

Vowels

iː	*see*		ɜː	b*ir*d	NBD əː
ɪ	*it*	NBD i	ə	driv*er*, Chin*a*	
e	*get*		eɪ	d*ay*	NBD ei
æ	*cat*		əʊ	go	NBD əu
ɑː	*father*		aɪ	fl*y*	NBD ai
ɒ	hot	NBD ɔ	aʊ	ho*w*	NBD au
ɔː	*saw*		ɔɪ	bo*y*	NBD ɔi
ʊ	p*u*t	NBD u	ɪə	h*ere*	NBD iə
uː	*too*		eə	th*ere*	NBD εə
ʌ	*u*p		ʊə	poor	NBD uə

Stress

Where a word has more than one syllable, one syllable is given more emphasis or *stress* than the other. The mark ˈ is placed before the syllable that has the main stress, for example *camera* (ˈkæmərə). In other (especially longer) words, other syllables may also be given more emphasis than the rest, but with a stress that is not as strong as that marked ˈ. The mark ˌ is used to show this, for example *chronological* (ˌkrɒnəˈlɒdʒɪkəl).

Notes

1 ə is included before an *l* or *n* sound in some words. An alternative pronunciation is to omit it, the *l* or *n* becoming a syllable, for example in *bottle, button.*

2 * is used to show an *r* sound at the end of a word. This is heard in British speech when there is a suffix or a word beginning with a vowel immediately following, for example in *law-abiding* (ˈlɔː*əˌbaɪdɪŋ). Otherwise it is not pronounced.

3 Two pronunciations are given where either is acceptable.

controversy (ˈkɒntrəˌvɜːsɪ, kənˈtrɒvɜːsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** an argument, usually on public

4 When words with raised numbers by their sides are pronounced the same, the pronunciation is shown only by the first word.

case[1] (keɪs) *nc* 1 an example of something. 2 a situation; state of affairs: *If that is the case, I'll go.* 3 an example of or a person with a disease: *a bad case of smallpox.* 4 an example of a crime to be solved: *Sherlock Holmes' most famous case.* 5 *law* a court action: *a murder case.* 6 a set of reasons for a court action: *He hasn't a good case.* 7 *grammar* a class of nouns in some languages: *the possessive case.* **in any case** whatever may happen; anyway: *Is it raining?—I'll go in any case.* **in case** so as to be safe (if): *He took his umbrella in case (it rained).* **in case of** *fml* in the event of; should . . . happen: *In case of fire, shout 'Fire!'*
case[2] *nc* 1 a container or covering. 2 short for **briefcase** or **suitcase**.

5 The same word may consist of two parts of speech. Different parts of speech may have different pronunciations. This is clearly shown.

contrast ('kɒntrɑːst) 1 *nu* putting together different objects to show their differences. 2 *nc* a difference between such objects. ● (kən'trɑːst) *vti* 1 compare so that differences are clear. 2 show differences.

3 Parts of speech

Each of the headwords is given a part-of-speech marker, that is a word to show it is a noun, verb, adjective, etc. The following markers are used:

adj	adjective	*big*	
adv	adverb	*fast*	
conj	conjunction	*and*	
determiner		*my*	(See note 1)
interj	interjection	*ha!*	
n	noun	*February*	
nc	countable noun	*book*	(See note 2)
ncu	countable and uncountable noun	*charm*	(See note 4)
n pl	plural noun	*cattle*	(See note 5)
nu	uncountable noun	*milk*	(See note 3)
prep	preposition	*into*	
pron	pronoun	*it*	
v	verb	*shall*	
vi	intransitive verb	*come*	(See note 6)
vt	transitive verb	*kick*	(See note 7)
vti	transitive and intransitive verb	*check*	(See note 8)

Notes

1 The marker *determiner* is used for words such as *my, that, this.* A determiner limits the meaning of a noun and comes before any adjective describing that noun.

2 *nc* A countable noun is one that can be used with *a* or *an,* can be counted as separate units, and may be used in the plural with *many.* An example is *book: a book, four books, many books.*

3 *nu* An uncountable noun is one that takes a singular verb and is usually not used with *a* or *an, one* or other numbers, and does not have a plural. It can be used in the singular with words like *more, much, some.* An example is *milk: more milk, much milk, some milk.*

4 *ncu* Some nouns are both countable and uncountable, such as *charm.*

> **charm** (tʃɑːm) 1 *ncu* an attractive or pleasing quality: *a country cottage with great charm.*

You can say: *The house has a certain charm* and *a country house with great charm.*

5 *n pl* Some nouns are only used in the plural, such as *cattle.*

> **cattle** (ˈkætəl) *n pl* bulls and cows kept by farmers for meat and milk.

6 *vi* An intransitive verb is one that does not take a direct object, such as *come* in: *John came when I called him.*

7 *vt* A transitive verb is one that takes a direct object, such as *kick* in *John kicked the ball.*

8 *vti* Some verbs are both transitive and intransitive, such as *check.*

> **check** (tʃek) *vti* 1 make sure that (something) is correct, safe, etc.: *Have you checked your petrol?*

You can say: *'Have you checked your work?'* and *'Do you have enough sugar?'—'I'll just check.'*

The part-of-speech markers are placed at the beginning of a definition. Where the marker refers to more than one numbered definition, it comes before all the relevant ones.

> **chance** (tʃɑɪns) 1 *nu* the accidental nature of events: *It was only chance that brought me here.* *nc* 2 the degree to which something is probable; likelihood: *There's not much chance of it raining.* 3 an opportunity: *Go while you have the chance.* 4 a lucky event.

The word *chance* is an uncountable noun in definition **1**, and a countable noun in definitions **2**, **3**, and **4**.
Where the entry for a word has more than one part of speech, the symbol ● is used to separate the parts of the entry.

> **copy** ('kɒpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pies** 1 something made to be or look like something else: *Please make a copy of this letter.* 2 (of a book, etc.) one example: *They published thousands of copies of the newspaper.* ● *vt* 1 make a copy of; reproduce. 2 do the same as (someone else).

4 Definitions

The definitions are explanations of the meaning of a word. They have been written in simplified language, and you should be able to understand them fully. If you sometimes find a word you do not understand in the definition, look up that word itself in the dictionary; you should find it listed.
Numbers are used to separate different meanings of a word.

> **chain** (tʃeɪn) *nc* 1 a line of rings, esp. of metal, one passing through the next. 2 a series: *a chain of events.*

Because a lot of information has been put into the small space of the dictionary, some special styles of writing have been used.

1 A definition may contain the phrase (of. . .). This gives information about the words that the headword goes with:

> **clash** (klæʃ) 1 *vti* strike together. *vi* 2 not go or fit together. 3 fight or play against each other. 4 (of colours) look ugly together. 5 (of events) happen at the same time.

These show that definition **4** describes *colours* clashing and **5** *events* clashing.

2 A definition may contain words in round brackets ( ). These are used for two purposes:
—to show words that need not be chosen for the definition:

> **chair** (tʃeə*) *nc* 1 a seat with a back for one person. 2 the position of a professor at a university: *the chair of English.* 3 (the position of) the person in charge of a meeting: *Mr Jones took the chair.*

This means that definition 3 can be either 'the position of the person in charge of a meeting' or 'the person in charge of a meeting'.
—to show the direct object of a verb:

> **circulate** ('sɜ:kjʊˌleɪt) *vti* 1 (cause to) travel round and round in a space or endless system; move freely. 2 pass (news, a book, etc.) round a circle of people.

This shows that *news* or *a book* are common objects of *circulate* in this sense.

5 Style

Some of the words and definitions are marked to show that they are thought suitable only in particular situations or are used only by certain people. The main ones are:

fml	(short for *formal*) used in formal writing, official meetings; not used in everyday conversation or in letters to friends
infml	(short for *informal*) used between friends in everyday conversation; not used in, for example, business letters
slang	used between close friends or members of a group that feel they belong together, such as young people; not accepted in general standard English
Brit	only used in British English and variants of English related to it
US	only used in the English spoken in the United States of America and variants of English related to it

Other style markers, such as *not standard, derogatory;* specialist subject markers, such as *economics, history;* and the marker *old-fashioned* (no longer in general use) are also used. The marker *Trademark* is included where a word is believed to be a proprietary name, but the presence or the absence of such a marker should not be taken as affecting the legal status of such a word.
Labels are placed at the beginning of the definition referred to:

> **come over** 1 (of a person or message) have an (intended) effect. 2 *infml* feel: *I came over all hot.* 3 visit someone.

6 Examples and grammatical information

It is important to know how to use a particular word. For this reason, the dictionary includes many examples and notes on grammatical information to help you use the word correctly.

come out 1 go to a social occasion: *Can you come out for dinner?* 2 become known: *If you don't tell us now, it will come out later.* 3 appear; be produced: *My book comes out tomorrow.*
consist (kən'sɪst) *vi* 1 (followed by **of**) be made up of: *The team consists of six people; Water consists of hydrogen and oxygen.* 2 (followed by **in**) have as the only or most important thing.

7 Compound and derived words

In a particular entry compound words and derived words connected with the headword may be given. These kinds of words are printed in thick type towards the end of an entry.

Compound words are made up of two or more words joined together, such as *cassette recorder*.

cassette (kə'set) *nc* 1 a holder for recording-tape that fits into a tape-recorder. 2 a holder for film that fits into a camera. **cassette recorder** a tape-recorder that records on and plays cassettes.

Derived words are words formed from other words, by adding an ending (suffix) to the main part of the word, such as *caller* from *call*.

call (kɔːl) *vti* 1 say loudly; shout. 2 telephone or radio (someone). *vt* 3 tell (someone or something) to come: *I'll call the waiter.* 4 consider as: *I call that cheap.* 5 say that someone or something is: *Don't you call me stupid!* 6 name: *I'm called Maurice.* 7 wake: *Please call me at seven o'clock.* *vi* 8 also **call by** or **in** pay a short visit. • *nc* 1 a shout. 2 a short visit. 3 a telephone or radio conversation. 4 need: *There's no call to worry.* **call box** a telephone box. **caller** *nc* 1 a person who visits. 2 a person who telephones.

Sometimes derived words are included but not defined, for example *comfortably* and *comforting*.

comfort ('kʌmfət) 1 *nu* a feeling of being at ease, in body or mind. 2 *nc* someone or something that brings comfort. • *vt* make (someone) less sad or less worried. **comfortable** *adj* 1 bringing comfort: *a comfortable bed.* 2 enjoying comfort: *Are you comfortable?* **comfortably** *adv* **comforting** *adj*

The meaning of such words can be worked out easily by taking the meaning of the main part of the word and joining it to the meaning of the ending. The pronunciation of such words is given where it may be difficult to work out. For a list of such endings see page xvi.

Idioms and phrasal verbs are also treated as compounds.

> **cash** (kæʃ) *nu* coins and banknotes. ● *vt* obtain cash for (a cheque, etc.). **cash crop** a crop that is grown to sell, rather than to feed the farmer's family. **cash in on** *infml* take advantage of.

8 Cross-references

Some of the words have cross-references to other places in the dictionary. This means that you should turn to the word after the 'See' to find the meaning you want—here, *track*, definition 5.

> **caterpillar** (ˈkætəˌpɪlə*) *nc* the young form of a butterfly or moth, with many legs and no wings. **caterpillar track** See **track** (def. 5).

A cross-reference to a related entry is introduced by 'See also'.

> **concave** (ˌkɒnˈkeɪv) *adj* having a side that curves in. See also **convex**.

Beginnings and endings of words

Many English words are made up by using parts of words, such as *-er* in *speaker*, where the ending *-er* means a person who does something. Here is a list of the more common word parts.

Beginnings of words

a- 1 without; not: *asymmetrical* 2 in; on; at: *ashore*
aero- aircraft: *aeronautics*
ambi- both; two: *ambidextrous*
ante- before: *antenatal*
anthropo- human: *anthropology*
anti- against: *anti-aircraft*
arch- chief: *archenemy*
astro- stars: *astronomy*
audio- hearing or sound: *audiovisual*
auto- self: *autobiography*
be- (used to make verbs): *becalm*
bi- two; twice: *bicycle*
biblio- book: *bibliography*
bio- life: *biography, biology*
by- less important: *by-election*
centi- one hundredth: *centimetre*
chron- time: *chronological*
co-, col-, com-, con-, cor- together; with: *collect, combine*
contra- against; opposite: *contradict*
counter- 1 opposite: *counteract* 2 corresponding; matching: *counterpart*
de- 1 take away something: *dethrone* 2 go back: *decode*
di- two: *diphthong, dioxide*
dia- through; across: *diameter*
dis- 1 not: *disagree, dissimilar* 2 opposite: *disconnect*
electro- electricity: *electrolysis*
em-, en- 1 (used to make verbs): *enthrone, enrich, enable* 2 in; into: *enlist*
equi- equal: *equidistant*
ex- 1 former: *ex-president* 2 out of: *expel*
extra- outside: *extraterrestrial*
fore- 1 front: *foreword* 2 before: *foretell*
geo- earth: *geology*
haemo- blood: *haemorrhage*
hect-, hecto- one hundred: *hectare*
hemi- half: *hemisphere*
hepta- seven: *heptagon*
hexa- six: *hexagon*
homo- same: *homogeneous*
hydro- water: *hydroelectricity*
hyper- much more than normal: *hypermarket*
hypo- under: *hypodermic*
ig-, il-, im-, in-, ir- not: *ignoble, illogical, impossible*
il-, im-, in-, ir- in; into: *income, irrigate*
infra- below: *infra-red*
inter- 1 between: *intermediary* 2 from one to another: *interchange*
intra- inside: *intravenous*
kilo- one thousand: *kilometre*
mal- bad: *malfunction*
mega- 1 million: *megawatt* 2 big: *megaphone*
micro- small: *microscope*
mid- middle: *mid-day*
milli- one thousandth: *millimetre*
mini- small: *minibus*
mis- bad; badly: *mislead*
mono- one: *monotony*
multi- many: *multicoloured*
neo- new: *neoclassical*
neuro- mind or nerves: *neurosis*
non- not: *non-stop*
ob- against: *obstruct*
octa-, octo- eight: *octagon, octopus*
omni- all: *omnipotent*
ortho- correct: *orthodox*
out- 1 greater than: *outlast* 2 outside: *outbuilding*
over- 1 above: *overhang* 2 too much: *overdo*
penta- five: *pentagon*
peri- around: *perimeter*
photo- 1 light: *photosynthesis* 2 photography: *photocopy*
physio- nature: *physiology*
poly- many: *polygon*
post- after: *postscript, post-war*
pre- before: *prelude*
pro- 1 in favour of: *pro-African* 2 substitute: *pronoun*
proto- first; original: *prototype*
pseudo- not real; pretended: *pseudonym*
psycho- mind; behaviour: *psychology*

quad-	four: *quadrangle*
quin-	five: *quintet*
re-	again: *reappear*
retro-	back: *retrograde*
self-	oneself: *self-confident*
semi-	half: *semi-circle*
sept-	seven: *septet*
sex-	six: *sextet*
socio-	social; society: *sociology*
sub-	1 under: *subsoil* 2 less than: *subnormal*
super-	1 over: *superimpose* 2 greater: *supersonic*
sym-, syn-	together with: *sympathy, synthesis*
techno-	practical skill and science: *technology*
tele-	distant: *telephone, television*
theo-	God: *theology*
thermo-	heat: *thermometer*
trans-	across: *transcontinental*
tri-	three: *triangle*
ultra-	beyond: *ultraviolet*
un-	1 not: *unhappy* 2 opposite: *undo, untie*
under-	1 below: *undergrowth* 2 too little: *underdeveloped*
uni-	one: *unity*
vice-	assistant: *vice-president*

Since the way a word is said may change from one word to another, a phonetic spelling is not shown here. To find out how to pronounce the word, look it up in the main part of the dictionary.

Endings of words

-able (əbəl), **-ible** (ɪbəl)	1 able to be. . . : *enjoyable* 2 that may cause: *objectionable* 3 that belongs to: *fashionable*
-age (ɪdʒ)	an action, condition, or charge: *breakage, postage*
-al (əl)	1 an action: *removal* 2 relating to: *postal, central, dental*
-an (ən), **-ian** (ɪən)	1 (a person) coming from a country: *Canadian* 2 a person who is an expert at something: *mathematician*
-ance, -ence (əns), **-ancy, -ency** (ənsɪ)	a quality, state, or action: *assistance, ascendancy*
-ant, -ent (ənt)	(a person or thing) that does something: *pleasant, student, dependent*
-ar (ə*)	like; belonging to: *solar, molecular*
-ary (ərɪ)	1 connected with: *monetary* 2 a person doing something: *missionary* 3 a place for: *aviary*
-ate	1 (ət) having a quality: *fortunate* 2 (eɪt) a chemical compound: *carbonate* 3 (eɪt) cause to have or become: *hyphenate*
-atic (ætɪk)	(used to make adjectives): *problematic*
-ation (eɪʃən)	an action, state, or condition: *pronunciation, moderation*
-cide (saɪd)	killing: *insecticide*
-cy (sɪ)	a state or quality: *secrecy*
-dom (dəm)	1 a state or condition: *freedom* 2 an area ruled: *kingdom* 3 a group of persons: *officialdom*
-ed (ɪd, d, t)	1 (used to make the past tense and past participles of verbs): *extended, gained* 2 showing or having a quality or state: *surprised, long-sighted*
-ee (iː)	1 a person to whom something is done or given: *addressee* 2 a person in a particular state or condition: *refugee*
-eer (ɪə*)	a person who does something or is concerned with something: *mountaineer*
-en (ən)	1 (cause to) become: *harden* 2 made of: *wooden*
-ence, -ency	See **-ance**
-ent	See **-ant**
-er (ə*)	1 (also **-r**) (used to make the comparative of adjectives): *faster, nicer, tidier* 2 (also **-or**) a person or thing that does something: *cooker, sailor, transmitter* 3 a person working in a job: *writer, painter* 4 a person who lives in a place: *Londoner* 5 a person or thing that has or is something: *teenager*
-ery (ərɪ), **-ry** (rɪ)	1 a place where an activity or business is done: *bakery* 2 a group of things: *cutlery* 3 a condition: *bravery* 4 the practice of: *cookery*

-es See **-s**
-ese (iːz) a place of origin or language: *Chinese, journalese*
-ess (ɪs) (used to make the feminine of nouns): *lioness, countess*
est (ɪst) (used to make the superlative of adjectives): *fastest, tidiest*
-ette (et) 1 small: *cigarette* 2 (used to make feminine nouns): *usherette*
-fold (fəʊld) having a number of parts or multiplied by a number: *fivefold*
-ful (fʊl) 1 having a quality: *painful* 2 the amount that a. . . can hold: *spoonful*
-fy (faɪ), **-ify** (ɪfaɪ) make or become: *simplify, liquefy*
-gon (gən) an angle: *polygon*
-hood (hʊd) a state or condition; time of being something: *manhood, childhood*
-i (ɪ) (a person) belonging to a religion or people: *Iraqi, Bangladeshi*
-ian See **-an**
-ible See **-able**
-ic (ɪk), **-ical** (ɪkəl) related to: *poetic, fanatical*
-ice (ɪs) (used to make abstract nouns): *cowardice*
ics (ɪks) a science, subject, or group of activities: *physics, politics, acrobatics*
-ide (aɪd) a chemical compound: *cyanide*
-ie See **-y**
-ify See **-fy**
-ine (aɪn) made of; like; connected with: *crystalline*
-ing (ɪŋ) 1 (used to make the present participle of verbs): *eating* 2 an action, process, or result; thing: *meeting, wedding, welding*
-ion (ʃən) an action, process, or state: *creation, tension*
-ious (əs) having a quality: *suspicious*
-ise, -ize (aɪz) make: *equalise*
-ish (ɪʃ) 1 (belonging to) a country or language: *Swedish* 2 about: *seventyish* 3 like, having the bad qualities of: *childish, foolish* 4 to some extent: *brownish, tallish*
-ism (ɪzəm) 1 a system of beliefs, etc.: *socialism* 2 a quality, practice or action: *heroism, criticism*
-ist (ɪst) 1 (a person) following a system of beliefs, etc.: *communist* 2 a person who does something: *motorist*
-ite (aɪt) (used in the name of a chemical substance): *bauxite*
-itis (aɪtɪs) a disease: *tonsillitis*
-ity (ɪtɪ), **-ty** (tɪ) a quality, state, or condition: *stupidity, flexibility*
-ive (ɪv) that will cause something; having a quality: *productive, digestive*
-ize See **-ise**
-less (lɪs) not having: *harmless*
-let (lɪt) something small: *droplet*
-like (laɪk) like: *hair-like*
-ling (lɪŋ) someone or something small: *duckling*
-logy (lədʒɪ) a science or subject: *biology, geology*
-ly (lɪ) 1 (used to make adverbs): *nicely* 2 having qualities of: *brotherly* 3 happening at regular times: *yearly*
-man (mən) a person who lives in a place or does something: *salesman*
-ment (mənt) a state, condition, quality, result or process: *enjoyment, management, arrangement*
-most (məʊst) the furthest: *eastmost*
-ness (nɪs) a state, quality, or condition; example of this: *kindness, brittleness*
-oid (ɔɪd) like: *humanoid*
-or See **-er**
-ory (ərɪ) 1 a place for: *observatory* 2 having a quality: *contributory*
-ous (əs) having a quality: *poisonous*
-phile (faɪl) (a person) liking something very much: *francophile*
-phobia (fəʊbɪə) fear: *claustrophobia*
-proof (pruːf) resisting something: *waterproof*
-r See **-er**
-ry See **-ery**
-s, -es (s, z, ɪz) 1 (used to make plurals): *books, pencils, horses* 2 (used to make the third person singular of present tense of verbs): *eats, rides*
-'s (s, z, ɪz) of. . . : *John's, house's, children's, houses'*
-ship (ʃɪp) 1 a state: *friendship* 2 a skill: *craftsmanship*
-some (səm) causing: *troublesome*
-th (θ) 1 (used to make adjectives from numbers): *fifth* 2 a state: *width*
-tion (ʃən) an action, process, or state or result; thing: *completion, imagination*
-ty See **-ity**

-ward (wʊd), **-wards** (wʊdz)	in a direction: *homewards*
-ways (weɪz)	showing direction: *sideways*
-wise (waɪz)	1 in such a way: *crosswise* 2 as far as. . . is concerned: *weatherwise*
-woman (wʊmən)	a woman who lives in a place or does something: *saleswoman*
-y (ɪ)	1 having a quality: *dusty, sandy, sunny* 2 (also **-ie**) (used as affectionate name) small: *bunny, daddy, auntie* 3 the act of doing something; condition or state: *inquiry, envy*

Many of the words made with the endings in this list are not given separate definitions or pronunciations in the main part of the dictionary. But, by looking at this list, you will be able to work out what the whole word means and how it is pronounced.

Grammatical words

The English language contains grammatical and other words that have a function rather than a clear meaning in a sentence. This dictionary deals with such words better than other similar-sized dictionaries. But for a complete description of the words listed below, you should look in a good grammar book.

a, an
about
across
after
again
against
ago
ahead
all
along
already
always
and
another
any
anybody
anyone
anything
apart
around
as
at
away

back
backwards
be
because
before
behind
below
beneath
beside
between
beyond
both
but
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either
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more
most
much
must
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myself

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next
no
nobody
none
no-one
nor
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or
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round

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should
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somebody
someone
something
sometimes
still

than
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theirs
them
themselves
then
there
these
they
this
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through
till
to
together
too

under
until
up
upon
us

very

we
what
when
where
which
while
who
whom
whose
why
will
with
within
without
would

yes
yet
you
your
yours
yourself
yourselves

Irregular verbs

Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle
abide	abode, abided	abode, abided
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke	awaked, awoken
be	was; were	been
bear	bore	borne
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
befall	befell	befallen
beget	begot	begotten
begin	began	begun
behold	beheld	beheld
bend	bent	bent
beseech	besought	besought
beset	beset	beset
bespeak	bespoke	bespoken
bet	bet, betted	bet, betted
bid	bade, bid	bidden, bid
bide	bode, bided	bided
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten, bit
bleed	bled	bled
bless	blessed, blest	blessed, blest
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast, broadcasted	broadcast, broadcasted
build	built	built
burn	burnt, burned	burnt, burned
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
cleave	clove, cleft	cloven, cleft
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut

Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamt, dreamed	dreamt, dreamed
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
dwell	dwelt	dwelt
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade, forbad	forbidden
forecast	forecast, forecasted	forecast, forecasted
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forsake	forsook	forsaken
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got; gotten (*US*)
gild	gilded, gilt	gilded
gird	girded, girt	girded, girt
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hang	hung, hanged	hung, hanged
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
heave	heaved, hove	heaved, hove
hew	hewed	hewed, hewn
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
inlay	inlaid	inlaid
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt	knelt
knit	knitted, knit	knitted, knit
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean	leant, leaned	leant, leaned
leap	leapt, leaped	leapt, leaped
learn	learnt, learned	learnt, learned
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light	lighted, lit	lighted, lit
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
mislay	mislaid	mislaid
mislead	misled	misled
mistake	mistook	mistaken
misunderstand	misunderstood	misunderstood
mow	mowed	mown
partake	partook	partaken
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
read	read (red)	read (red)
rend	rent	rent
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw	sawed	sawn
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
sew	sewed	sewn, sewed
shake	shook	shaken
shear	sheared	shorn, sheared
shed	shed	shed
shine	shone, shined	shone, shined
shoe	shod	shod
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	shown, showed
shrink	shrank, shrunk	shrunk
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slink	slunk	slunk
slit	slit	slit
smell	smelt, smelled	smelt, smelled
smite	smote	smitten
sow	sowed	sown, sowed
speak	spoke	spoken
speed	sped, speeded	sped, speeded
spell	spelt, spelled	spelt, spelled
spend	spent	spent
spill	spilt, spilled	spilt, spilled
spin	spun, span	spun

Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle	Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle
spit	spat	spat	tell	told	told
split	split	split	think	thought	thought
spoil	spoilt, spoiled	spoilt, spoiled	thrive	throve, thrived	thriven, thrived
spread	spread	spread	throw	threw	thrown
spring	sprang	sprung	thrust	thrust	thrust
stand	stood	stood	tread	trod	trodden, trod
stave	staved, stove	staved, stove	unbend	unbent	unbent
steal	stole	stolen	undergo	underwent	undergone
stick	stuck	stuck	understand	understood	understood
sting	stung	stung	undertake	undertook	undertaken
stink	stank, stunk	stunk	underwrite	underwrote	underwritten
strew	strewed	strewn, strewed	undo	undid	undone
stride	strode	stridden	upset	upset	upset
strike	struck	struck	wake	woke, waked	waked, woken
string	strung	strung	wear	wore	worn
strive	strove	striven	weave	wove	woven
swear	swore	sworn	wed	wedded, wed	wedded, wed
sweep	swept	swept	weep	wept	wept
swell	swelled	swollen, swelled	win	won	won
swim	swam	swum	wind (waɪnd)	wound	wound
swing	swung	swung	withdraw	withdrew	withdrawn
take	took	taken	withhold	withheld	withheld
teach	taught	taught	withstand	withstood	withstood
tear	tore	torn	wring	wrung	wrung
			write	wrote	written

Abbreviations used in this dictionary

abbrev.	abbreviation
adj	adjective
adv	adverb
Brit	British English
conj	conjunction
def.	definition
defs.	definitions
esp.	especially
etc.	et cetera
fml	formal
infml	informal
interj	interjection
n	noun
nc	countable noun
ncu	countable and uncountable noun
nu	uncountable noun
pl	plural
prep	preposition
pron	pronoun
US	American English
v	verb
vi	intransitive verb
vt	transitive verb
vti	transitive and intransitive verb

A

a (eɪ unstressed ə) (also, before a vowel or sometimes *h*, **an**) *determiner* 1 (used to indicate a person or thing not already mentioned): *A strange man spoke to me.* 2 in or for each: *three meals a day; twice a year.* 3 a person or thing like: *He is quite a Romeo.* 4 one kind of: *Here is a flower you will like.* 5 some sort of: *She really has a love of life.*

aback (ə'bæk) *adv* **take aback** surprise; shock.

abacus ('æbəkəs) *nc, pl* **-cuses, -ci** (saɪ) a frame holding wires with sliding markers on them, used for adding, multiplying, etc.

abandon (ə'bændən) *vt* 1 leave, esp. alone or without help. 2 give up; stop: *We abandoned the game because of the storm.* ● *nu* freedom from care or control: *They joined in the dance with complete abandon.* **abandonment** *nu*

abase (ə'beɪs) *vt* humble or lower (someone, something, or yourself): *an abased form of poetry; He refused to abase himself.*

abashed (ə'bæʃt)) *adj* ashamed; made to feel silly.

abate (ə'beɪt) *vti* make or become less or weaker: *The storm is abating.* **abatement** *nu*

abattoir ('æbətwɑː*) *n* See **slaughterhouse.**

abbess ('æbes) *nc* a Christian nun in charge of an abbey.

abbey ('æbɪ) *nc* 1 a building where Christian monks or nuns live, governed by an abbot or abbess. 2 a church that was once part of an abbey.

abbot ('æbət) *nc* a Christian monk in charge of an abbey.

abbreviate (əbriːvɪˌeɪt) *vt* shorten (esp. a word). **abbreviation** (əˌbriːvɪ'eɪʃən) 1 *nc* a part, or only the first letter, of a word standing for the whole word: *etc.* (for 'et cetera'); *UNO* (for 'United Nations Organisation'). 2 *nu* the act of abbreviating.

abdicate ('æbdɪkeɪt) *vti* (esp. of a king or queen) give up (your position, duty, or rights). **abdication** (ˌæbdɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) abdicating.

abdomen ('æbdəmən) *nc* 1 *anatomy* the lower half of the main part of the body, containing the stomach, etc. 2 *zoology* the rear part of an insect, spider, etc. **abdominal** (æb'dɒmɪnəl) *adj*

abduct (əb'dʌkt) *vt* take (a person) away by force.

aberration (ˌæbə'reɪʃən) *nc* 1 a movement away from what is usual or normal; a mistake in behaviour. 2 an example of forgetting something. 3 a fault in a mirror or lens.

abet (ə'bet) *vt* help (someone) in (a crime, etc.): *He's charged with aiding and abetting a robbery.*

abeyance (ə'beɪəns) *nu* **in abeyance** not in use or in force for a period of time: *The school's rules were in abeyance during the holiday.*

abhor (əb'hɔː*) *vt* hate; consider disgusting. **abhorrence** (əb'hɒrəns) *nu* **abhorrent** (əb'hɒrənt) *adj* causing hatred and disgust.

abide (ə'baɪd) **cannot abide** dislike or hate: *I can't abide his bad manners.* **abide by** keep to (a rule, promise, etc.).

ability (ə'bɪlɪtɪ) 1 *nu* cleverness; the state of being able. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a cleverness in doing one or more particular things.

abiotic (ˌeɪbaɪ'ɒtɪk) *adj biology* which has no life: *Soil, water, the atmosphere, and radiation are all part of our abiotic environment.*

abject ('æbdʒekt) *adj* 1 miserable, hopeless: *abject poverty.* 2 cowardly: *an abject apology.*

ablaze (ə'bleɪz) *adj* 1 on fire. 2 very bright: *The house was ablaze with light.*

able ('eɪbəl) *adj* clever; good: *He's an able speaker.* **be able (to do something)** (used esp. in place of missing parts of the verb 'can') can: *Will you be able to go?* **able-bodied** (ˌeɪbəl'bɒdɪd) *adj* having a fit, healthy body.

ablution (ə'bluːʃən) *nc* (usually *pl*) the act of washing, esp. at a religious occasion: *perform your ablutions.*

abnormal (æb'nɔɪməl) *adj* not normal; strange. **abnormality** (ˌæbnɔː'mælɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** (an example of) being abnormal.

aboard (ə'bɔɪd) *adv, adj, prep* on, onto, in, or into (a ship, plane, train, etc.).

abode (ə'bəʊd) *nc old-fashioned* a place to live in; home: *no fixed abode.*

abolish (ə'bɒlɪʃ) *vt* put an end to (a law, practice, etc.). **abolition** (ˌæbə'lɪʃən) *nu*

abominable (ə'bɒmɪnəbəl) *adj* 1 causing disgust: *abominable squalor.* 2 *infml* very bad: *work of abominable quality.*

abominate (ə'bɒmɪneɪt) *vt* hate. **abomination** (əˌbɒmɪ'neɪʃən) 1 *nu* hate or

disgust: *an abomination of violence.* 2 *nc* an abominable person, thing, or action.

aborigine (ˌæbəˈrɪdʒɪnɪ) *nc* a member of the original people living in a part of the world. **aboriginal** *adj* **Aboriginal** *nc* (also **Aborigine**) an Australian aborigine.

abort (əbɔːt) *vt* 1 cause (a child) to be born too early so that it dies. 2 end (a space flight or other undertaking) earlier than planned. **abortive** (əˈbɔːtɪv) *adj* (of an attempt, etc.) unsuccessful.

abortion (əˈbɔːʃən) *ncu* the causing of a child to be born too early so that it dies.

abound (əˈbaʊnd) *vi* exist in large quantities. **abound in** or **with** contain or possess much or many: *The book abounds with photographs.*

about (əˈbaʊt) *prep* 1 to do with; in connection with: *What's this book about?* 2 on or occupied with: *Go about your business.* • *adv* roughly; near enough: *about twenty people.* • *prep, adv* 1 in or near: *He's somewhere about (the place).* 2 around: *My enemies are all about me.* 3 from place to place (in): *Just drive about for a bit.* 4 here and there: *There were a lot of plants about the house.* **be (just) about (to do something)** be on the point of or intending (to do something) very soon: *Hello, I was just about to phone you.* **how** or **what about. . .?** *infml* I suggest (having, doing, etc.): *How about lunch?*

above (əˈbʌv) *prep, adv* in, at, or into a higher position (than): *Trees grow above the ground.* • *prep* 1 more or greater than: *numbers above 100.* 2 beyond; not open to: *above suspicion.* 3 having too good a character for (doing something bad): *above stealing.* 4 too important for: *He thinks he's above washing dishes.* • *adj, adv* (mentioned) at an earlier place in a book, letter, etc.: *the above-named people.* **above all** more (important) than anything else: *Above all, don't forget your camera.* **the above** what has gone before in a book, letter, etc.

abrasion (əˈbreɪʒən) 1 *nc* a grazed place on the skin. 2 *nu* wearing away by rubbing. **abrasive** (əˈbreɪsɪv) *adj* 1 causing abrasion. 2 making other people annoyed: *abrasive remarks.*

abreast (əˈbrest) *adj* 1 side by side and facing the same way; level: *The soldiers marched four abreast.* 2 (followed by **of**) aware (of); up to date (with): *A businessman should keep abreast of new products.*

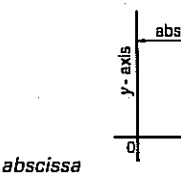
abridge (əˈbrɪdʒ) *vt* shorten (a book, story, etc.). **abridgement** 1 *ncu* (an example of) abridging. 2 *nc* something abridged.

abroad (əˈbrɔːd) *adv* 1 in or to a foreign country. 2 (of news, etc.) current; about: *There is an uneasy feeling abroad.*

abrupt (əˈbrʌpt) *adj* 1 sudden: *an abrupt stop.* 2 not gentle or polite in speech or manner. 3 steep: *abrupt cliffs.* **abruptly** *adv*

abscess (ˈæbses) *nc* a sore in which pus collects.

abscissa (æbˈsɪsə) *nc, pl* **-sae** (siː) *mathematics* the x-co-ordinate of a point on a graph: see picture. See also **ordinate.**



abscissa

abscission (æbˈsɪʒən) *nu botany* the separation of mature fruit, leaves, etc., from a stem by the formation of a layer of corky cells: *the abscission layer.*

abscond (əbˈskɒnd) *vi* go away secretly, esp. with something stolen: *He absconded with all her diamonds.*

absent (ˈæbsənt) *adj* not present; away; not in existence. • (æbˈsent) *vt* make (yourself) absent; keep (yourself) away. **absence** (ˈæbsəns) *nu* 1 the fact of being absent. 2 lack; non-existence. 3 *nc* a period of absence. **absentee** (ˌæbsənˈtiː) *nc* a person who is absent, esp. from work. **absent-minded** (ˌæbsənt ˈmaɪndɪd) *adj* forgetful or not giving your full attention.

absolute (ˈæbsəluːt) *adj* 1 complete; total: *absolute poverty.* 2 (of a measurement, etc.) having no conditions or restrictions: *absolute ownership; an absolute majority.* 3 pure: *absolute alcohol.* **absolutely** (ˈæbsəluːtlɪ, ˌæbsəˈluːtlɪ) *adv* 1 completely: *absolutely wonderful.* 2 (used to agree with someone): *Let's go to the movies.—Absolutely!*

absolution (ˌæbsəˈluːʃən) *ncu* (an example of) absolving.

absolve (əbˈzɒlv) *vt* 1 (often followed by **from**) free (someone from guilt or duty). 2 say that (someone) is not guilty.

absorb (əbˈzɔːb, əbˈsɔːb) *vt* 1 soak up (liquid). 2 occupy the attention of (someone): *He was absorbed in his book.* 3 not reflect (heat, light, etc.). 4 include: *We've got all the people we need, but we can probably absorb a few more.* **absorbent** *adj* able to **absorb** (defs. 1, 3). **absorbing** *adj* interesting; occupying your attention. **absorption** (əbˈzɔːpʃən, əbˈsɔːpʃən) *nu*

abstain (əbˈsteɪn) *vi* 1 not vote. 2 (usually

followed by **from**) not use, do, etc.: *abstain from drinking alcohol.* **abstinence** ('æbstɪnəns) *nu* the act of not doing or using something, esp. the drinking of alcohol.

abstract ('æbstrækt) *adj* 1 not to do with actual objects: *abstract art.* 2 not to do with actual practice: *Our plans are still rather abstract.* • *nc* 1 a very short version of a book, article, etc. 2 an abstract painting, sculpture, etc. • (əb'strækt) *vt* consider (a quality, etc.) in an abstract way. **abstraction** (æb'strækʃən) 1 *nu* the condition of not paying attention to anything. 2 *ncu* (an example of) abstracting. 3 *nc* something abstracted.

abstruse (æb'struːs) *adj* (of a remark, book, etc.) difficult to understand.

absurd (əb'sɜːd) *adj* unreasonable; silly. **absurdity** (əb'sɜːdɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the quality of being absurd. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something absurd. **absurdly** *adv*

abundant (ə'bʌndənt) *adj* 1 plentiful: *an abundant supply.* 2 (followed by **in**) having plenty of: *a field abundant in flowers.* **abundance** *nu* (usually preceded by **in** or followed by **of**) plenty; a plentiful quantity: *There was food in abundance at the feast; an abundance of books in almost every room.* **abundantly** *adv*

abuse (ə'bjuːz) *vt* 1 use badly or not properly. 2 insult; speak unkindly about or to (someone). • (ə'bjuːs) *nu* 1 improper use: *abuse of power.* 2 insults: *a stream of abuse.* **abusive** (ə'bjuːsɪv) *adj*

abysmal (ə'bɪzməl) *adj* 1 (of bad things) very great: *abysmal stupidity.* 2 *infml* very bad; of very poor quality: *The house was in an abysmal condition.*

abyss (ə'bɪs) *nc* a very deep narrow hole in the ground: *the edge of an abyss.*

acacia (ə'keɪʃə) *nc* a tropical tree or bush with small yellow or white flowers.

academic (ˌækə'demɪk) *adj* 1 to do with schools, universities, etc., or with learning or teaching. 2 not practical or to do with actual experience: *My interest in cars is only academic as I can't afford one.* • *nc* a member of a university, college, etc., esp. a teacher.

academy (ə'kædəmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** 1 a college of higher learning, usually for a particular subject: *a music academy.* 2 a society for encouraging science or the arts: *the Royal Academy of Arts.*

accede (ək'siːd) *vi* (usually followed by **to**) 1 enter or obtain (a position, esp. as king or queen): *When the King dies, his son will accede to the throne.* 2 agree (to a demand, etc.).

accelerate (ək'seləreɪt) *vti* (cause to) move or happen faster; speed up. **acceleration** (əkˌselə'reɪʃən) *nu* **accelerator** *nc* something that accelerates something else, esp. the part of a vehicle pressed by the driver with their right foot.

accent ('æksənt) *nc* 1 a way that people from a particular place speak: *You can recognise Americans by their accent.* 2 extra force given to part of a word in speech. 3 a mark written above or below a letter in a word to show how it is said. 4 a part of something, to which the maker, author, or organiser gives more attention or importance. • (æk'sent) *vt* say or write with an accent.

accentuate (æk'sentjʊeɪt) *vt* give extra force, weight, or importance to.

accept (ək'sept) *vt* 1 (agree to) receive (a gift, etc.). 2 say yes to (an invitation). 3 consider or deal with in a kind or friendly way: *Foreigners here are soon accepted by most people.* 4 believe (an explanation, story, etc.). **acceptable** *adj* 1 satisfactory; all right: *He produces acceptable work.* 2 (esp. of a gift) welcome. **acceptance** *ncu* an act of accepting or an act or the state of being accepted: *His plans found acceptance everywhere; The idea slowly gained acceptance.*

access ('ækses) *nu* entrance or approach: *Access to the house is from the road.*

accessible (ək'sesəbəl) *adj* (often followed by **to**) able to be entered or reached: *The information is accessible to anyone who wants it.*

accession (ək'seʃən) *nu* the act of acceding (**accede** def. 1).

accessory (ək'sesərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 an extra part of a car, camera, or of any other machine or device. 2 a small piece of women's dress, such as a scarf or a handbag. 3 a person who has a part in the planning of a crime without actually committing it.

accident ('æksɪdənt) *nc* 1 an unfortunate event, esp. causing damage or injury. 2 an unintended or chance event: *The fact that these numbers are the same is an accident; We met by accident.* **accidental** (ˌæksɪ'dentəl) *adj* 1 unintended; chance: *accidental damage.* 2 extra or unnecessary. **accidentally** *adv*

acclaim (ə'kleɪm) *vt* 1 express your approval of, esp. by shouting, clapping, etc. 2 welcome (someone) on becoming: *He was acclaimed king.* 3 recognise publicly the quality of (someone or something): *She was acclaimed the best star in the film.* • *nu* 1 (esp. shouted) welcome or

approval. 2 popularity: *The book won wide acclaim.* **acclamation** (ˌæklə'meɪʃən) *ncu* (a) welcome or approval, esp. shouted.

acclimatise (ə'klaɪmətaɪz) *vti* (cause to) become used to new conditions or surroundings.

accolade ('ækəˌleɪd) *nc* a show or expression of praise or strong approval.

accommodate (ə'kɒmədeɪt) *vt* 1 provide (someone) with something, esp. somewhere to stay or live. 2 contain: *a room to accommodate several hundred books.* 3 (usually followed by **to**) alter so as to suit or fit in with: *We can accommodate ourselves to a new timetable.* **accommodating** (ə'kɒmədeɪtɪŋ) *adj* helpful, willing to do someone a favour: *Our new landlady is very accommodating.* **accommodation** (əˌkɒmə'deɪʃən) *nu* 1 the act of accommodating. 2 somewhere to live.

accompany (ə'kʌmpənɪ) *vt* 1 travel, be put, or exist with: *He accompanied me on the train.* 2 (followed by **with**) add to: *She accompanied her welcome with a kiss.* 3 *music* play a less important part than: *I accompanied the song on the piano.* **accompaniment** *nc* something that accompanies (**accompany** def. 3), such as a musical part. **accompanist** *nc* a person who plays a musical accompaniment.

accomplice (ə'kʌmplɪs) *nc* a person who takes part in a crime with another person.

accomplish (ə'kʌmplɪʃ) *vt* manage to do. **accomplished** *adj* good; clever: *an accomplished singer.* **accomplishment** *nc* 1 the act of accomplishing something. 2 something that has been accomplished. 3 a well-learned ability.

accord (ə'kɔɪd) *n* harmony. **of your own accord** gladly or without being asked to.

according (ə'kɔɪdɪŋ) *adj* **according to** 1 in a manner suitable for: *Each person is paid according to their needs.* 2 in the words of; as said by; as written by or in: *According to one report, three people had been hurt in the crash.* 3 also **in accordance with** in a manner ordered or recommended by (the law, etc.). **accordingly** *adv* suitably: *This is a serious crime and you will be punished accordingly.*

accordion (ə'kɔɪdɪən) *nc* a musical instrument shaped like a box and played by pressing buttons and squeezing the sides together with the hands: see picture at **musical instruments.**

accost (ə'kɒst) *vt* approach and speak to (someone, usually a stranger), esp. in the street.

account (ə'kaʊnt) *nc* 1 an arrangement by which a person or business keeps money at a bank or receives money from it. 2 a report or description. 3 a statement of the money paid and received by a business. **on account of** because of. **take (something) into account** or **take account of** consider; allow for. **accountable** *adj* 1 responsible to someone for something. 2 able to be explained. **account for** 1 provide an **account** (def. 3) of (money). 2 explain; give a reason for. 3 kill; destroy; get rid of.

accountant (ə'kaʊntənt) *nc* a person who organises and checks the accounts of a business and advises on the use of money. **accountancy** *nu* the work of an accountant.

accredited (ə'kredɪtɪd) *adj* (esp. of a representative of a country) formally recognised.

accrue (ə'kruː) *vi* (esp. of an amount of money) increase by being added to.

accumulate (ə'kjuːmjʊleɪt) *vti* (cause to) increase or collect. **accumulation** (əˌkjuːmjʊ'leɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of accumulating. 2 *nc* something that has accumulated. **accumulator** *nc* also (**rechargeable**) **battery** a device for storing electricity.

accurate ('ækjʊrət) *adj* exactly right or true: *an accurate report; an accurate measurement.* **accuracy** *nu* **accurately** *adv*

accursed (ə'kɜːsɪd, ə'kɜːst) *adj* hateful; annoying: *That accursed washing-machine's broken down again.*

accuse (ə'kjuːz) *vt* say that (someone) did something wrong, esp. a crime: *He was accused of murder.* **the accused** the person or persons accused of a particular crime. **accusation** (ˌækjuː'zeɪʃən) *nc* **accuser** *nc*

accustom (ə'kʌstəm) *vt* make used (to something): *You must accustom your eyes to the light.* **accustomed** *adj* 1 usual. 2 used (to something).

ace (eɪs) *nc* 1 the playing-card in each suit that counts as the 'one': *the ace of hearts.* 2 a person who is very good or clever at something: *a flying ace.*

acetate ('æsɪteɪt) *ncu chemistry* 1 a (particular) salt of acetic acid. 2 a man-made cloth.

acetic (ə'siːtɪk) *adj* to do with vinegar: *acetic acid.*

acetone ('æsɪˌtəʊn) *nu chemistry* a colourless flammable liquid used to thin varnishes and paints.

acetylene (ə'setɪliːn) *nu* a poisonous gas

that can be burned, esp. to produce a very hot flame for cutting and joining metal.

ache (eɪk) *nc* a dull, lasting pain. • *vi* feel an ache: *My feet ache from all that walking.*

achieve (ə'tʃiːv) *vt* succeed in obtaining or doing: *With a lot of work, you could achieve a good result.* **achievement** 1 *nu* the act of achieving. 2 *nc* something achieved.

Achilles heel (ə'kɪliːz) a person's weakest point: *Her temper was her Achilles heel.* **Achilles tendon** *anatomy* the tendon that joins the heel to the calf muscles.

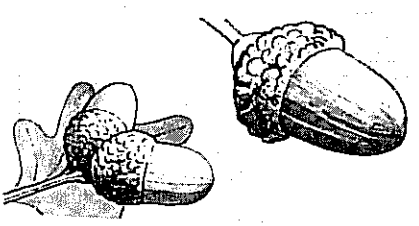
acid ('æsɪd) *ncu* a (type of) substance that, dissolved in water, can attack metals and form salts. • *adj* 1 to do with acid, esp. sour-tasting. 2 (of something said) bitter; biting: *an acid remark.* **acid rain** *geography* rain with a high concentration of acid pollutants. It destroys forests, damages buildings, and pollutes rivers. **acidify** (ə'sɪdəˌfaɪ) *vt* **acidity** (ə'sɪdɪtɪ) *nu*

acknowledge (ək'nɒlɪdʒ) *vt* 1 say or show that you know of the truth, existence, presence, etc., of: *I acknowledge your success.* 2 let the sender know that you have received (a letter, etc.). **acknowledgement** 1 *nu* the act of acknowledging. 2 *nc* a statement or message of acknowledgement.

acme ('ækmɪ) *ncu* the highest point or point of greatest excellence: *He is at the acme of his profession.*

acne ('ækɪɪ) *nu* a skin disease common in young people, causing spots, esp. on the face.

acorn ('eɪkɔːn) *nc* the fruit of the oak tree: see picture.



acorn

acoustics (ə'kuːstɪks) *nu* 1 (*with singular verb*) the study of sound and hearing. 2 (*with plural verb*) the properties of a room, etc., that affect sound heard in it: *This hall has poor acoustics.* **acoustic** *adj* to do with sound or acoustics: *an acoustic guitar.*

acquaint (ə'kweɪnt) *vt* (usually followed by **with**) make (someone) familiar: *I've acquainted myself with the rules; I think we ought to get better acquainted.* **acquaintance** 1 *nc* a person whom you know slightly. 2 *nu* familiarity; knowledge: *He has little acquaintance with other languages.* **make (someone's) acquaintance** meet or get to know (someone).

acquiesce (ˌækwiː'es) *vi* (often followed by **in**) silently agree (to), perhaps unwillingly: *Seeing that he had no other choice, he acquiesced in the plan.*

acquire (ə'kwaɪə*) *vt* get; become the owner or possessor of. **acquisition** (ˌækwɪ'zɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of acquiring. 2 *nc* something acquired, esp. of great value.

acquit (ə'kwɪt) *vt* declare (someone) to be not guilty: *He was acquitted of murder.* **acquit yourself** behave (well, bravely, etc.). **acquittal** *nc*

acre ('eɪkə*) *nc* a measure of area; see appendix. **acreage** ('eɪkərɪdʒ) *nc* an area measured in acres.

acrid ('ækrɪd) *adj* having a sharp unpleasant smell or taste.

acrimonious (ˌækrɪ'məʊnɪəs) *adj* (of a person, argument, etc.) bitter. **acrimony** ('ækrɪmənɪ) *nu*

acrobat ('ækrəbæt) *nc* a person who entertains with various jumping and balancing acts, such as walking a tightrope. **acrobatic** (ˌækrə'bætɪk) *adj* **acrobatics** (ˌækrə'bætɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the art of an acrobat.

acronym ('ækrənɪm) *nc* a name made from the first letters of words, such as 'UNESCO' from 'United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation'.

across (ə'krɒs) *prep, adv* from one side to the other (of): *He walked across the road; The lake is four kilometres across.*

act (ækt) 1 *vti* play (a part in a film or play). *vi* 2 behave; carry out actions: *to act for someone in court.* 3 do a particular action: *The government should act to prevent war; Who'll act as leader?* **act on** or **upon** 1 do something after having been given information, advice etc.: *I acted on your advice and did not give the police any information.* 2 *chemistry* cause something to change: *Yeast acts on dough to make it rise.* • *nc* 1 something done: *an act of kindness.* 2 a part of a stage play. 3 a short piece of entertainment. 4 a law passed by a parliament. **act of God** a sudden natural event, such as lightning or a flood.

acting ('æktɪŋ) *nu* the activity of playing parts in films and plays. • *adj* doing something in someone else's place: *the acting governor of the district.*

action ('ækʃən) *nu* 1 the state of doing

something or being active. 2 energy; activity: *I want to see some action here!* 3 fighting in a war: *He was killed in action. nc* 4 something done; an act. 5 a movement or manner of moving. 6 a case brought by one party against another in a court of law. **out of action** (of a machine, etc.) not working.

activate ('æktɪveɪt) *vt* make active.

active ('æktɪv) *adj* 1 doing something; in action. 2 using body movements: *active sports.* 3 having or using energy: *He's very young and active.* 4 to do with a verb of which the action described is actually carried out by its subject to something else: *In 'I wrote the book', 'wrote' is an active verb.* **actively** *adv*

activist ('æktɪvɪst) *nc* someone who works for political or social change: *Union activists brought the country to a standstill; environmental activists.*

activity (æk'tɪvɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the state of being active. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a particular action or occupation: *Reading is usually an indoor activity.*

actor ('æktə*) *nc* a man who acts in a film or play.

actress ('æktrɪs) *nc* a woman who acts in a film or play.

actual ('æktʃʊəl) *adj* real; really in existence; true. **actually** *adv* in actual fact; really.

acumen (ə'kjuːmen, 'ækjʊmen) *nu* good judgement or understanding: *business acumen.*

acupuncture ('ækjʊˌpʌŋktʃə*) *nu* the treatment of medical complaints by sticking needles into the skin at various special points.

acute (ə'kjuːt) *adj* 1 showing good judgement or insight. 2 strong, sharp, or serious: *acute pain.* 3 (of a disease) serious but not long-lasting: *acute bronchitis.* 4 (of an angle) of less than ninety degrees.

ad (æd) *infml n* short for **advertisement.**

adamant ('ædəmənt) *adj* refusing to change your mind: *She was adamant about staying at home.*

Adam's apple ('ædəmz) *nc anatomy* the lump at the front of the neck, esp. in men, made by the larynx.

adapt (ə'dæpt) *vti* change, esp. so as to fit in with (something or someone else): *Dogs adapt easily to new homes.* **adaptable** *adj* **adaptation** (ˌædæp'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of adapting. 2 *nc* something resulting from adaptation. **adaptor** *nc* a device for fitting parts of a machine together or for changing them to a different use: *an electrical adaptor.*

add (æd) *vt* 1 also **add up** join (numbers) to produce a total: *If you add two and three, you get five.* 2 join (something) to something else: *Add some water to the milk.* 3 (followed by **to**) make greater in size or quantity: *This wood will add to the fire.* 4 go on (to say); say further: *'And make sure that you're not late,' she added.* **add up** 1 See **add** (def. 1). 2 produce a correct total. 3 *infml* seem probable or logical. **add up to** produce a total of; amount to.

addendum (ə'dendəm) *nc, pl* **-enda** (endə) something added, esp. something missed out of a book and printed at the end instead.

adder ('ædə*) *nc* also **viper** a poisonous snake.

addict ('ædɪkt) *nc* 1 a person who is dependent on something, esp. a drug. 2 *infml* a person who is very keen on something: *a television addict.* **addicted to** (ə'dɪktɪd) dependent on; unable to do without. **addiction** (ə'dɪkʃən) *nu* the state of being addicted to something.

addition (ə'dɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of adding. 2 *nc* something added. **in addition (to)** besides; as well (as). **additional** *adj* added; extra.

additive ('ædɪtɪv) *nc* a substance added to food to change its taste or colour.

address (ə'dres) *nc* 1 a description of where a home, office, etc., is, as used for sending letters. 2 the place described in an address. 3 a speech. • *vt* 1 write an address on (an envelope, etc.). 2 also **address yourself to** speak or write to (someone). 3 direct (remarks) to someone: *Please address your questions to me.* **addressee** (ˌædre'siː) *nc* the person, business, etc., to whom a letter, etc., is addressed.

adenine ('ædəˌniːn) *nu biology* a chemical base which pairs with thymine in DNA and with uracil in RNA.

adenoids ('ædəˌnɔɪdz) *n pl* a part of the body, at the back of the nose and throat, that can grow and make it difficult to breathe through the nose.

adenosine (æ'denəˌsiːn) *nc biology* a cell molecule that does not need oxygen to produce energy.

adept ('ædept) *adj* clever; skilled at doing something.

adequate ('ædɪkwət) *adj* enough or sufficient (for something). **adequately** *adv*

adhere (əd'hɪə*) *vi* 1 (usually followed by **to**) stick; be fixed. 2 (followed by **to**) follow (a rule, etc.). 3 (followed by **to**) support (an opinion, political party, etc.).

adherence *nu* **adherent** *nc* someone who follows a rule, opinion, or political party. • *adj* adhering.

adhesive (əd'hiːsɪv) *nu* a substance used for sticking things together. • *adj* sticky: *adhesive tape.*

ad hoc (ˌæd 'hɒk) *Latin adj, adv* for a particular purpose: *an ad hoc arrangement.*

adieu (ə'djuː) *French interj, nc, pl* **-s, -x** (z) goodbye.

ad infinitum (ˌæd ɪnfɪ'naɪtəm) *Latin adv* forever; endlessly.

adipose ('ædɪˌpəʊz) *adj biology* containing fat: *adipose tissue.*

adjacent (ə'dʒeɪsənt) *adj* nearby, esp. touching: *Their house is adjacent to ours.*

adjective ('ædʒɪktɪv) *nc* a word describing a noun or pronoun, such as 'big' or 'red'. **adjectival** (ˌædʒɪk'taɪvəl) *adj*

adjoin (ə'dʒɔɪn) *vt* be next to; touch.

adjourn (ə'dʒɜːn) *vti* stop or put off until sometime in the future: *This court is adjourned until tomorrow.* **adjournment** *ncu*

adjudicate (ə'dʒuːdɪkeɪt) *vti* decide or judge (a court case) or in a competition, etc. **adjudicator** *nc*

adjunct ('ædʒʌŋkt) *nc* something or someone added or extra.

adjust (ə'dʒʌst) 1 *vt* alter (something) slightly, esp. to correct a position, setting, etc. 2 *vti* change to suit a new situation or new surroundings. **adjustable** *adj* **adjustment** *ncu*

ad lib (ˌæd 'lɪb) *Latin adv, adj* without preparation: *He did his whole act ad lib.* **ad-lib** *vi* speak, entertain, etc., without preparation: *I hadn't written a speech so I ad-libbed.* • *nc* something done **ad lib.**

administer (əd'mɪnɪstə*) *vt* 1 manage; carry out (government, business, etc.). 2 give out; distribute. **administration** (əd,mɪnɪ'streɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of administering. 2 *nc* a group of people who administer, esp. a government. **administrative** (əd'mɪnɪstrətɪv) *adj* to do with administration. **administrator** *nc*

admirable ('ædmərəbəl) *adj* deserving admiration; splendid. **admirably** *adv*

admiral ('ædmərəl) *nc* an important officer in a navy, usually in charge of a large number of ships.

admire (əd'maɪə*) *vt* consider to be good or praiseworthy: *His work is much admired.* **admiration** (ˌædmə'reɪʃən) *nu* **admirer** *nc* **admiring** *adj* showing or feeling admiration: *an admiring visitor.*

admission (əd'mɪʃən) *nu* 1 permission to enter. 2 the act of entering or being allowed to enter. 3 the price charged for **admission** (def. 1). 4 the act of confessing something you have done or not done.

admit (əd'mɪt) *vt* 1 allow to enter: *They admitted him to the private rooms.* 2 confess: *I admit to having lied.* 3 recognise the truth of: *He admitted that the mountain was difficult to climb.* **admittance** *nu* the act of allowing or being allowed to enter. **admittedly** *adv* 1 without saying something is untrue; by general agreement: *He was admittedly a good worker.* 2 (esp. when beginning a sentence) I admit or agree (that): *Admittedly, it was cold.*

admonish (əd'mɒnɪʃ) *fml vt* 1 scold. 2 urge; warn: *I admonish you to be careful.*

ado (ə'duː) *nu* fuss: *without further ado.*

adolescence (ˌædə'lesəns) *nu* the period of human life during which a child becomes an adult. **adolescent** *adj* to do with adolescence. • *nc* an adolescent person.

adopt (ə'dɒpt) *vt* 1 take (something or a child) over as if it were your own. 2 choose (a course of action, etc.). **adoption** (ə'dɒpʃən) *ncu*

adore (ə'dɔː*) *vt* 1 love deeply. 2 *infml* like very much. **adorable** *adj* very pleasing or attractive. **adoration** (ˌædə'reɪʃən) *nu* deep love.

adorn (ə'dɔːn) *vt* make beautiful: *She was adorned with jewellery.* **adornment** *nc* something that adorns.

adrenal (ə'driːnəl) *adj biology* of or on the kidneys. **adrenal gland** a gland on each kidney that produces adrenalin.

adrenalin (ə'drenəlɪn) *nu* a substance produced by the adrenal glands that allows the blood to flow faster, etc., when you need to be more active.

adrift (ə'drɪft) *adj* 1 floating in water and being moved only by currents and the wind. 2 *infml* out of control: *I'm afraid our plan has gone adrift.*

adroit (ə'drɔɪt) *adj* clever; skilful.

adulation (ˌædjʊ'leɪʃən) *nu* praise that is more than is deserved or needed.

adult ('ædʌlt, ə'dʌlt) *adj* grown up; fully developed. • *nc* an adult person, animal or plant.

adulterate (ə'dʌltəreɪt) *vt* mix something of lower value or quality into (food, etc.).

adultery (ə'dʌltərɪ) *nu* voluntary sexual union between a married man or woman and someone to whom they are not married.

advance (əd'vɑːns) 1 *vti* move forwards. *vt* 2 cause to happen earlier. 3 put forward or suggest (an idea, etc.). 4 lend (money). 5 improve; further: *This discovery has*

advanced our understanding of animal behaviour. • *ncu* 1 (a) forward movement. 2 (an) improvement; progress. *nc* 3 an amount of money lent. 4 a part of an amount of money paid before it is due. • *adj* early; before the event: *advance warning.* **in advance (of)** before: *You'll be told in advance if you're going to be chosen; They arrived in advance of the others.* **advanced** *adj* far on in progress, knowledge, etc.: *advanced lessons in French.* **advancement** *nu* 1 being moved to a more important position or job: *He's due for advancement to manager.* 2 the act of improving or furthering: *the advancement of science.*

advantage (əd'vɑːntɪdʒ) 1 *nc* a better or more favourable position: *Your money gives you an advantage over most people.* 2 *nu* something extra that is gained: *There's no advantage in arriving early.* **take advantage of** make use of, sometimes unkindly or unfairly. **advantageous** (ˌædvən'teɪdʒəs) *adj* giving advantage: *a special advantageous price.*

advent ('ædvent) *literary or fml nc* a coming.

adventitious (ˌædven'tɪʃəs) *adj botany* growing in an unusual position: *adventitious roots.*

adventure (əd'ventʃə*) 1 *nc* a dangerous, exciting, or risky action or journey. 2 *nu* the state of adventure; risk; excitement. **adventurer** *nc* a person who undertakes adventures. **adventurous** *adj* (of a person) daring and liking excitement.

adverb ('ædvɜːb) *nc* a word that adds to the meaning of a verb, adjective, sentence, or other adverb, such as 'luckily' or 'well' in 'Luckily, he did it well'. **adverbial** (æd'vɜːbɪəl) *adj*

adversary ('ædvəsərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** an enemy or person with whom you are in competition.

adverse ('ædvɜːs) *adj* against or hurtful to someone: *adverse criticism.* **adversely** *adv* **adversity** (əd'vɜːsɪtɪ) 1 *nu* adverse conditions: *triumph in adversity.* 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** an adverse event.

advertise ('ædvətaɪz) *vt* make (a fact, product, etc.) known. **advertisement** (əd'vɜːtɪsmənt) (*infml abbrev.* **ad**, *Brit* **advert**) *nc* a sign, notice in a newspaper, short television film, etc., advertising something. **advertiser** *nc*

advice (əd'vaɪs) *vt* 1 a recommendation as to what action to take: *Let me give you some advice.* 2 information.

advise (əd'vaɪz) *vt* 1 give advice to; recommend: *advise care; We were advised to wait.* 2 inform; tell formally. **advisable** *adj* recommended; wise: *It would be advisable to wait.* **adviser** *nc* someone who gives advice, esp. someone whose job is to do this. **advisory** (əd'vaɪzərɪ) *adj* giving advice.

advocate ('ædvəkeɪt) *vt* recommend (an action, etc.). • ('ædvəkət) *nc* 1 a person who advocates something: *an advocate of peace.* 2 a lawyer who tries to prove or disprove a case in court.

aedis (eɪ'iːdɪz) *nc* also **aedis mosquito** a tropical mosquito that carries the yellow fever virus. See also **anopheles.**

aegis ('iːdʒɪs) *nu* protection: *I'm doing this work under the aegis of the University.*

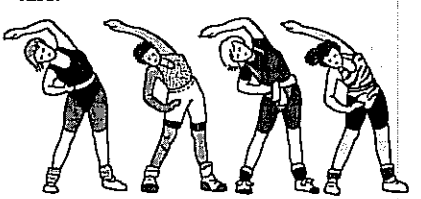
aerate ('eəreɪt) *vt* 1 add air or gas to (water, etc.), esp. to make a fizzy drink. 2 make (something) fresh, clean, or pure by making it open to air: *He dug the soil well so as to aerate it.*

aerial ('eərɪəl) *adj* to do with (the) air. • *nc* also **antenna** a wire or metal pole, etc., used to send or receive radio and television signals.

aerobatics (ˌeərə'bætɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) dangerous flying in a plane, that is done for show.

aerobic (eə'rəubɪk) *adj biology* 1 depending on oxygen to live: *aerobic respiration.* 2 concerning aerobics: *aerobic exercise.*

aerobics (eə'rəubɪks) *n pl* physical exercise often done to music to increase health by increasing the oxygen in the blood: see picture.



aerobics

aerodrome ('eərədrəum) *nc* a place where mainly small planes take off and land.

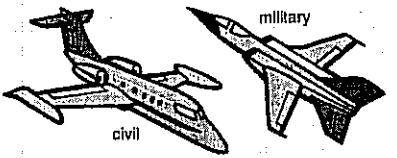
aerodynamics (ˌeərəudaɪ'næmɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of objects moving through gases.

aerofoil ('eərəufɔɪl) *US* **airfoil** *nc* an object, such as a plane wing, with surfaces shaped to produce lift when it is moved through the air.

aerogramme ('eərəˌgræm) *nc* also **aerogram, air letter** a letter sent by air on a single folded sheet of thin paper without an envelope.

aeronautics (ˌeərə'nɔːtɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study or practice of flight through the air.

aeroplane ('eərəpleɪn) *US* **airplane** (often shortened to **plane**) *nc* a heavier-than-air flying vehicle that has fixed wings and needs power to rise: see picture.



aeroplane

aerosol ('eərəsɒl) *nc* a container for a liquid, such as paint, that is held under pressure and can be let out in a spray: *Aerosols can be damaging to the environment.* See also **CFC.**

aerospace ('eərəʊspeɪs) *nu* 1 the air round the earth together with the space beyond it. 2 the building of vehicles that fly in both air and space: *the aerospace industry.*

aesthetic (iːs'θetɪk) *adj* to do with a proper understanding of pure beauty, esp. in art, architecture, etc. **aesthetically** *adv* **aesthetics** *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of the laws of beauty and good taste.

aestivate ('iːstɪˌveɪt) *vi zoology* spend the hottest months in a dormant condition: *Many snakes in the desert aestivate until the rains begin.* See also **hibernate. aestivation** (ˌiːstɪ'veɪʃən) *nu botany* the arrangement of the parts of a flower in a bud.

afar (ə'fɑː*) *adv* a long way away.

affable ('æfəbəl) *adj* friendly or kind. **affability** (ˌæfə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu* **affably** *adv*

affair (ə'feə*) *nc* 1 a matter; business: *The whole affair is a mystery.* 2 a sexual relationship between two people not married to each other.

affect[1] (ə'fekt) *vt* have an effect on; make a difference to: *This weather could affect the harvest.*

affect[2] *vt* pretend to feel or have (a quality or condition); put on a show of doing or being (something you are not): *Hearing him walk towards her, she decided to affect deafness if he spoke.* **affectation** (ˌæfek'teɪʃən) *nc* a pretence put on for show: *His foreign appearance is only an affectation.* **affected** *adv* 1 done as an affectation. 2 (of a person) having affectations.

affection (ə'fekʃən) *nu* a kindly or loving feeling: *affection for their children.* **affectionate** (ə'fekʃənət) *adj* showing or feeling affection. **affectionately** *adv*

affidavit (ˌæfɪ'deɪvɪt) *nc* a sworn written statement for use in a court of law.

affiliate (ə'fɪlɪeɪt) *vt* connect (a person, society, etc.) to a (larger) organisation: *a local club affiliated to the national body.* • (ə'fɪlɪət) *nc* an affiliated person, society, etc. **affiliation** (əˌfɪlɪ'eɪʃən) *nu*

affinity (ə'fɪnɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a liking: *an affinity for sport.* 2 a likeness; similarity: *an affinity between brothers.*

affirm (ə'fɜːm) *vt* declare or confirm to be true. **affirmation** (ˌæfə'meɪʃən) *ncu* **affirmative** (ə'fɜːmətɪv) *adj* affirming: *'Yes' is an affirmative answer.*

affix (ə'fɪks) *fml vt* fix; fasten: *A stamp should be affixed to the envelope.* • ('æfɪks) *grammar nc* a part added at the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning such as 're-' in 'rewrite'.

afflict (ə'flɪkt) *vt* cause suffering or worry to: *Old age afflicts us all.* **affliction** 1 *nu* the state of being afflicted. 2 *nc* something that afflicts.

affluent ('æflʊənt) *adj* wealthy; rich: *the affluent society.* **affluence** *nu*

afford (ə'fɔːd) *vt* 1 be able to spare: *I can't afford the time.* 2 have the means, time, or money for: *I can't afford a new coat; Can you afford to take a day off work?* 3 *fml* provide (with): *We may not be afforded such an opportunity again.*

afforestation (əˌfɒrɪ'steɪʃən) *nu* planting with trees to make a forest. See also **deforestation.**

affront (ə'frʌnt) *vt* insult. • *nc* an insult.

afield (ə'fiːld) *adv* to or at a distance; away, esp. from home: *He hasn't gone far afield.*

afire (ə'faɪə*) *adj* on fire.

aflame (ə'fleɪm) *adj* in flames.

aflatoxin (ˌæflə'tɒksɪn) *nc chemistry* a poisonous substance found in moulds on groundnuts, etc., and thought to cause kwashiorkor in children.

afloat (ə'fləʊt) *adj* floating.

afoot (ə'fʊt) *adv* about; happening: *There's evil afoot.*

aforementioned (ə'fɔːˌmenʃənd) *fml adj* already mentioned.

aforesaid (ə'fɔːsed) *fml adj* already mentioned.

afraid (ə'freɪd) *adj* 1 (often followed by **of**) feeling fear: *afraid of death; He's afraid that she won't be there.* 2 (followed by an infinitive) unwilling because of fear: *afraid to fight.* **I'm afraid** regretfully; unfortunately: *I'm afraid I've got bad news.*

afresh (ə'freʃ) *adv* again.

aft (ɑːft) *nautical, aviation, adj, adv* at or towards the back of a boat or plane.

after ('ɑːftə*) *prep, adv* 1 during the time following; later than. 2 in a place following; behind. • *prep* 1 about: *He asked*

after you. 2 hoping to find or receive: *I'm after that job.* 3 in the manner or style of: *a painting after the Italian masters.* 4 by the name of: *The city was called New York after York in England.* 5 *US* See **past** *prep* (def. 2). • *conj* following the time when: *You played after I did.* **after all** 1 in spite of expectations: *So you went, after all!* 2 what is more important: *After all, it wouldn't have worked.*

after-effect ('ɑːftərɪˌfekt) *nc* an effect that happens a long time after its cause.

aftermath ('ɑːftəmæθ, 'ɑːftəmɑːθ) *ncu* results: *the aftermath of war.*

afternoon (ˌɑːftə'nuːn) *nc* the part of a day between midday and evening.

afterthought ('ɑːftəθɔːt) *nc* something thought of or added later.

afterwards ('ɑːftəwədz) *adv* after a particular event: *I'm in a meeting now, but I can see you afterwards.*

again (ə'gen, ə'geɪn) *adv* 1 (yet) another time; once more. 2 besides; in addition: *half as much again.* 3 on the other hand: *That could be right, but then again I can't prove it.* **now and again** occasionally; every so often. **time and (time) again** many times; repeatedly.

against (ə'genst, ə'geɪnst) *prep* 1 in opposition to: *the fight against crime; I'm against killing animals for food.* 2 (into a position) onto: *He hit his head against the wall; He's leaning against our car.* 3 as protection from: *I had to wear gloves against the cold.*

agar ('eɪgə*) *nu* also **agar-agar** *biology* a jelly-like substance which comes from seaweed and is used in a laboratory to grow bacteria on.

agate ('ægɪt) *ncu* (a piece of) a hard stone used in jewellery.

age (eɪdʒ) *nc* 1 the length of the life or existence of someone or something: *What's the age of this horse?* 2 a period of life: *old age.* 3 a period of history: *the modern age.* 4 *infml* (often *pl*) a long time: *I did it ages ago.* 5 *nu* the quality of being old: *One gets slower with age.* • *vti* make, become, or begin to seem old or older: *He has aged much under the heavy work of his new job.* **come** or **be of age** reach or have reached the age at which you become responsible for your actions. **aged** *adj* 1 ('eɪdʒɪd) (of a person) old. 2 (eɪdʒd) having the age of: *a man aged forty.* **ageing** (also **aging**) ('eɪdʒɪŋ) *adj* old: *my ageing parents.* • *nu* the process of growing old. **age-group** ('eɪdʒgruːp) *nc* people who are of a similar age. **ageless** ('eɪdʒlɪs) *adj* never seeming to become old. **age limit** the oldest or youngest age someone can join a group, club, etc. **age-old** ('eɪdʒəʊld) *adj* (of a thing) very old.

agency ('eɪdʒənsɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-cies** the business or office of an agent: *a travel agency.* 2 *fml nu* action; help; influence: *I was separated from my family through the agency of war.*

agenda (ə'dʒendə) *nc* a list of matters to be dealt with, esp. by a committee.

agent ('eɪdʒənt) *nc* 1 a person who acts, esp. on business, for another: *an insurance agent; a travel agent.* 2 a substance that has an effect on something else: *a cleaning agent.*

agglomerate (ə'glɒmərət) *nc* 1 *geography* a rock made from volcanic fragments fused by heat. 2 a jumbled mass or collection.

agglomeration (əˌglɒmə'reɪʃən) *nc* a large collected quantity of something, esp. buildings forming a town, or rocks from a volcano melted together in a disordered way.

agglutination (əˌgluːtɪ'neɪʃən) *nu* 1 *grammar* the building of words from parts that keep their meaning. 2 a group of things joined together with glue. **agglutinin** (ə'gluːtɪnɪn) *nc biology* an antibody that makes bacteria stick together in clumps.

aggravate ('ægrəveɪt) *vt* 1 make worse. 2 *infml* annoy. **aggravation** *nu*

aggregate ('ægrɪgeɪt) *vt* join (esp. numbers) together. • ('ægrɪgɪt) 1 *nc* something produced by aggregating; a total. 2 *nu* sand and stones used with cement to make concrete.

aggression (ə'greʃən) 1 *nc* an attack, esp. by one country on another. 2 *nu* the feeling of wanting to attack someone or something. **aggressive** (ə'gresɪv) *adj* showing or feeling aggression. **aggressor** (ə'gresə*) *nc* an attacker.

aggrieved (ə'griːvd) *adj* unfairly dealt with.

aghast (ə'gɑːst) *adj* horrified or very surprised.

agile ('ædʒaɪl) *adj* able to move quickly. **agility** (ə'dʒɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

aging ('eɪdʒɪŋ) *adj, n* See **ageing** under **age.**

agitate ('ædʒɪteɪt) *vt* 1 worry; excite. 2 shake (a liquid mixture, etc.). 3 *vi* (often followed by **for** or **against**) try to persuade people to have opinions for or against something. **agitation** (ˌædʒɪ'teɪʃən) *nu* **agitator** *nc*

aglow (ə'gləʊ) *adj* giving off light without burning.

agnostic (æg'nɒstɪk) *nc* a person who

believes that it is impossible to know anything about a god. • *adj* to do with this belief or with agnostics.

ago (ə'gəʊ) *adv* before now: *He was here ten minutes ago.*

agog (ə'gɒg) *adj* eager; curious.

agony ('ægənɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** great pain or worry. **agonise** ('ægənaɪz) *vti* (cause to) suffer agony.

agoraphobia (ˌægrə'fəʊbɪə) *nu medicine* an extreme fear of open places. See also **claustrophobia.**

agranulocyte (ə'grænjʊləˌsaɪt) *nc biology* a white blood cell which produces antibodies.

agrarian (ə'greərɪən) *adj* to do with land, esp. farmland.

agree (ə'griː) *vi* 1 (often followed by **with**) have the same opinion: *I agree with you that I should go.* 2 (often followed by **to**) approve; allow: *I won't agree to his going.* 3 (followed by **with**) (esp. of food) suit: *Milk doesn't agree with me.* 4 (often followed by **with**) match; be similar: *These figures don't agree with each other. vt* 5 (sometimes followed by **on**) decide together: *We've agreed on where to meet.* 6 *grammar* (often followed by **with** or **in**) match in number, person, etc.: *In many languages, adjectives must agree with nouns.* **agreeable** *adj* 1 pleasing; acceptable. 2 willing to agree. **agreeably** *adv* **agreement** 1 *nu* the act or state of agreeing. 2 *nc* an arrangement reached by agreement.

agriculture ('ægrɪkʌlʧə*) *nu* (the science or practice of) the use of land for growing food and raising animals. **agricultural** (ˌægrɪ'kʌlʧərəl) *adj*

aground (ə'graʊnd) *adj, adv* (of a boat) on(to) the bottom of the sea, a lake, etc., in shallow water: *run aground.*

ah (ɑː) *interj* (used to express surprise, admiration, pain, etc.)

ahead (ə'hed) *adj, adv* in front; further forward. **ahead of** in front of; further forward than.

ahoy (ə'hɔɪ) *nautical interj* (used to attract attention): *Ship ahoy!*

aid (eɪd) 1 *nu* help, esp. money. 2 *nc* something that gives aid: *a walking aid.* • *vt* give aid to; help. **first aid** help given immediately to an injured person. **in aid of** in support of; for the purpose of.

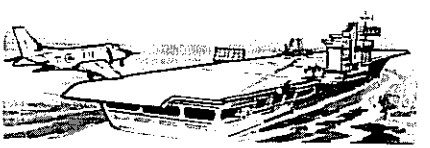
Aids (eɪdz) also **AIDS** *nu* Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; a very serious disease caused by a virus and spread by sexual intercourse or contact with the blood of an infected person.

ail (eɪl) 1 *vi* be ill or in a bad state. 2 *vt* be wrong with; trouble: *What ails you?* **ailment** *nc* an illness, esp. a slight one.

aim (eɪm) 1 *vt* (often with **at** after direct object) point; direct: *Never aim a gun at anybody. vi* 2 (followed by an infinitive) intend; hope: *We aim to leave soon.* 3 (followed by **at** or **for**) try to get or bring about: *I'm aiming for a low price.* • *nc* 1 the action of aiming. 2 something aimed at or for. **aimless** *adj* with no purpose or direction.

ain't (eɪnt) *not standard v* am not, are not, is not, have not, or has not.

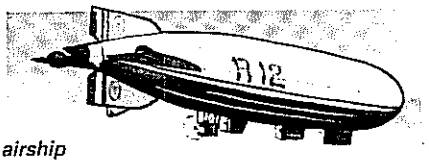
air (eə*) 1 *nu* the mixture of gases that surrounds the earth. *nc* 2 a tune. 3 an appearance; manner: *He has the air of a happy man.* • *vt* 1 let fresh, cool air reach (a room, etc.); let fresh, warm air reach (clothes, etc.). 2 express or make known (opinions, etc.). **airborne** ('eəbɔːn) *adj* (travelling or carried) in the air: *an airborne attack.* **air-conditioned** (ˌeəkən'dɪʃənd, 'eəkəndɪʃənd) *adj* (of a room, building, car, etc.) containing air that is cooled for comfort. **aircraft** ('eəkrɑːft) *nc, pl* **aircraft** a flying vehicle, such as a plane or helicopter. **aircraft carrier** a warship with a mainly flat top on which planes can take off and land: see picture.



aircraft carrier

airfield ('eəfiːld) *nc* a place where planes are kept and take off and land. **airfoil** ('eəfɔɪl) *US n* See **aerofoil. air force** a country's aeroplanes and men who fly them, used for defence and war. **airfreight** ('eəfreɪt) *nu* goods sent by air. **air letter** See **aerogramme. airlift** ('eəˌlɪft) *nc* an operation in which people are lifted out or supplies lifted in to a disaster area by plane. • *vt*: *Thousands of refugees were airlifted to safety.* **airline** ('eəlaɪn) *nc* a business that transports people or goods by air. **airmail** ('eəmeɪl) *nu* mail carried in planes. **airman** ('eəmən) *nc, pl* **-men** (mən) a man who flies or helps to fly aircraft, esp. a pilot. **airplane** ('eəpleɪn) *US n* See **aeroplane. airport** ('eəpɔːt) *nc* a place where large aircraft for passengers or goods are kept and take off and land. **air raid** *nc* an attack by aircraft, esp. dropping bombs. **air sac** one of many cavities

in the lungs of a bird or insect which helps with respiration. **airship** ('eəʃɪp) *nc* a flying machine that gets its lift from a very large bag filled with a gas that is lighter than air: see picture. **airstrip** ('eəstrɪp) *nc* a piece of ground where planes take off and land. **airtight** ('eətaɪt) *adj* not allowing air in or out: *an airtight door.*



airship

airy ('eərɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (esp. of a room, etc.) containing much (fresh) air. 2 hopeful; not realistic: *airy plans.*

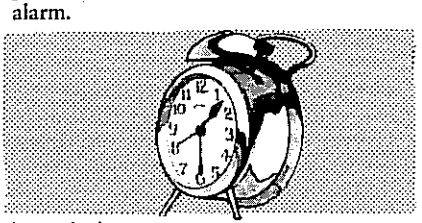
aisle (aɪl) *nc* a path between rows of seats in a church, plane, or theatre.

ajar (ə'dʒɑɪ*) *adj* (of a window or door) slightly open.

akin (ə'kɪn) *adj* (often followed by **to**) similar; related.

alacrity (ə'lækrɪtɪ) *nu* speed; haste.

alarm (ə'lɑːm) 1 *nu* frightened expectation of danger: *The noise of shouting filled him with alarm.* 2 *nc* a device that gives a warning of danger: *a fire alarm; a burglar alarm.* • *vt* cause alarm in (someone). **alarm clock** a clock that rings a bell or gives some other signal at a set time: see picture. **alarming** *adj* giving cause for alarm.


alarm clock

alas (ə'læs) *interj* (used to express disappointment, sorrow, etc.)

albatross ('ælbətrɒs) *nc* a large sea-bird.

albeit (ɔːl'biːɪt) *conj* even though: *She brought me a present, albeit a small one.*

albino (æl'biːnəʊ) *nc, pl* **-nos** a person or animal born with white skin and hair and pink eyes.

album ('ælbəm) *nc* 1 a book for keeping photographs, stamps, etc., in. 2 a long-playing vinyl record: *My brother has a huge collection of albums and CDs.*

albumen ('ælbjʊmən) *nu* 1 the white of an egg. 2 *botany* the food of a young plant stored in a seed.

alchemist ('ælkɪmɪst) *nc* a person in the past who tried to make gold out of other metals.

alcohol ('ælkəhɒl) *nu* a clear liquid that is in drinks such as beer, wine, and spirits and is burnt to run engines, etc. **alcoholic** (ˌælkə'hɒlɪk) *adj* to do with alcohol: *alcoholic drink.* • *nc* a person who depends on taking alcoholic drink. **alcoholism** ('ælkəhɒlɪzəm) *nu* the state of being an alcoholic.

alcove ('ælkəʊv) *nc* a space set into the wall of a room.

ale (eɪl) *n* See **beer.**

alert (ə'lɜːt) *adj* fully awake; ready for action. • *nc* 1 a warning, esp. of an attack. 2 the period for which such a warning lasts. • *vt* warn; make alert: *Has he been alerted to the danger?*

alfalfa (æl'fælfə) See **lucerne.**

algae ('ælgiː, 'ældʒiː) *n pl* simple plants that grow in water, esp. seaweeds.

algebra ('ældʒɪbrə) *nu* a branch of mathematics using letters to represent numbers. **algebraic** (ˌældʒɪ'breɪɪk) *adj*

alias ('eɪlɪəs) *adv* also known as: *Eric Warburton alias John Smith.* • *nc, pl* **-ses** a name other than your original name.

alibi ('ælɪbaɪ) *nc, pl* **-bis** a defence by an accused person that they were somewhere else at the time the crime took place.

alien ('eɪlɪən) *adj* foreign. • *nc* a foreigner.

alienate ('eɪlɪəneɪt) *vt* turn away; cause to become unfriendly. **alienation** (ˌeɪlɪə'neɪʃən) *nu* the state of being or feeling alienated, esp. from the rest of society.

alight[1] (ə'laɪt) *vi fml* 1 (often followed by **from**) step out (of) or off: *Do not alight from a moving bus.* 2 land; settle after coming down from the air: *The bird alighted on a branch.*

alight[2] *adj* 1 burning. 2 lit up.

align (ə'laɪn) *vt* place in a line. **alignment** *nc* a line made by aligning.

alike (ə'laɪk) *adj, adv* like each other; similar(ly): *My brother and sister are very alike.*

alimentary (ˌælɪ'mentərɪ) *adj* to do with feeding: *Food travels down the alimentary canal.*

alimony ('ælɪmənɪ) *nu* money ordered by a court to be paid by a man to his former wife.

alive (ə'laɪv) *adj* 1 living. 2 active; full of life. **alive to** paying attention to; making use of: *alive to new ideas.* **alive with** containing large numbers of: *The lake is alive with fish.*

alkali ('ælkəlaɪ) *nc, pl* **-lis, -lies** a chemical substance that cancels out the effect of an acid. **alkaline** ('ælkəlaɪn) *adj* **alkaline-**

earth metals a group of chemical elements, such as magnesium and calcium.

all (ɔːl) *determiner, pron* the whole number or quantity of: *all the time; That's all we have left; Are they all here?* • *determiner* 1 the greatest possible: *with all speed.* 2 any; every: *beyond all doubt.* • *adv* completely: *Everything suddenly went all quiet.* **after all** See under **after. all at once** 1 together; at the same time. 2 suddenly. **all of** no less than; as much as: *She's all of ninety.* **all over** 1 on the whole surface (of): *There's paint all over the carpet.* 2 completely finished: *His life's work was all over now.* 3 acting normally; just like (someone): *That's him all over!* 4 very or too friendly or helpful towards: *Learning of his great wealth, she was suddenly all over him, attending to his every need.* **all right** (also *not standard* **alright**) 1 good or well enough. 2 safe(ly): *Did you get home all right?* 3 definitely: *It's him all right.* 4 (used to agree to a request): *Will you do this for me, please?—All right.* **all the same** See under **same. in all** altogether: *I have five in all.* **not at all** 1 in no way or not even the slightest amount: *I don't like him at all.* 2 (used to accept thanks.) **all-important** (ˌɔːlɪmˈpɔːtənt) *adj* most important. **all-round** (ˈɔːlraʊnd) *adj* good in all respects: *an all-round footballer.*

Allah (ˈælə) *n* the Islamic name for God.

allay (əˈleɪ) *vt* lessen or get rid of (pain, fear, etc.).

allege (əˈledʒ) *vt* state without proof: *He is alleging that I am a thief; the alleged crime.* **allegation** (ˌælɪˈgeɪʃən) *nc* something alleged.

allegiance (əˈliːdʒəns) *nu* loyalty, esp. to your country.

allegory (ˈælɪgərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a story, picture, etc., of which the elements represent things with deeper meaning. **allegorical** (ˌælɪˈgɒrɪkəl) *adj*

allele (əˈliːl) *nc biology* short for **allelomorph** one of a pair of genes on a chromosome which decides your height, the colour of your eyes, etc.

allergy (ˈælədʒɪ) *medicine nc, pl* **-gies** a condition in which something, such as dust, has an unusual effect on the body. **allergic** (əˈlɜːdʒɪk) *adj* (usually followed by **to**) to do with, esp. having, an allergy: *I'm allergic to feathers.*

alleviate (əˈliːvɪeɪt) *vt* lessen (pain, suffering, etc.).

alley (ˈælɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a path or narrow road between buildings.

alliance (əˈlaɪəns) 1 *nu* the state of agreement or connection. *nc* 2 an agreement, esp. between political parties or countries, to act in the common interest. 3 the parties, countries, etc., that make such an agreement. 4 a marriage.

alligator (ˈælɪgeɪtə*) *nc* a large South American and Asian animal with powerful jaws and tail that lives on land and in water: see picture at **reptiles.**

alliteration (əˌlɪtəˈreɪʃən) *nu grammar* the use of a particular sound in several words close together, as in: *'Sister Susie sews socks for sailors'.*

allocate (ˈæləkeɪt) *vt* give to use, etc., as your share: *You've been allocated this room to work in.* **allocation** (ˌæləˈkeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of allocating. 2 *nc* something allocated.

allot (əˈlɒt) *vt* share out; give a share of. **allotment** 1 *nu* the act of allotting. *nc* 2 something allotted. 3 *Brit* a small piece of public land rented by someone to grow flowers or vegetables on.

allotrope (ˈælətrəʊp) *nc* any of two or more forms, all either solid, liquid, or gas, of a chemical element: *Diamond and graphite are allotropes of carbon.*

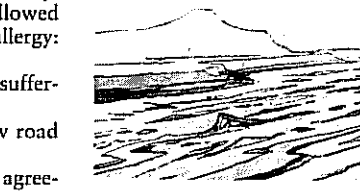
allow (əˈlaʊ) *vt* 1 permit. 2 admit or accept (a point of argument, etc.): *The judge allowed the claim.* 3 prepare or expect to need: *I should allow three metres of cloth for that jacket.* 4 give; agree to give; let (someone) have (money). **allowance** *nc* something allowed, esp. an amount of money given regularly. **allow for** (prepare, add, or take away in order to) take into consideration. **make allowances for** take account of (something, esp. an excuse for bad behaviour, etc.): *He's late, but we must make allowances for the distance he has to come.*

alloy (ˈælɔɪ) *nc* a mixture of metals, such as brass. • *vt* mix (metals).

allude (əˈluːd) *vi* (followed by **to**) mention indirectly: *Are you alluding to something I have written?* **allusion** (əˈluːʒən) *ncu*

allure (əˈljʊə*) *vt* attract: *alluring colours.* • *nu* attraction.

alluvial (əˈluːvjəl) *adj* to do with earth left behind by rivers: *the alluvial plain:* see picture.



alluvial

alluvium (ə'luːvɪəm) *nu* the earth left behind by rivers.

ally ('ælaɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** a country, person, etc., agreeing with one or more others that they should act in their common interest. • ('ælaɪ, ə'laɪ) *vt* make an ally of: *We should ally ourselves to our neighbours.* **allied** *adj* 1 joined by agreement or treaty. 2 related; connected.

almanac ('ɔːlmənæk) *nc* a yearly book of information.

almighty (ɔːl'maɪtɪ) *adj* 1 more powerful than any other. 2 *infml* very great: *an almighty crash.*

almond ('ɑːmənd) *nc* a nut of the almond tree.

almost ('ɔːlməʊst) *adv* nearly: *Come in, I'm almost ready.*

alms (ɑːmz) *n pl* money or goods given to poor people.

aloe ('æləʊ) *nc* a southern African plant with thick leaves, of which the juice is used as a medicine and in cosmetics.

aloft (ə'lɒft) *adj, adv* in or to a higher place.

alone (ə'ləʊn) *adj, adv* without other people or other things: *I like living all alone.* • *adv* only: *I alone can help you.* **leave** or **let alone** not disturb or annoy. **let alone** still less: *I haven't got a bicycle, let alone a car.*

along (ə'lɒŋ) *prep, adv* for (any part of) the length (of): *We walked along the road.* • *adv* 1 with; in your company: *Would you like to come along?* 2 *infml* over, across, up, down: *Why not come along and see us sometime?* **all along** for or through the whole length of: *There are trees all along the road.* **along with** together with; and: *I bought the vegetables, along with a nice piece of meat.* **be along** come: *I'll be along in a minute.*

alongside (əlɒŋ'saɪd) *prep, adv* along the side (of): *The other ship is alongside us.*

aloof (ə'luːf) *adj, adv* 1 apart; independent; without fear or favour: *The judge must stand aloof from the case.* 2 *often derogatory* without sympathy: *He is too aloof to make friends with anyone.*

aloud (ə'laʊd) *adv* 1 in a normal speaking voice. 2 in a voice able to be heard at a distance.

alpha ('ælfə) *nc* the first letter of the Greek alphabet. **alpha particle** *nc* a positively charged particle released from an atom during radioactive decay. See also **beta particle; gamma radiation.**

alphabet ('ælfəbet) *nc* a set of letters used for writing a language. **alphabetical** (ˌælfə'betɪkəl) *adj* in the order in which the alphabet is generally used: *an alphabetical list of names.*

alps (ælps) *n pl* 1 any range of high mountains: *New Zealand's alps are in its South Island.* 2 **the Alps** the mountain range in western Europe. **alpine** ('ælpaɪn) *adj* to do with the Alps or with any mountains: *alpine flowers.*

already (ɔːl'redɪ) *adv* 1 before a particular time: *I have already seen it.* 2 earlier than expected: *It's already quite late.*

alright (ɔːl'raɪt) *not standard adj, adv* See **all right** under **all.**

also ('ɔːlsəʊ) *adv* as well; besides: *I would also like a kilo of mangoes.*

altar ('ɔːltə*) *nc* a block or table used for religious sacrifices or, in Christian churches, for Communion.

alter ('ɔːltə*) *vti* change. **alteration** (ˌɔːltə'reɪʃən) *ncu*

altercation (ˌɔːltə'keɪʃən) *nc* an angry conversation; argument.

alternate (ˌɔːltəneɪt) *vti* (often followed by **with** or **between**) (of two or more things), (cause to) do something or happen by turns: *Day alternates with night; She alternates between moods of anger and joy; He and I alternate as driver.* • (ɔːl'tɜːnət) *adj* 1 alternating: *alternate mountains and valleys.* 2 every second: *He works on alternate weeks.* **alternate angles** *n pl mathematics* angles on opposite sides of a line crossing two others. **alternately** *adv* **alternating current** electricity that changes direction regularly: *abbrev.* AC.

alternative (ɔːl'tɜːnətɪv) *adj* possible as a choice instead of something else. • *nc* one of two possible choices. **alternatively** *adv*

although (ɔːl'ðəʊ) *conj* in spite of the fact that; though.

altitude ('æltɪtjuːd) *nc* the height at which something is situated, esp. above sea level.

alto ('æltəʊ) *nu* 1 also **contralto** the lowest female singing voice. 2 also **countertenor** the highest male singing voice. 3 *nc, pl* **-s** a male or female singer with an alto voice.

altogether (ˌɔːltə'geðə*) *adv* in total; with everything considered; completely.

altruism ('æltruːɪzəm) *nu* kindness, generosity, or helpfulness to other people. **altruistic** (ˌæltruː'ɪstɪk) *adj*

aluminium (ˌæljʊ'mɪnjəm) *US* **aluminum** (ə'luːmɪnəm) *nu* a chemical element; light, silvery-coloured metal that is used for aircraft, etc., and does not need protecting from air or water.

alveolus (æl'vɪtələs) *nc, pl* **-li** (laɪ) one of the air sacs in the lungs.

always ('ɔɪlweɪz) *adv* 1 each time: *It always rains when I go out.* 2 whatever happens: *You can always feed it to the dog!* 3 at all or most times; again and again: *There's always someone causing trouble.*

am (æm unstressed əm) *v* (used with **I**) a form of **be**.

amalgam (ə'mælgəm) *ncu* 1 *science* an alloy of mercury and other metals: *The dentist used a mercury and silver amalgam in my fillings.* 2 a mixture or blend of different things: *His character is an amalgam of strength and weakness.* **amalgamate** (ə'mælgəmeɪt) *vti* **amalgamation** (ə,mælgə'meɪʃən) *ncu*

amass (ə'mæs) *vti* (cause to) gather or collect: *his amassed wealth.*

amateur ('æmətə*, 'æmətjʊə*) *nc* a person who does something, esp. sport, for pleasure not money. ● *adj* 1 to do with amateurs. 2 poor; badly done: *an amateur piece of work.*

amaze (ə'meɪz) *vt* surprise greatly; astonish. **amazement** *nu* **amazing** *adj* **amazingly** *adv*

ambassador (æm'bæsədə*) *nc* a person representing their country abroad.

amber ('æmbə*) *nu* 1 a hard, dark yellow substance formed from a liquid in trees that grew thousands of years ago. 2 the colour of amber. 3 the yellow colour of traffic lights used as warnings.

ambidextrous (ˌæmbɪ'dekstrəs) *adj* able to use both hands equally well.

ambience ('æmbɪəns) *nu* the atmosphere of a place: *The library has a tranquil ambience.*

ambient ('æmbɪənt) *adj* all around a place; surrounding: *ambient temperature; The ambient air was sweet with the scent of flowers.*

ambiguous (æm'bɪgjuɪəs) *adj* having more than one possible meaning. **ambiguity** (ˌæmbɪ'gjuːɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the state of being ambiguous. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something ambiguous.

ambition (æm'bɪʃən) *ncu* (a) desire to do or succeed in something: *an ambition to climb Mount Everest.* **ambitious** *adj*

ambivalence (æm'bɪvələns) *nu* having opposite opinions or feelings at the same time.

amble ('æmbəl) *vi* walk slowly.

ambrosia (æm'brəʊzɪə) *nu* delicious food: *In ancient Greece and Rome ambrosia was the food of the gods.*

ambulance ('æmbjʊləns) *nc* a road vehicle for carrying sick or injured people: see picture.

ambulance

ambush ('æmbʊʃ) *nc* an attack by hidden waiting soldiers, etc. ● *vt* attack in an ambush.

ameliorate (ə'miːljəreɪt) *vti* make or become better; improve.

amen (ˌɑɪ'men, ˌeɪ'men) *interj, adv* (used at the end of a Christian prayer) so be it; in truth.

amenable (ə'miːnəbəl) *adj* 1 open to suggestions; likely to be persuaded. 2 (usually followed by **to**) responsible.

amend (ə'mend) *vt* change, esp. to correct or improve. **make amends for** do something to put right or make up for (a wrong). **amendment** *ncu* (an example of) amending.

amenity (ə'miːnɪtɪ, ə'miːnətɪ) *nc, pl* **ties** a useful place or service, esp. public, such as shops, a library, or a park.

amethyst ('æmɪθɪst) *ncu* (a piece of) a purple or violet precious stone.

amiable ('eɪmɪəbəl) *adj* (esp. of a person) pleasant; friendly.

amicable ('æmɪkəbəl) *adj* (esp. of an action) friendly: *The argument was settled in an amicable way.*

amid (ə'mɪd) *prep* also **amidst** (ə'mɪdst) in the middle of.

amino acid (ə'miːnəʊˌæsɪd) *ncu chemistry* a substance that combines to form the proteins which make up living matter and provide nutrition for the body.

amiss (ə'mɪs) *adj, adv* incorrect(ly); wrong(ly): *Something has gone amiss.* **take (something) amiss** feel hurt or insulted by (something).

ammeter ('æmɪtə*) *nc* an instrument for measuring electrical current in amperes.

ammonia (ə'məʊnɪə) *chemistry nu* a colourless, strong-smelling gas containing nitrogen and used esp. for making fertilisers: symbol NH_3. **ammonium** (ə'məʊnɪəm) *nu* the radical of ammonia salts: symbol NH_4 or NH_4^+: *ammonium hydroxide.*

ammunition (ˌæmjʊ'nɪʃən) *nu* 1 bullets, shells, etc., fired by guns. 2 information, etc., used to support an argument.

amnesia (æm'niːzɪə) *nu* loss of memory.

amnesty ('æmnəstɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** an act of cancelling punishments or promising not to punish people who confess to a crime.

amoeba *US* **ameba** (ə'mi:bə) *nc, pl* **amoebas, amoebae** (bi:) a tiny animal that lives in water and has only one cell.

amok (ə'mɒk) *adv* See **amuck.**

among (ə'mʌŋ) *prep* also **amongst** (ə'mʌŋst) 1 surrounded by; within: *among a crowd of people.* 2 between: *Divide it amongst yourselves; There's agreement among us.* 3 (followed by a comparative or superlative adjective and a plural of the noun) one of: *London is among the biggest cities in the world.*

amorous ('æmərəs) *adj* to do with love.

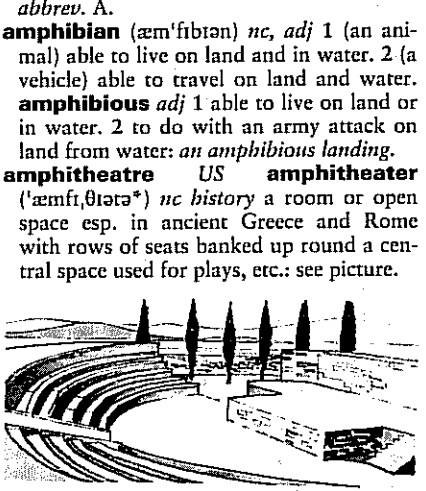
amorphous (ə'mɔ:fəs) *adj* having no particular shape.

amount (ə'maʊnt) *nc* a quantity, esp. a total. • *vi* (followed by **to**) add up or be equal (to) in quantity, meaning, etc.: *His unenthusiastic answer amounted to a refusal.*

ampere ('æmpeə*) (often shortened to **amp**) *nc* a measure of electrical current = the current flowing when one coulomb passes a point in a circuit per second: *abbrev.* A.

amphibian (æm'fɪbɪən) *nc, adj* 1 (an animal) able to live on land and in water. 2 (a vehicle) able to travel on land and water. **amphibious** *adj* 1 able to live on land or in water. 2 to do with an army attack on land from water: *an amphibious landing.*

amphitheatre *US* **amphitheater** ('æmfɪˌθɪətə*) *nc history* a room or open space esp. in ancient Greece and Rome with rows of seats banked up round a central space used for plays, etc.: see picture.



amphitheatre

ample ('æmpəl) *adj* **-r, -st** large; more than enough. **amply** *adv*

amplify ('æmplɪfaɪ) *vt* make (esp. sound signals) stronger, louder, etc. **amplification** (ˌæmplɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu* **amplifier** *nc* a device used to amplify an electrical signal, esp. sound from a record, etc.

amplitude ('æmplɪtju:d) *ncu* a size or width, esp. of a sound or other wave.

ampoule ('æmpu:l) *nc medicine* a small sealed container for medicine which can be injected.

amputate ('æmpjʊteɪt) *vt* cut off (part of a living body, esp. (part of) an arm or leg).

amuck (ə'mʌk) *adv* (also **amok**) **run amuck** run about with a desire to kill or do other violence.

amulet ('æmjulət) *nc* something worn as a protection against evil.

amuse (ə'mju:z) *vt* 1 cause to laugh or smile. 2 interest pleasantly; entertain.

amusement (ə'mju:zmənt) 1 *nc* something that amuses, such as a game. 2 *nu* the state of being amused.

amylase ('æmɪˌleɪz) *nc biology* an enzyme found in saliva and used in digesting food.

an (æn unstressed ən) *determiner* See **a.**

an' (ən) *infml conj* short for **and.**

anachronism (ə'nækrənɪzəm) *nc* a person, thing, or event that is not in the right period of time.

anaemia *US* **anemia** (ə'ni:mɪə) *medicine nu* a shortage of red blood cells, or of haemoglobin in them, that produces a pale appearance to the body.

anaesthetic *US* **anesthetic** (ˌænəs'θetɪk) *nc, adj* (a substance) used to stop you feeling pain in all or part of the body. **anaesthetist** (ə'ni:sθətɪst) *US* **anesthesiologist** (ˌænəsθi:zɪ'ɒlədʒɪst) *nc* a person who uses anaesthetics on patients in hospital, etc. **anaesthetise** *US* **anesthetize** (ə'ni:sθəˌtaɪz) *vt* stop (someone) feeling pain by the use of anaesthetics.

anagram ('ænəgræm) *nc* a word whose letters can be put in a different order to make another word, such as: *evil* and *live.*

analogue *US* **analog** ('ænəˌlɒg) *adj* of or to do with an object or quantity that measures or represents a quantity: *an analogue clock with hands on a dial to show the time.* See also **digital.**

analogy (ə'nælədʒɪ) *ncu* (a) similarity or comparison, esp. in part: *There's an analogy between the movements of the sun and the hands of a clock.* **analogous** (ə'næləgəs) *adj*

analyse *US* **analyze** ('ænəlaɪz) *vt* examine (something) in detail, esp. by splitting it up into its parts. **analysis** (ə'næləsɪs) *ncu, pl* **-lyses** (ləsi:z) (an example of) analysing something. **analyst** ('ænəlɪst) *nc* a person who carries out analyses. **analytical** (ˌænə'lɪtɪkəl) *adj*

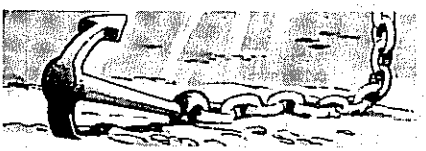
anarchy ('ænəkɪ) *nu* the absence of government (and order) in a society. **anarchist** *nc* a supporter of anarchy.

anathema (ə'næθəmə) *nc* a hated person or thing: *He is anathema to me.*

anatomy (ə'nætəmɪ) 1 *nu* the study of human or of other animal bodies or of the structure of plants. 2 *infml nc* a human body. **anatomical** (ˌænə'tɒmɪkəl) *adj*

ancestor ('ænsestə*) *nc* a person from whom you are descended, esp. further back than a grandparent. **ancestral** (æn'sestrəl) *adj* handed down from or to do with ancestors: *an ancestral home.* **ancestry** ('ænsestrɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (a line of) ancestors.

anchor ('æŋkə*) *nc* 1 a heavy metal device on a chain that is dropped to the bottom of the sea from a ship to stop the ship moving: see picture. 2 anything that holds something in place. **drop anchor** (of a ship) anchor. • *vti* use an anchor to (cause to) stay in place. **anchorage** *nc* a place where a ship anchors.



anchor

anchovy ('æntʃəvɪ) *nc, pl* **-vies** a small sea fish with a strong salty taste.

ancient ('eɪnʃənt) *adj* 1 very old. 2 of long ago, esp. to do with Rome and Greece before the year 476. • *nc* a person belonging to an ancient civilised society such as Rome or Greece.

ancillary (æn'sɪləri) *adj, nc, pl* **-ries** (someone or something) dependent or secondary: *Hospital cleaners are ancillary workers.*

and (ænd unstressed ənd, ən) (*infml abbrevs.* **an', 'n'**) *conj* 1 together with; as well as; in addition to: *men and women; both tall and wide.* 2 (used before a repeated word to indicate a great quantity, time, force, etc.): *louder and louder; It took hours and hours to find.* 3 (used after **nice** or **good** to indicate approval): *The ground's nice and dry.* 4 *infml* (used instead of **to** in an infinitive after **try**): *Do try and come!* 5 good... but also bad...: *There are films and films.* 6 (in place of an *if*-clause) because then; so that; in order that: *Try just a little harder and you will succeed.* **and so on** See under **so.**

androgynous (æn'drɒdʒənəs) *adj botany* with both male and female parts in the same flower.

anecdote ('ænɪkdəʊt) *nc* an amusing story.

anemone (ə'neməni) *nc* a plant that grows in temperate woods: see picture at **flowers.**

aneroid ('ænərɔɪd) *adj* **aneroid barometer** a device that measures the pressure of the air with a metal box from which some of the air has been removed.

anew (ə'nju:) *fml adv* 1 again. 2 differently.

angel ('eɪndʒəl) *nc* an attendant or messenger of God, usually represented as a human being with wings. **angelic** (æn'dʒelɪk) *adj* 1 to do with angels. 2 *infml* beautiful. 3 *infml* well-behaved.

anger ('æŋgə*) *nu* great annoyance or displeasure. • *vt* make angry.

angina (æn'dʒaɪnə) *nu medicine* a serious pain round the heart, caused by disease or blocked arteries.

angle[1] ('æŋgəl) *nc* 1 the space between two lines or surfaces that meet. 2 the amount by which two directions differ, measured esp. in degrees. • *vt* move (something) so that it forms an angle with something else.

angle[2] *vi* (followed by **for**) 1 try to obtain compliments, an invitation, etc., in an indirect way. 2 try to catch fish with a hook on a line. **angler** *nc* someone who angles.

Anglican ('æŋglɪkən) *adj* to do with the Church of England or any connected Church. • *nc* a member of an Anglican Church.

anglicise ('æŋglɪsaɪz) *vt* make (someone or something) English.

anglophile ('æŋgləˌfaɪl) *nc* someone who particularly likes England and the English.

anglophobe ('æŋgləˌfəʊb) *nc* someone who hates England and the English.

angry ('æŋgrɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 showing or feeling anger. 2 appearing to be angry: *dark, angry clouds.* 3 sore: *an angry wound.* **angrily** *adv*

anguish ('æŋgwɪʃ) *nu* great pain or worry.

angular ('æŋgjʊlə*) *adj* 1 to do with angles. 2 having points or corners; not round or smooth.

anhydrous (æn'haɪdrəs) *adj chemistry* containing no water.

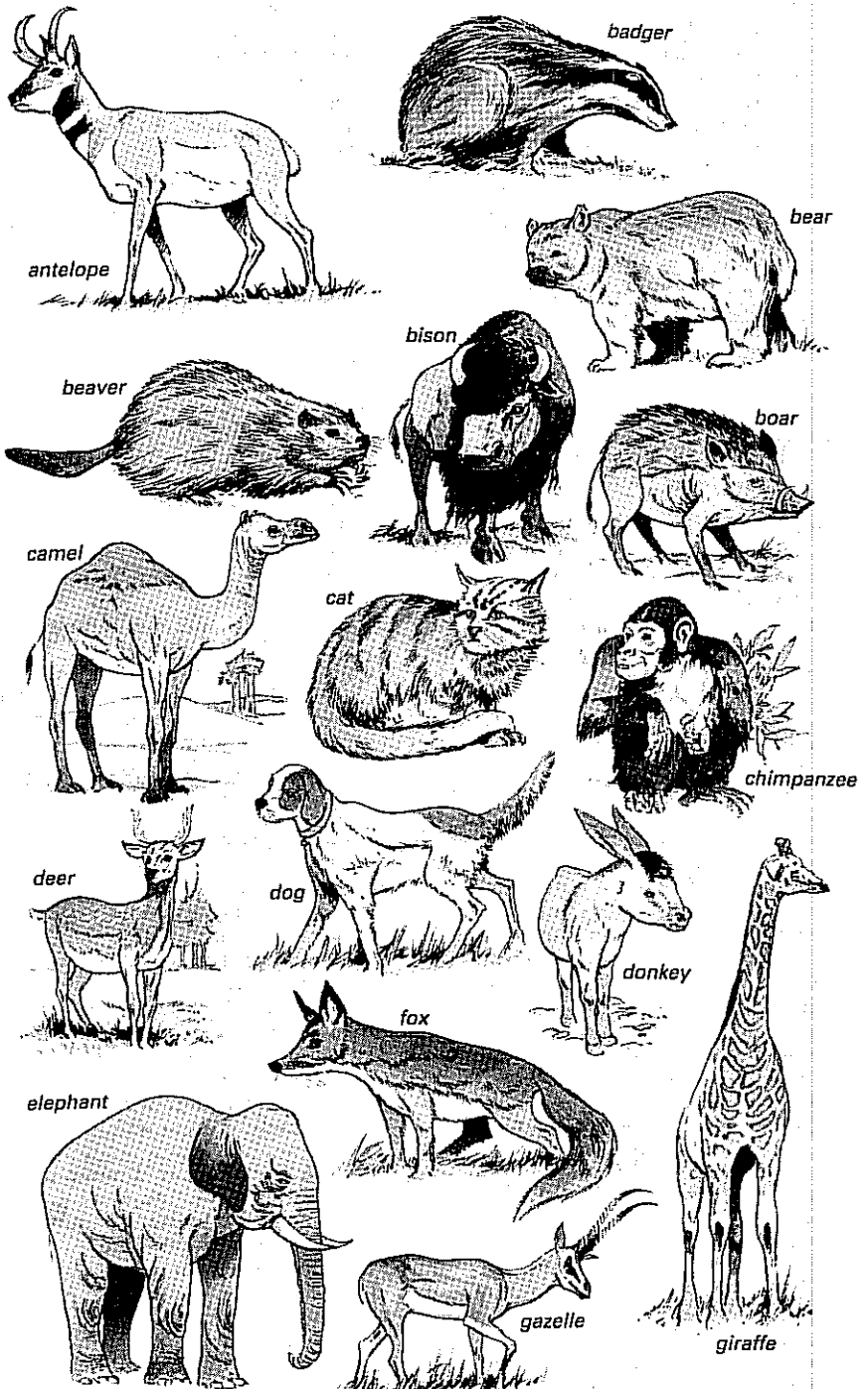
animal ('ænɪməl) *nc* 1 any living creature, including man, with well-developed senses and the ability to move as it likes: see picture. 2 any animal other than man. 3 a wild, cruel, or fierce person. • *adj* 1 to do with animals. 2 to do with man's bodily urges.

animate ('ænɪmeɪt) *vt* 1 make alive. 2 make lively: *an animated speaker.* • ('ænɪmət) *adj* having life. **animated cartoon** See **cartoon** (def. 2).

animism ('ænɪmɪzəm) *nu* the belief that all natural things have souls.

animosity (ˌænɪ'mɒsɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** a great dislike or hatred.

anion ('ænˌaɪən) *nc* a negatively charged ion.


badger
antelope
bear
bison
beaver
boar
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cat
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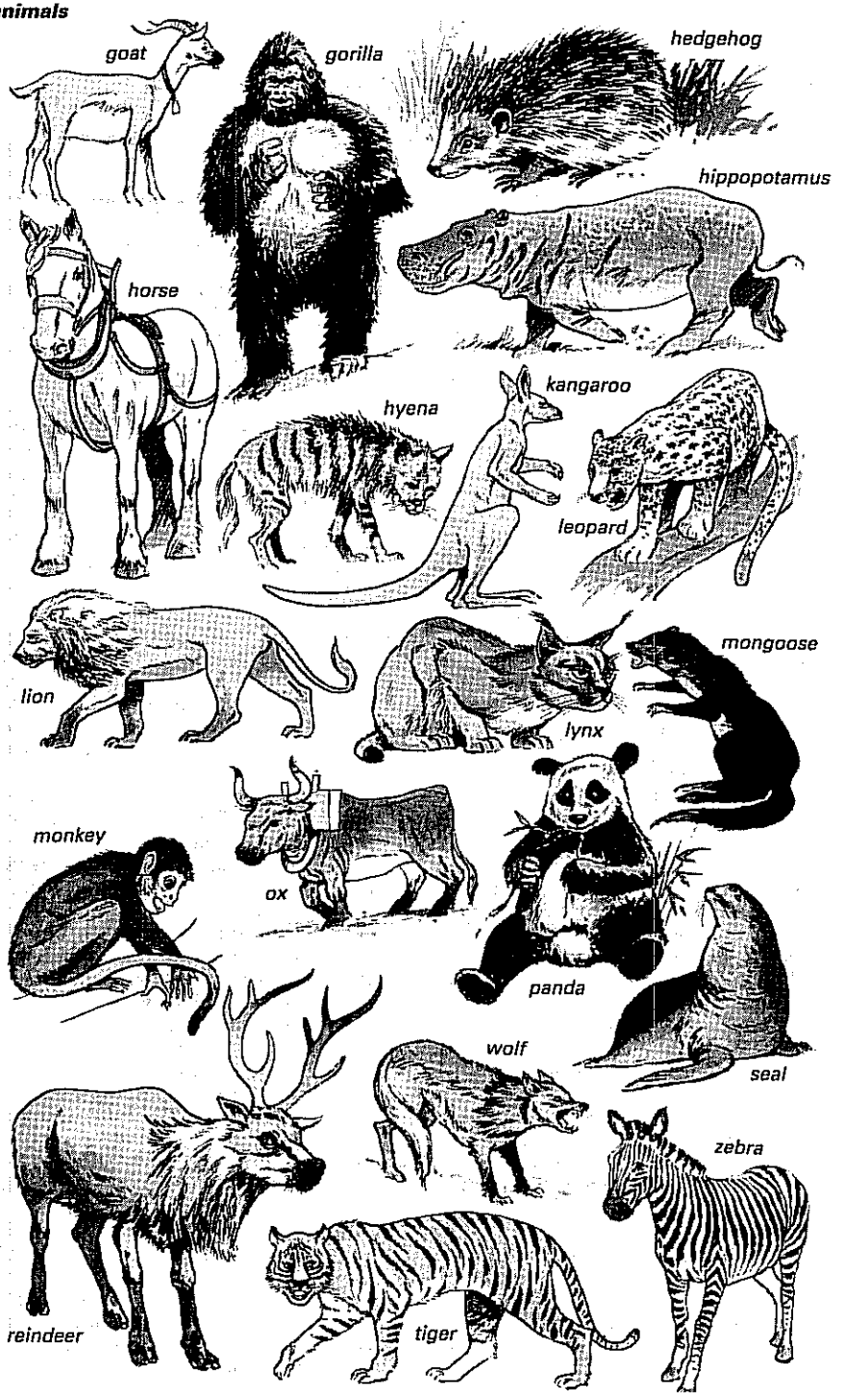
deer
dog
donkey
fox
elephant
gazelle
giraffe

animals


goat
gorilla
hedgehog
hippopotamus
horse
kangaroo
hyena
leopard
lion
mongoose
lynx
monkey
ox
panda
seal
wolf
zebra
reindeer
tiger

ankle ('æŋkəl) *nc* the joint between the foot and the leg.

annals ('ænəlz) *n pl* historical records.

annex (æ'neks) *vt* 1 add; join. 2 take over (neighbouring land): *Germany annexed Austria in 1938.* **annexation** (ˌænek'seɪʃən) *ncu*

annexe (also *esp. US* **annex**) ('æneks) *nc* 1 something added. 2 a usually smaller building used to provide extra space or services for a main building: *There are extra bedrooms in the hotel's annexe.*

annihilate (ə'naɪɪleɪt) *vt* destroy completely. **annihilation** (əˌnaɪɪ'leɪʃən) *nu*

anniversary (ˌænɪ'vɜɪsərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a day that is the return each year of the date on which something happened in an earlier year: *our fiftieth wedding anniversary.*

annotate ('ænəʊteɪt) *vt* write notes explaining points in (a written work).

announce (ə'naʊns) *vt* 1 make known. 2 announce the arrival of (a guest) or the start of (a radio or television programme). **announcement** *nc* **announcer** *nc*

annoy (ə'nɔɪ) *vt* (esp. in passive) displease; make mildly angry. **annoyance** *nu* 1 the state of being annoyed. 2 the act of annoying. 3 *nc* someone or something that is annoying.

annual ('ænjʊəl) *adj* done, paid, lasting, happening, etc., once a year. • *nc* 1 a book brought out under the same title once every year. 2 a plant that lives no longer than a year. **annually** *adv*

annuity (ə'nju:ɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a fixed amount of money received annually, esp. in return for a lump payment made at the start.

annul (ə'nʌl) *vt* put an end to (a marriage etc.); cancel.

anode ('ænəʊd) *physics nc* the part by which electrons enter a battery or leave an electrical device, a positive electrode.

anodise ('ænəˌdaɪz) *vt* coat the surface of (a metal) using electrolysis.

anoint (ə'nɔɪnt) *vt* 1 pour or rub (oil) onto (someone's head): *He anointed him with oil.* 2 anoint as a sign of (your) having the duty and title of: *He was anointed King.*

anomaly (ə'nɒməlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** something not regular or normal. **anomalous** *adj*

anon (ə'nɒn) *chiefly old-fashioned or literary adv* soon.

anonymous (ə'nɒnɪməs) *adj* 1 (of a person) having no known name: *the anonymous writer of this letter.* 2 *abbrev.* **anon.** (of music, a book, painting, etc.) written by someone whose name is not known: *The letter was anonymous.* **anonymity** (ˌænə'nɪmɪtɪ) *nu*

anopheles (ə'nɒfəˌli:z) *nc* also **anopheles mosquito** a tropical mosquito that carries the malaria parasite. See also **aedis.**

anorak ('ænəræk) *nc* a waterproof jacket with a covering for the head.

anorexia (ˌænə'reksɪə) also **anorexia nervosa** *nu* an illness that causes serious weight loss. **anorexic** *adj*

another (ə'nʌðə*) *determiner, pl* **other,** *pron, pl* **others** 1 (one of) a different (kind or type): *If you don't like this type of apple, try another.* 2 (of the same type) one more; a further: *Have another cake.*

answer ('ɑ:nsə*) *nc* 1 a reply to a question, letter, etc. 2 a solution to a problem. • *vt* 1 give an answer to. 2 respond to a call to (the door, telephone, etc.). 3 *vi* (often followed by **to**) respond (to): *My dog answers to 'Rover'; The plane isn't answering to the controls.* 4 *vti* (when *vi*, often followed by **to**) fit (a description): *He answers (to) this description exactly.* **answerable** *adj* (usually followed by **for** or **to**) responsible (for something or to someone). **answer for** be responsible for (bad behaviour, etc.).

ant (ænt) *nc* a small insect that lives in large groups: see picture at **insects.** **ant-eater** ('ænt,i:tə*) *nc* a Central or South American animal with a long mouth for getting at ants to eat. **ant-hill** ('æntɦɪl) *nc* a pile of earth, leaves, etc., over an ants' nest.

antagonism (æn'tægənɪzəm) *nu* opposition or unfriendliness, esp. between two people or two groups of people. **antagonise** *vt* make unfriendly; annoy. **antagonist** *nc* an opponent. **antagonistic** (æn,tægə'nɪstɪk) *adj*

antarctic (æn'tɑ:ktɪk) *adj* to do with the land and sea around the South Pole. **the Antarctic** or **Antarctica** the land and sea around the South Pole.

antecedent (ˌæntɪ'si:dənt) *nc* 1 *grammar* the noun, etc., to which a pronoun, esp. a relative pronoun, refers, such as *'day'* in *'the day on which you arrived'.* 2 an event that happens earlier than another. • *adj* happening or existing before.

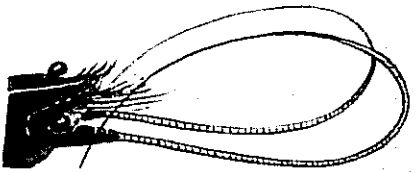
antedate (ˌæntɪ'deɪt) *vt* 1 put an earlier date on (a letter, cheque, etc.). 2 be older than; come before.

antediluvian (ˌæntɪdɪ'lu:vɪən) *derogatory or humorous adj* very old, esp. old-fashioned.

antelope ('æntɪləʊp) *nc, pl* **antelope, antelopes** any of various chiefly African deer-like animals, such as the gazelle or impala: see picture at **animals.**

antenatal (ˌæntɪˈneɪtəl) *adj* happening or existing before birth: *antenatal classes for pregnant women.*

antenna (ænˈtenə) *nc* 1 *pl* **-nae** (niː) one of two stalks on the head of an insect, crustacean, etc., used chiefly for feeling or tasting: see picture. 2 *pl* **-nas** See **aerial.**



antenna

anterior (ænˈtɪərɪə*) *adj* (further) forward: *The anterior part of a fish contains the head and gills.*

anthem (ˈænθəm) *nc* a short piece of church music for a choir. **national anthem** the special song or hymn used by a particular nation to express loyalty to it.

anther (ˈænθə*) *nc* the male part of a flower containing pollen.

anthology (ænˈθɒlədʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** a printed collection of poems, pictures, etc.: *an anthology of African literature.*

anthracite (ˈænθrəsaɪt) *nu* a hard form of coal containing a lot of carbon.

anthracnose (ænˈθrækˌnəʊz) *nu agriculture* a disease of plants such as cocoa and cotton caused by a fungus and which appears as black spots on leaves and pods: *The whole cotton crop was destroyed by anthracnose.*

anthrax (ˈænθræks) *nu* a disease of cattle and sheep that can be passed from one animal to another and also to people.

anthropoid (ˈænθrəpɔɪd) *adj, nc* (a creature) looking like man or one of the apes.

anthropology (ˌænθrəˈpɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of humans. **anthropological** (ˌænθrəpəˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **anthropologist** *nc*

anti-aircraft (ˌæntɪˈeəkrɑːft) *adj* (of guns, etc.) used as defence against attacks by planes, etc.

antibiotic (ˌæntɪbaɪˈɒtɪk) *nc* a drug, such as penicillin, made by bacteria and used to cure a disease by killing the bacteria that cause it.

antibody (ˈæntɪˌbɒdɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** a substance in the blood that joins an antigen and makes it harmless.

anticatalyst (ˌæntɪˈkætəlɪst) *nc* a substance which prevents a chemical reaction.

anticipate (ænˈtɪsɪpeɪt) *vt* 1 expect: *I anticipate that he will arrive today.* 2 act in expectation of: *He anticipated his prize by spending the money before he won it.* **anticipation** (ænˌtɪsɪˈpeɪʃən) *nu*

anticlimax (ˌæntɪˈklaɪmæks) *nc* a disappointing ending.

anticlockwise (ˌæntɪˈklɒkwaɪz) *US* **counterclockwise** *adv, adj* in the opposite direction to the movement of the hands of a clock.

antics (ˈæntɪks) *n pl* curious or foolish actions.

anticyclone (ˌæntɪˈsaɪkləʊn) *nc* a body of high-pressure air over the earth.

antidote (ˈæntɪdəʊt) *nc* a drug that stops the effect of another one, esp. of a poison.

antifreeze (ˈæntɪfriːz) *nu* a liquid added to another, esp. the cooling water in an engine, to lower the temperature at which it freezes.

antigen (ˈæntɪdʒən) *nc* a substance that gets into the blood from outside the body and can cause a disease but is usually prevented from doing so by an antibody.

antimony (ˈæntɪmənɪ) *nu* a chemical element; light grey metal used esp. mixed with other metals: symbol Sb.

antipathy (ænˈtɪpəθɪ) *nu* a feeling of strong dislike.

antique (ænˈtiːk) *nc, adj* (to do with) an old-fashioned but valued object such as a plate or a piece of furniture. **antiquarian** (ˌæntɪˈkweərɪən) *nc* a person who studies, collects, or buys and sells antiques or antiquities. • *adj* to do with antiques. **antiquated** (ˈæntɪˌkweɪtɪd) *adj* old; out of date. **antiquities** (ænˈtɪkwɪtɪz) *n pl* very old objects, esp. from Greek and Roman times. **antiquity** (ænˈtɪkwɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the quality of being very old. 2 very early times, esp. before the European Middle Ages.

antiseptic (ˌæntɪˈseptɪk) *nc, adj* (a substance) able to kill tiny organisms that cause disease.

antithesis (ænˈtɪθəsɪs) *nc, pl* **-theses** (θəsiːz) 1 a complete opposite. 2 the comparison of two opposite things.

antitoxin (ˌæntɪˈtɒksɪn) *nc* a substance produced in the blood that stops a poison having any effect.

antler (ˈæntlə*) *nc* one of the two horns, esp. branched, of a deer.

antonym (ˈæntənɪm) *nc* a word with the opposite meaning of another: *'Hot' is the antonym of 'cold'.*

anus (ˈeɪnəs) *nc* the hole at the end of the body, by which undigested food leaves as solid waste.

anvil (ˈænvɪl) *nc* a metal block on which hot metal is hammered into shape.

anxiety (æŋˈzaɪətɪ) *nc u, pl* **-ties** 1 the state of being very worried or nervous. 2 great eagerness. **anxious** (ˈæŋkʃəs) *adj* feeling anxiety. **anxiously** *adv*

any (ˈenɪ) *determiner, pron* no matter which or how much or many: *Come on any day you like.* • *determiner, pron, adv* (usually used with a negative or in a question) even the smallest amount (of): *I haven't any (food); Do you feel any better?* • *determiner* a great (number or amount): *There's any number of things to do.* **anybody** (ˈenɪˌbɒdɪ) *pron* also **anyone** 1 any person. 2 an important or famous person: *Was that man we saw anyone?* 3 (esp. after **just**) any unimportant person: *He's not just anyone.* 4 somebody, someone: *Is there anyone there I can speak to?* **anyhow** (ˈenɪhaʊ) *adv* 1 also **anyway** in any case. 2 in any way or manner. 3 carelessly: *He did it anyhow, and just look at it!* **anyone** (ˈenɪwʌn) *pron* See **anybody.** **anything** (ˈenɪθɪŋ) *pron* any object, idea, event, etc.; something: *Did anything go wrong?* • *n* a thing of any kind; something: *Is there anything you want?* • *adv* in any way: *Your photograph isn't anything like you.* **anytime** (ˈenɪtaɪm) *adv* at any time. **anyway** (ˈenɪweɪ) *adv* See **anyhow** (def. 1). **anywhere** (ˈenɪweə*) *adv, pron* (in or to) any place; somewhere; no matter where.

aorta (eɪˈɔːtə) *nc zoology* the main artery that carries the blood out of the heart.

apart (əˈpɑːt) *adj, adv* 1 in or to pieces: *My pen has come apart.* 2 at or to a distance; distant. 3 which is separate; separate(ly). 4 separated: *The pages of the book have come apart.* **apart from** except for; besides; other than.

apartheid (əˈpɑːthaɪt, əˈpɑːtheɪt) *nu history* a policy of keeping people apart according to the colour of their skin, esp. as practised by the white government of South Africa.

apartment (əˈpɑːtmənt) *nc* 1 *chiefly US* See **flat**[1]. 2 (*pl*) a set of rooms, esp. rented.

apathy (ˈæpəθɪ) *nu* a lack of interest. **apathetic** (æpəˈθetɪk) *adj*

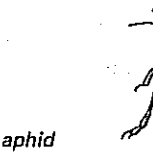
ape (eɪp) *nc* a tailless monkey, such as a gorilla. • *vt* imitate; act like.

aperitif (əˈperɪtiːf) *nc* an alcoholic drink taken just before a meal.

aperture (ˈæpətʃə*) *nc* a hole or opening, esp. one that can be altered to allow more or less light into a camera, etc.

apex (ˈeɪpeks) *nc, pl* **apexes, apices** (ˈeɪpɪsiːz) 1 the highest point of something. 2 a pointed end of something, such as a cone.

aphid (ˈeɪfɪd) *nc* also **greenfly** *zoology* a small insect pest which destroys plants by sucking their juice: see picture.



aphid

apiece (əˈpiːs) *adv* each: *We had three apiece.*

aplomb (əˈplɒm) *nu* confident calmness.

apocryphal (əˈpɒkrɪfəl) *adj* (of a story, etc.) probably not true.

apologise (əˈpɒlədʒaɪz) *vi* say or write that you are sorry (to someone or for something). **apologetic** (əˌpɒləˈdʒetɪk) *adj* apologising. **apology** *nc, pl* **-gies** an act of apologising.

apoplexy (ˈæpəpleksɪ) *nc, pl* **-xies** a loss of consciousness caused by a burst or blocked blood vessel to the brain.

apostasy (əˈpɒstəsɪ) *nu* abandoning your religious or political beliefs. **apostate** *adj, nc*

apostle (əˈpɒsəl) *nc* an early supporter, esp. one of the twelve followers of Jesus Christ. **apostolic** (ˌæpəˈstɒlɪk) *adj*

apostrophe (əˈpɒstrəfɪ) *nc* the sign (') used in writing mainly to indicate missing letters or numbers, as in *doesn't* or *the '39–'45 war* or to indicate possession, as in *John's coat.*

appal *US* **appall** (əˈpɔːl) *vt* shock; horrify: *He was appalled at the waste.* **appalling** *adj* 1 shocking. 2 *infml* very great: *an appalling waste of time.*

apparatus (ˌæpəˈreɪtəs) 1 *nu* devices, instruments, etc. *nc* (*pl* rarely used) 2 a device or instrument. 3 a means of organisation, esp. political: *the party apparatus.*

apparel (əˈpærəl) *nu old-fashioned* clothing.

apparent (əˈpærənt) *adj* clear to see or understand. **apparently** *adv*

apparition (ˌæpəˈrɪʃən) *nc* (an appearance of) a ghost or spirit.

appeal (əˈpiːl) *vi* (often followed by **to**) 1 (often also followed by **for**) ask or beg, esp. for help: *I appeal to you for understanding.* 2 ask a higher person or court to change another's decision: *If I'm found guilty, I shall appeal.* 3 please: *The idea doesn't appeal to me.* • *nc* 1 the act of appealing (**appeal** defs. 1, 2). 2 *nu* the quality of being appealing. **appealing** *adj* pleasing; attractive.

appear (əˈpɪə*) *vi* 1 be in view or come

into view. 2 seem; look: *That appears to be so.* 3 (of printed work) be brought out; be produced: *Most newspapers appear every day.* 4 present yourself (in a play, etc., or in court). **appearance** *nc* the act or state of appearing.

appease (ə'piːz) *vt* 1 calm or quieten (a possible enemy, etc.) esp. by giving in to demands. 2 satisfy (hunger, etc.).

appellation (ˌæpə'leɪʃən) *nc fml* a name or title.

append (ə'pend) *vt* add (something extra). **appendage** *nc* something attached, e.g. a leg.

appendicitis (əˌpendɪ'saɪtɪs) *nu* inflammation of the **appendix** (def. 1).

appendix (ə'pendɪks) *nc, pl* **-dixes, -dices** (dɪsiːz) 1 *zoology* a small bag at the beginning of the large intestine which helps animals to digest cellulose. It has no function in humans. 2 a part of a book or article printed separately at the end, esp. a list or other information.

appetite ('æpɪtaɪt) *nc* 1 the feeling of wanting to eat or drink. 2 a feeling of wanting to satisfy any needs of the body. **appetiser** ('æpɪtaɪzə*) *nc* a small amount of food eaten to give you an appetite. **appetising** ('æpɪtaɪzɪŋ) *adj* giving you an appetite; tasty.

applaud (ə'plɔːd) *vt* express your approval of (a play, concert, etc.), esp. by clapping your hands. **applause** (ə'plɔːz) *nu* the noise of clapping your hands to applaud: *The applause at the end of the first act was deafening.*

apple ('æpəl) *nc* the hard round green or red fruit of the apple tree: see picture at **fruits.**

appliance (ə'plaɪəns) *nc* a machine or device, esp. electrical, such as a food mixer.

applicable (ə'plɪkəbəl, 'æplɪkəbəl) *adj* (often followed by **to**) able to be applied; suitable or intended (for).

applicant ('æplɪkənt) *nc* a person who applies for something, such as a job.

application (ˌæplɪ'keɪʃən) *nc* 1 the act of applying. 2 a use; value: *the applications of science.* 3 *nu* hard work; effort.

apply (ə'plaɪ) (often followed by **to**) *vi* 1 be intended or suitable (for); have to do (with): *These rules apply to everyone.* 2 (often followed by **to** and **for**) ask formally (for): *You apply to the government for a licence.* *vt* 3 put onto: *Apply oil to all moving parts.* 4 use in connection with: *You can't apply your arguments to this case.* 5 work (yourself) hard: *He really applied himself to that task.* **applied** *adj* put to practical use: *applied science.*

appoint (ə'pɔɪnt) *vt* 1 give to (someone the job or position of): *I was appointed a director.* 2 fix; agree: *at the appointed time.* **appointment** *nc* 1 a planned meeting with someone. 2 the act of appointing someone.

apposition (ˌæpə'zɪʃən) *grammar nu* the following of a noun or pronoun by another to add to its meaning: *In 'Smith, the teacher', the word 'teacher' is in apposition to 'Smith'; In 'Smith is a teacher' the words 'Smith' and 'teacher' are in apposition.*

appraise (ə'preɪz) *vt* judge the value, quality, or importance of something. **appraisal** (ə'preɪzəl) *nc* such a judgement.

appreciable (ə'priːʃəbəl) *adj* enough to be noticed; considerable: *an appreciable difference.* **appreciably** *adv*

appreciate (ə'priːʃɪeɪt) *vt* 1 understand; realise. 2 be grateful for. 3 value highly: *I appreciate a good meal.* 4 *vi* rise in value. **appreciation** (əˌpriːʃɪ'eɪʃən) *nu* 1 thanks; gratefulness. 2 rise in value. 3 *ncu* (a) judgement of the value of something. **appreciative** (ə'priːʃətɪv) *adj* 1 grateful. 2 able to make an **appreciation** (def. 3).

apprehend (ˌæprɪ'hend) *vt* 1 *fml* (of the police, etc.) arrest. 2 grasp; understand. **apprehension** *nu* 1 fear of what may happen. 2 understanding. **apprehensive** *adj* fearful of what may happen.

apprentice (ə'prentɪs) *nc* a person who learns a trade while working for someone else. • *vt* place (someone) as an apprentice. **apprenticeship** *nu* 1 the state of being an apprentice. 2 *nc* the period for which someone is an apprentice.

approach (ə'prəʊtʃ) 1 *vti* come nearer (to). *vt* 2 be like, esp. nearly as good as. 3 make a suggestion or request to: *Have you approached him about your idea?* 4 start on (a task, etc.). • *nc* 1 the act or a means of approaching. 2 a way or method of dealing with a problem.

approbation (ˌæprə'beɪʃən) *nu* 1 formal approval. 2 praise.

appropriate (ə'prəʊprɪət) *adj* suitable; fitting. • (ə'prəʊprɪeɪt) *vt* 1 take, esp. unjustly. 2 set (money) aside for a particular purpose. **appropriately** (ə'prəʊprɪətlɪ) *adv* **appropriation** (əˌprəʊprɪ'eɪʃən) *nu*

approval (ə'pruːvəl) *nu* the act of approving. **on approval** (of goods for sale) taken away and to be bought or returned.

approve (ə'pruːv) 1 *vti* (often followed by **of**) consider to be good. 2 *vt* allow (a plan, etc.) to be put into practice. **approvingly** *adv*

approximate (ə'prɒksɪmət) *adj* not exact; very near. • (ə'prɒksɪmeɪt) *vti* (cause to) be near or similar (to). **approximately** (ə'prɒksɪmətlɪ) *adv* **approximation** (ə,prɒksɪ'meɪʃən) *nc* a result worked out approximately or by a guess.

apricot ('eɪprɪkɒt) *nc* the soft yellow fruit, containing a stone, of the apricot tree.

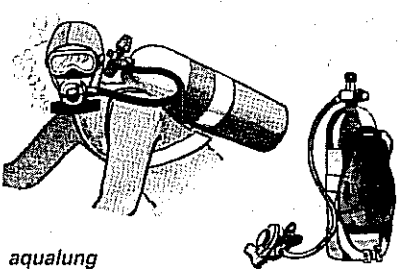
April ('eɪprəl) *n* the fourth month of the year, after March and before May.

apron ('eɪprən) *nc* 1 a garment worn on the front of the body, tied round the waist, to protect clothes underneath. 2 a piece of ground with a hard surface on which planes stand, load, etc., at an airport. 3 the part of a theatre stage in front of the curtain.

apropos (,æprə'pəʊ, 'æprəpəʊ) *adv* (often followed by **of**) in respect (of); with regard (to): *I was talking apropos of the meeting yesterday.*

apt (æpt) *adj* 1 (followed by an infinitive) likely or tending (to do something). 2 suitable; fitting: *an apt description.* 3 clever; good at learning. **aptitude** ('æptɪtjuːd) *ncu* **aptly** *adv*

aqualung ('ækwəlʌŋ) *nc* a device for breathing under water, using metal bottles of compressed air and a pipe to the mouth: see picture.

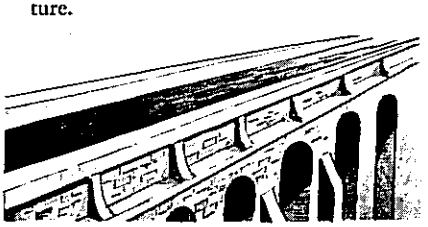


aqualung

aquarium (ə'kweərɪəm) *nc, pl* **-riums, -ria** (rɪə) a tank, esp. made of glass, in which fish or plants are kept in water.

aquatic (ə'kwætɪk) *adj* living or done in water: *aquatic animals.*

aqueduct ('ækwɪdʌkt) *nc* a channel built to carry water, esp. on a bridge: see picture.



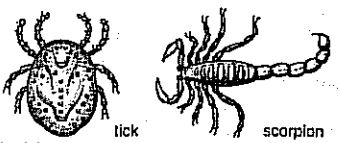
aqueduct

aqueous ('ækwɪəs) *adj* made of or like water: *an aqueous solution.*

Arabic numeral ('ærəbɪk) *nc* any of the written signs for the numbers zero, one, two, three, etc.: *0, 1, 2, 3, etc.*

arable ('ærəbəl) *adj* (of land) suitable for growing crops, such as corn and vegetables.

arachnid (ə'ræknɪd) *nu zoology* any small animal from the arthropod family, including spiders, scorpions, ticks, and mites. They have four pairs of legs and no wings: see picture.



arachnid

arbitrary ('ɑːbɪtrərɪ) *adj* (of a decision, choice, etc.) based merely on opinion or preference. **arbitrarily** *adv*

arbitration (,ɑːbɪ'treɪʃən) *nu* the settlement of a quarrel or disagreement by someone outside it. **arbitrate** ('ɑːbɪtreɪt) *vti* settle by arbitration. **arbitrator** ('ɑːbɪtreɪtə*) *nc*

arbour *US* **arbor** ('ɑːbə*) *nc* a place surrounded and covered by plants or trees.

arc (ɑːk) *nc* a curve, esp. part of a circle. • *vi* make an arc. **arc light** a lamp in which light is produced by electricity flowing through air.

arcade (ɑː'keɪd) *nc* 1 a covered passage with shops along the side. 2 a row of arches and pillars.

arch[1] (ɑːtʃ) *nc* something built as or made into a curve over an opening. • *vti* make (into) an arch: *A cat can arch its back.*

arch[2] *adj* 1 main, chief: *his arch enemy.* 2 experienced; well-practised: *an arch criminal.* **archly** *adv*

archaeology (,ɑːkɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of human existence in the past from remains dug out of the ground. **archaeological** (,ɑːkɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **archaeologist** *nc* a person who studies archaeology.

archaic (ɑː'keɪɪk) *adj* belonging to a much earlier age.

archangel ('ɑːkeɪndʒəl) *nc* a chief angel.

archbishop (,ɑːtʃ'bɪʃəp) *nc* a chief bishop in the Christian church.

archer ('ɑːtʃə*) *nc* a person who shoots with a bow and arrows. **archery** *nu* the practice of shooting with bows and arrows.

archetype ('ɑːkɪ,taɪp) *nc* a perfect example of a particular kind of person or thing. **archetypal** *adj*

archipelago (ˌɑːkɪˈpeləgəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a group of islands.

architect (ˈɑːkɪtekt) *nc* a person who plans buildings and who is responsible for their construction. **architectural** (ˌɑːkɪˈtektʃərəl) *adj* to do with architecture. **architecture** (ˈɑːkɪˌtektʃə*) 1 *nu* the art or science of planning buildings. 2 *nc* a style of building: *Modern architecture is quite plain.*

archives (ˈɑːkaɪvz) *n pl* letters, photographs, maps, etc., kept as the history of a business, family, town, etc.

archway (ˈɑːtʃweɪ) *nc* a passage or entrance under an arch.

arctic (ˈɑːktɪk) *adj* to do with the region around the North Pole. **the Arctic** the land and sea around the North Pole.

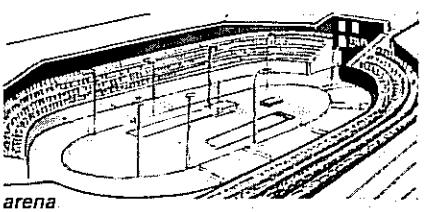
ardent (ˈɑːdənt) *adj* very keen or eager: *an ardent lover.* **ardour** *US* **ardor** (ˈɑːdə*) *nu* great keenness or eagerness.

arduous (ˈɑːdjʊəs) *adj* (of a task, conditions, etc.) hard; difficult.

are (ɑː* unstressed ə*) *v* (used with **we, you,** or **they**) a form of **be.**

area (ˈeərɪə) *nc* 1 an amount of a surface, such as land, measured by multiplying the length by the width: *The area of this floor is ten square metres; an area of grass.* 2 a particular area of the world: *A great lack of food in this area.* 3 a subject of study, discussion, etc.

arena (əˈriːnə) *nc* a space or stage surrounded by seats, used for sports competitions, etc.: see picture.



arena

aren't (ɑːnt) *v* are not.

argon (ˈɑːgɒn) *nu* a chemical element; gas that reacts very little and is used esp. in light bulbs: symbol Ar.

argue (ˈɑːgjuː) *vi* 1 quarrel: *He's arguing about the price.* 2 (usually followed by **for** or **against**) defend or oppose (a plan, etc.): *to argue against hanging murderers.* *vt* 3 try to show or prove: *I argued that it would be unfair.* 4 discuss: *They argued the point.* 5 persuade: *She tried to argue him into doing it.* **argument** (ˈɑːgjʊmənt) *nc* 1 a quarrel. 2 a discussion in which an idea is defended and opposed. 3 a set of reasons used in arguing: *My argument is very simple.* **argumentative** (ˌɑːgjʊˈmentətɪv) *adj* fond of arguing.

aria (ˈɑːrɪə) *nc* a long song in an opera, cantata, etc., for one voice with instruments.

arid (ˈærɪd) *adj* (of land) hot and dry.

arise (əˈraɪz) *vi* 1 come into being. 2 (followed by **from** or **out of**) result (from): *Three main points arose out of our talk.*

arisen (əˈrɪzən) past participle of **arise.**

aristocrat (ˈærɪstəkræt) *nc* a noble. **aristocracy** (ˌærɪˈstɒkrəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** a class of nobles. **aristocratic** (ˌærɪstəˈkrætɪk) *adj*

arithmetic (əˈrɪθmətɪk) *nu* adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing numbers. **arithmetical** (ˌærɪθˈmetɪkəl) *adj*

arm[1] (ɑːm) *nc* 1 either of the parts of the body from the shoulder to the hand. 2 a part of a garment covering an arm; sleeve. 3 the part of a chair that you rest your arm on. 4 something like an arm: *an arm of the sea; a record-player arm.* **with open arms** in a friendly way; welcomingly. **armchair** (ˌɑːmˈtʃeə*) *nc* a chair with arms. **armhole** (ˈɑːmhəʊl) *nc* a hole in a garment for an arm, often leading to a sleeve. **armpit** (ˈɑːmpɪt) *nc* the hollow under a shoulder.

arm[2] *vt* 1 provide with weapons. 2 provide with protection: *He was armed with answers to all our questions.* 3 make (a bomb, etc.) able to explode. 4 *vi* provide yourself with weapons. **armed forces** the army, navy, and air force, etc., of a nation, or those of several nations.

armada (ɑːˈmɑːdə) *nc* a large group of ships, esp. warships.

armadillo (ˌɑːməˈdɪləʊ) *nc, pl* **-los** a mainly South American animal that is covered in bony armour and digs holes in the ground for itself.

armament (ˈɑːməmənt) 1 *nc* (often *pl*) guns, shells, missiles, etc. used for war. 2 *nu* the process of arming for war.

armature (ˈɑːmətʃʊə*) *nc* the moving coil of an electric motor, with wire wound onto it.

armistice (ˈɑːmɪstɪs) *nc* an agreement between armies to stop fighting each other in order to discuss peace terms.

armour *US* **armor** (ˈɑːmə*) *nu* 1 metal covering for the body, worn esp. by soldiers in the Middle Ages. 2 protective metal plates on ships, cars, etc. 3 armoured vehicles. **armoured** *adj* covered with **armour** (def. 2): *armoured cars.* **armourer** *nc* a person who makes or repairs weapons. **armoury** *nc, pl* **-ries** a store for weapons.

arms ('ɑːmz) *n pl* 1 weapons: *selling arms to terrorists.* 2 a family or city sign: *a coat of arms.* **lay down your arms** stop fighting. **take up arms** prepare to fight. **up in arms** angry or protesting (about something).

army ('ɑːmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** 1 (a large group of) a nation's soldiers. 2 a large organised number of people or animals: *an army of ants.*

aroma (ə'rəʊmə) *nc* a smell, esp. pleasant. **aromatic** (ˌærə'mætɪk) *adj*

arose (ə'rəʊz) past tense of **arise.**

around (ə'raʊnd) *adv, prep* 1 on every side (of); outside: *a rope around his neck.* 2 at a number of places (in or on): *There are several policemen around.* 3 from place to place (in): *I've travelled around Europe.* 4 near: *It's somewhere around here.* • *prep* 1 past in a curve: *Walk around the outside of the house.* 2 (in) about (a number, date, etc.): *It happened around 1900.*

arouse (ə'raʊz) *vi* 1 wake from sleep. 2 give rise to (anger, suspicions, etc.).

arrange (ə'reɪndʒ) *vt* 1 put into an order. 2 agree about; settle. 3 alter (music) for playing by other instruments. *vti* 4 make plans (for); cause to happen: *I've arranged a party; Can you arrange for everyone to be there?* 5 agree with someone on a plan: *We've arranged with them where to stay.* **arrangement** 1 *nu* the act of arranging. *nc* 2 a way of arranging. 3 an arranged piece of music. 4 an agreement. 5 a plan.

array (ə'reɪ) *nc* a fine or splendid show or arrangement of things. • *vt* 1 arrange in an array. 2 dress (in fine clothes).

arrears (ə'rɪəz) *n pl* something owed, such as rent. **in arrears** late in making a payment.

arrest (ə'rest) *vt* 1 (of the police, etc.) seize (a person or a ship). 2 stop or slow the growth or spread of (a disease, etc.). 3 catch and hold (your attention). • *nc* 1 the act of arresting. 2 *nu* the state of having been arrested: *under arrest.*

arrive (ə'raɪv) *vi* 1 (often followed by **at** or **in**) come to (a place, esp. the end of a journey). 2 (followed by **at**) reach (agreement, a decision, etc.). 3 *infml* (of a baby) be born. 4 (of a time) come; be reached. **arrival** (ə'raɪvəl) *nc* 1 the act of arriving. 2 a person or thing that appears or arrives. 3 *infml* a new baby.

arrogant ('ærəgənt) *adj* thinking too highly of yourself. **arrogance** *nu*

arrow ('ærəʊ) *nc* 1 a pointed stick shot from a bow as a weapon. 2 a sign or mark like an arrow, used to indicate a direction.

arsenal ('ɑːsənəl) *nc* a store for weapons.

arsenic ('ɑːsnɪk) *nu* 1 a chemical element. 2 a poisonous compound of arsenic.

arson ('ɑːsən) *nu* setting fire to buildings.

art[1] (ɑːt) 1 *nu* (the making of) things such as music and paintings. 2 *nc* a method or skill: *There's an art to writing business letters.* **the arts** non-scientific subjects of study, such as music, languages, and history.

art[2] *old-fashioned v* (used with **thou**) a form of **be.**

artefact (also **artifact**) ('ɑːtɪfækt) *nc* an object made by man.

arterial (ɑː'tɪərɪəl) *adj* to do with arteries.

arteriole (ɑː'tɪərɪˌəʊl) *nc biology* a division of an artery which divides again into capillaries.

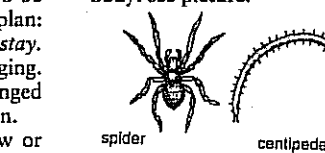
artery ('ɑːtərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a blood vessel carrying blood from the heart.

artesian (ɑː'tiːzɪən) *adj* **artesian well** a deep hole in the ground up which water flows naturally.

artful ('ɑːtfʊl) *adj* deceiving.

arthritis (ɑːθ'raɪtɪs) *nu* a disease; inflammation of joints.

arthropod ('ɑːθrəˌpɒd) *nc zoology* a small invertebrate animal, for example a spider or crab, with jointed legs and a segmented body: see picture.



arthropod

artichoke ('ɑːtɪtʃəʊk) *nc* a plant of which the large flower head is cooked and partly eaten: see picture at **vegetables.**

article ('ɑːtɪkəl) *nc* 1 an object; piece: *an article of clothing.* 2 a separate piece of writing in a newspaper, magazine, etc. 3 a section of a written agreement, contract, etc. **definite article** the word 'the' or a word that means the same thing in another language. **indefinite article** the word 'a' or 'an' or a word that means the same thing in another language.

articulate (ɑː'tɪkjʊlət) *adj* able to speak or write clearly. • (ɑː'tɪkjʊleɪt) *vt* speak (words, etc.) clearly. **articulated lorry** (ɑː'tɪkjʊleɪtɪd) *US* **trailer truck** *Brit* a lorry jointed between the tractor and the trailer. **articulation** (ɑːˌtɪkjʊ'leɪʃən) *nu* the act or a manner of speaking.

artifact ('ɑːtɪfækt) *n* See **artefact.**

artifice ('ɑːtɪfɪs) 1 *nc* a clever way of doing something. 2 *nu* cleverness, esp. at deceiving.

artificial (ˌɑːtɪˈfɪʃəl) *adj* 1 not natural; man-made: *artificial stone.* 2 pretended; insincere: *artificial politeness.* **artificially** *adv*

artillery (ɑːˈtɪləri) *nu* large guns used for fighting on land.

artisan (ˌɑːtɪˈzæn) *nc* a skilled worker.

artist (ˈɑːtɪst) *nc* 1 a person who practises art, esp. painting, drawing, or sculpture. 2 a person who does something with the quality or skill of an artist. **artistic** (ɑːˈtɪstɪk) *adj* to do with art. **artistry** *nu* the quality of work or ability of an artist.

artiste (ɑːˈtiːst) *nc* an entertainer, esp. a singer or dancer.

artless (ˈɑːtlɪs) *adj* natural; not intending to deceive.

as (æz unstressed əz) *conj* 1 since; because: *As you don't know, I'll tell you.* 2 while; when: *I saw you as I came in.* 3 (of) which fact: *It's important, as you know.* 4 in the way that: *Did you behave as was proper?* 5 that which: *Do as I do.* • *prep* 1 being: *As your father, I forbid it.* 2 like: *He was as a brother to me.* • *pron* that; who: *the same book as I have.* **as. . . as** (used to indicate an equality of amount): *I am as old as you; You have done it as badly as before.* **as far as** See under **far. as for, to,** or **regards** in respect of; with regard to. **as if** or **though** as it would be if: *He looked as though he were in a hurry.* **as regards** See **as for. as though** See **as if. as to** See **as for. as well (as)** See under **well¹. as yet** until now or then; so far. **so as to** in order to.

asbestos (æsˈbestɒs) *nu* a substance got from the ground that is made into cloth and stiff sheets used as protection from heat.

ascend (əˈsend) *vti* go up (stairs, a hill, etc.). **ascendancy** *nu* having control over someone or something. **ascent** (əˈsent) *ncu* (an example of) ascending.

ascertain (ˌæsəˈteɪn) *vt* discover (the truth or facts about something) for certain.

ascetic (əˈsetɪk) *nc, adj* (a person) refusing pleasures and comfort.

ascribe (əˈskraɪb) *vt* (followed by **to**) consider to belong to or come from: *music ascribed to Beethoven.*

aseptic (æˈseptɪk) *adj* (to do with being) free from micro-organisms that cause disease.

asexual (eɪˈseksʃʊəl) *adj biology* **asexual reproduction** the production of a new individual without the fusion of the sex cells of two different parents.

ash¹ (æʃ) *nc* 1 (often *pl*) a usually grey or black powder left after something has been burnt. 2 (*pl*) the remains of a human body after burning. 3 *nu* fine material thrown out of a volcano.

ash² *nc* a European and Asian tree with winged seeds: see picture at **trees;** (also *nu*) the wood of this tree.

ashamed (əˈʃeɪmd) *adj* (often followed by **of**) feeling sorrow or shame (because of): *He's ashamed of having lied.*

ashore (əˈʃɔɪ*) *adv, adj* on(to) land (from water).

aside (əˈsaɪd) *adv* 1 at or to one side: *Move aside to let us through.* 2 away; apart: *They went aside to talk privately.* • *nc* a remark intended for only some of the people present, esp. for a theatre audience.

ask (ɑːsk) *vt* 1 put (a question) about (something) to (someone): *I asked him the time.* 2 (usually followed by **for**) request; try to get: *I'll ask her to move; Are you asking for money?* 3 invite: *I've been asked to dinner.* **ask after** ask about the health of (someone). **ask for it** or **trouble** behave in a way likely to cause trouble.

askew (əˈskjuː) *adv, adj* not straight, square, or upright.

asleep (əˈsliːp) *adj* sleeping.

asp (æsp) *nc* a small poisonous European and North African snake.

asparagus (əˈspærəgəs) *nc* a plant of which the young shoots are cooked and eaten: see picture at **vegetables;** (usually *nu*) these shoots.

aspect (ˈæspekt) *nc* 1 a look, appearance, or view: *Our house has a southerly aspect.* 2 an element (of a problem, etc.).

aspersion (əˈspɜːʃən) *nc* a remark attacking someone's reputation: *Are you casting aspersions on my honesty?*

asphalt (ˈæsfælt) *nu* a thick, black liquid made from oil used to cover road surfaces.

asphyxiate (əsˈfɪksɪeɪt) *vti* (cause to) breathe too little oxygen (and die): *She may have been asphyxiated by an electric shock.*

aspire (əˈspaɪə*) *vi* (usually followed by **to** or **for**) have an ambition: *to aspire to greatness.* **aspiration** (ˌæspɪˈreɪʃən) *nc* an ambition.

aspirin (ˈæsprɪn) *ncu* (a tablet of) a drug widely used to relieve pain and fever.

ass (æs) *nc* 1 See **donkey.** 2 a foolish person.

assail (əˈseɪl) *vt* 1 attack (an enemy, task, etc.). 2 trouble: *He was assailed by money worries.* **assailant** (əˈseɪlənt) *nc* an attacker.

assassin (əˈsæsɪn) *nc* a murderer, esp. of a politician, ruler, etc. **assassinate** *vt*

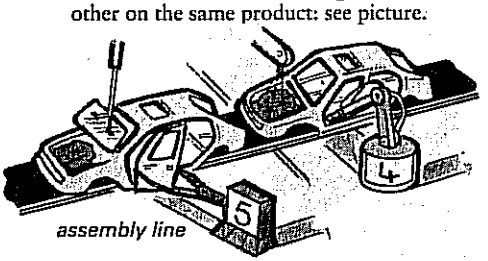
murder (a politician, ruler, etc.). **assassination** (ə,sæsɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) assassinating.

assault (ə'sɔːlt) *vt* attack violently. • *nc* a violent attack.

assay (ə'seɪ) *vt* 1 test (metal, esp. gold or silver) for quality or purity. 2 attempt. • ('æseɪ) *nc* a test of metal.

assegai ('æsə,gaɪ) *nc* a long spear of hard wood traditionally used in southern Africa.

assemble (ə'sembəl) *vti* come or bring or put together: *A crowd assembled; an easily assembled model.* **assemblage** *nc* a number of assembled people or things. **assembly** 1 *nu* the act of assembling. *nc, pl* **-lies** 2 a group of people who meet formally: *the General Assembly of the United Nations.* 3 a group of machine parts fitted together. **assembly line** a row of machines or workers working one after the other on the same product: see picture.



assembly line

assent (ə'sent) *nu* agreement. • *vi* give your assent.

assert (ə'sɜːt) *vt* demand recognition of (a right, yourself, a fact, etc.): *He asserted that the story was true.* **assertion** *ncu* (an example of) asserting. **assertive** *adj* given to asserting yourself.

assess (ə'ses) *vt* 1 find out the (value) of (something). 2 work out the (tax) to be paid by (someone). 3 judge the (importance or size) of. **assessment** *nc* 1 an amount assessed. 2 a judgement. 3 *nu* the act of assessing. **assessor** *nc*

asset ('æset) *nc* a possession or someone or something useful.

assiduous (ə'sɪdjuəs) *adj* (of a worker or a piece of work) careful; thorough.

assign (ə'saɪn) *vt* 1 decide on or appoint (a person, place, time, etc.): *This office has been assigned to you.* 2 give or hand over (work, property, etc.). **assignment** 1 *nc* something assigned, esp. a task. 2 *nu* the act of assigning.

assimilate (ə'sɪmɪleɪt) *vti* 1 take in new information and make use of it: *He quickly assimilated the new method of working.* 2 (often followed by **into**) take someone or something into an existing thing: *The refugees were soon assimilated into the life of the village.* **assimilation** (ə,sɪmɪ'leɪʃən) *nu*

assist (ə'sɪst) *vt* help. **assistance** *nu* help. **assistant** *nc* 1 a helper. 2 See **shop assistant.**

associate (ə'səʊsɪeɪt) *vt* 1 connect in the mind: *I associate the sea with my childhood.* 2 join as a friend, business partner, etc.: *I refuse to associate myself with that affair. vi* 3 join to form a group. 4 mix (with other people): *He associates with bankers.* • (ə'səʊsɪət) *nc, adj* (a person) associated with and esp. less important than another: *an associate member of the society.* **association** (ə,səʊsɪ'eɪʃən) 1 *nc* an organisation of people; club; society. 2 *nu* the act of associating or state of being associated. **association football** also **soccer** football between teams of eleven players using a round ball that may not be handled except by the goalkeepers.

assonance ('æsənəns) *nu literary* the use of words with similar vowel sounds, esp. as in poetry.

assorted (ə'sɔːtɪd) *adj* of different kinds mixed together: *an assorted group of men.* **assortment** *nc* an assorted group.

assuage (ə'sweɪdʒ) *vt* relieve (thirst, pain, guilt, etc.).

assume (ə'sjuːm) *vt* 1 accept as true: *I assume that you're right.* 2 take or put (a job, clothes, etc.) on yourself: *The king assumed control of the army.* **assumption** (ə'sʌmpʃən) *ncu* (an example of) assuming.

assure (ə'ʃʊə*) *vt* cause to be or feel certain; promise: *I can assure you I'm right; The comfort of passengers is assured.* **assurance** 1 *nc* a promise. *nu* 2 *chiefly Brit* insurance. 3 confidence. **assured** *adj* confident. **assuredly** (ə'ʃʊərɪdlɪ) *adv* certainly; to be sure.

asterisk ('æstərɪsk) *nc* the sign (*) used in writing to indicate both a note and the word or passage which it is about.

asteroid ('æstərɔɪd) *nc* any of the very small planets or pieces of rock that are mainly between Mars and Jupiter.

asthma ('æsmə) *nu* difficulty in breathing that is often a reaction to dust, etc. **asthmatic** *adj*

astigmatism (æ'stɪgmətɪzəm) *nu* an imperfection in the shape of a lens, esp. in the eye.

astonish (ə'stɒnɪʃ) *vt* surprise greatly. **astonishing** *adj* **astonishment** *nu*

astound (ə'staʊnd) *vt* surprise and shock or cause to wonder.

astray (ə'streɪ) *adv, adj* 1 away from the right direction: *My letter must have gone*

astray. 2 to bad or evil actions: *The devil leads people astray.*

astride (ə'straɪd) *adv, prep* (with your legs) on either side (of): *sitting astride a horse.*

astringent (ə'strɪndʒənt) *adj, nc* (a medicine) causing parts of the body, such as muscles or blood vessels, to close or tighten up.

astrology (ə'strɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of what effect the positions of the stars and planets have on people's fate and behaviour. **astrologer** *nc* a person who practises astrology.

astronaut ('æstrənɔːt) *nc* a space traveller. **astronautics** *nu* (*with singular verb*) the science of space travel.

astronomy (ə'strɒnəmɪ) *nu* the study of the stars and planets. **astronomer** *nc* a person who studies astronomy. **astronomical** (ˌæstrə'nɒmɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with astronomy. 2 huge: *an astronomical failure.*

astute (ə'stjuːt) *adj* with a quick or sharp mind.

asylum (ə'saɪləm) 1 *nu* also **political asylum** protection in one country from arrest under the laws of another. 2 *old-fashioned nc* a home for people needing care and protection, esp. (also **lunatic asylum**) mentally ill people. **asylum seeker** someone who has left one country for political reasons to look for help in another country.

asymmetrical (ˌeɪsɪ'metrɪkəl) *adj* not symmetrical.

at (æt unstressed ət) *prep* 1 (used to indicate position): *at the North Pole; sitting at a table.* 2 (used to indicate a time, esp. a time of day): *at six o'clock.* 3 towards: *He shot at the enemy.* 4 (used to indicate a condition): *at rest; at war.* 5 doing: *What are you at?* 6 for a price of... (each): *The books are for sale at two pounds.* 7 (with adjective) in the action of: *He's good at figures.*

ate (eɪt unstressed et) past tense of **eat.**

atheist ('eɪθɪɪst) *nc* a person who does not believe in God. • *adj* to do with atheism. **atheism** *nu* belief that there is no God.

athlete ('æθliːt) *nc* a person who takes part in running races and other physical competitions. **athletic** (æθ'letɪk) *adj* to do with athletes. **athletics** *nu* (*with singular verb*) athletic competitions.

atlas ('ætləs) *nc* a book of maps.

Atman ('ɑːtmən) *n* (in the Hindu religion) the one Self in everyone and everything.

atmosphere ('ætməsˌfɪə*) *nc* 1 the gas surrounding a star or planet, esp. the air round the earth.) 2 a feeling or mood: *There's a friendly atmosphere where I work.* 3 a measure of pressure = 101,325 N/m² **atmospheric** (ˌætməs'ferɪk) *adj*

atoll ('ætɒl) *nc* a ring of coral islands.

atom ('ætəm) *nc* the smallest part of a chemical element. **atomic** (ə'tɒmɪk) *adj* **atomic** or **atom bomb** a powerful exploding device in which the nucleus of an atom is split in two.

atone (ə'təʊn) *vi* (usually followed by **for**) make up (for wrongdoing). **atonement** *nu* **Day of Atonement** a Jewish religious holiday, spent in prayer and fasting.

atop (ə'tɒp) *prep, adv* on top (of).

atrium ('ɑːtrɪəm) *nc, pl* **-ria** (rɪə) also **auricle** the upper space in either half of the heart.

atrocious (ə'trəʊʃəs) *adj* 1 *infml* very bad or poor. 2 very cruel.

atrocity (ə'trɒsɪtɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** a very cruel action. 2 *nu* great cruelty.

atrophy ('ætrəfɪ) *nu* wasting away of part of the body through disease, lack of use, etc. • *vti* (cause to) suffer atrophy.

attach (ə'tætʃ) *vt* 1 join, fasten, or add: *Attach the lid before using the machine.* 2 join in love or friendship: *He's very attached to her.* 3 *vti* (usually followed by **to**) connect or be connected (with): *There are several conditions attached to the sale.* **attachment** 1 *nu* the act of attaching or state of being attached. 2 *nc* something that is attached.

attaché (ə'tæʃeɪ) *French nc* a person working in an embassy: *a trade attaché.* **attaché case** a small, hard, flat case for carrying papers in.

attack (ə'tæk) *vt* 1 act with force against; start fighting. 2 set to work on (a problem, task, etc.). 3 criticise as bad. 4 (of chemicals) affect or be harmful to. • *ncu* 1 (an example of) attacking. 2 a sudden illness: *a heart attack.* **attacker** *nc*

attain (ə'teɪn) *vt* 1 reach; arrive at. 2 manage to do (a task, ambition, etc.). **attainable** *adj* **attainment** *ncu*

attempt (ə'tempt) *vt, nc* (a) try. **attempt on (someone's) life** an attempt to kill (someone).

attend (ə'tend) *vt* 1 be present at (school, a meeting, etc.): *There will be a concert next week and we expect you all to attend.* 2 (followed by **to**) deal (with); take care (of): *He attended to a customer in the shop.* 3 (often followed by **to**) listen or notice with your whole mind; pay attention: *You obviously weren't attending to a word I was saying.* **attendance** 1 *nu* the act of attending (**attend** def. 1). 2 *nc* the number of people present. **attendant** *nc*

1 a person providing a service: *a beach attendant.* 2 a person who is present with another: *The King arrived with his attendants.* • *adj* related: *all the attendant difficulties.*

attention (ə'tenʃən) *nu* 1 the act or state of attending (**attend** def. 3): *His attention wandered from what he was doing; Something has come to my attention.* 2 the position of a soldier standing still and upright: *to come to attention.* 3 *nc* (usually *pl*) kind or loving behaviour: *She welcomed his attentions.* • *interj* (an order to soldiers to come to attention.) **pay attention (to)** 1 **attend** (def. 3) (to). 2 take care (over). **attentive** (ə'tentɪv) *adj* paying attention. **attentively** *adv*

attest (ə'test) *vti* (when *vi*, usually followed by **to**) show or declare to exist or be correct or true: *This painting is an attested original.*

attic ('ætɪk) *nc* the space inside a roof.

attire (ə'taɪə*) *nu old-fashioned* clothes.

attitude ('ætɪtjuːd) *nc* 1 a state of mind, way of thinking, or an opinion: *a strange attitude towards other people.* 2 the position of someone's body: *She was standing in a resentful attitude.*

attorney (ə'tɜːnɪ) *chiefly US nc, pl* **-s** a lawyer.

attract (ə'trækt) *vt* 1 draw towards yourself: *Magnets attract iron; Don't attract attention!* 2 be pleasing to: *He's attracted by dogs.* **attraction** 1 *nu* the act of attracting. 2 *nc* a person or thing that attracts. **attractive** *adj* attracting, esp. beautiful. **attractively** *adv*

attribute (æ'trɪbjuːt) *vt* consider (something) to belong (to) or come (from): *a play attributed to Shakespeare.* • ('ætrɪbjuːt) *nc* a quality.

attrition (ə'trɪʃən) *nu* a process by which opposition is gradually worn down: *a war of attrition.*

attune (ə'tjuːn) *vti* (cause to) become used (to): *New members quickly attune to the way of life.*

aubergine ('əubəʒiːn) *nc* also **eggplant** a dark purple fruit eaten as a vegetable: see picture at **vegetables.**

auburn ('ɔːbən) *adj* reddish-brown: *Her auburn hair shone in the sunlight.* • *ncu* an auburn colour.

auction ('ɔːkʃən) *nc* a sale at which things are sold to the person who offers the most money for each one. • *vt* offer for sale at an auction. **auctioneer** (ˌɔːkʃə'nɪə*) *nc* a person who runs an auction.

audacious (ɔː'deɪʃəs) *adj* bold; daring. **audacity** (ɔː'dæsɪtɪ) *nu*

audible ('ɔːdəbəl) *adj* able to be heard.

audience ('ɔːdɪəns) *nc* 1 a group of people watching or listening to a speech, film, etc. 2 a formal meeting with a king, president, religious leader, etc.

audio frequency (ˌɔːdɪəʊ 'friːkwənsɪ) a sound wave in the range that humans can hear.

audiovisual (ˌɔːdɪəʊ'vɪʒʊəl) *adj* using sound and pictures, esp. for teaching: *an audiovisual library.*

audit ('ɔːdɪt) *nc* an examination of business accounts. • *vt* carry out an audit of (business accounts). **auditor** *nc*

audition (ɔː'dɪʃən) *nc* a test for a dancer, musician, actor, etc., applying for a job. • *vti* test or be tested at an audition.

auditorium (ˌɔːdɪ'tɔːrɪəm) *nc, pl* **-riums, -ria** (rɪə) a hall used for concerts, etc., or the part of one in which the audience sits.

auditory ('ɔːdɪtərɪ) *adj* to do with hearing.

augment (ɔːg'ment) *vti* make or become greater.

augur ('ɔːgə*) *fml* 1 *vt* indicate that (something) will happen. 2 *vi* indicate (how something will go): *This fine weather augurs well for our holiday.*

August ('ɔːgəst) *n* the eighth month of the year, after July and before September.

august (ɔː'gʌst) *adj* respected and influential: *The Royal Society is an august body.*

aunt (ɑːnt) *nc* 1 a sister of your father or mother. 2 the wife of an uncle. 3 (used by and to children in naming a female friend of their parents.) **auntie** (also **aunty**) ('ɑːntɪ) *infml, children nc, pl* **-ties** an aunt.

au pair (əʊ'peə*) *nc* a young foreign person who works for a family in order to learn the local language. • *vi* work as an au pair.

aura ('ɔːrə) *nc* a mood or feeling produced by a person or place.

auricle ('ɔːrɪkəl) *nc* 1 the part of an ear outside the head. 2 See **atrium.**

auspices ('ɔːspɪsɪz) *n pl* guidance or approval: *A concert was given under the auspices of the music club.*

auspicious (ɔː'spɪʃəs) *adj* favourable; indicating a good future: *A wedding is an auspicious occasion.*

austere (ɔː'stɪə*) *adj* 1 serious or strict. 2 (of clothes, etc.) very plain or simple. **austerity** (ɔː'sterɪtɪ) *nu*

authentic (ɔː'θentɪk) *adj* real; true. **authenticate** (ɔː'θentɪkeɪt) *vt* prove to be true. **authenticity** (ˌɔːθen'tɪsɪtɪ) *nu*

author ('ɔːθə*) *nc* 1 a person who writes books. 2 a person who causes things to happen: *the author of these evils.*

authorise ('ɔːθəraɪz) *vt* give permission for (something).

authority (ɔː'θɒrɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the right to give orders and be obeyed. 2 a manner that expresses this right. 3 *nc, pl* **-ties** a person or group whose opinions are accepted. 4 a council that governs a district or organises a service: *a local authority; the water authority.* **authoritative** (ɔː'θɒrɪtətɪv) *adj* 1 (having opinions) that ought to be accepted. 2 expressing authority.

autism ('ɔːtɪzəm) *nu* an illness often suffered by children in which the sufferer's imagination becomes more important than relating to other people. **autistic** (ɔː'tɪstɪk) *adj*

auto ('ɔːtəʊ) *nc, pl* **-os** *US infml* short for **automobile.**

autobiography (ˌɔːtəʊbaɪ'ɒgrəfɪ) *nc, pl* **-phies** a written account of your own life. **autobiographical** (ˌɔːtəˌbaɪə'græfɪkəl) *adj*

autocrat ('ɔːtəkræt) *nc* 1 an all-powerful ruler. 2 a person who expects to control the affairs of those around them. **autocratic** (ˌɔːtə'krætɪk) *adj* like an autocrat.

autograph ('ɔːtəgrɑːf) *nc* a person's own name which he or she has written by hand. ● *vt* write your name on (a book, etc.), esp. one written by yourself.

automate ('ɔːtəmeɪt) *vt* make (production) completely mechanical. **automatic** (ˌɔːtə'mætɪk) *adj* 1 that works by itself. 2 done without thinking: *It's automatic to hold your breath under water.* ● *nc* a small gun that reloads itself. **automatically** (ˌɔːtə'mætɪkəlɪ) *adv*

automation (ˌɔːtə'meɪʃən) *nu* completely mechanical production.

automobile ('ɔːtəməbiːl) (often shortened to **auto**) *chiefly US nc* a car.

autonomous (ɔː'tɒnəməs) *adj* (esp. of a country) governing itself. **autonomy** (ɔː'tɒnəmɪ) *nu*

autopsy ('ɔːtɒpsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** the medical examination of a body after death.

autumn ('ɔːtəm) *nc* the season between summer and winter, when corn and fruit are harvested and the leaves fall off some trees. **autumnal** (ɔː'tʌmnəl) *adj*

auxiliary (ɔːg'zɪlɪərɪ) *adj* helping someone or something more important. ● *nc, pl* **-ries** a trained person who helps in the health services, etc.

avail (ə'veɪl) **avail yourself of** *vt* take advantage of or use (opportunities, etc.). **to no avail** with no success.

available (ə'veɪləbəl) *adj* 1 that can be obtained: *Mangoes are freely available at this time of year.* 2 free to do work. **availability** (əˌveɪlə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

avalanche ('ævəlɑːnʃ) *nc* 1 a sudden movement of snow down a mountain. 2 *infml* a huge quantity coming all at once: *an avalanche of letters.*

avant-garde (ˌæv̩ɒn'gɑːd) *adj* (of music, an idea, etc.) new and accepted by only a small number of people. ● *nu* people who are ready to accept new ideas.

avarice ('ævərɪs) *nu* greed for money. **avaricious** (ˌævə'rɪʃəs) *adj*

avenge (ə'vendʒ) *vt* give punishment for (a crime or a defeat). **avenge yourself** gain a victory over someone who has harmed or defeated you.

avenue ('ævɪnjuː) *nc* 1 a straight road, often with trees on each side. 2 a means of doing something: *avenues of enquiry.*

average ('ævərɪdʒ) *adj* normal; most common. ● *nc* the amount found by adding different quantities and dividing this total by the number of quantities: *The average of 1, 6, and 8 is 5.* ● *vt* 1 work out the average of. 2 *vi* give an average of: *Steel production in the Republic of Korea averages 20 million tons a year.*

averse (ə'vɜːs) *fml adj* opposed: *I am not averse to helping you.* **aversion** (ə'vɜːʃən) 1 *ncu* a strong dislike. 2 *nc* a person or thing you dislike strongly: *Maths is my pet aversion.*

avert (ə'vɜːt) *vt* turn away: *He averted his eyes from the terrible sight.*

aviary ('eɪvjərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place for keeping birds.

aviation (ˌeɪvɪ'eɪʃən) *nu* flying in planes. **aviator** ('eɪvɪeɪtə*) *old-fashioned nc* a person who flies a plane.

avid ('ævɪd) *adj* greedy; eager: *an avid reader.* **avidly** *adv*

avocado (ˌævə'kɑːdəʊ) *nc, pl* **-dos** a green pear grown in the tropics: see picture at **fruits.**

avoid (ə'vɔɪd) *vt* stay away from (something unpleasant). **avoidable** *adj* **avoidance** (ə'vɔɪdəns) *nc*

avoirdupois (ˌæv̩wɑːdjuː'pwɑː) *nu* the system of weights in which sixteen ounces equal one pound.

avow (ə'vaʊ) *vt* publicly declare or confess (feelings, etc.).

avuncular (ə'vʌŋkjʊlə*) *adj* in the manner of a (kind) uncle.

await (ə'weɪt) *vt* wait for.

awake (ə'weɪk) *adj* conscious before or after sleep. ● *vti* wake up from sleep.

awaken (ə'weɪkən) 1 *vti* wake up from sleep. 2 *vt* bring (feelings) to life. **awakening** *nc*

award (ə'wɔːd) 1 *nc* a prize given for something well done. 2 *nu* the giving of such a prize. ● *vt* give (such a prize).

aware (ə'weə*) *adj* 1 conscious. 2 having knowledge. **awareness** (ə'weənɪs) *nu*

awash (ə'wɒʃ) *adj* 1 (of a boat) with sea-water flowing over it. 2 *humorous* very full: *The place was awash with wedding presents.*

away (ə'weɪ) *adv* 1 from a place. 2 at a distance. 3 to a place other than home, work, etc.: *They have gone away.* 4 aside; out of the way: *Stop work and put your books away.* 5 disappearing or coming to an end: *The noise died away.* 6 on and on; without stopping: *He's working away at his car.* ● *adj* (of a game) for which a team has to travel to the other team's ground. **away from** 1 in a direction not towards. 2 at a distance of. . . from. 3 not at (home, work, etc.). **right** or **straight away** immediately.

awe (ɔː) *nu* great wonder or respect. ● *vt* overcome (a person) with deep respect. **awe-inspiring** ('ɔːɪnspaɪərɪŋ) *adj* which causes awe or admiration. **awesome** ('ɔːsəm) *adj* which causes awe.

awful ('ɔːful) *adj* terrible; very bad. **awfully** *adv* 1 ('ɔːfulɪ) very badly. 2 ('ɔːflɪ) *infml* very: *That's awfully kind of you.*

awhile (ə'waɪl) *adv* for a short time: *Why don't you stay awhile?*

awkward ('ɔːkwəd) *adj* 1 (of movement, language, etc.) not easy, smooth, or pleasing. 2 difficult to use or deal with. **awkwardly** *adv*

awl (ɔːl) *nc* a tool for making small holes, esp. in leather.

awning ('ɔːnɪŋ) *nc* a canvas shade for a door or window.

awoke (ə'wəʊk) past tense of **awake.**

awoken (ə'wəʊkən) past participle of **awake.**

awry (ə'raɪ) *adj, adv* 1 off course; wrong. 2 crooked; not straight.

axe (æks) *US* **ax** *nc* a tool with a blade set at the end of a handle, used for cutting wood, etc.: see picture at **tools. have an axe to grind** have personal, often selfish, reasons for doing something. ● *vt infml* end (someone's job); stop (payments).

axial ('æksɪəl) *adj* to do with an axis.

axiom ('æksɪəm) *nc* a statement, principle, or rule that is generally accepted to be true. **axiomatic** (ˌæksɪə'mætɪk) *adj*

axis ('æksɪs) *nc, pl* **axes** ('æksiːz) an imagined line around which a turning object spins.

axle ('æksəl) *nc* the pin or rod in the centre of a wheel, around which it turns.

ay (also **aye**) (eɪ) *old-fashioned adv* ever.

ayatollah (ˌaɪə'tɒlə) *nc* a Muslim religious leader.

aye (also **ay**) (aɪ) *adv, interj, nc* yes.

azalea (ə'zeɪlɪə) *nc* a kind of plant with pink flowers.

azan (aɪ'zɑːn) *n* the Muslim call to public prayer made five times a day by the muezzin from the minaret of a mosque.

azure ('æʒʊə*) *adj* sky-blue. ● *ncu* an azure colour.

B

baa (bɑː) *nc* the sound made by a sheep. • *vi* make this sound.

babble ('bæbəl) *vi* 1 talk all the time, often without making sense. 2 make a continuous sound like the noise of a stream flowing over stones.

baboon (bə'buːn) *nc* a large kind of monkey.

baby ('beɪbɪ) *nc, pl* **-bies** 1 a young human. 2 *infml* a favourite project. 2 *infml* the youngest member of a group. • *adj* of smaller size than usual. **babyish** ('beɪbɪ,ɪʃ) *adj* more suitable for a baby than for an older child. **babysit** ('beɪbɪ,sɪt) *vi* stay in the house with small children while their parents are out. **babysitter** *nc*

bachelor ('bætʃələ*) *nc* a man who has never been married. **Bachelor of Arts** or **Science** a man or woman who has passed the examinations for a first degree in arts or science.

bacillus (bə'sɪləs) *nc, pl* **-cilli** ('sɪlaɪ) a bacterium that has the shape of a rod: *Typhoid fever is caused by a bacillus.*

back (bæk) *nc* 1 the side of an animal's body that is opposite the front or (of four-footed animals) highest from the ground. 2 the part of an object that is opposite or furthest away from the front or that is out of sight. 3 a player in some games, such as football, who tries to stop the other side from attacking. • *adj* 1 that is behind: *the back door of the house.* 2 late; that should have been paid sooner: *back rent.* 3 past: *a back issue of a magazine.* • *adv* 1 away from the front or the scene of action. 2 (to) where the person or thing was before: *They were back for lunch; Put that back, you naughty boy.* 3 in return: *Don't hit back if you're attacked.* 4 ago; in the past. • *vti* 1 move backwards. *vt* 2 support; encourage. 3 put money into (a project); bet on (horses, etc.). **back and forth** to and fro; backwards and forwards. **back to front** with the back where the front should be: *He put his cap on back to front.* **be back** return: *I'll be back soon.* **behind (someone's) back** without (someone) knowing what is being said or done. **get off (someone's) back** stop annoying (someone). **get your own back** See under **own.** **put your back into** put all one's effort into. **put (someone's) back up** annoy (someone). **backache** ('bækeɪk) *nu* a continuing pain in your back. **backbone** ('bækbəʊn) *nc* 1 the long line of bones inside the back of humans and some animals. 2 the enthusiastic people who keep an organisation going. 3 *nu* determination. **backbreaking** ('bæk,breɪkɪŋ) *adj* (of work) very tiring. **backfire** ('bækfaɪə*) *nc* the noise of petrol, etc., exploding too soon in an engine. • *vi* (,bæk'faɪə*) make a backfire. 2 *infml* go wrong. **background** ('bækgraʊnd) *nu* 1 the part of a scene that is behind the action. 2 the conditions, events, etc., that exist when something happens. 3 the social class from which someone comes. **backhand** ('bækhænd) *nc* a stroke in tennis in which the racket is held with the back of the hand facing the ball. **backing** *nu* support; encouragement. **backlash** ('bæklæʃ) *nc* a strong reaction, esp. against a change or development that is not liked or wanted. **backlog** ('bæklɒg) *nc* an amount of work, etc., that is waiting to be done: *a backlog of letters to answer.* **back out of** not do (something you had promised to do). **backstage** (,bæk'steɪdʒ) *adv theatre* behind the scenery. **back up** 1 support (someone, a plan, etc.). 2 move, esp. drive, backwards. 3 copy (a computer file) from a hard disk to a floppy disk. **backward** ('bækwəd) *adj* late in developing. • *adv* also **backwards** 1 in the direction in which the back is facing. 2 from the end to the beginning. **know backwards** know thoroughly. **backyard** ('bæk'jɑːd) *nc* the enclosed space at the back of a house.

backgammon (bæk'gæmən, 'bæk,gæmən) *nu* a game in which two people move pieces on a board according to the throw of a dice.

bacon ('beɪkən) *nu* smoked or salted pig meat.

bacteria (bæk'tɪərɪə) *n pl, singular* **-ium** (ɪəm) tiny animals that cause illnesses or changes in the nature of substances. **bacterial** *adj* (of an illness) caused by bacteria. **bacteriology** (bæk,tɪərɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of bacteria.

bad (bæd) *adj* **worse, worst** 1 of poor quality. 2 morally wrong; evil. 3 harmful. 4 unsuitable for a particular purpose. 5 serious: *a bad cold.* 6 (of food) rotten; sour. **not (so) bad** fairly good. **badly** ('bædlɪ) *adv* 1 in a bad way. 2 very much: *I badly need to go.* **bad-tempered** ('bæd'tempəd) *adj* angry by nature.

bade (beɪd) past tense of **bid.**

badge (bædʒ) *nc* a device, usually worn, which shows membership of an organisation or ability in some skill.

badger ('bædʒə*) *nc* an animal that lives in a hole in the earth and comes out at night: see picture at **animals.** • *vt* keep on asking (someone) for something.

badminton ('bædmɪntən) *nu* a game rather like tennis in which a cork with feathers is used instead of a ball.

baffle ('bæfəl) *vt* confuse (someone).

bag (bæg) *nc* 1 a soft container for carrying things, that can be opened at the top. 2 the amount a bag will hold. 3 (*pl*) *infml* plenty: *We've got bags of time.* • *vt* 1 kill (wild animals). 2 *infml* take (something not your own). **let the cat out of the bag** tell a secret.

baggage ('bægɪdʒ) *nu* cases and bags used to carry belongings on a journey.

baggy ('bægɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of clothes) hanging loosely on the body.

bagpipes ('bægpaɪps) *n pl* a musical instrument played in Scotland: see picture at **musical instruments.**

bail¹ (beɪl) *nu* the money demanded by a court of law to release someone from arrest until their trial. **bail out** pay bail to a court to release (someone) from arrest until their trial.

bail² (also **bale**) *v* **bail out** 1 empty (seawater) out of (a boat). 2 parachute out of an unsafe plane.

bail³ *nc cricket* one of two short pieces of wood laid across the top of the stumps.

bailiff ('beɪlɪf) *nc* 1 a law officer who carries out the decisions of a court. 2 a manager who acts for a property-owner.

bait (beɪt) *nc* something attractive intended to trap a person or animal. • *vt* tempt, tease, or provoke (a helpless person or animal).

bake (beɪk) 1 *vt* cook (food) in an oven. 2 *vi infml* be very hot. **baker** *nc* a person who makes and sells bread. **bakery** ('beɪkərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where bread is made. **baking powder** a powder that makes cakes, etc., rise during baking.

balaclava (ˌbæləˈklɑɪvə*) *nc* a hat that covers most of your head and face.

balance ('bæləns) *nu* 1 an upright position kept by the even spread of weight. 2 the state of containing the right amount of each of the elements of a thing. *nc* 3 (in accounts) an amount of money still owed. **hang in the balance** be uncertain. **balance sheet** the accounts of a business showing money paid out and received. 4 an instrument for measuring weight. • *vti* 1 (cause to) be in **balance** (def. 1). *vt* 2 consider the force of (various arguments). 3 (in accounts) cause (amounts of money paid and received) to be equal; (also *vi*) (of amounts of money paid and received) be equal.

balcony ('bælkənɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** 1 a place outside a window, above ground-level, where people may stand or sit. 2 a bank of seats above ground-level in a theatre or cinema.

bald (bɔːld) *adj* **-er, -est** with little or no hair on your head. **baldness** *nu*

bale¹ (beɪl) *nc* a large, tightly-packed quantity of hay, wool, etc.

bale² *v* See **bail².**

balk (also **baulk**) (bɔːk) 1 *vi* (usually followed by **at**) refuse (to do something): *They were angry but balked at fighting.* 2 *vt* prevent (someone) from doing or getting (something). • *nc* something that prevents someone from doing something.

ball¹ (bɔːl) *nc* a round object, esp. made to be thrown or hit in a game. **on the ball** quick to respond and ready to act. **ball bearing** a device in which a moving part of a machine turns on steel balls. **ballpoint pen** ('bɔːlpɔɪnt) a pen in which the ink is carried to the paper by a little ball.

ball² *nc* a large, formal dance. **ballroom** ('bɔːlruːm) *nc* a large room used for balls.

ballad ('bæləd) *nc* a song that tells a story.

ballast ('bæləst) *nu* heavy material put in the bottom of a ship to keep it upright.

ballerina (ˌbæləˈriːnə) *nc* a female ballet dancer.

ballet ('bæleɪ) 1 *nu* an artistic form of dancing that often tells a story. 2 *nc* a dance of this kind.

ballistic (bəˈlɪstɪk) *adj* to do with rockets, bullets, etc. **ballistics** *nu* the study of rockets, bullets, etc.

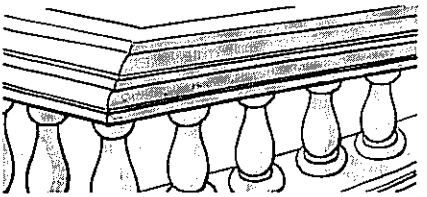
balloon (bəˈluːn) *nc* 1 a very light rubber bag filled with air for children to play with. 2 a large bag that floats in the air when filled with a gas that is lighter than air. **balloonist** (bəˈluːnɪst) a person who flies in a basket hanging below a **balloon** (def. 2).

ballot ('bælət) *nc* an election in which each voter indicates their choice on a piece of paper. • *vti* (ask (someone) to) vote in this way. **ballot-box** *nc* a box into which voters put their pieces of paper at an election.

balm (bɑːm) *nc* 1 an oil or cream used to heal the skin or make it more comfortable. 2 something comforting. **balmy** ('bɑːmɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of air, an evening, etc.) mild and soft.

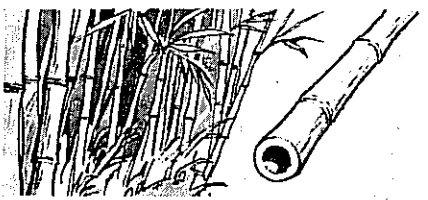
balsam ('bɔːlsəm) *ncu* a pleasant-smelling substance obtained from trees and other plants, used to make ointments, perfumes, etc.

balustrade (ˌbæləˈstreɪd) *nc* a bar supported by small pillars that forms a wall: see picture.



balustrade

bamboo (bæmˈbuː) *nu* a plant with hard, hollow stems that grows esp. in E Asia: see picture.



bamboo

ban (bæn) *vt* 1 forbid (something). 2 refuse membership, etc., to (someone). • *nc* the act of banning or state of being banned: *a ban on smoking.*

banal (bəˈnɑːl) *adj* boring; uninteresting; too ordinary.

banana (bəˈnɑːnə) *nc* a curved yellow fruit which grows esp. in the West Indies: see picture at **fruits.**

band¹ (bænd) *nc* 1 a group of people. 2 a group of musicians who play popular music. **band together** form a group. **jump on the bandwagon** (ˈbændˌwægən) do something because a lot of other people are doing it.

band² *nc* 1 a strip of material, esp. for putting round things to hold them together. 2 a strip of something in a different colour from the rest.

bandage (ˈbændɪdʒ) *nc* a strip of cloth used to cover the dressing on a wound. • *vt* put a bandage round (a wound or a part of the body).

bandit (ˈbændɪt) *nc* a robber, esp. in lonely country.

bandy¹ (ˈbændɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of legs) bent so as to be apart at the knees.

bandy² *vt* exchange (words), esp. angrily.

bane (beɪn) *nc* the chief nuisance; an evil.

bang (bæŋ) *nc* 1 a short, loud noise made by an explosion, etc. 2 a hit: *If it won't go in, give it a bang.* • *vti* make such a noise (by hitting). • *adv* 1 with a bang: *The gun went bang.* 2 exactly: *bang in the middle.*

bangle (ˈbæŋgəl) *nc* a round ornament for the arm or leg.

banish (ˈbænɪʃ) *vt* 1 drive (someone) out of a country or society. 2 get rid of (ideas). **banishment** *nu* the act of banishing or state of being banished.

banister (ˈbænɪstə*) *nc* (usually *pl*) a railing fixed beside stairs.

banjo (ˈbændʒəʊ) *nc, pl* **-os, -oes** a musical instrument played by plucking the strings: see picture at **musical instruments.**

bank¹ (bæŋk) *nc* 1 a wall of earth, often sloping. 2 the land at the edge of a river.

bank² *nc* an organisation that looks after money for its customers. • *vt* 1 put (money) into a bank. 2 *vi* have an account (with a bank). **bank on** depend on; be sure of. **bank holiday** (in the UK) a public holiday. **banker** *nc* a person holding a high position in a bank. **banking** *nu* the business of banks and bankers. **banknote** (ˈbæŋknəʊt) a piece of paper money produced by a bank.

bankrupt (ˈbæŋkrʌpt) *adj* with no money left to pay your debts. • *nc* a bankrupt person. • *vt* make bankrupt. **bankruptcy** (ˈbæŋkrʌptsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies**

banner (ˈbænə*) *nc* a piece of cloth with a message on it, esp. one that is carried in a procession.

banns (bænz) *n pl* the notice of a future marriage, read out in church.

banquet (ˈbæŋkwɪt) *nc* a big formal meal attended by many people. • *vi* feast.

banter (ˈbæntə*) *nu* teasing, joking conversation. • *vi* exchange banter.

baobab (ˈbeɪəʊˌbæb) *nc* a tree that grows in Africa, which produces a large round fruit with white pulp that can be eaten.

baptism (ˈbæptɪzəm) *nc* the acceptance, shown by the use of water, of a person into Christianity. **baptise** (bæpˈtaɪz) *vt* give baptism to. **Baptist** (ˈbæptɪst) a member of the Christian Church which believes that you should go completely under water at baptism.

bar (bɑː*) *nc* 1 a piece of hard substance, longer than it is wide: *an iron bar; a bar of chocolate.* 2 a stripe or ring of colour, etc. 3 something that prevents or forbids. 4 a regular division of a piece of music. 5 the place where drinks are served in a pub, etc. • *vt* 1 forbid (an action); keep (someone)

out. 2 block (a road). 3 mark with bars (**bar** def. 2). **bar chart** a kind of drawing in which quantities are represented by bars (**bar** def. 2). **bar code** lines and numbers printed on a packet, book, etc., giving information about the price, etc.: see picture.

bar code

barmaid ('bɑːmeɪd) *nc* a woman who serves drinks in a bar. **barman** ('bɑːmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man who serves drinks in a bar.

barb (bɑːb) *nc* a sharp point facing backwards on an arrow, fishing hook, etc. **barbed wire** wire with regular sharp points along it used for fences.

barbarian (bɑː'beərɪən) *adj* uncivilised. • *nc* an uncivilised person. **barbaric** (bɑː'bærɪk) *adj* **barbarism** ('bɑːbərɪzəm) also **barbarity** (bɑː'bærɪtɪ) *nc,u* a barbaric state or act. **barbarous** ('bɑːbərəs) *adj*

barbecue ('bɑːbɪkjuː) *nc* 1 a picnic at which meat is cooked over a fire. 2 a frame on which meat is cooked over a fire. • *vt* cook (meat) on a **barbecue** (def. 2).

barbel ('bɑːbəl) *nc* a kind of long whisker or stiff hair that grows from the jaws of certain fish.

barber ('bɑːbə*) *nc* a person who cuts men's hair and shaves their beards.

barbiturate (bɑː'bɪtjʊrət) *nc* a drug that causes sleep.

bare (beə*) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 not covered, esp. naked. 2 unprotected. 3 empty: *The cupboard was bare.* 4 simple: *the bare facts.* • *vt* uncover. **bareback** ('beəbæk) *adv, adj* on a horse without a saddle. **barefoot** ('beəfʊt) *adv, adj* without shoes or socks. **bareheaded** ('beə'hedɪd) *adj, adv* without a hat or other head covering. **barely** *adv* 1 only just: *It is barely six o'clock.* 2 simply; poorly: *a barely furnished room.*

bargain ('bɑːgɪn) *nc* 1 something bought cheaply. 2 an agreement, esp. to buy or sell something. • *vi* discuss the price of a sale or the terms of an agreement. **get more than you bargained for** find that you have accepted more than you expected or wanted.

barge (bɑːdʒ) *nc* a wide-bottomed boat chiefly for carrying goods, used on inland waters. **barge in** *infml* interrupt rudely. **barge into** *infml* knock against.

baritone ('bærɪtəʊn) 1 *nu* the middle male singing voice. 2 *nc* a man with this voice.

barium ('beərɪəm) *nu* a chemical element that is a soft silver-white metal: symbol Ba.

bark[1] (bɑːk) *nu* the short cry of a dog. • *vi* (of a dog) give a bark.

bark[2] *nu* the covering of the trunk and branches of a tree.

barley ('bɑːlɪ) *nu* a plant producing seeds which are used to make beer, whisky, and bread.

barn (bɑːn) *nc* a large farm building for corn, hay, animals, etc.

barnacle ('bɑːnəkəl) *nc* a small sea-animal with a shell that sticks to boats, rocks, etc., under the water.

barometer (bə'rɒmɪtə*) *nc* an instrument for measuring air pressure.

baron ('bærən) *nc* 1 (in the UK) a male noble of the lowest rank. 2 a powerful person: *a press baron.*

barracks ('bærəks) *nc* (*with singular verb*) a group of buildings where soldiers live.

barrage ('bærɑːʒ) *nc* 1 a long period of firing from many guns. 2 a dam across a river. 3 a series of questions put to someone at the same time.

barrel ('bærəl) *nc* 1 a round container usually with curved sides. 2 the tube of a gun.

barren ('bærən) *adj* 1 (of animals) unable to produce young; (of plants) unable to produce fruit; (of land) unable to produce crops. 2 (of a discussion, etc.) that fails to produce results.

barricade (ˌbærɪ'keɪd) *nc* a barrier built across a street, esp. during fighting. • *vt* 1 block (a street, etc.) with a barricade. 2 stop other people from entering a place by putting a barrier across the door: *He barricaded himself in his room.*

barrier ('bærɪə*) *nc* 1 a bar or fence used to keep people within or out of a place. 2 something that keeps people apart: *barriers of race.*

barrister ('bærɪstə*) *nc* (in England) a lawyer who argues cases in the higher courts.

barrow ('bærəʊ) *nc* 1 short for **wheelbarrow.** 2 a stand on wheels used for selling fruit and vegetables.

barter ('bɑːtə*) *nu* the exchange of goods for other goods (instead of money). • *vti* exchange (goods) in this way.

basalt ('bæsɔːlt) *nu* a dark rock that is formed by volcanoes.

base[1] (beɪs) *nc* 1 the bottom of a thing; foundation. 2 the chief substance in a mixture. 3 a place where an army, group of explorers, etc., keeps its stores, and from which it operates. • *vt* develop (figures,

an argument, etc.) from something: *I based my estimate on these figures.* **baseboard** ('beɪsbɔɪd) *US n* See **skirting-board.**

base² *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of behaviour, etc.) mean; low. 2 (of metals, etc.) of low value.

baseball ('beɪsbɔɪl) *nu* a game, played by two teams of nine players, in which a member of one team hits a ball thrown by a member of the other.

basement ('beɪsmənt) *nc* the rooms of a building that are below ground-level.

bash (bæʃ) *infml nc* 1 a violent hit. 2 a try: *Let's have a bash!* • *vt* hit violently.

bashful ('bæʃful) *adj* shy; modest; not welcoming attention.

basic ('beɪsɪk) *adj* 1 acting as a base or basis: *basic education.* 2 plain; simple: *basic facts.* **basically** ('beɪsɪklɪ) *adv* at bottom; essentially. **the basics** *n pl* the most important facts: *learn the basics.*

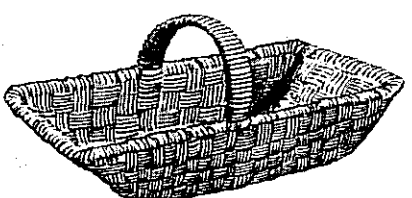
basil ('bæzɪl) *nu* a plant with a sweet smell used in cooking.

basin ('beɪsən) *nc* 1 a round open container, esp. for food. 2 the amount a basin will hold. 3 a low area of land into which rivers run. 4 **wash-basin** See under **wash.**

basis ('beɪsɪs) *nc, pl* **bases** ('beɪsɪːz) something on which an argument, etc., is based. **on the basis of** using... as a guide.

bask (bɑːsk) *vi* lie somewhere pleasantly warm, esp. in the sun.

basket ('bɑːskɪt) *nc* 1 an open container, usually made from cane or reeds, with a handle, for carrying things: see picture. 2 the amount a basket will hold.



basket

basketball ('bɑːskɪtbɔːl) *nu* a game played by two teams of five players, in which the aim is to throw the ball through a metal ring high above the ground.

basophil ('beɪsəfɪl) *nc biology* a rare type of white blood cell.

bass¹ (beɪs) 1 *nu* the lowest male singing voice. 2 *nc* a man with this voice. • *adj* (of a voice, instrument, etc.) in the lowest range.

bass² (bæs) *nc, pl* **bass** any of several fishes of the perch family.

bassoon (bə'suːn) *nc* a large woodwind instrument with keys and a double reed and which makes a deep sound: see picture at **musical instruments.**

bastard ('bɑːstəd) *nc, adj* 1 (a child) born to parents who are not married. 2 *derogatory* (something) very annoying or difficult. • *nc* 1 *derogatory* someone you dislike strongly. 2 *infml* a person: *You lucky bastard!*

baste (beɪst) *vt* pour juice or oil over (food being cooked).

bastion ('bæstɪən) *nc* a strongly built, safe place.

bat¹ (bæt) *nc* a flying mammal that lives in dark places and is active at night.

bat² *nc* a long piece of wood with a handle for hitting the ball in cricket, baseball, etc. • *vt* hit (a ball) with a bat.

bat³ *v* **not bat an eyelid** *infml* appear not to be surprised or worried.

batch (bætʃ) *nc* a convenient quantity of things, esp. one coming at intervals. • *vt* put into convenient quantities.

bated ('beɪtɪd) *adj* **with bated breath** with breath held back (through anxiety, etc.).

bath (bɑːθ) *nc, pl* **baths** (bɑːðz) 1 a container that you fill with water to sit and wash yourself in. 2 the act of washing yourself in a bath: *I'm going to have a bath.* 3 **the baths** See **swimming-bath** under **swim. bathrobe** ('bɑːθrəʊb) *US nc* a dressing-gown. **bathroom** ('bɑːθruːm) *nc* 1 a room with a bath in. 2 *US* a toilet. **bathtub** ('bɑːθtʌb) *nc* a **bath** (def. 1). • *vti* wash in a bath. **bathe** (beɪð) 1 *vi* swim. *vt* 2 clean (a wound) with water. 3 put (a tired or painful part of the body) into water. • *nc* a swim. **bathing costume** *nc* a garment to swim in.

batik ('bætɪk) *nu* a method of printing a pattern on fabric by covering with wax the parts that are not to be dyed: see picture.

batik

baton ('bætɒn) *nc* a short stick, esp. carried by army officers or policemen or used to direct musicians.

batsman ('bætsmən) *cricket nc, pl* **-men** a player who tries to hit the ball with the bat.

battalion (bə'tæljən) *nc* a part of an army, containing several companies and being part of a brigade.

batten ('bætən) *nc* a long, thin piece of wood for fixing tiles to, etc. **batten down** fix (something) down with battens.

batter[1] ('bætə*) *vti* hit or knock hard and for a long time.

batter[2] *nu* a mixture of eggs, milk, and flour used to make pancakes, etc., or to coat food to be fried. • *vt* coat (food) with batter.

battery ('bætərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a device which stores electricity for use in a torch, radio, etc., or to start a car. 2 a group of heavy guns. 3 a row of cages in which hens are kept. **battery charger** See **charger.**

battle ('bætəl) *nc* a big fight, esp. between armed forces. • *vi* (often followed by **against** or **with**) fight (against difficulties, etc.). **battlefield** also **battleground** *nc* the place where a land battle is fought. **battlement** ('bætəlmənt) *nc* a wall with holes through which to shoot. **battleship** *nc* a large warship with heavy guns.

baulk (bɔːk) *v, n* See **balk.**

bauxite ('bɔːksaɪt) *nu* a substance dug out of the ground from which aluminium is obtained.

bawl (bɔːl) *vi* shout or cry loudly.

bay[1] (beɪ) *nc* an inward curve of the coast.

bay[2] *nc* a part of a room that curves outwards from the line of the walls. **bay window** a window in a bay.

bay[3] *nc* a laurel tree of which the dried leaves are used to add taste in cooking: see picture at **trees.**

bay[4] *vi* (of a dog) give a deep bark or howl. **keep at bay** hold off (an enemy, disease, etc.).

bayonet ('beɪənet) *nc* a knife fixed to the end of a rifle. • *vt* stick a bayonet into.

bazaar (bə'zɑː*) *nc* a market where all kinds of goods are sold.

be (biː unstressed bɪ) *vi* 1 exist; live. 2 (used to describe): *I am ill; She is a doctor.* 3 take place: *The concert is tonight.* 4 occupy space: *I'm upstairs.* 5 (used in continuous verbs): *He was reading; What are you doing?* 6 (used in passive verbs): *The window had been broken.* 7 go: *Have you been to India?* 8 have as a task: *We're to report for duty.* **mother-to-be** a pregnant woman.

beach (biːtʃ) *nc* land, esp. sand, at the edge of the sea. • *vt* run or pull (a boat) onto a beach. **beachhead** ('biːtʃhed) *nc* land near the sea occupied by soldiers who have arrived in boats to attack.

beacon ('biːkən) *nc* a bright light which can be seen from far away and acts as a guide or signal.

bead (biːd) *nc* a small piece of glass, coloured stone, etc., a number of which can be put on a string and worn around the neck as an ornament. 2 a drop, esp. of sweat.

beady ('biːdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (esp. of the eyes) round and hard in appearance.

beagle ('biːgəl) *nc* a kind of dog.

beak (biːk) *nc* the hard mouth of a bird, usually pointed or curved.

beaker ('biːkə*) *nc* 1 a tall cup without a handle. 2 a tall glass container with a lip, used in scientific experiments.

beam (biːm) *nc* 1 a piece of wood that goes across a room and helps to support the ceiling or the roof. 2 a light that shines straight from the sun, a lamp, etc.: *a laser beam.* 3 a broad smile. • *vi* 1 shine brightly. 2 smile broadly. 3 *vt* direct (a broadcast) towards a particular place.

bean (biːn) *nc* 1 any of several plants of which the seeds are eaten as vegetables. 2 one of these seeds. **full of beans** very energetic; not at all tired. **spill the beans** tell a secret.

bear[1] (beə*) *vt* 1 *fml* carry. 2 put up with (grief, etc.). 3 (of a tree, etc.) produce (fruit, etc.). *vi* 4 turn slightly: *Bear left onto the main road.* 5 be patient: *Bear with me for a few more minutes.* **bear in mind** See under **mind. bearable** *adj* able to be borne (**bear**[1] def. 2). **bear up** face something unpleasant with courage.

bear[2] *nc* a large powerful animal with thick fur: see picture at **animals. bearskin** ('beəskɪn) *nc* the skin and fur of a bear.

beard (bɪəd) *nc* the hair that grows on the lower part of a man's face. **bearded** *adj* (of a man) with a beard.

bearer ('beərə*) *nc* 1 a person who carries; (in former times, in India and Africa) a porter or personal servant. 2 the person who brings a cheque to a bank for payment. 3 a person who brings: *the bearer of good news.*

bearing ('beərɪŋ) *nu* 1 the way someone behaves and moves: *a man of military bearing.* 2 a connection: *That has no bearing on the case. nc* 3 a direction described by its relationship to north: *East is the same as a bearing of 90 degrees.* 4 a support for a moving part in a machine. **get** or **lose your bearings** find out or forget where you are or the direction you want to go in. **ball bearing** See under **ball**[1].

beast (biːst) *nc* 1 an animal, esp. one with four feet. 2 a cruel or dirty person. **beastly** ('biːstlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 like a beast. 2 nasty.

beat (biːt) *nc* 1 a sound that is repeated

regularly, as of a drum or the heart. 2 a rhythm in music. 3 a conductor's movements indicating this to the musicians. 4 a way regularly walked by someone such as a policeman. • *vt* 1 hit repeatedly. 2 stir (food) fast and thoroughly. 3 defeat. 4 *vi* (esp. of the heart) make regular movements that can be heard. **beat about the bush** avoid an important matter by not talking about it plainly. **beat down** 1 *vi* (of the sun) shine with great heat; (of rain) fall heavily. 2 *vt* cause (someone) to accept less money, esp. for something they are selling. **beating** ('biːtɪŋ) *nc* 1 repeated hits. 2 a defeat. **beat off** win the fight against (an attack, etc.). **beat up** knock (someone) about violently.

beaten ('biːtən) past participle of **beat.** • *adj* 1 (shaped by being) hit repeatedly: *beaten metal.* 2 (of food) mixed thoroughly: *beaten egg.* 3 defeated. **off the beaten track** away from big towns and main roads.

beater ('biːtə*) *nc* a device used to **beat** (defs. 1, 2).

Beaufort scale ('bəʊfət) an international system for describing the strength of the wind.

beauty ('bjuːtɪ) 1 *nu* the quality of being attractive to look at or pleasing to the mind. *nc, pl* **-ties** 2 a woman who is attractive to look at. 3 something that is big, well made, etc.: *This potato is a beauty!* **beautiful** *adj* **beautifully** *adv* **beautify** ('bjuːtɪfaɪ) *vt* make (more) beautiful. **beauty spot** a very attractive place, esp. in the countryside.

beaver ('biːvə*) *nc* 1 a furry animal that builds its home in a river: see picture at **animals.** 2 *infml* a hard worker. 3 *nu* beaver fur. • *vi infml* (often followed by **away**) work hard.

becalm (bɪ'kɑːm) *vt* (*usually passive*) stop (a ship) from moving, from lack of wind.

became (bɪ'keɪm) past tense of **become.**

because (bɪ'kɒz) *conj* for the reason that: *It is hot because the sun is shining.* **because of** owing to; by reason of: *We stayed at home because of the bad weather.*

beckon ('bekən) 1 *vi* make a sign (to someone that they should come nearer). 2 *vt* make a sign to (someone) that they should come nearer.

become (bɪ'kʌm) 1 *v* come to be; change into (being): *After the storm it became very cold; She became a doctor.* 2 *vt fml* suit (someone) well: *Long hair becomes you.* **become of** happen to: *Whatever became of her?* **becoming** (bɪ'kʌmɪŋ) *adj* that suits a person well.

bed (bed) *nc* 1 a piece of furniture for sleeping on. 2 a part of a garden where a particular plant is grown: *a flower bed.* 3 the bottom of a sea, river, etc. **bedclothes** ('bedkləʊðz) *n pl* also **bedding** *nu* blankets, sheets, etc., used on a bed. **bedridden** ('bed,rɪdən) *adj* forced to stay in bed because of illness, disability, etc. **bedrock** ('bedrɒk) *nu* 1 solid rock that lies some way under the soil. 2 the basic facts. **bedroom** ('bedrʊm) *nc* a room that contains a bed or beds. **bedside** ('bedsaɪd) *nu* the place beside the bed of a sick person. • *adj* that is placed beside a bed. **bedsitter** ('bed'sɪtə*) also **bedsit** *nc* a room used both as a bedroom and as a sitting-room. **bedspread** ('bedspred) *nc* a cloth spread over the rest of the bedclothes. **bedstead** ('bedsted) *nc* the frame of a bed. **bedtime** ('bedtaɪm) *ncu* the time at which someone, esp. a child, ought to go to bed.

bedecked (bɪ'dekt) *adj* ornamented (with jewels, etc.).

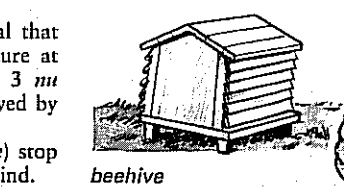
bedlam ('bedləm) *nu* a state of noise and confusion.

Bedouin ('bedəʊɪn) *nc, pl* **Bedouin** an Arab who moves from place to place in the desert.

bedraggled (bɪ'drægəld) *adj* dirty with water or mud.

bee (biː) *nc* a winged insect that produces honey: see picture at **insects.**

beehive ('biːhaɪv) (often shortened to **hive**) *nc* a box built for bees to live and make honey in: see picture. **make a beeline for** ('biːlaɪn) go straight to.



beehive

beech (biːtʃ) 1 *nc* a tree with smooth grey bark that produces nuts. 1 *nu* the wood of this tree.

beef (biːf) *nu* 1 the meat of a bull, cow, or ox. 2 physical strength. 3 *nc infml* a complaint. • *vi infml* complain. **beefburger** ('biːf,bɜːgə*) *n* See **hamburger** under **ham. beefsteak** ('biːf'steɪk) *nc* a thick piece of beef with little fat. **beefy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml* strong; having large muscles.

been (biːn unstressed bɪn) past participle of **be.**

beep (biːp) *nc, vi* (make) a short, high sound made esp. as a warning by an electrical device such as a horn.

beer (bɪə*) also **ale** 1 *ncu* an alcoholic drink made from malt and hops. 2 *nc* a glass of beer.

beet (biːt) *ncu* any of various plants with thick roots that can be eaten as vegetables or made into sugar. **beet sugar** sugar made from the roots of white beet. **beetroot** ('biːtruːt) *nu* the root of the red beet: see picture at **vegetables.**

beetle ('biːtəl) *nc* any of a great many types of insect with hard wing-cases: see picture at **insects.**

befall (bɪ'fɔːl) *fml* 1 *vi* happen. 2 *vt* happen to (someone).

befallen (bɪ'fɔːlən) past participle of **befall.**

befell (bɪ'fel) past tense of **befall.**

befit (bɪ'fɪt) *vt fml* suit; be fitting for.

before (bɪ'fɔː*) *prep* 1 in front of. 2 earlier than: *before three o'clock.* • *adv* already; earlier: *I've never seen that before.* • *conj* sooner than: *Before she could move, the thief had taken the ring.* **beforehand** (bɪ'fɔːhænd) *adv* before some event; already.

befriend (bɪ'frend) *vt* act as a friend towards (someone).

beg (beg) 1 *vi* ask people in the street for money. 2 *vti* ask (for): *She begged £5 from us; I beg your pardon.*

began (bɪ'gæn) past tense of **begin.**

beggar ('begə*) *nc* a poor person who asks people for money. • *vt* make poor.

begin (bɪ'gɪn) *vti* start; make the first action; come into being: *begin to cry; The show begins at 7.30.* **beginner** (bɪ'gɪnə*) *nc* a person who is new to an activity. **beginning** *nc* the first or earliest part. **to begin with** as the beginning; first.

begone (bɪ'gɒn) *interj literary* go away!

begrudge (bɪ'grʌdʒ) *vt* 1 give (something to someone) when you would rather not do so: *I don't begrudge you money that you earn.* 2 be jealous of: *She begrudged him his success.*

beguile (bɪ'gaɪl) *vt* 1 cheat. 2 charm.

begun (bɪ'gʌn) past participle of **begin.**

behalf (bɪ'hɑːf) *n* **on behalf of** for, on the part of, or representing (someone).

behave (bɪ'heɪv) *vi* act, esp. with good manners. **behave well** or **badly** have good or bad manners.

behaviour *US* **behavior** (bɪ'heɪvjə*) *nu* 1 a way of behaving; manners. 2 the way that a machine, chemical, or animal acts under given conditions.

behead (bɪ'hed) *vt* cut off the head of.

beheld (bɪ'held) past tense and past participle of **behold.**

behind (bɪ'haɪnd) *prep, adv* 1 at or to the back of. 2 not as far on as (you ought or would like to be): *We're getting behind with our work.* • *prep* in support of: *We're right behind you in your plan.* • *adv* remaining after someone or something else has left: *I left my hat behind at work.* • *nc infml* the soft part of the body on which you sit. **behindhand** (bɪ'haɪndhænd) *adv* late.

behold (bɪ'həʊld) *vti old-fashioned* look (at); see.

beholden (bɪ'həʊldən) *adj old-fashioned* grateful or in debt (to someone) for a kindness, etc.

beige (beɪʒ) *adj* very light brown. • *ncu* a beige colour.

being ('biːɪŋ) present participle of **be.** • *nu* 1 life; existence. *nc* 2 a person. 3 something thought to exist or have life, such as a god or a creature from a star.

belabour (bɪ'leɪbə*) *vt* talk about something for too long: *to belabour a point.*

belated (bɪ'leɪtɪd) *adj fml* late: *Their belated good wishes arrived two days after his birthday.*

belch (beltʃ) 1 *vi* make a noise of allowing gas from the stomach out through the mouth. 2 *vti* pour out. • *nc* an example of belching.

beleaguered (bɪ'liːgəd) *adj* under attack.

belfry ('belfrɪ) *nc, pl* **-fries** the part of a church tower where the bells are.

belie (bɪ'laɪ) *vt* 1 give a false idea of. 2 show (something) to be untrue or a lie: *The report of his death was belied by his appearance the next day.*

belief (bɪ'liːf) *nu* 1 faith; trust. 2 acceptance of something as true. 3 *nc* an opinion. 4 *ncu* (acceptance of) a religion.

believe (bɪ'liːv) *vt* 1 have faith in; trust. 2 accept as true. 3 have as an opinion. **believable** (bɪ'liːvəbəl) *adj* that can be believed. **believe in** 1 have faith in; trust. 2 accept the existence of. 3 agree with (an idea). **believer** (bɪ'liːvə*) *nc* a person who has faith (in a religion, political system, etc.).

belittle (bɪ'lɪtəl) *vt* speak of (someone's work, etc.) as less important than it is.

bell (bel) *nc* 1 a hollow metal object containing a movable hanging part that makes a ringing sound when the bell is shaken. 2 an electric device that makes a ringing or buzzing sound, esp. when a button is pressed.

belligerent (bɪ'lɪdʒərənt) *adj* 1 taking part in a war. 2 warlike; aggressive.

bellow ('beləʊ) *vti* roar; shout very loudly. • *nc* a roar; very loud shout.

bellows ('beləʊz) *n pl* also **pair of**

bellows a device for feeding air to a fire to make it burn faster, or to an organ, etc., to make it sound.

belly ('belɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** 1 the lower front part of the body above the legs. 2 the stomach.

belong (bɪ'lɒŋ) *vi* 1 be normally kept or put: *The plates belong in the cupboard.* 2 fit in; match the surroundings. **belongings** (bɪ'lɒŋɪŋz) *n pl* possessions. **belong to** 1 be owned by (someone). 2 be a member of (an organisation).

beloved (bɪ'lʌvɪd) *old-fashioned adj, nc* (a person who is) dearly loved.

below (bɪ'ləʊ) *prep* 1 under; lower than. 2 less than (a figure). 3 less important than: *He's below me at work.* • *adv* 1 underneath; at or to a lower place. 2 (on a ship) lower than the decks; down inside: *They went below.* 3 further on (in a book, document, etc.).

belt (belt) *nc* 1 a band that goes round the waist, usually to hold a garment up or in. 2 a stretch of land: *the green belt round the city.* 3 a band connecting wheels in a machine. **hit below the belt** attack someone unfairly. • *vt* 1 fasten with a belt. 2 hit with a belt. 3 *vi infml* move fast: *We belted along the road.*

bemoan (bɪ'məʊn) *vt* be sad about.

bemused (bɪ'mjuːzd) *adj* rather puzzled: *a bemused expression.*

bench (bentʃ) *nc* 1 a long seat with room for several people. 2 a work table.

bend (bend) 1 *vti* curve. 2 *vi* fold one's body so as to reach down, etc. **be bent on** be determined to (do something). **bend the rules** change or ignore the rules when they cause inconvenience. • *nc* a curve, esp. in a road. **the bends** sickness caused by a sudden change in air pressure.

beneath (bɪ'niːθ) *fml or literary prep, adv* under(neath). • *prep* too ordinary, common, etc., for: *Now he's manager, he thinks dirty work is beneath him.*

benediction (ˌbenɪ'dɪkʃən) *nc* a (Roman Catholic service of) blessing.

benefactor ('benɪfæktə*) *nc* someone who gives money to a person or organisation.

beneficial (ˌbenɪ'fɪʃəl) *adj* bringing good; having a good effect.

beneficiary (ˌbenɪ'fɪʃərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a person who receives money from someone.

benefit ('benɪfɪt) *nc* 1 an advantage: *Education is a great benefit in life.* 2 money paid to people by a government, insurance company, etc.: *unemployment benefit.* **for the benefit of** for the good of (someone). **give (someone) the benefit of the doubt** believe or not accuse (someone) when the truth of a matter is not clear. • *vt* 1 do good or give an advantage to (someone). 2 *vi* profit; receive an advantage.

benevolent (bɪ'nevələnt) *adj* 1 kindly, friendly. 2 (of an organisation) giving help to people; not intended to make a profit. **benevolence** *nu* 1 kindness. 2 generosity.

benign (bɪ'naɪn) *adj* 1 favourable. 2 (of a disease) mild.

bent[1] (bent) past tense and past participle of **bend.**

bent[2] *nc* an inclination; ability; nature.

benzene ('benziːn) *nu* a liquid obtained from coal tar, used to make plastics, etc.

benzine ('benziːn) *nu* a liquid obtained from mineral oil, used in cleaning, etc.

bequeath (bɪ'kwiːð) *fml vt* give (something) away after one's death or departure. **bequest** (bɪ'kwest) *nc* 1 something bequeathed. 2 the act of bequeathing.

berate (bɪ'reɪt) *vt* scold.

bereaved (bɪ'riːvd) *adj* having lost a loved person through death: *the bereaved parents.* **the bereaved** a bereaved person; bereaved people. **bereavement** (bɪ'riːvmənt) *ncu* the state of being bereaved.

bereft (bɪ'reft) *adj literary* **bereft of** having lost: *They were bereft of all hope.*

beret ('bereɪ) *nc* a soft round cap.

berg wind (bɜːg) a hot dry wind blowing from the plateau towards the coasts in South Africa.

beriberi (ˌberɪ'berɪ) *nu* a disease common in the East and hot parts of the world, caused by lack of foods containing vitamin B_1.

berry ('berɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** any of many kinds of small fruit without stones that grow on bushes and small trees.

berserk (bə'sɜːk, bə'ʒɜːk) *adv* **go berserk** run wild; lose control; go mad.

berth (bɜːθ) *nc* 1 a bed in a ship, train, or plane. 2 a place in a port where a ship can be tied up. **give a wide berth** keep well away from (something or someone unpleasant). • *vt* tie up (a ship) in a port; (also *vi*) (of a ship) tie up in a port.

beseech (bɪ'siːtʃ) *old-fashioned vt* ask or beg (someone to do something).

beset (bɪ'set) *vt* surround; trouble: *a task beset with difficulties.*

beside (bɪ'saɪd) *prep, adv* at the side of or next to (something). • *prep* compared to: *Beside last year's loss, this year's is small.* **beside the point** not connected with the matter being discussed. **beside**

yourself not in control of yourself; overcome (with anger, etc.).

besides (bɪ'saɪdz) *prep, adv* in addition (to); as well (as).

besiege (bɪ'siːdʒ) *vt* 1 attack (a town). 2 crowd round (a popular person). 3 flood (someone) with questions, telephone calls, etc.

besought (bɪ'sɔːt) past tense and past participle of **beseech.**

bespoke (bɪ'spəʊk) *adj* **bespoke tailoring** clothes made to personal order.

best (best) *adj* having the highest qualities; most attractive, useful, etc. • *adv* 1 the most: *He's the one I like best.* 2 most efficiently, easily, etc.; with the greatest effect: *She sings best before a small audience.* **the best** the most attractive, useful, etc., person(s) or thing(s). See also **good** and **well¹. all the best** all good wishes. **make the best of a bad job** do as well as possible in a difficult situation. **best man** a friend who attends the bridegroom at a wedding. **the best part of** most of: *It took me the best part of an hour to get there.* **bestseller** ('best'selə*) *nc* a book of which very large numbers are sold. **bestselling** *adj*

bestial ('bestɪəl) *adj* 1 natural to a beast. 2 (of behaviour) inhuman; cruel.

bestow (bɪ'stəʊ) *vt fml* give (a present or prize): *He had many things bestowed on him.*

bet (bet) also **wager** *nc* a promise of money to be paid or not according to the unpredictable result of an event. • *vt* promise (money) in this way: *I bet £50 on the horse that won last year's race; I bet you £5 that she won't come.*

beta (biːtə) *nc* the second letter of the Greek alphabet. **beta particle** an electron with high energy released from an atom during radioactive decay. See also **alpha particle; gamma radiation.**

betide (bɪ'taɪd) *old-fashioned or humorous* **woe betide** may unpleasant things happen to (someone): *Woe betide anyone who forgets!*

betray (bɪ'treɪ) *vt* 1 put (a person who trusts you) into the power of an enemy. 2 show or make clear (what you would wish to hide): *Her pale face betrayed her worry.* **betrayal** (bɪ'treɪəl) *ncu*

betrothed (bɪ'trəʊðd) *adj old-fashioned* promised in marriage (to someone). **betrothal** (bɪ'trəʊðəl) *ncu old-fashioned* engagement.

better ('betə*) *adj* 1 having higher qualities; more attractive, useful, etc. 2 improved, esp. in health: *You'll be (the) better for a holiday.* • *adv* more efficiently, easily, etc.: *A car goes better on a well-made road.* **the better** the one that is more attractive, useful, etc. See also **good** and **well¹.** • *vt* improve (on): *I shall better their offer.* **better yourself** improve your position. **better off** 1 in a more pleasant situation. 2 having more money. **get the better of** defeat; overcome. **had better** ought to or must (do something): *We had better go or she won't be pleased.* **think better of** See under **think.**

between (bɪ'twiːn) *prep* connecting or separating: *There are many flights between London and New York.* **between you and me** as a secret.

bevel ('bevəl) *vt* slope (the edge of a glass, card etc.). • *nc* a sloping edge.

beverage ('bevərɪdʒ) *nc old-fashioned* a drink, esp. one without alcohol.

bevy ('bevɪ) *nc, pl* **-vies** a group (of girls or birds).

bewail (bɪ'weɪl) *vt* express grief for.

beware (bɪ'weə*) *vti* (when *vi*, followed by **of**) be cautious (of); guard (against): *Beware of the dog.*

bewilder (bɪ'wɪldə*) *vt* confuse (someone). **bewildered** *adj* **bewildering** *adj* **bewilderment** *nu*

bewitch (bɪ'wɪtʃ) *vt* 1 put a spell on. 2 charm; enchant. **bewitched** *adj* **bewitching** *adj*

beyond (bɪ'jɒnd) *prep, adv* further (than), past, or on the other side (of). **beyond a joke** (of a trick or piece of fun) no longer funny. **beyond your means** too expensive(ly), (spending) more than you can afford.

bias ('baɪəs) *ncu* an unfair preference; prejudice. • *vt* influence (someone) too much in favour of something: *He's biased, so take no notice of his opinion.*

bib (bɪb) *nc* 1 a cloth tied round a child's neck to protect its clothes from dropped food. 2 the part of an apron that is above the waist.

Bible ('baɪbəl) *nc* the holy book of Christians. **bible** a book of important or reliable information on a particular subject. **biblical** ('bɪblɪkəl) *adj*

bibliography (ˌbɪblɪ'ɒgrəfɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-phies** a list of the books used in writing a book or article. 2 *nu* the study of books and their history. **bibliographer** *nc* the writer of a bibliography. **bibliographical** (ˌbɪblɪə'græfɪkəl) *adj*

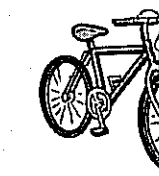
bicarbonate (baɪ'kɑːbənɪt) *chemistry nc* an acid salt, esp. sodium bicarbonate, which is used as baking powder.

bicentenary (ˌbaɪsenˈtiːnərɪ) *US* **bicentennial** (ˌbaɪsenˈtenɪəl) *nc, pl* **-ries** the two-hundredth anniversary of an event.

biceps (ˈbaɪseps) *nc, pl* **biceps** the large muscle in the upper arm.

bicker (ˈbɪkə*) *vi* argue or quarrel over small matters.

bicycle (ˈbaɪsɪkəl) (*infml abbrev.* **bike**) *nc* a two-wheeled vehicle which you ride by pushing pedals: see picture. • *vi* ride a bicycle.



bicycle

bid (bɪd) *nc* 1 an attempt (to seize power, rescue someone, etc.). 2 an offer to buy (in competition with other people). • *vt* 1 *fml* say or wish (something to someone): *I bid him goodbye.* 2 *old-fashioned* order (someone to do something). 3 offer (a price). **bidder** *nc* a person who makes a **bid** (def. 2).

bidden (ˈbɪdən) past participle of **bid** (defs. 1, 2).

bide (baɪd) *vi* **bide your time** wait for the right moment.

bidet (ˈbiːdeɪ) *nc* a low basin with taps, used for washing the parts of the body between the legs.

biennial (baɪˈenɪəl) *adj* 1 that happens every two years. 2 that lasts for two years. • *nc* a plant that flowers in its second year and then dies.

bier (bɪə*) *nc* a vehicle on which a dead body is taken to be buried.

bifocals (ˌbaɪˈfəʊkəlz) *n pl* glasses with lenses of which the upper half gives a different focus from the lower half.

big (bɪg) *adj* **-ger, -gest** 1 large. 2 on a grand scale: *He has big ideas.* 3 generous in spirit: *It was big of him to take the blame.* 4 important: *He's a big man in his firm.* • *adv* on a grand scale: *We must think big.* **bigwig** (ˈbɪgwɪg) *nc infml* an important person.

bigamy (ˈbɪgəmɪ) *nu* getting married to someone when you are already married to someone else. **bigamist** *nc* a person who does this.

bighead (ˈbɪgˌhed) *nc infml* a conceited person. **bigheaded** *adj infml* conceited.

bight (baɪt) *nc* a large inward curve of the coast; the sea inside it.

bigot (ˈbɪgət) *nc* a person with narrow fixed opinions, esp. about religion. **bigoted** *adj* with narrow fixed opinions. **bigotry** (ˈbɪgətrɪ) *nu*

bike (baɪk) *n infml* short for **bicycle.**

bikini (bɪˈkiːnɪ) *nc* a woman's two-piece bathing costume.

bilateral (baɪˈlætərəl) *adj* with two sides (taking part): *bilateral talks.*

bile (baɪl) *nu* 1 a substance that is produced by the human liver. 2 bad temper.

bilge (bɪldʒ) 1 *nc* the space inside the very bottom of a ship. *nu* 2 seawater that has come into a ship's bilge in small quantities. 3 *infml* rubbish; nonsense.

bilharzia (bɪlˈhɑːzɪə) *nu* a disease caused by flat worms in the blood.

bilingual (baɪˈlɪŋgwəl) *adj* 1 speaking two languages perfectly. 2 of or in two languages: *a bilingual dictionary.*

bilious (ˈbɪlɪəs) *adj* 1 to do with bile: *a bilious attack.* 2 bad-tempered. 3 (of colours) that make you feel sick.

bill[1] (bɪl) *nc* 1 *US* **check** an account presented as a demand for payment in a restaurant, by a shop-keeper, etc. 2 a notice advertising a public meeting, play, etc. 3 *US* a banknote. 4 the text of a law that a government asks a parliament to approve. • *vt* send a **bill**[1] (def. 1) to. **fill the bill** be exactly what is needed.

bill[2] *nc* the hard mouth of a bird; beak.

billboard (ˈbɪlbɔːd) *US n* See **hoarding** (def. 2).

billet (ˈbɪlɪt) *nc* a place for a soldier to live, esp. in a private house. • *vt* provide a billet for (a soldier).

billiards (ˈbɪljədz) *nu* (*with singular verb*) a game in which balls are hit across the top of a table with a long stick.

billion (ˈbɪljən) *determiner, n* 1 the number 1,000,000,000; a thousand million. 2 the number 1,000,000,000,000; a million million.

billow (ˈbɪləʊ) *literary nc* (usually *pl*) a wave in the sea. • *vti* roll, fill, or be filled like a sail in the wind. **billowy** *adj*

billy-goat (ˈbɪlɪgəʊt) *nc* a male goat.

biltong (ˈbɪlˌtɒŋ) *nu* strips of meat that have been left to dry in the sun so that they can be kept for a long time.

bin (bɪn) *nc* 1 a large, usually round container for food, rubbish, etc. 2 See **dustbin** under **dust.**

binary (ˈbaɪnərɪ) *adj* which has two parts. **binary system** a system in which all numbers are made up of the digits zero and one.

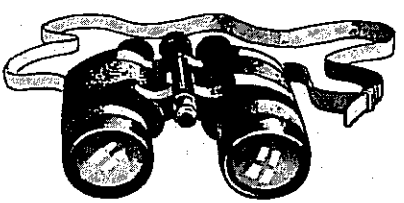
bind (baɪnd) *vt* 1 tie (things) together (with string, etc.). 2 put a bandage round: *bind*

(*up*) *a wound*. 3 put tape, etc., round (an edge of a garment, etc.). 4 fix (someone or something to something else): *bind them with ropes*. 5 put (the pages of a book) together. 6 make (substances) stick together. 7 make (someone) promise to do something. • *nu infml* an unpleasant duty; nuisance: *It's a bind having to stay at home*. **binder** *nc* 1 a person who binds things, esp. books. 2 a substance used to hold a mixture together. 3 a case for keeping loose papers, etc., together. **binding** *nc* the material that covers the outside of a book. • *adj* (of a promise, etc.) that must be kept or observed.

binge (bɪndʒ) *vi* eat or drink a lot. • *nc* a time of eating or drinking too much.

bingo ('bɪŋgəʊ) *nu* a game of chance in which the first person to have all their numbers called out wins a prize.

binoculars (bɪ'nɒkjʊləz) *n pl* a device with lenses in two tubes through which you can see distant things larger: see picture



binoculars

binomial (baɪ'nəʊmɪəl) *mathematics nc, adj* (an expression) that has two terms.

biochemistry (,baɪəʊ'kemɪstrɪ) *nu* the study of the chemistry of living things.

biodegradable (,baɪəʊdɪ'greɪdəbəl) *adj* that can decompose naturally or biologically.

biography (baɪ'ɒgrəfɪ) *nc, pl* **-phies** a written account of someone's life by another person. **biographer** *nc* a person who writes a biography. **biographical** (baɪə'græfɪkəl) *adj*

biology (baɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of living things. **biological** (baɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **biologist** *nc* a person who studies biology.

bionics (baɪ'ɒnɪks) *nu* the study of the ways of living things applied to computers, etc.

biophysics (,baɪəʊ'fɪzɪks) *nu* the use of physics in the study of living things.

biosphere ('baɪəʊ,sfɪə) *nu* the part of the earth and its atmosphere where living things are found.

biotic (baɪ'ɒtɪk) *adj biology* of or to do with living things. See also **abiotic.**

bipartite (baɪ'pɑɪtaɪt) *adj* having or involving two parts or groups.

biped ('baɪped) *nc* a two-footed animal.

biplane ('baɪpleɪn) *nc* a plane with two pairs of wings.

birch (bɜɪtʃ) *nc* 1 any of a variety of trees with a thin, smooth outer covering that grow in northern countries; (also *nu*) the wood of these trees. 2 a stick of birch twigs formerly used to beat criminals. • *vt* beat with the birch.

bird (bɜɪd) *nc* 1 any of a great variety of animals with two legs and two wings, most of which can fly: see picture. 2 *infml* a girl. **kill two birds with one stone** achieve two things with a single action. **bird of prey** a bird that hunts and kills other animals for its food. **bird's eye view** a view of the whole of a place or situation from above. **birdwatching** ('bɜɪd,wɒtʃɪŋ) *nu* the observation of the habits of birds in their natural surroundings.

Biro ('baɪərəʊ) *nc Trademark* a ballpoint pen.

birth (bɜɪθ) *nu* 1 the coming to life of an animal. 2 the beginning of an idea, a political movement, etc. **give birth to** (of a woman) produce (a baby) from her body. **birth control** the prevention of becoming pregnant. See also **family planning.** **birthday** ('bɜɪθdeɪ) *nc* the date on which a person was born in an earlier year. **birthplace** ('bɜɪθpleɪs) *nc* the house or town where a person was born or a movement started. **birth rate** the number of babies born each year for every 1000 people.

biscuit ('bɪskɪt) *nu* a small hard cake, esp. a sweet one.

bisect (baɪ'sekt) *vt* cut into two (equal) parts: *The new road bisects the town*. **bisection** (baɪ'sekʃən) *nu* **bisector** (baɪ'sektə*) *nc* a line that bisects.

bisexual (baɪ'seksjʊəl) *adj, nc* (a person) attracted to people of both sexes.

bishop ('bɪʃəp) *nc* 1 an important Christian priest. 2 a chess piece that moves diagonally.

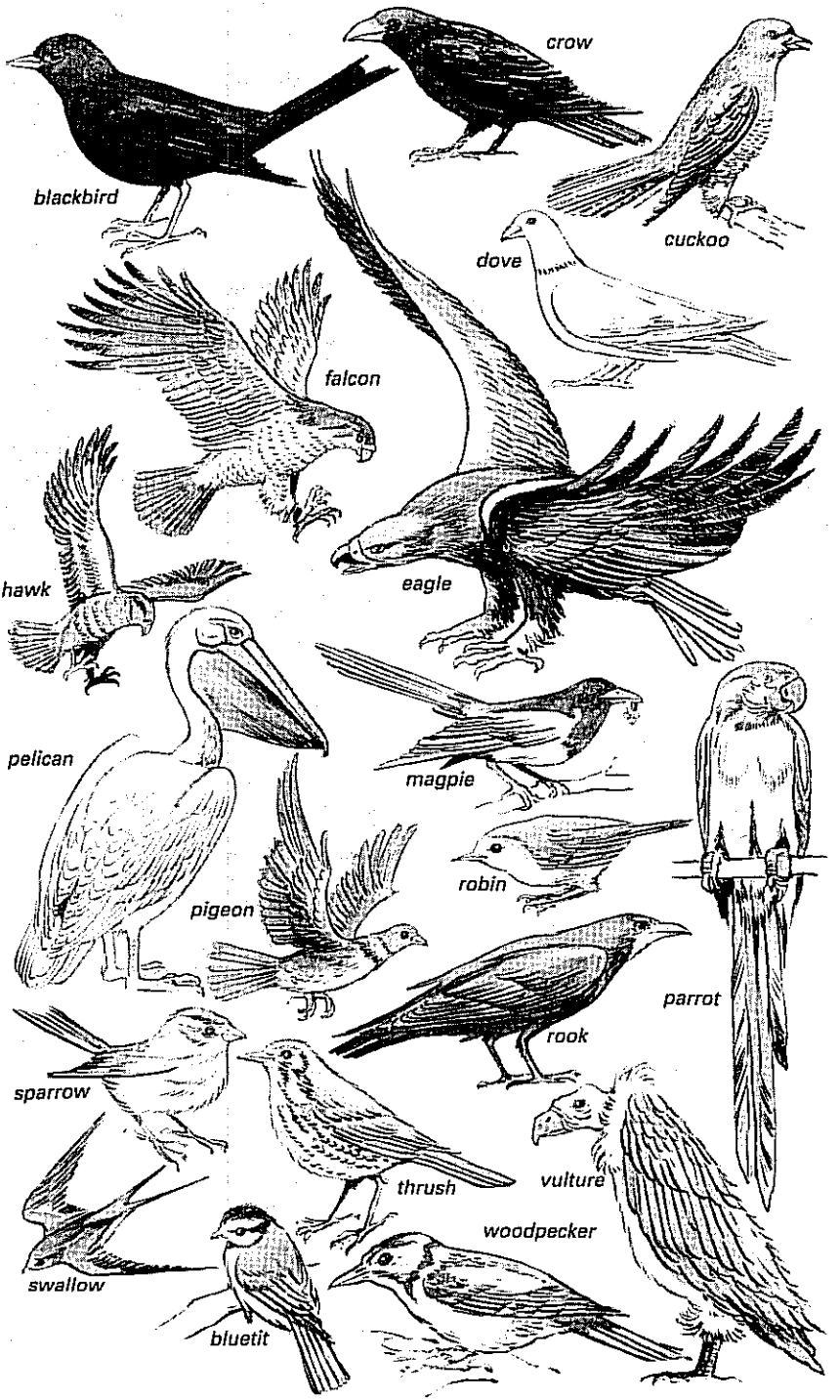
bismuth ('bɪzməθ) *nu* a chemical element; reddish-white metal, of which compounds are used as medicines: symbol Bi.

bison ('baɪsən) *nc* a kind of wild cattle in North America: see picture at **animals.**

bit[1] (bɪt) *nc* a strip of metal put inside a horse's mouth that can be pulled to control the horse.

bit[2] *nc* a small piece or amount: *Have a bit of cake*. **a bit** (even) a little: *I don't like it a bit*. **bit by bit** little by little; a little at a time.

birds


crow
blackbird
cuckoo
dove
falcon
hawk
eagle
pelican
magpie
robin
pigeon
parrot
rook
sparrow
thrush
vulture
woodpecker
swallow
bluetit

bit[3] *nc* the smallest unit of information in computing.

bit[4] past tense and past participle of **bite.**

bitch (bɪtʃ) *nc* 1 a female dog or wolf. 2 *derogatory* an unpleasant or spiteful woman.

bite (baɪt) 1 *vt* break (something, esp. food) with one's teeth. 2 *vti* (of an animal) dig its teeth into (a human): *Does your dog bite?* 3 *vi* have an unpleasant effect: *The new taxes will soon begin to bite.* • *nc* 1 the act of biting. 2 the result of being bitten by an insect, etc. 3 a mouthful. 4 *nu* sharpness (of weather or words). **biting** ('baɪtɪŋ) *adj* 1 (of a remark) sharp. 2 (of a wind) very cold.

bitten ('bɪtən) past participle of **bite.**

bitter ('bɪtə*) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 with a sharp taste; not sweet. 2 (of weather) very cold. 3 (caused by) feeling angry and hurt. 4 (of an experience) very unpleasant. **the bitter end** the very end; the last moment. **bitterly** *adv* **bitterness** *nu*

bitty ('bɪtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a story, film, etc.) made of parts that seem to be unconnected.

bitumen ('bɪtjʊmɪn) *nu* a natural, thick black liquid used on roads, etc. **bituminous** (bɪ'tjuːmɪnəs) *adj*

bivouac ('bɪvʊæk) *vi, nc* (a) camp in the open air.

bizarre (bɪ'zɑː) *adj* odd; strange.

blab (blæb) *vti* let out (secrets), talk unwisely (about).

black (blæk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 of the very darkest colour; the opposite of white. 2 (of a person) with a dark skin. 3 sad: *It was a black day for lovers of freedom.* 4 angry: *a black look.* 5 (of coffee or tea) without milk. 6 declared out of bounds (by a trade union). • *nc* 1 a person with black skin. 2 *ncu* a black colour. 3 *nu* black clothes. • *vt* 1 cover (your face) with black make-up; clean (shoes, etc.) with black polish. 2 (of a trade union) refuse to handle or give service to. **black and blue** having a lot of bruises. **in black and white** in writing or print. **in the black** having money in the bank. **blackberry** ('blækbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a black or very dark red soft fruit that grows wild in hedges. **blackbird** ('blækbɜːd) *nc* a singing bird common in Europe: see picture at **birds.** **blackboard** ('blækbɔːd) *nc* a large black board on which teachers write with chalk. **blacken** ('blækən) *vt* 1 apply black colouring to. 2 make accusations about (someone's character). **black eye** dark marks around an eye after it has received a blow. **blackish** ('blækɪʃ) *adj* rather black. **blackleg** ('blækleg) *nc* a person who refuses to take part in a strike. **blacklist** ('blæklɪst) *nc* a list of people who are considered to be untrustworthy, unreliable, etc. **black magic** magic done with the help of the devil for evil purposes. **blackmail** ('blækmeɪl) *nu* a threat to tell of someone's crimes, etc., unless they pay money. • *vt* make such a threat to (someone). **black market** an unlawful trade, esp. at very high prices and in goods in short supply. **blackness** ('blæknɪs) *nu* **black out** *vi infml* lose consciousness suddenly. **black-out** *nc* 1 a sudden loss of consciousness. 2 a failure of electric power in a district. 3 a forbidding of the publishing of news about a subject. 4 *nu* the hiding of lights during a war. **blackpod** ('blæk,pɒd) *nu agriculture* a disease that damages cocoa pods and their seeds, caused by a type of fungus. **blacksmith** ('blæksmɪθ) *nc* a person who makes things from iron by heating and hammering. **blackwater fever** ('blækwɔːtə*) a rare and serious form of malaria.

bladder ('blædə*) *nc* (in animals) the bag in which urine collects before being passed out of the body.

blade (bleɪd) *nc* 1 the metal cutting part of a knife, sword, etc. 2 a straight flat leaf (of grass, etc.).

blame (bleɪm) *nu* 1 accusation of guilt; criticism. 2 responsibility for something that has gone wrong: *take the blame.* • *vt* accuse (someone) of guilt; criticise. **be to blame** be responsible for something that has gone wrong: *The government is to blame.* **blameless** ('bleɪmlɪs) *adj*

blanch (blɑːntʃ) 1 *vi* turn pale suddenly (with shock, etc.). 2 *vt* make pale; take the colour from.

blancmange (blə'mɒndʒ) *nc* a sweet, firm but soft food made with milk and cornflour.

bland (blænd) *adj* **-er, -est** (of food, someone's manner, etc.) smooth; mild.

blank (blæŋk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 with nothing written on it: *blank paper.* 2 empty of ideas: *My mind went blank.* 3 without expression: *a blank face.* 4 (of a gun cartridge) without a bullet. 5 (of verse) without rhymes. **blank cheque** 1 a signed cheque without the amount of money written in. 2 freedom to act, esp. to spend money, as one chooses. • *nc* 1 a space for words to be written in (on a printed form, etc.). 2 a blank cartridge. 3 *nu* emptiness. **draw a blank** find nothing after a search.

blanket ('blæŋkɪt) *nc* 1 a thick, warm cloth for a bed. 2 a thick covering of snow, fog, etc. • *vt* (of snow etc.) cover thickly.

• *adj* (of directions, etc.) which cover anything that might happen or many things: *a blanket rule.* **wet blanket** *infml* a person who dampens the enthusiasm of others.

blare (bleə*) *vi* (of a radio, car horn, etc.) make a very loud noise. • *nu* a very loud noise.

blaspheme (blæs'fiːm) *vti* speak or write without respect for (sacred things). **blasphemous** ('blæsfəməs) *adj* **blasphemy** ('blæsfəmɪ) *ncu, pl* **-mies**

blast (blɑːst) *nc* 1 a loud sound (from a horn, etc.). 2 a strong wind. 3 (the rush of air after) a big explosion. • *vt* blow up with explosive. • *interj* (used to express annoyance.) **at full blast** (of a radio, heater, etc.) producing as much sound, heat, etc., as possible. **blast furnace** a container in which iron ore is melted by a blast of hot air. **blast-off** *nu* the launching of a space rocket.

blatant ('bleɪtənt) *adj* undisguised; unashamed: *blatant lies.*

blaze (bleɪz) *nc* 1 a big fire. 2 a great show (of publicity, etc.). 3 a violent fit (of anger, etc.). • *vi* burn fiercely. **blazing** *adj* 1 burning fiercely. 2 very angry.

blazer ('bleɪzə*) *nc* a jacket, often with the crest of a school, club, etc., that is worn by members.

bleach (bliːtʃ) *vt* make whiter; lighten the colour of. • *nc* a liquid used for whitening cloth, etc.

bleak (bliːk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 cold. 2 (of a place) bare; unwelcoming. 3 not hopeful: *a bleak future.*

bleary ('blɪərɪ) *adj* (of the eyes) clouded; unable to see properly.

bleat (bliːt) *vi, nc* 1 (make) the noise made by a sheep. 2 (make) a weak complaint.

bled (bled) past tense and past participle of **bleed.**

bleed (bliːd) 1 *vi* (of a person or wound) lose blood. 2 *vt* draw blood from (a person). 3 take away the strength or money of (a person or country). **bleeding** *nu*

bleep (bliːp) *nc* the short, high sound made by personal radios and other electronic calling devices. • *vi* give a bleep.

blemish ('blemɪʃ) *nc* a fault or mark on the skin, etc.

blend (blend) 1 *vt* mix (teas, tobaccos, etc.) to give a pleasant result. 2 *vi* (of musical instruments, colours, etc.) mix to give a pleasant effect. • *nc* a mixture.

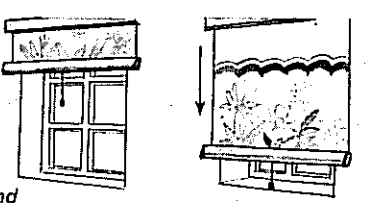
bless (bles) *vt* 1 speak or express God's goodwill towards. 2 make (something) holy. 3 express goodwill towards. **blessed** (blest) past tense and past participle of **bless.** • ('blesɪd) *adj* 1 approved by God. 2 happy. 3 *infml* (used to express annoyance): *Where's the blessed key?* **blessing** ('blesɪŋ) *nc* 1 the speaking of God's goodwill towards someone or something. 2 something to be thankful for. 3 *nu* the making holy (of something). **blessing in disguise** an event that appears bad but brings good. **bless you!** (said to someone who has sneezed.)

blest (blest) past tense and past participle of **bless.**

blew (bluː) past tense of **blow.**

blight (blaɪt) *nu* 1 a disease of plants. 2 something that spoils something else. • *vt* destroy or spoil (hopes, etc.).

blind (blaɪnd) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 without the power of sight. 2 (often followed by **to**) unable to see, unaware of: *blind to the beauty of music.* • *nc* 1 a piece of cloth that can be unrolled downwards to cover a window: see picture. 2 something intended to deceive someone. • *vt* 1 make (someone) blind. 2 confuse (someone) with your knowledge, etc.: *Don't blind me with science.* **the blind** blind people. **blind alley** a street which can be entered from only one end. **blindfold** ('blaɪndfəuld) *nc, adj, adv* (with) a cloth tied around the head so that one cannot see. • *vt* put a blindfold on (someone). **blinding** *adj* very bright: *a blinding flash of light.* **blindly** *adv* **blindness** *nu* **blind spot** 1 a spot on the back of the eye with which you cannot see. 2 a space, esp. on a road, that you cannot see. 3 an inability to understand one particular subject.



blind

blink (blɪŋk) 1 *vti* shut (your eyes) for a moment and open them again. 2 *vi* shine irregularly; twinkle.

blinkers ('blɪŋkəz) *n pl* 1 pieces of leather partly covering a horse's eyes to prevent it seeing to the side. 2 something that prevents someone from seeing what is happening around them.

bliss (blɪs) *nu* great happiness. **blissful** ('blɪsful) *adj* **blissfully** ('blɪsfulɪ) *adv* in complete happiness: *He was blissfully unaware of the danger.*

blister ('blɪstə*) *nc* a small lump on the skin that forms when a part of the body

has been rubbed. • *vt* (cause to) form blisters.

blithe (blaɪð) *adj* **-r, -st** happy; untroubled. **blithely** *adv*

blitz (blɪts) *nc* 1 a period of many bombing attacks from planes. 2 a great effort to complete a task: *Let's have a blitz on the garden!*

blizzard ('blɪzəd) *nc* snow falling heavily in a strong wind.

bloated ('bləʊtɪd) *adj* swollen.

bloater ('bləʊtə*) *nc* a herring salted and dried in smoke.

blob (blɒb) *nc* a spot, usually of colour.

bloc (blɒk) *nc* a group of countries or politicians who agree and act together.

block (blɒk) *nc* 1 a piece of a solid substance with square corners. 2 a large building containing many flats or offices. 3 *US* the buildings between one street and the next. • *vt* prevent (the movement of something) along (a road, pipe, etc.). **blockade** (blɒ'keɪd) *vt* prevent traffic travelling to and from (a town, etc.). • *nc* the prevention of traffic to and from (a town, etc.). **blockage** ('blɒkɪdʒ) *nc* 1 something that stops the flow of liquid along a pipe, etc. 2 the blocking of a pipe, etc. **block capitals** also **block letters** capital letters. **blockhead** ('blɒkhed) *nc* a stupid person.

bloke (bləʊk) *nc infml, Brit* a man.

blond (blɒnd) *adj, nc* (a man) with fair hair.

blonde (blɒnd) *adj, nc* (a woman) with fair hair.

blood (blʌd) *nu* 1 the red body liquid in animals. 2 a family relationship: *blood relations.* **in cold blood** without pity; without feeling. **bloodcurdling** ('blʌd,kɜːdlɪŋ) *adj* very frightening; horrifying: *a bloodcurdling scream.* **blood donor** a person who gives some of their blood to be used in a hospital. **blood group** one of the types of human blood. **bloodhound** ('blʌdhaʊnd) *nc* a kind of dog that can follow the track of a person by smell. **bloodless** ('blʌdlɪs) *adj* 1 without blood. 2 without energy or spirit. 3 without fighting: *a bloodless coup.* **blood poisoning** a disease caused when bacteria, etc., enter the bloodstream. **blood pressure** the force with which the blood presses against the sides of the blood-vessels. **bloodshed** ('blʌdʃed) *nu* killing, esp. as a result of fighting. **bloodshot** ('blʌdʃɒt) *adj* (of eyes) reddened with blood. **blood sport** a sport in which animals are killed. **bloodstream** ('blʌd,striːm) *nc* the blood as it goes round the body. **bloodthirsty** ('blʌdθɜːstɪ) *adj* (of a person) who likes fighting and killing. **blood-vessel** ('blʌd,vesəl) *nc* one of the tubes that carry blood round the body.

bloody ('blʌdɪ) *adj* 1 covered with blood. 2 (of fighting) that causes serious wounding. 3 *derogatory* (used to express annoyance.) **bloody-minded** (,blʌdɪ'maɪndɪd) *adj* unhelpful on purpose.

bloom (bluːm) 1 *nc* a flower. *nu* 2 freshness (of youth, etc.). 3 the fine powder on a ripe fruit. • *vi* produce blooms.

blossom ('blɒsəm) *nc* a flower or the flowers of a fruit tree. • *vi* 1 produce blossom. 2 develop well.

blot (blɒt) *nc* 1 a spot, esp. of ink. 2 a stain (on someone's reputation). • *vt* 1 make a blot on (paper). 2 use paper to suck up (ink, etc.). **blot out** 1 cover or hide completely. 2 destroy completely. **blotter** ('blɒtə*) *nc* sheets of blotting-paper in a pad. **blotting-paper** a thick kind of paper used to suck up ink.

blotch (blɒtʃ) *nc* an irregular spot of colour, etc.

blouse (blaʊz) *nc* a woman's light garment for the upper part of the body.

blow (bləʊ) *nc* 1 a hit. 2 a piece of bad luck; shock. • *vi* 1 (of wind, etc.) move along. 2 send air out through the mouth. *vt* 3 drive air on or into. 4 play by blowing air into (a musical instrument). **blower** *nc* a device that blows air. **blowlamp** ('bləʊlæmp) *nc* a device producing a very hot flame used to remove old paint, etc. **blow out** 1 stop (a flame) with a puff of air. 2 (of a blast) remove (windows, etc.) by force. 3 (of a flame) be blown out. **blow-out** *slang* a very large meal. **blow over** (of a scandal, argument, problem, etc.) come to an end and be forgotten. **blow up** 1 *vti* explode. *vt* 2 make (a photograph, etc.) bigger. 3 make (an issue) important.

blown (bləʊn) past participle of **blow.**

blubber ('blʌbə*) *nu* the fat under the skin of whales and other sea-animals from which oil is obtained. • *vi infml, derogatory* weep; cry loudly.

bludgeon ('blʌdʒən) *nc* a short stick for hitting people. • *vt* 1 hit (someone) with a bludgeon. 2 try to force (someone into doing something).

blue (bluː) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 of the colour of a clear sky, for example. 2 *infml* rude; indecent. • *ncu* a blue colour. **out of the blue** unexpectedly; without warning. **bluebell** ('bluːbel) *nc* a plant with flowers like small blue bells. **blueberry** ('bluːbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a small soft black or dark blue fruit that grows wild in America.

blue blood relationship to a family of noble birth. **bluebottle** ('bluɪˌbɒtəl) *nc* a dark blue fly that buzzes and lays its eggs on meat. **blue-collar** (ˌbluɪ'kɒlə*) *adj* doing a job that involves working with your hands or with machines, etc., esp. in a factory. See also **white-collar** under **white. blueprint** ('bluɪprɪnt) *nc* 1 a photographic print in white on blue paper. 2 a plan in full detail. **the blues** 1 a mood of depression. 2 sad tunes which began as popular songs of black Americans. **bluish** ('bluɪɪʃ) *adj* rather blue.

bluff[1] (blʌf) *nc* a steep cliff beside the sea. • *adj* 1 rough but kind. 2 blunt; plain-speaking.

bluff[2] *vi* pretend; make empty threats. • *nc* a pretence; empty threat. **call someone's bluff** force someone to reveal that they are bluffing by asking them to carry out their threat, etc.

blunder ('blʌndə*) *nc* a careless mistake. • *vi* 1 make a blunder. 2 move carelessly.

blunt (blʌnt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of a knife, etc.) not sharp. 2 (of words) plain; undisguised. 3 (of a person) lacking smoothness of manner. • *vt* make (a knife, etc.) blunt. **bluntly** *adv* plainly; without disguise: *I told him bluntly that he was not wanted.*

blur (blɜː*) *vti* make or become unclear or indistinct: *a blurred photograph.* • *nu* something that cannot be seen clearly.

blurb (blɜːb) *nc* a description of a book on its cover.

blurt (blɜːt) *vt* (usually followed by **out**) say suddenly; speak carelessly of (a secret).

blush (blʌʃ) *vi* (of a person) have a rush of blood to the cheeks (from strong feeling). • *nc* a sudden reddening of the cheeks.

bluster ('blʌstə*) *nu* 1 over-confident talking with the intention of deceiving someone. 2 (of the wind) blowing with great force. • *vi* 1 talk over-confidently with the intention of deceiving someone. 2 (of the wind) blow with great force. **blustery** ('blʌstərɪ) *adj* very windy.

boa ('bəuə) *nc* a large South American snake that kills animals by winding itself tightly around them.

boar (bɔː*) 1 *nc* a large wild pig: see picture at **animals.** 2 *nu* the meat of the boar.

board (bɔːd) *nc* 1 a piece of wood cut into oblong shape. 2 a flat piece of strong material: *an ironing-board.* 3 the group of directors who govern a business company. 4 *nu* meals (provided in a hotel, etc.). **above board** done honestly and openly. **across the board** applied to all the members or parts of a group. **go by the board** be cancelled; come to nothing. **on board** on or onto a ship; in or into a plane. • *vt* 1 go onto (a ship or plane). 2 (followed by **up**) cover (parts of a building) with boards. **boarder** ('bɔːdə*) *nc* a child who lives at school during school terms. **boarding-house** ('bɔːdɪŋhaus) *nc* a private house in which people pay to live and eat. **boarding school** *nc* a school where some or all of the children live during school terms.

boast (bəust) *vi* praise yourself or things with which you are connected. • *nc* praise of yourself. **boastful** ('bəustful) *adj*

boat (bəut) *nc* a small ship. **(all) in the same boat** (all) in the same (unwelcome) situation. **rock the boat** cause trouble in a peaceful situation. **boathouse** ('bəuthaus) *nc* a building at the edge of a river, etc., where boats are kept. **boating** *nu* travelling in a boat, esp. for fun. **boatman** ('bəutmən) *nc, pl* **-men** 1 a man who carries paying passengers in a boat. 2 a man who is in charge of boats that can be hired. **boatswain** ('bəusən) *nc* a seaman who is in charge of other seamen on a ship.

bob[1] (bɒb) *vi* (usually followed by **up and down** or **about**) float on moving water.

bob[2] *nc* a style of short haircut.

bobbin ('bɒbɪn) *nc* a stick or reel round which cotton, string, etc., is wound.

bobsleigh ('bɒbsleɪ) *nc* a racing sledge for sliding down steep slopes in the snow.

bode[1] (bəud) *vti fml or literary* be a sign (of): *The weather bodes well for the harvest.*

bode[2] past tense of **bide.**

bodice ('bɒdɪs) *nc* the part of a woman's dress between the neck and the waist.

bodily ('bɒdɪlɪ) *adj* to do with the body. • *adv* all together; completely.

body ('bɒdɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** 1 the physical frame of a living animal. 2 the main part of this, without the head, legs, and arms. 3 a dead body; corpse. 4 *infml* a person. 5 a group (of people): *a large body of soldiers.* 6 the main part of anything. *nu* 7 the physical nature of humans. 8 the strength (of wine, etc.). **bodyguard** ('bɒdɪgɑːd) a strong man who protects important people, etc. **bodywork** ('bɒdɪˌwɜːk) *nu* the outer shell of a car or other motor vehicle.

bog (bɒg) *nc* a large stretch of spongy ground. **be bogged down** be unable to make progress. **boggy** ('bɒgɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

bogey ('bəugɪ) *nc* 1 a cause of fear. 2 an evil spirit.

bogus ('bəugəs) *adj* false.

bohemian (bəu'hiːmɪən) *adj, nc* (someone)

with a way of life that takes no notice of the conventions of society.

boil[1] (bɔɪl) *vt* 1 heat (a liquid) until it starts to turn to gas. 2 cook (food) in boiling water. 3 wash (garments, etc.) in boiling water. 4 *vi* (of a liquid) start to turn to gas. **on the boil** at boiling point. **boil down to** (of a problem) be reduced to (something simple). **boiler** *nc* 1 a device for heating water. 2 a container in which things can be boiled. **boiling-point** ('bɔɪlɪŋpɔɪnt) *nc* the temperature at which a liquid boils. **boil over** (of a boiling liquid) rise and spill over the top of the pot or pan.

boil[2] *nc* a red, painful swelling on the skin, caused by an infection.

boisterous ('bɔɪstərəs) *adj* (of a person or animal) lively; wild; noisy.

bold (bəʊld) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 courageous; daring. 2 (of writing, etc.) that can be clearly seen. **boldly** *adv* **boldness** *nu*

boll (bɒl) *nc* the seed-box of the cotton plant.

bolster ('bəʊlstə*) *nc* a long round pillow. • *vt* support or help (someone's courage, etc.).

bolt (bəʊlt) *nc* 1 a small metal bar on a door that can be slid across to fasten it. 2 a metal rod that can be screwed into a **nut** (def. 2): see picture. • *vt* 1 fasten (a door) with a bolt. 2 *infml* eat (a meal) fast. 3 *vi* (of a horse) gallop away out of control through fright. 4 (of a person) rush away, esp. because of guilt. **bolt upright** (sitting) with one's back very straight.

bolt

bolus ('bəʊləs) *nc biology* a round mass of food that has been chewed.

bomb (bɒm) *nc* 1 a device containing explosive, intended to kill people or destroy buildings. 2 *infml* a lot of money: *This suit cost a bomb.* • *vt* drop bombs on (a town, etc.). **bomber** *nc* 1 a person who puts a bomb in a car, shop, etc. 2 a plane that drops bombs. **bombshell** ('bɒmʃel) *nc* a complete surprise or shock.

bombard (bɒm'bɑːd) *vt* 1 fire heavy guns at (a town, etc.). 2 direct many questions, etc., at (someone). **bombardment** *nc* an attack against a town, etc., with gunfire or bombs; (sometimes *nu*) the practice of bombarding: *Aerial bombardment caused many deaths.*

bombast ('bɒmbæst) *nu* pompous, empty talk.

bond (bɒnd) *nc* 1 a strong feeling that connects people: *bonds of affection.* 2 (*pl*) a prisoner's ropes or chains. 3 a promise. 4 a promise by a government, business company, etc., to repay money that has been borrowed.

bondage ('bɒndɪdʒ) *nu* slavery.

bone (bəʊn) 1 *nc* one of the hard parts inside an animal's body that form a frame or skeleton. *nu* 2 the material of which these parts are made. 3 bones as material for manufacture: *bone china.* • *vt* 1 remove the bones from (meat, etc.). 2 put bones into (corsets, etc.). **have a bone to pick** have something to argue about. **make no bones** 1 not hesitate. 2 not object or complain. **bone dry** completely dry. **bone up on** learn the facts about. **bony** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a person or animal) so thin that the shape of the bones can be seen through the skin. 2 (of meat) full of bones.

bonfire ('bɒnfaɪə*) *nc* a fire lit in the open air to burn rubbish, etc.

bonnet ('bɒnɪt) *nc* 1 a hat that ties under the chin, now worn only by babies. 2 *US* **hood** the front part of a car, usually covering the engine. **have a bee in one's bonnet** have an obsession (about something).

bonny ('bɒnɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (esp. of babies) healthy or pretty.

bonus ('bəʊnəs) *nc* something extra received or paid, esp. in an employee's wages.

boo (buː) *nc, pl* **boos,** *interj* a cry of scorn or disapproval from an audience. • *vti* shout boo at (actors, etc.).

booby prize ('buːbɪ) a prize sometimes given to the player with the lowest number of points in a game or competition.

booby trap *nc* 1 a trick that will surprise someone and make them look foolish. 2 a bomb set to explode when something ordinary is touched.

book (bʊk) *nc* a number of pages bound together inside a cover. • *vt* 1 order (a theatre seat, hotel room, place on a plane, etc.). 2 record the name of (someone guilty of a slight offence). **bookcase** ('bʊkkeɪs) *nc* shelves in a frame, for keeping books so that they can be easily seen. **bookie** ('bʊkɪ) *n infml* short for **bookmaker. booking-office** ('bʊkɪŋɒfɪs) *nc* a room where tickets, etc., are sold. **book-keeper** ('bʊkkiːpə*) *nc* a person who keeps the account books of an organisation in order. **book-keeping** ('bʊkkiːpɪŋ) *nu*

the work of a book-keeper. **booklet** ('buklɪt) *nc* a book of a few pages. **bookmaker** ('bukmeɪkə*) (*infml abbrev.* **bookie**) *nc* a person who takes bets from others on horse-races, etc. **bookmark** ('bukmɑːk) *nc* a piece of paper, leather, etc., left in a book at the page where you have stopped reading. **bookseller** ('bukselə*) *nc* someone who sells books. **bookshelf** ('bukʃelf) *nc, pl* **-shelves** a shelf on which books are kept. **bookshop** ('bukʃɒp) *nc* a shop selling books.

boom[1] (buːm) *vi, nu* (make) a deep sound like the firing of heavy guns.

boom[2] *nc* a pole that keeps the bottom of a sail in place.

boom[3] *nc* a time when trade goes very well. • *vi* (of trade) go very well.

boomerang ('buːməræŋ) *nc* a curved piece of wood which returns to the thrower if it hits nothing. • *vi* (of an action) affect the person who has done it when they had expected it to affect other people only.

boon (buːn) *nc* a great help; big advantage.

boost (buːst) *vt* 1 encourage (confidence, etc.). 2 increase (sales, etc.). • *nc* 1 an encouragement. 2 an increase. **booster** *nc* a device that gives extra power to something.

boot (buːt) *nc* 1 a shoe that reaches anywhere above the ankle, sometimes to below the knee: see picture. 2 *US* **trunk** a place in a car for luggage, etc., esp. at the back. • *vt infml* kick. **boot up** to start (a computer) running with a particular program.

boot

booth (buːð) *nc* 1 a small, often temporary building used for selling goods in a market, etc. 2 a compartment used by voters at an election: *a polling booth.*

booty ('buːtɪ) *nu* goods taken by invading armies, thieves, etc.

booze (buːz) *infml nu* alcoholic drinks. • *vi* drink booze.

borax ('bɔːræks) *nu science* a white powder obtained from salt deposits and certain types of soil, used to make glass, cleaning substances, etc.

border ('bɔːdə*) *nc* 1 an edge; the line that separates one country from another: *the Mexican border;* (sometimes *pl*): *the borders of the town.* 2 a strip along the edge of something: *Their garden has a rose border; paper with a patterned border.* • *vti* 1 (when *vi*, followed by **on**) be next to: *My garden borders on the road.* 2 *vt* provide (a garment, etc.) with a border. **borderline** ('bɔːdəlaɪn) *nc* a line that divides two conditions or categories: *a borderline case.* **border on** be very nearly: *Such an action borders on stupidity.*

bore[1] (bɔː*) *vt* be without interest to (someone). • *nc* a boring person, task, etc. **bored** *adj* not interested. **boredom** ('bɔːdəm) *nu* the state of being bored. **boring** *adj* not interesting.

bore[2] *vt* drive or drill (a hole) into something. • *nc* 1 a hole driven into something, esp. the ground. 2 the size of the inside of a gun barrel.

bore[3] past tense of **bear**[1].

born (bɔːn) *adj* having a natural ability for something: *He is a born musician.* **be born** come out of your mother's body; start life.

borne (bɔːn) past participle of **bear**[1].

borough ('bʌrə) *nc* a town or part of a large city that is important enough to control some of its own affairs.

borrow ('bɒrəʊ) *vt* ask for and receive (something belonging to someone else) to use for a time and then give back.

bosom ('buzəm) *nc* 1 the human chest, esp. a woman's breasts. 2 your innermost being. 3 *nu* a safe, comforting centre: *in the bosom of his family.*

boss (bɒs) *infml nc* a person who is in command, esp. an employer. • *vt* (often followed by **about**) give orders to, treat (someone) like an employee. **bossy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** enjoying giving (unnecessary) orders.

botany ('bɒtənɪ) *nu* the study of plants. **botanical** (bə'tænɪkəl) *adj* **botanist** *nc* someone who studies botany.

botch (bɒtʃ) *vt* do (a piece of work, etc.) badly or clumsily. • *nc* a piece of work, etc., that is badly or clumsily done: *He made a botch of the repair.*

both (bəʊθ) *determiner, pron* one and the other of two; each of the two: *Both (roads) go near the sea.* • *conj* (used in front of the first of two nouns or pronouns joined by **and**): *Both he and his brother were politicians.* • *adv* **both... and...** not only... but also...: *She is both a singer and an actress.*

bother ('bɒðə*) *nu, vt* trouble; worry: *Don't bother him when he's busy.* • *vi*

take trouble: *She didn't bother to come; I can't be bothered to iron it.* • *interj* what a nuisance!

bottle ('bɒtəl) *nc* 1 a container with a narrow neck, usually of glass and with a lid or cork. 2 the amount a bottle will hold. • *vt* 1 put in a bottle. 2 (followed by **up**) hold back or restrain (anger, etc.). **bottleneck** ('bɒtəl,nek) *nc* 1 a narrow part of a road which causes a traffic jam. 2 anything that holds up progress in a similar way.

bottom ('bɒtəm) *nc* 1 the lowest part. 2 *infml* the soft part of the body on which you sit. 3 *nu* the ground under the sea. **get to the bottom of** find out the truth about (something). **bottomless** *adj* 1 without a bottom (that can be seen). 2 (of stores, money, etc.) having no limit. **bottom out** (of a downward movement) reach its lowest point.

botulism ('bɒtjʊlɪzəm) *nu* a kind of food poisoning.

bough (baʊ) *nc* a thick branch of a tree.

bought (bɔːt) past tense and past participle of **buy.**

boulder ('bəʊldə*) *nc* a large rock.

boulevard ('buːləvɑːd) *nc* a road in a town with trees on each side.

bounce (baʊns) *vti* 1 (cause to) hit something and then jump back. *vi* 2 move suddenly. 3 *infml* (of a cheque) be returned as worthless by a bank. • *nc* 1 the act or an example of bouncing (**bounce** def. 1). *nu* 2 the ability of a ball, etc., to jump back. 3 liveliness; joy.

bound[1] (baʊnd) past tense and past participle of **bind.** • *adj* 1 (of a book) with the outside covered (with cloth, etc.). 2 (of a person) with a duty (to do something): *Don't feel bound to come.* 3 certain: *He's bound to find out.* **be bound up with** be closely connected with; be impossible to separate from.

bound[2] *nc, vi* (a) jump, leap.

bound[3] *adj* going towards: *northbound; bound for India.*

boundary ('baʊndərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 the outside edge, esp. of a region: *The boundaries of the country are marked on the map.* 2 the limit (of human abilities). 3 the edge of a cricket ground; hitting the ball outside the boundary: *He scored three boundaries during the match.*

boundless ('baʊndlɪs) *adj* without limit; very plentiful.

bounds (baʊndz) *n pl* the limits: *It was expressed within the bounds of politeness.* **out of bounds** where you are forbidden to go.

bountiful ('baʊntɪful) *adj* 1 generous. 2 plentiful; in good supply. **bounty** ('baʊntɪ) 1 *nu* generosity. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a government payment for activities it wants to encourage.

bouquet (bʊ'keɪ) 1 *nc* a bunch of flowers carefully and attractively arranged. 2 *nu* a smell (of wine, etc.).

Bourdon gauge ('bʊədən) a device used to measure the pressure of a liquid, gas, etc.

bourgeois ('bʊəʒwɑː) *nc, pl* **-geois,** *adj* (a) middle-class (person). **bourgeoisie** (,bʊəʒwɑː'ziː) *nu* the middle class.

bout (baʊt) *nc* a period of an activity, esp. illness or a fight.

boutique (buː'tiːk) *nc* a small shop selling fashionable clothes, etc.

bow[1] (baʊ) *vti* 1 bend (one's head or upper body) forward with respect or to acknowledge applause. 2 *vi* accept defeat; yield. • *nc* the act of bowing.

bow[2] (bəʊ) *nc* 1 a curved piece of wood with a string stretched between the ends, for shooting arrows with: see picture. 2 *music* a piece of wood with horsehair stretched between the ends, for playing stringed instruments. 3 a knot pulled into loops. • *vt music* play (an instrument) with a bow. **bow-legged** (,bəʊ'legɪd) *adj* having legs bent so as to be apart at the knees. **bow tie** a man's tie in the form of a **bow**[2] (def. 3).

bow

bow[3] (baʊ) *nc* (often *pl*) the pointed front of a ship or boat.

bowel ('baʊəl) *nc* (usually *pl*) the lowest part of the tube through which food passes through the body; intestines. **the bowels of (something)** the lowest or deepest part of (something).

bowl[1] (bəʊl) *nc* 1 a round open container; basin. 2 the amount a bowl will hold.

bowl[2] *vt* 1 *cricket* throw (a ball) to a batsman. 2 (often followed by **out**) *cricket* get (a batsman) out by hitting the wicket with a bowled ball. 3 *vi* go quickly and smoothly (along a road) in a wheeled vehicle. **be bowled over** be very surprised, pleased, impressed, etc.: *I was completely bowled over by their offer.*

bowler[1] ('bəʊlə*) *nc* 1 *cricket* the person who throws balls to a batsman. 2 a person who plays bowls.

bowler[2] also **bowler hat** *nc* a man's hat with a hard, curved top.

bowls (bəʊlz) *n pl* a game in which heavy balls are rolled along the ground.

box[1] (bɒks) *nc* 1 a container, usually with a lid. 2 a group of seats in a separate compartment at a theatre, etc. 3 a very small room used by commentators at sports events, etc. • *vt* put (something) in a box. **box in** shut in; limit the freedom of. **box-office** 1 the room in a theatre, etc., where tickets are sold. 2 the money taken in the box-office.

box[2] *vti* fight (someone) by hitting with the hands wearing thick gloves. **box someone's ears** hit someone on the ears with your hand. **boxing** *nu* the sport of boxing.

boxer ('bɒksə*) *nc* a person who boxes.

Boxing Day ('bɒksɪŋ) (in the UK) the day after Christmas Day, and a public holiday.

boy (bɔɪ) *nc* 1 a male child. 2 (formerly, in some countries) a male servant. **boyfriend** *nc* a girl's special male friend. **boyhood** *nu* the state or period of being a boy. **boyish** *adj* like a boy; with feelings, an appearance, etc., like a boy's.

boycott ('bɔɪkɒt) *nu* a refusal to handle or deal with (goods produced by) a company, country, etc., with which you are in dispute. • *vt* refuse to handle or deal with.

Boyle's law ('bɔɪlz) *science* the rule that as the pressure of a gas becomes greater, its volume becomes smaller.

bra (brɑː) also **brassiere** *nc* a garment that supports a woman's breasts.

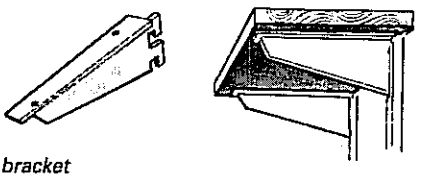
brace (breɪs) *nc* 1 a support; something that holds tight (the walls of a building, etc.). 2 (*pl*) *US* **suspenders** two elastic straps by which men's trousers may be kept up, one passing over each shoulder. 3 (*pl*) a wire device that children wear on their teeth to make them straight. 4 *pl* **brace** a pair of wild birds that have been shot for eating. • *vt* strengthen; make firm.

bracelet ('breɪslɪt) *nc* a piece of jewellery that is worn round the arm or leg.

bracing ('breɪsɪŋ) *adj* (of exercise, fresh air, etc.) strengthening; refreshing.

bracken ('brækən) *nu* a plant; a fern that grows in open, sandy ground.

bracket ('brækɪt) *nc* 1 a support on a wall for a shelf, etc: see picture. 2 a small holder for a plant, etc., that is fixed to a wall. 3 the sign (}) drawn beside words or numbers to show that they are connected. 4 a range of more or less similar things. 5 (*pl*) the signs (), written one before and one after words that are separate from the main flow of a sentence. • *vt* (followed by **together** or **with**) put in the same class; consider as related.



bracket

brackish ('brækɪʃ) *adj* (of water) with a slightly salty taste.

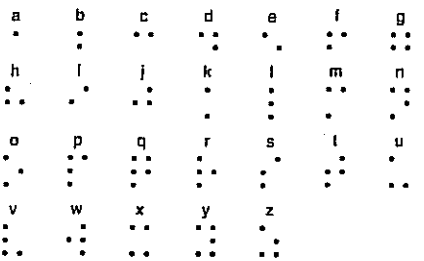
brag (bræg) *vi* boast.

Brahma ('brɑːmə) *n* the highest Hindu god.

Brahmanism ('brɑːmənɪzəm) *nu* the worship of Brahma.

braid (breɪd) 1 *nu* a kind of ornamental ribbon used on garments, esp. round the edges, and on uniforms to indicate rank. 2 *nc* a plait (of hair, etc.). • *vt* 1 tie (long hair) with a ribbon. 2 put braid on (a garment). 3 plait (hair, etc.).

Braille (breɪl) *nu* a writing system for blind people, using raised dots in paper: see picture.



Braille

brain (breɪn) 1 *nc* the part of the body inside the head that controls the nervous system in animals and is also the means of thought in humans. 2 *nu* the ability to think. • *vt infml* hit (someone) hard on the head. **brainchild** ('breɪn,tʃaɪld) *nc, pl* **-children** a clever idea, plan, or invention thought up by someone. **brains** *n pl infml* great cleverness: *You need brains to solve a puzzle like this.* **brainwash** ('breɪn,wɒʃ) *vt* to make (someone) believe something by continually repeating it and by using psychological methods to stop them thinking for themselves. **brainwave** ('breɪn,weɪv) *nc* a sudden clever idea: *I've had a brainwave.* **brainy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml* very clever.

braise (breɪz) *vt* cook (meat) slowly in a covered pot.

brake (breɪk) *nc* 1 a device for stopping a vehicle. 2 something that slows down (an activity, etc.): *Lack of money put a brake on their enthusiasm.* • *vti* use a brake to (cause to) slow down.

bramble ('bræmbəl) *nc* a thorny plant that bears blackberries, etc.

bran (bræn) *nu* the outside coverings of grains, separated from the flour after grinding.

branch (brɑːntʃ) *nu* 1 one of the main arms that grow out of the trunk of a tree and bear leaves. 2 a department of a business that is under the control of the head office. 3 a division (of knowledge, etc.). • *vi* divide: *The main railway line branches at Rugby.* **branch out** start a new or different business activity, etc.

brand (brænd) *nc* a particular (type of) product: *Which brand of washing powder do you prefer?* • *vt* 1 burn the owner's name or symbol into the flesh of (cattle, etc.). 2 give a bad reputation to (someone): *He was branded as a coward.* **brand new** completely new; not yet used.

brandish ('brændɪʃ) *vt* wave (a sword, etc.).

brandy ('brændɪ) *nc* a strong alcoholic drink made by distilling wine.

brash (bræʃ) *adj* over-confident; too loud.

brass (brɑːs) *nu* 1 a metal made of copper mixed with zinc. 2 *infml* money. 3 (the players of) musical instruments made of brass. 4 *nc* an engraved brass plate on a tomb.

brassica ('bræsɪkə) *nc* any plant of the group that includes cabbages, turnips, etc., eaten as vegetables.

brassiere ('bræsɪeə*) *n* See **bra.**

brat (bræt) *nc* 1 a tiresome, naughty child. 2 *derogatory or humorous* a child.

bravado (brə'vɑːdəʊ) *nu* a show of false courage.

brave (breɪv) *adj* **-r, -st** courageous. • *nc* a North American Indian fighter. • *vt* dare to go out into or face (a storm, etc.). **bravely** (breɪvlɪ) *adv* **bravery** (breɪvərɪ) *nu* courage.

bravo (bræ'vəʊ) *interj* (used esp. at concerts, etc.) well done!

brawl (brɔːl) *nc* a noisy quarrel or fight. • *vi* quarrel or fight noisily.

brawn (brɔːn) *nu* 1 physical strength. 2 meat from a pig's head in jelly. **brawny** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a man) big and strong.

bray (breɪ) *vi, nc* (make) the cry of a donkey.

brazen ('breɪzən) *adj* 1 made of brass. 2 (of a person) shameless.

brazier ('breɪzɪə*) *nc* a metal basket for an open-air fire.

breach (briːtʃ) *nc* 1 a breaking (of an agreement, etc.). 2 a hole or break (in defences, etc.). • *vt* 1 break or act against the terms of (an agreement). 2 force a way through (a wall, etc.).

bread (bred) *nu* 1 a soft, solid food baked from flour, water, and usually yeast. 2 the food necessary for life: *She managed to earn her daily bread.* 3 *slang* money. **bread and butter** slices of bread with butter spread on one side. **breadcrumb** ('bredkrʌm) *nc* a very small piece of bread. **breadwinner** ('bred,wɪnə*) *nc* the person who earns money for the whole family.

breadth (bredθ) *nu* 1 width; the distance from one side of something to the other. 2 width or range (of opinion, etc.).

break (breɪk) *vt* 1 knock or separate (something) into pieces. 2 fail to follow (a promise, rule, etc.). 3 destroy (self-confidence or a business). 4 interrupt (a silence, etc.). 5 go beyond (a record): *She broke the world record.* *vi* 6 come to pieces. 7 (of a machine) be damaged so that it will not work. 8 (of a day, storm, etc.) begin. 9 (of news) become known. 10 (of a boy's voice) change to a lower range. • *nc* 1 a stopping of contact. 2 an interruption; gap. 3 a holiday; rest. 4 *infml* an opportunity; chance. **breakable** ('breɪkəbəl) *adj* that can be broken, esp. easily. **breakage** ('breɪkɪdʒ) *ncu* the act or an example of breaking something: *Breakages must be paid for.* **break down** 1 divide into smaller units. 2 (of a machine, service, etc.) fail to work (properly). 3 (of talks) end without completing business. 4 burst into tears. **breakdown** ('breɪkdaʊn) *nc* 1 a failure of a car, the nervous system, etc., to work (properly). 2 the ending of talks without completing their business. 3 a separation of a number, etc., into its parts. **break in** 1 force an entrance into a building. 2 interrupt a conversation. 3 cause (a horse) to be no longer wild. **break off** 1 separate (a piece of something). 2 put an end to (a relationship, talks, etc.). **break out** 1 (of a war, disease, etc.) start. 2 (of a prisoner) escape. **breakthrough** ('breɪkθruː) *nc* a sudden important discovery. **break up** 1 break into pieces. 2 destroy. 3 (of a marriage, etc.) come to an end.

breaker ('breɪkə*) *nc* 1 a big sea wave, the top of which rolls over. 2 a person whose business is to break up old ships or cars.

breakfast ('brekfəst) *nc* the first meal of the day, eaten in the morning. • *vi fml* eat breakfast.

breakwater ('breɪk,wɔɪtə*) *nc* a wall in the sea around a port, etc., that breaks the force of the waves.

breast (brest) *nc* 1 the upper front part of the human body; the chest; the part of an animal's body between the neck and the (front) legs. 2 one of the parts of the body of a woman that produce milk for her babies. 3 *literary* the heart; feelings. • *vt* have one's breast on a level with; face: *He breasted the waves.* **breastbone** ('brestbəʊn) *nc* (in humans or animals) the bone down the middle of the breast, to which some of the ribs are attached. **breast-feed** ('brest,fiːd) *vt* (of a woman) feed (a baby) with milk from her breasts.

breath (breθ) *nu* 1 the air that a human or animal draws in and lets out. 2 life. 3 *nc* a drawing in of air: *take a deep breath.* **hold your breath** stop breathing for a short time on purpose. **under your breath** in a whisper. **breathless** *adj* also **out of breath** breathing very fast, for example after exercise. **breathlessly** *adv* **breathtaking** ('breθ,teɪkɪŋ) *adj* very impressive, beautiful, amazing, etc.: *The view was breathtaking.*

breathe (briːð) *vi* 1 draw in and let out air. 2 *literary* have life. 3 *vt* draw in (air, etc.). **breather** *nc* a short pause to rest: *Let's take a breather.*

bred (bred) past tense and past participle of **breed.**

breech (briːtʃ) *nc* the part of a gun where the cartridge or shell is placed.

breeches ('brɪtʃɪz) *n pl* 1 a kind of trousers that come to just below the knees, where they fit tightly round the legs. 2 *infml* trousers.

breed (briːd) 1 *vti* produce (young). 2 *vt* arrange the breeding of (animals). 3 cause: *Poverty breeds poor health.* • *nc* 1 a group of people or animals who have the same qualities produced by breeding. 2 a type of person or animal. **breeder** *nc* 1 a person who arranges the breeding of animals. 2 a nuclear reactor that can produce more radioactive material than it uses. **breeding** *nu* 1 the production of young. 2 the arranged reproduction of animals. 3 the good manners resulting from many generations of careful training.

breeze[1] (briːz) *nc* a light wind. **breeze in** come in casually and cheerfully. **breezy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a place) windy. 2 (of a person) cheerful; lively.

breeze[2] *n* **breeze block** a light building brick made from ash and cement.

brethren ('breðrɪn) *n pl religious or old-fashioned* brothers.

brevity ('brevɪtɪ) *nu* shortness, esp. of time or speech.

brew (bruː) *vt* 1 make (beer). 2 make (a drink such as tea) using leaves, etc., by soaking and boiling in water. 3 *vi* (of beer, tea, etc.) be being made by brewing. • *nc* a drink made by brewing. **be brewing** be coming; be developing: *A revolution was brewing.* **brewery** ('brʊərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where beer is made.

briar (braɪə*) *nc* any of various kinds of prickly bush; (also *nu*) the wood of the root of this bush.

bribe (braɪb) *vt* offer money, etc., to (someone) to persuade them to do something they should not do. • *nc* a gift made in this way. **bribery** ('braɪbərɪ) *nu* the practice of bribing.

bric-a-brac ('brɪkəbræk) *nu* furniture and ornaments kept for their interest.

brick (brɪk) *nc* a hard block of baked clay, used in building. **brick up** fill (an opening) with bricks. **bricklayer** ('brɪk,leɪə*) *nc* someone who lays bricks to make buildings. **brickwork** ('brɪkwɜːk) *nu* construction in brick.

bridal ('braɪdəl) *adj* to do with a bride or a wedding.

bride (braɪd) *nc* a woman about to be married or newly married. **bridegroom** ('braɪdgruːm) (sometimes shortened to **groom**) *nc* a man about to be married or newly married. **bridesmaid** ('braɪdzmeɪd) *nc* a girl who helps a bride during the wedding.

bridge[1] (brɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a stretch of road or railway built across and above a river, another road, etc. 2 the place high up in a ship from which it is directed. 3 a wooden support for the strings of a violin, etc. 4 a means of connecting things: *Sport is a bridge between nations.* • *vt* be (like) or make a bridge over.

bridge[2] *nu* a game of cards for two pairs of players, the cards of one player being played by their partner.

bridle ('braɪdəl) *nc* the part of a horse's harness that goes over its head. • *vt* 1 put a bridle on. 2 control. 3 *vi* (often followed by **at**) show one's anger or dislike: *He bridled at being given such a humble job.*

brief (briːf) *adj* short. • *nc* 1 a report on the facts of someone's case prepared for their lawyer. 2 a detailed plan of action. • *vt* give detailed instructions to (someone). **briefly** *adv*

briefcase ('briːfkeɪs) *nc* a case in which papers can be carried.

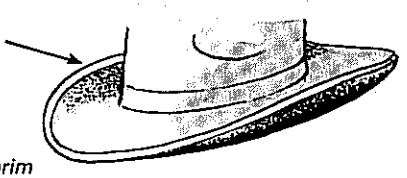
briefs (briːfs) *n pl* panties or underpants without legs.

brigade (brɪ'geɪd) *nc* 1 a part of an army that is part of a division. 2 a group of people organised for a particular task: *a fire brigade.* **brigadier** (,brɪgə'dɪə*) *nc* an army officer in charge of a brigade.

bright (braɪt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of a light) shining strongly. 2 happy; cheerful. 3 (of a person) clever. **brighten** *vti* (often followed by **up**) make or become bright or brighter. **brightly** *adv* **brightness** *nu*

brilliant ('brɪljənt) *adj* 1 (of a light) very bright. 2 (of a person or idea) very clever. 3 splendid; showy: *brilliant flowers.* 4 *infml* very good: *It was a brilliant concert.* **brilliance** *nu* **brilliantly** *adv*

brim (brɪm) *nc* 1 the top edge of a container for liquids: *full to the brim.* 2 the flat part of a hat sticking out around the bottom: see picture. • *vi* (often followed by **over**) be full to the top (with liquid, excitement, etc.).



brim

brine (braɪn) *nu* 1 very salty water. 2 the sea.

bring (brɪŋ) *vt* 1 cause to come with you: *I've brought my cousin to the meeting; Don't forget to bring some food for the journey.* 2 cause: *The war brought great suffering.* 3 cause to reach a certain state: *bring into being.* **bring about** cause; make (something) happen. **bring back** 1 return with (what was taken away). 2 restore (a former practice). 3 cause you to remember (past events). **bring in** 1 cause (someone) to enter with you; carry in (something). 2 introduce (a law, etc.). 3 produce (money): *Farming brings in enough for us to live on.* **bring off** 1 succeed in doing (something). 2 take (people) away from a sinking ship, etc. **bring out** 1 produce (a book, etc.). 2 put (a new product) on sale. 3 make clear(er); emphasise. 4 cause (flowers) to open. **bring round** bring (an unconscious person) back to consciousness. **bring up** 1 train or teach (a child). 2 cause (food) to come back up from the stomach. 3 mention (a subject).

brink (brɪŋk) *nu* the edge of water, a cliff, etc. **on the brink of** close to (a discovery, a war, doing something, etc.).

brisk (brɪsk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 quick in movement. 2 lively. **briskly** *adv*

bristle ('brɪsəl) *nc* 1 a stiff hair such as grows on pigs. 2 a similar object made for use in brushes. • *vi* 1 show anger or indignation. 2 be full of (something awkward): *The situation bristles with difficulties.*

brittle ('brɪtəl) *adj* (of a hard substance) easily broken.

broach (brəʊtʃ) *vt* 1 start discussion of (a subject). 2 make a hole in (a container of wine, etc.) to draw off the liquid.

broad (brɔːd) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 wide. 2 (of opinions, etc.) of wide range; liberal. 3 having the width described: *six metres broad.* 4 (of a description) general; without detail. 5 (of an accent in speech) strong; noticeable. • *nc infml, US* a girl or woman. **broadly** *adv* **broad-minded** (,brɔːd'maɪndɪd) *adj* accepting others' opinions; not easily shocked. **broad-shouldered** (,brɔːd'ʃəʊldəd) *adj* having wide shoulders.

broadcast ('brɔːdkɑːst) *nc* a message, programme, etc., sent by radio or television. • *vt* 1 send (something) by radio or television. 2 make (something) known.

broaden ('brɔːdən) *vt* make or become broad or broader.

broadside ('brɔːdsaɪd) *nc* 1 the firing of all the guns on one side of a ship. 2 a strong written or spoken attack.

brocade (brə'keɪd) *ncu* (a) cloth with a raised pattern on it.

broccoli ('brɒkəlɪ) *ncu* a kind of cauliflower with small heads of green flower buds, which are eaten cooked.

brochure ('brəʊʃə*) *nc* a small book, for example produced by a business to describe its products or services.

broil (brɔɪl) 1 *vti* cook or be cooked by grilling. • *vi* 2 be very hot.

broke (brəʊk) past tense of **break.** • *adj infml* without any money.

broken ('brəʊkən) past participle of **break. broken-hearted** (,brəʊkən'hɑːtɪd) *adj* overcome with grief.

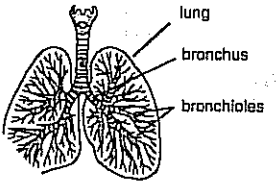
broker ('brəʊkə*) *nc* a person paid by others to buy and sell shares, insurance, etc., for them.

bromide ('brəʊmaɪd) *nc* a chemical containing bromine, esp. potassium bromide, which calms the nerves.

bromine ('brəʊmiːn) *nu* a non-metallic chemical element; red liquid with a sharp smell: symbol Br.

bronchial ('brɒŋkɪəl) *adj* to do with the bronchi.

bronchiole ('brɒŋkɪ,əʊl) *nc* any of the small tubes into which the bronchus divides: *Most bronchioles end in an air sac called an alveolus:* see picture.



bronchiole

bronchitis (brɒn'kaɪtɪs) *nu* an illness; inflammation of the bronchi in the lung.

bronchus ('brɒŋkəs) *nc, pl* **-chi** (kaɪ) either of the two tubes into which the windpipe divides before reaching the lungs.

bronze (brɒnz) 1 *nu* a metal made of copper mixed with tin. 2 *nc* a bronze object, esp. a work of art. 3 *ncu* a bronze colour. • *adj* of the colour of bronze; between yellow and brown. • *vt* (of the sun) turn (a person's skin) brown.

brooch (brəʊtʃ) *nc* a piece of jewellery on a pin by which it is fastened to a garment.

brood (bru:d) *vi* 1 (of a hen) sit on its eggs to make them hatch. 2 (often followed by **over**) think for long periods about something sad. • *nc* 1 the young produced together by a bird. 2 *humorous* the children in a family. **broody** *adj* 1 thoughtful and sad. 2 (of a hen) ready to brood.

brook[1] (brʊk) *nc* a stream; small river.

brook[2] *vt fml* (usually followed by **no** and a noun) allow; permit: *I will brook no interference.*

broom (bru:m) 1 *nc* a brush with a long handle for sweeping floors. 2 *nu* a bush with bright yellow flowers. **broomstick** ('bru:mstɪk) *nc* the handle of a broom.

broth (brɒθ) *nu* a thin kind of soup made with water in which meat has been boiled.

brothel ('brɒθəl) *nc* a place where people have sex with prostitutes.

brother ('brʌðə*) *nc, religious or old-fashioned pl* **brethren** 1 a male child of the same parents as another child. 2 a male member of a Christian religious order. 3 a male member of the same religion, trade union, etc., as another. **brotherhood** ('brʌðəhʊd) 1 *nu* the state of being (like) brothers: *the brotherhood of man.* 2 *nc* a community or group of men. **brother-in-law** ('brʌðərɪn,lɔ:) *nc, pl* **brothers-in-law** 1 the brother of your husband or wife. 2 the husband of your sister. **brotherly** ('brʌðəlɪ) *adj* like (the behaviour of) a brother.

brought (brɔɪt) past tense and past participle of **bring.**

brow (braʊ) *nc* 1 the forehead; part of the face above the eyes. 2 See **eyebrow** under **eye.** 3 the top of a hill, esp. above a steep slope.

browbeat ('braʊbi:t) *vt* frighten (someone) with looks or words, esp. into doing something.

brown (braʊn) *adj* **-er, -est** of the colour of, for example, dark earth or dead leaves. • *ncu* a brown colour. • *vt* 1 cook (meat, etc.) until it is brown. 2 *vi* (of meat, etc.) turn brown in being cooked. **brownish** ('braʊnɪʃ) *adj* rather brown.

Brownian movement ('braʊnɪən) *science* the movement of very small particles in a liquid or gas, caused by the movement of the molecules of the liquid or gas.

Brownie ('braʊnɪ) *nc* a young girl belonging to the junior part of the Guides.

browse (braʊz) *vi* 1 examine a book, goods in a shop, etc., in an unhurried way. 2 (of a sheep, etc.) eat grass, leaves, etc., off the ground. • *nc* a period of browsing.

bruise (bru:z) *vt* 1 hurt (a person, animals, or fruit) so that a mark is left under the unbroken skin. 2 wound (someone's feelings). • *nc* a mark caused by bruising.

brunette (bru:'net) *adj, nc* (a woman) with dark brown hair.

brunt (brʌnt) *nu* the main force of an attack, etc.: *Our best soldiers bore the brunt of the attack.*

brush (brʌʃ) *nc* 1 a large number of stiff hairs, etc., fixed into a board which often has a handle, for smoothing, sweeping, painting, etc. 2 the act of brushing. 3 *nu* a stretch of shrubs and small trees. • *vt* 1 smooth (hair), clean (teeth), sweep (a floor), etc., with a brush. 2 remove (dust, etc.) with a brush. 3 touch lightly in passing. **brush aside** refuse to consider (a person, argument, etc.). **brushed** *adj* with the surface roughened by a brush: *brushed nylon.* **brush up (on)** refresh your knowledge (of).

brusque (bru:sk) *adj* short or blunt in your abrupt manner.

brutal ('bru:təl) *adj* very cruel; without feeling. **brutality** (bru:'tælɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** (an act of) cruelty. **brutally** *adv*

brute (bru:t) *nc* 1 a strong wild animal. 2 a very cruel person. 3 *infml, sometimes humorous* something very difficult: *That examination paper was a brute.* • *adj* purely physical: *brute force.* **brutish** ('bru:tɪʃ) *adj*

bryophyte ('braɪə,faɪt) *nc botany* one of a variety of plants, such as mosses, which reproduce by spores and have no roots or flowers.

bubble ('bʌbəl) *nc* 1 a thin ball of liquid

filled with air. 2 a small amount of air in a liquid. • *vi* 1 (of a liquid) give off bubbles. 2 be lively (with joy, etc.). **bubble-gum** ('bʌbəlgʌm) *nu* a sweet that is chewed but not swallowed and can be blown out into bubbles. **bubbly** ('bʌblɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 full of bubbles. 2 lively; happy; excited. • *nu infml* champagne wine.

bubonic plague (bjuːˈbɒnɪk) a disease that causes a high fever, swellings, etc., and is carried by the fleas of a rat.

buck[1] (bʌk) *nc* a male deer, goat, rabbit, or hare. • *vi* (of a horse, etc.) jump in an attempt to throw its rider. **buck up** *infml* 1 get moving; hurry. 2 make (someone) cheerful.

buck[2] *nc infml, US* a dollar.

buck[3] *n* **pass the buck** refuse to take the blame or accept responsibility, passing it on to someone else.

bucket ('bʌkɪt) *nc* 1 an open container with a handle. 2 the amount a bucket will hold. • *vi* 1 travel very fast. 2 *infml* rain heavily: *It's bucketing down.* **kick the bucket** *slang* die.

buckle ('bʌkəl) *nc* a fastener for a belt or strap. • *vt* 1 fasten the buckle of: *buckle your shoe.* 2 *vti* bend or be bent in folds by heat, a blow, etc. **buckle down (to)** apply yourself seriously (to a task).

buckskin ('bʌkskɪn) *nu* a soft leather made from the skin of a deer, goat, or sheep.

bud (bʌd) *nc* 1 a young flower that has not yet opened. 2 See **taste buds** under **taste.** • *vi* (of a plant) grow buds. **nip in the bud** See **nip. budding** *adj* developing: *He's a budding politician.*

Buddha ('budə) *n* the Indian who started Buddhism. **Buddhism** ('budɪzəm) *nu* an important religion of India, Japan, etc., with no god. **Buddhist** ('budɪst) *adj* to do with Buddhism. • *nc* a follower of Buddhism.

budge (bʌdʒ) *vti* (*usually negative*) 1 move: *The handle is so tight it won't budge.* 2 (cause to) change an opinion: *I can't budge him on this question.*

budgerigar ('bʌdʒərɪˌgɑː*) *nc* a small singing bird originally from Australia, widely kept as a pet.

budget ('bʌdʒɪt) *nc* 1 a plan for spending and saving money, for example made by a government. 2 the money set aside for something. • *vi* make a **budget** (def. 1): *I'm budgeting for an early holiday this year.*

buff (bʌf) *adj* brownish-yellowish. • *ncu* 1 a buff colour. 2 *nu* a soft, thick leather. 3 *nc infml* an enthusiast: *a film buff.*

buffalo ('bʌfələʊ) *nc, pl* **buffalos, buffaloes, buffalo** an African or an Asian member of the cattle family.

buffer ('bʌfə*) *nc* 1 a device that reduces the force of a collision, esp. as on a railway carriage. 2 someone or something that lessens shock or gives protection: *a buffer state.*

buffet[1] ('bʊfeɪ) *nc* 1 a table, etc., where food is served out. 2 a meal at which people can help themselves to food. **buffet car** a carriage on a train where food is sold.

buffet[2] ('bʌfɪt) *vt* 1 (esp. of the wind) strike repeatedly; knock about. 2 strike or hit (someone) with the hand. • *nc* a blow with the hand.

buffoon (bəˈfuːn) *nc* 1 a clown; amusing person. 2 a fool.

bug (bʌg) *nc* 1 one of many kinds of insect, esp. the bed-bug. 2 a problem or fault, esp. in a computer program. 3 *infml* a germ that causes a short, slight illness. • *vt infml* 1 put a device in (a room) with which to listen to or record conversation. 2 annoy.

bugbear ('bʌgbeə*) *nc* a cause of great (unnecessary) fear or worry.

bugle ('bjuːgəl) *nc music* a wind instrument made of brass, used esp. in armies to give signals. **bugler** a person, esp. a soldier, who plays the bugle.

build (bɪld) *vt* 1 make or form (a house, etc.). 2 set up or establish (a business etc.). • *nu* the height, weight, and size of a person. **build on** add (extra rooms, etc.) to a building. **build up** 1 (cause to) increase: *build up a business.* 2 make (someone) strong and healthy. **build-up** ('bɪldʌp) *nc* 1 an increase. 2 a preparation for the appearance or arrival of someone or something special. **builder** *nc* a person who puts up buildings.

building ('bɪldɪŋ) 1 *nc* a place with walls and a roof, such as a house or church. 2 *nu* the practice of putting up buildings. **building society** an organisation that lends money to people so they can buy their own homes.

built (bɪlt) past tense and past participle of **build. built-in** *adj* that is part of something else: *The kitchen has built-in cupboards.* **built-up** *adj* 1 (of a district) full of buildings. 2 (of a shoe) with extra material fixed underneath to raise it.

bulb (bʌlb) *nc* 1 the round underground part of plants such as the onion. 2 a plant that grows from a bulb, esp. a garden flower. 3 an object shaped like a bulb, such as an electric light bulb. **bulbous** ('bʌlbəs) *adj* shaped like a bulb.

bulge (bʌldʒ) *vi* curve outwards; swell. • *nc* 1 a place where something bulges. 2 a temporary increase in numbers.

bulk (bʌlk) *nu* 1 the size of a thing. 2 a large quantity: *We buy apples in bulk to save money.* 3 the greater part; the greater number: *the bulk of the population.* • *vi* 1 (often followed by **large**) be large or important; have an important place (in someone's thinking). 2 *vt* (often followed by **out**) increase the size of; add to. **bulky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (awkwardly) big.

bulkhead ('bʌlkhed) *nc* a wall in a ship, plane, etc.

bull (bʊl) *nc* 1 an uncastrated male of the cattle family. 2 a male elephant, whale, etc. **take the bull by the horns** deal boldly with a difficulty. **bulldog** ('bʊldɒg) *nc* a strongly-built kind of dog. **bulldozer** ('bʊlˌdəʊzə*) *nc* a vehicle with tracked wheels and a large blade at the front for levelling ground, etc. **bullfight** ('bʊlˌfaɪt) *nc* a sport in which a bull is fought and killed by someone with a sword. **bull's eye** the circle at the centre of a target.

bullet ('bʊlɪt) *nc* a ball or pointed piece of metal fired from a small gun. **bullet-proof** *adj* that bullets cannot pass through: *bullet-proof glass; a bullet-proof vest.*

bulletin ('bʊlɪtɪn) *nc* a report of news or on the condition of someone famous who is ill.

bullion ('bʊljən) *nu* gold or silver in heavy bars.

bullock ('bʊlək) *nc* a castrated bull.

bully ('bʊlɪ) *vt* (often followed by **into**) use force on or threaten (someone), to make them do something: *I was bullied into giving up.* • *nc, pl* **-lies** a person who bullies others.

bulrush ('bʊlrʌʃ) *nc* a tall, thick grass that grows in or near fresh water.

bulwark ('bʊlwək) *nc* 1 a wall that acts as a defence. 2 a protection: *a bulwark against poverty in old age.*

bum[1] (bʌm) *nc slang, Brit* the soft part of the body on which you sit.

bum[2] *nc infml, chiefly US* 1 a person without a proper home who wanders around begging. 2 an unpleasant person.

bumblebee ('bʌmbəlbiː) *nc* a large kind of bee.

bump (bʌmp) 1 *vt* hit: *I bumped my head on the window.* 2 *vi* move in bounces. **bump into** 1 hit (something) by accident while walking, driving, etc. 2 meet (someone) by chance. • *nc* 1 a jolt. 2 the noise of something hitting something else. 3 a lump in a surface, such as a body or road. **bumpy** *adj* **-ier, -est.**

bumper[1] ('bʌmpə*) *nc* a bar across the front or back of a car or lorry to protect it.

bumper[2] *adj* unusually good or large: *a bumper harvest.*

bun (bʌn) *nc* 1 a small cake or sweetened bread roll, often containing currants, etc. 2 hair rolled up on the back of the head.

bunch (bʌntʃ) *nc* several things held or joined together, such as flowers or fruit.

bundle ('bʌndəl) *nc* several things held or fastened together, such as clothes.

bung (bʌŋ) *nc* a stopper for a bottle, barrel, etc. **bung up** block: *The pipe is bunged up.*

bungalow ('bʌŋgələʊ) *nc* a house with all its rooms at ground level.

bungle ('bʌŋgəl) *vti* do (something) badly: *The army bungled its attack on the town.* **bungler** *nc*

bunion ('bʌnjən) *nc* a lump that hurts where the big toe joins the foot.

bunk (bʌŋk) *nc* also **bunk bed** a bed fixed to a wall, often one of two, one above the other.

bunker ('bʌŋkə*) *nc* 1 a space for storing coal. 2 a hole filled with sand on a golf course. 3 an underground shelter in a war.

bunny ('bʌnɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** *infml, children* a rabbit.

Bunsen burner ('bʌnsən) a gas burner used for heating in scientific experiments: see picture.

Bunsen burner

buoy (bɔɪ) *nc* a fixed marker floating in water to show boats where to go.

buoyant ('bɔɪənt) *adj* 1 able to float. 2 cheerful; happy. **buoyancy** ('bɔɪənsɪ) *nu*

bur (bɜː) *nc* a seed-case that sticks to clothes and hair.

burden ('bɜːdən) *nc* 1 a load to be carried. 2 a nuisance; something annoying. • *vt* give (someone) a difficult or annoying job to do. **burdensome** ('bɜːdənsəm) *adj* difficult.

bureau ('bjʊərəʊ) *nc, pl* **bureaux** ('bjʊərəʊz) 1 a writing desk with a cover. 2 an office: *an information bureau.*

bureaucracy (bjʊə'rɒkrəsɪ) 1 *nc u, pl* **-cies** the governing of a country by officials. 2 *nu* official rules and procedures. **bureaucrat** ('bjʊərəˌkræt) *nc* a

(government) official. **bureaucratic** (ˌbjʊərəˈkrætɪk) *adj*

burette (bjʊəˈret) *nc* a glass tube with a tap for measuring liquids.

burglar (ˈbɜːglə*) *nc* a person who breaks into and steals from a building. **burglar-proof** *adj* (of a building) unable to be broken into and stolen from. **burglary** (ˈbɜːgləri) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (an example of) stealing from a building. **burgle** (ˈbɜːgəl) *vti* steal from (a building).

burial (ˈberɪəl) *ncu* (an example of) burying a dead person.

burlesque (bɜːˈlesk) *ncu* (a book or play) that makes fun of someone or something.

burly (ˈbɜːlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person) big and strong.

burn (bɜːn) *vti* 1 (cause to) be destroyed by fire: *She burned my letter to her; Paper burns easily.* 2 (cause to) be damaged by fire or heat: *The cakes are burnt.* **burn down** (of a building) (cause to) be destroyed by fire. • *nc* a part damaged by fire or heat: *a burn on my arm.* **burner** *nc* (the part of) a cooker, lamp, or heater that makes a flame. **burning** *adj* 1 on fire. 2 important; urgent: *a burning question.*

burnish (ˈbɜːnɪʃ) *vt* polish by rubbing.

burnt (bɜːnt) past tense and past participle of **burn.**

burp (bɜːp) *infml vi* let air noisily come out of the stomach through the mouth. • *nc* an example of doing this.

burrow (ˈbʌrəʊ) *vi* dig into the ground or through something. • *nc* the underground home of an animal, esp. a rabbit.

bursar (ˈbɜːsə*) *nc* a person in charge of the money of a school, university, etc.

bursary (ˈbɜːsərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** an amount of money given to a student to help pay for their education.

burst (bɜːst) 1 *vti* (cause to) break open, letting something out: *a burst tyre; The river will burst its banks if we have more rain. vi* 2 move suddenly: *He burst into the room.* 3 start suddenly: *She burst into tears; We all burst out laughing.* • *nc* 1 an example of something bursting: *a burst in the water pipe.* 2 a period: *a burst of firing.*

bury (ˈberɪ) *vt* 1 put (something, esp. a dead person) underground. 2 put (something) deep into something else.

bus (bʌs) *nc, pl* **buses, busses** a large road vehicle that carries people. **bus-stop** *nc* a place where buses stop for passengers. • *vt* cause (someone) to travel by bus: *The children were bused to a school in the next village.*

bush (bʊʃ) *nc* a thick, woody plant smaller than a tree. **the bush** a wild uncultivated area, esp. in Africa or Australia. **beat about the bush** See **beat. bushy** (ˈbʊʃɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of plants or hair) growing thickly.

bushbaby (ˈbʊʃˌbeɪbɪ) *nc, pl* **-bies** a small mammal with large eyes, large ears, and a long tail, which lives in trees in parts of Africa: see picture.

bushbaby

bushel (ˈbʊʃəl) *nc* a measure of capacity (in the UK 36.4 litres, in the USA 35.3 litres).

busily (ˈbɪzɪlɪ) *adv* in a busy way.

business (ˈbɪznɪs) *nu* 1 buying and selling goods and work. 2 affair; concern: *Where I go is my business. nc* 3 a job. 4 a shop or factory. **mind your own business** See **mind. business-like** *adj* efficient; serious. **businessman** *nc, pl* **-men businesswoman** *nc, pl* **-women** a person whose job is in **business** (def. 1), esp. in industry. **on business** to do with your job.

bust[1] (bʌst) *nc* 1 a woman's breasts. 2 a model of someone's head and shoulders.

bust[2] *vti infml* 1 break. 2 (cause to) fail in business. **go bust** *infml* (of a business, etc.) fail; go bankrupt.

bustle (ˈbʌsəl) *vti* move busily; hurry: *She bustled around getting ready; I was bustled out of the room.*

busy (ˈbɪzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 doing something; occupied. 2 with many things happening: *I've got a busy day.* **busy yourself (with)** occupy yourself (with); do: *She busied herself with the accounts.*

but (bʌt unstressed bət) *conj* 1 in spite of that: *It will be cold but bright.* 2 also **but then** except that; however: *I wanted to come but forgot.* • *prep* except: *all but one.* **but for** if it were not for: *I would have come but for the rain.*

butane (ˈbjuːteɪn) *nu* a natural gas burned for heat and light.

butcher (ˈbʊtʃə*) *nc* a person who kills animals for their meat or sells it. **butchery** (ˈbʊtʃərɪ) *nu* 1 cruel and unnecessary killing. 2 the work of a butcher.

butler (ˈbʌtlə*) *nc* the chief male servant in a private house.

butt[1] (bʌt) *nc* 1 the part of a rifle held against the shoulder. 2 a cigar or cigarette end.

butt[2] *nc* a person or thing that is made fun of: *the butt of a joke.*

butt[3] *vti* hit with the head or horns. **butt in** interrupt a conversation.

butter ('bʌtə*) *nu* a yellow food made from cream. • *vt* spread butter on. **butter up** talk nicely to.

butterfly ('bʌtəflaɪ) *nc, pl* **-flies** an insect with brightly-coloured wings: see picture at **insects.**

buttock ('bʌtək) *nc anatomy* (usually *pl*) either of the two fleshy parts you sit on.

button ('bʌtən) *nc* 1 a flat, round object sewn onto clothes for fastening them. 2 a switch pressed to start or stop a machine. • *vti* fasten with a button or buttons: *He buttoned up his coat.* **buttonhole** ('bʌtən,haʊl) *nc* a narrow hole for putting a button through to fasten clothes.

buttress ('bʌtrəs) *nc* a piece added to a wall to support it. • *vt* support; strengthen.

buxom ('bʌksəm) *adj* (of a woman) fat and healthy, esp. with large breasts.

buy (baɪ) *vt* 1 obtain for money or something else of value. 2 be used to obtain in exchange: *Money buys most things.* **buyer** ('baɪə*) *nc*

buzz (bʌz) *nc* a noise like the sound (z). • *vi* make this noise. **buzzer** ('bʌzə*) *nc* an electric device that buzzes, esp. as a signal. **buzz off** *slang* go away.

buzzard ('bʌzəd) *nc* a large brown bird that catches small animals for food.

by (baɪ) *prep* 1 (used to show who or what performs the action of a passive verb): *I was hit by a ball.* 2 near, beside: *sitting by the fire.* 3 past: *I walked by him.* 4 using; by means of: *He succeeded by hard work; Come in by the front door.* 5 (used with the **-ing** form of a verb): *We finished early by working harder.* 6 (used to show who made something): *a play by Shakespeare.* 7 during: *by day.* 8 not later than; before: *Be home by ten o'clock; By this time next week, we'll be on holiday; He should be here by now.* 9 (used with units of measurement): *We are paid by the hour; Cloth is sold by the metre; a piece of wood three centimetres by two centimetres.* 10 to the amount or degree of: *He missed the train by ten minutes.* 11 according to; judging by: *By the expression on his face, he was not very pleased.* 12 with (a type of transport): *I often travel by plane.* 13 with (a part of the body): *He grabbed me by the arm.* • *adv* past: *I walked by.* **by and by** *infml* soon. **by and large** generally.

bye-bye ('baɪ'baɪ) *interj infml* also **bye** goodbye.

bye-law (baɪ) *nc* also **by-law** a local law.

by-election *nc* an extra election for a new member of parliament.

bygone ('baɪgɒn) *adj* past: *a bygone age.* **let bygones be bygones** forget the past.

by-pass *nc* a road built to avoid a town.

by-product *nc* something made during the making of something else: *by-products of oil.*

bystander ('baɪstændə*) *nc* a person who watches something without taking part.

byte (baɪt) *nc* a unit of data in a computer.

byway ('baɪweɪ) *nc* a small country road.

C

cab (kæb) *nc* 1 a taxi. 2 the part of a train, lorry, etc., where the driver sits.

cabaret ('kæbəreɪ) *ncu* singing and dancing, etc., in a restaurant or nightclub.

cabbage ('kæbɪdʒ) *nc* a green leafy vegetable: see picture at **vegetables**; (sometimes *nu*) the leaves of this vegetable eaten as food.

cabin ('kæbɪn) *nc* 1 a small house; hut: *a log cabin.* 2 a room in a boat; passenger's bedroom in a ship. 3 the space for passengers in a plane, spacecraft, etc.

cabinet ('kæbɪnət) *nc* a piece of furniture with drawers and cupboards. **Cabinet** the chief members of a government.

cable ('keɪbəl) *nc* 1 a strong metal rope used in ships, cranes, etc. 2 a wire or bundle of wires used for carrying electricity. 3 a telegram. • *vti* send (a message) by cable to (someone). **cable-car** *nc* a cabin hanging from a cable that carries people up a mountain.

cacao (kə'kɑːəʊ) *nc* a tree with brown seeds from which cocoa is made.

cache (kæʃ) *nc* a secret store or hiding-place.

cackle ('kækəl) *vi* 1 (of a hen that has just laid an egg) cluck. 2 laugh loudly, like a hen cackling. • *nc* such a laugh.

cactus ('kæktəs) *nc, pl* **-tuses, -ti** (taɪ) a plant with spikes and thick leaves that lives in very dry country.

cadence ('keɪdəns) *nc* 1 rhythm; beat. 2 rise and fall in the voice.

cadet (kə'det) *nc* a young person training to work in the army or police.

cadmium ('kædmɪəm) *nu* a chemical element that is a poisonous bluish-white metal: symbol Cd.

caecum ('siːkəm) *nc, pl* **-ca** (kə) *anatomy* a part of the body that is like a tube or bag closed at one end, esp. such a part of the intestines inside the body of people and animals.

Caesarean (sɪ'zeərɪən) *nc* also **Caesarean section** an operation to remove a baby from its mother's body when it cannot be born in the usual way.

café ('kæfeɪ) *nc* a restaurant that sells generally cheap, ordinary meals. **cafeteria** (ˌkæfə'tɪərɪə) *nc* a restaurant where people themselves take the food to their tables.

caffeine ('kæfiːn) *nu* the mild stimulant in coffee.

caftan ('kæfˌtæn) *n* See **kaftan.**

cage (keɪdʒ) *nc* a room or box with walls of metal bars for keeping animals in. **caged** *adj* kept in a cage.

cagey ('keɪdʒɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml* not wanting to say much about something.

cajole (kə'dʒəʊl) *vt* persuade (someone), esp. by flattery.

cake (keɪk) *nc* 1 a food, baked with flour, fat, eggs, sugar, and other things such as fruit: *a rich chocolate cake.* 2 a solid piece of food: *a fish cake.* 3 anything in a hard lump: *a cake of soap.* **a piece of cake** *infml* something that is very easy. **caked** (keɪkt) *adj* covered with something dried.

calabash ('kæləˌbæʃ) *nc* a tree with large gourds that are used as containers.

calamine ('kæləˌmaɪn) *nu* a pink powder used to make liquids and ointments that are spread on the skin to relieve pain.

calamity (kə'læmɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a terrible event; disaster.

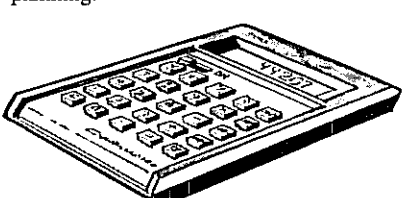
calcareous (kæl'keərɪəs) *adj* of, to do with, or containing calcium carbonate.

calciferous (kæl'sɪfərəs) *adj* that produces calcium carbonate or similar substances.

calcify ('kælsɪˌfaɪ) *vti* 1 make or become hard from calcium compounds. 2 change into lime.

calcium ('kælsɪəm) *nu* a metal found in chalk and in foods such as milk, necessary for growth; symbol Ca. **calcium carbonate** a white substance found in chalk, limestone, marble, coral, etc.

calculate ('kælkjʊˌleɪt) 1 *vti* work out with numbers: *Can you calculate the cost of these?* *vt* 2 guess; estimate. 3 plan; intend: *a speech calculated to confuse people.* **calculation** (ˌkælkjʊ'leɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) working out a number problem. **calculator** *nc* a machine that works out number problems: see picture. **calculating** *adj* selfishly planning.



calculator

calculus ('kælkjʊləs) 1 *nu* a way of working out problems to do with variable numbers. 2 *nc medicine* a hard, loose ball formed in the body.

caldera (kæl'deərə) *nc geography* a large round hole at the top of a volcano that has erupted or collapsed.

calendar ('kælɪndə*) *nc* 1 a system of names and numbers for the days of the year. 2 a list of the days of the year. **calendar month** any of the twelve months of the year.

calf[1] (kɑːf) *nc, pl* **calves** 1 (of cattle) a young cow or bull. 2 a young seal, elephant, etc.

calf[2] *nc, pl* **calves** the back of the lower leg.

calibrate ('kælɪˌbreɪt) *vt* mark (a measuring instrument) so that readings can be taken.

calibre *US* **caliber** ('kælɪbə*) 1 *nc* the distance across something round, esp. the inside of a gun barrel. 2 *nu* quality: *his calibre as a painter.*

calico ('kælɪkəʊ) *nu* cheap, strong, cotton cloth.

caliph ('keɪlɪf) *nc* (formerly) a Muslim ruler: *the Caliph of Baghdad.*

call (kɔːl) *vti* 1 say loudly; shout. 2 telephone or radio (someone). *vt* 3 tell (someone or something) to come: *I'll call the waiter.* 4 consider as: *I call that cheap.* 5 say that someone or something is: *Don't you call me stupid!* 6 name: *I'm called Maurice.* 7 wake: *Please call me at seven o'clock.* *vi* 8 also **call by** or **in** pay a short visit. • *nc* 1 a shout. 2 a short visit. 3 a telephone or radio conversation. 4 need: *There's no call to worry.* **call box** a telephone box. **caller** *nc* 1 a person who visits. 2 a person who telephones. **call for** 1 go and collect. 2 make necessary: *This calls for a party.* **calling** *nc* 1 a strong wish to follow a particular life. 2 a profession or way of life. **call off** stop; not carry out: *If many people are ill, I'll call the party off.* **call on** 1 pay (someone) a short visit. 2 tell; ask: *I call on you to help me.* **call out** shout. **call up** 1 telephone or radio (someone). 2 tell (someone) to join the army, etc. **call-up** *ncu* (an example of) this.

calligraphy (kə'lɪgrəfɪ) *nu* beautiful writing.

calliper *US* **caliper** ('kælɪpə*) 1 *nc* a pair of metal bars for supporting a weak leg. 2 (*pl*) a tool with two arms for measuring the size of objects.

callous ('kæləs) *adj* unkind; not caring.

callus ('kæləs) *nc* an area of hard, thick skin, esp. on the hand or foot.

calm (kɑːm) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 peaceful; not worried. 2 (of the sea) flat; without waves. • *vti* also **calm down** (cause to) become calm. **calmly** *adv* **calmness** *nu*

Calor gas ('kælə) *Trademark* a gas used for cooking, heat, light, etc., stored in the form of a liquid in a container that can be moved from place to place.

calorie ('kælərɪ) *nc* 1 a measure of heat = 4.187 joules. 2 the amount of any food that produces 1000 calories as energy.

calorific (ˌkælə'rɪfɪk) *adj* to do with heat.

calorimeter (ˌkælə'rɪmɪtə*) *nc* an instrument for measuring heat.

calve (kɑːv) *vti* give birth to (a calf).

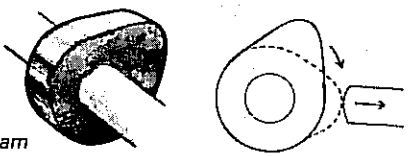
calves (kɑːvz) plural of **calf.**

calypso (kə'lɪpsəʊ) *nc, pl* **-sos** a popular West Indian song.

calyptra (kə'lɪptrə) *nc botany* a thin skin that covers the spore case of mosses, etc.

calyx ('keɪlɪks) *nc, pl* **-lyxes, -lyces** (lɪˌsiːz) *botany* the green part on the outside of a flower bud, or under the petals of an open flower.

cam (kæm) *nc* a wheel that has a bump that moves something else every time it goes round: see picture.



cam

camber ('kæmbə*) *nu* the curve on a road surface.

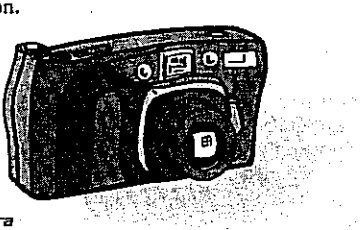
cambium ('kæmbɪəm) *nc, pl* **-biums, -bia** (bɪə) *botany* a layer of tissue in certain plants that produces more xylem and phloem to increase the size of the roots and stems.

came (keɪm) past tense of **come.**

camel ('kæməl) *nc* a large animal with either one or two humps on its back: see picture at **animals.**

cameo ('kæmɪəʊ) *nc* a piece of jewellery with someone's head pictured on it.

camera ('kæmərə) *nc* a device for taking photographs: see picture; a similar device for producing a film for the cinema or television.



camera

camouflage ('kæməˌflɑːʒ) *nu* 1 a disguise, esp. for guns, factories, etc. 2 the ability of

some animals to look like their surroundings. • *vt* disguise (something) in order to hide it.

camp (kæmp) *nc* a temporary home of tents or huts: *a training camp.* • *vi* 1 set up a camp. 2 live in a tent, esp. on holiday. **camper** *nc* **camping** *nu* **campsite** *nc* a place where people **camp** (def. 2).

campaign (ˌkæmˈpeɪn) *nc* 1 a number of connected army actions: *the North African campaign.* 2 a number of connected activities: *an advertising campaign.* • *vi* take part in a campaign. **campaigner** *nc*

camphor (ˈkæmfə*) *nu* a substance obtained from the camphor tree and used to make celluloid and relieve colds.

campus (ˈkæmpəs) *nc* the grounds and buildings of a university.

can[1] (kæn) *nc* a metal container, esp. for liquids: *a can of oil.* • *vt* put (food) into a sealed can to keep it good.

can[2] (kæn unstressed kən) *v* (used before a verb) 1 be able to: *I can run fast.* 2 be permitted to: *Can I go home, please?* 3 (used to show possibility): *Can this be real?*

canal (kəˈnæl) *nc* a waterway dug across land to allow transport by boat or for irrigation.

canary (kəˈneərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a small yellow bird with an attractive song.

cancel (ˈkænsəl) *vt* 1 stop (something) happening: *The game was cancelled because of the weather.* 2 say that (an order) is no longer valid. 3 mark (a postage stamp or ticket) to show that it has been used. **cancellation** (ˌkænsəˈleɪʃən) *ncu* **cancel out** make up for (each other): *What we owe each other exactly cancels out.*

cancer (ˈkænsə*) *nu* a growth in the body that can spread from one part to another and cause death. **cancerous** *adj*

candid (ˈkændɪd) *adj* honest; blunt. **candidly** *adv*

candidate (ˈkændɪdət) *nc* 1 a person who wants to be chosen in an election, etc. 2 a person taking an examination.

candle (ˈkændəl) *nc* a stick of wax round string, burned to give light. **candlelight** (ˈkændəlˌlaɪt) *nu* light from a candle. **candlestick** (ˈkændəlˌstɪk) *nc* a holder for one or more candles.

candour *US* **candor** (ˈkændə*) *nu* honesty; openness.

candy (ˈkændɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** *chiefly US* a sweet such as a chocolate or toffee. • *vt* preserve by boiling in sugar: *candied peel.*

cane (keɪn) 1 *ncu* (a piece of) stick from a bamboo or sugar plant. 2 *nc* a stick for beating someone as a punishment. • *vt* beat with a cane.

canine (ˈkeɪnaɪn) *adj* 1 to do with dogs. • *nc, adj* 2 (to do with) the pointed third tooth from the middle on each side of the mouth.

canister (ˈkænɪstə*) *nc* a container, esp. of metal, for food or equipment.

canker (ˈkæŋkə*) *nc* 1 a bad sore, esp. on the lips or mouth. 2 a disease of some animals and plants. 3 an evil that spreads. **cankerous** *adj*

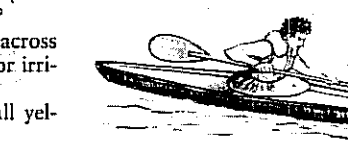
cannabis (ˈkænəbɪs) *n* See **hemp** (def. 2).

cannibal (ˈkænɪbəl) *nc* a person or animal that eats creatures of its own kind. **cannibalism** *nu*

cannon (ˈkænən) *nc, pl* **-nons, -non** 1 a large old gun that fired stone or metal balls. 2 an automatic gun that fires shells from a plane.

cannot (ˈkænɒt) (often shortened in speech to **can't**) *v* can not. See **can**[2].

canoe (kəˈnuː) *nc* a small narrow pointed boat moved through the water with paddles: see picture. **canoeing** (kəˈnuːɪŋ) *nu*



canoe

canon[1] (ˈkænən) *nc* 1 a law or rule. 2 a general principle. **canonise** (ˈkænənaɪz) *vt* name (someone) as a saint.

canon[2] *nc* a Christian priest who does work connected with a cathedral.

canopy (ˈkænəpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pies** a cover over something, for example a throne.

cant (kænt) *nu* talk spoken in order to deceive people.

can't (kɑːnt) *speech or written speech v* cannot.

cantaloupe (ˈkæntəˌluːp) *nc* a type of melon with a thick ridged skin and orange pulp.

cantankerous (kænˈtæŋkərəs) *adj* given to argument and easily angered.

canteen (kænˈtiːn) *nc* 1 a restaurant for the workers in a factory, etc. 2 a water container carried on journeys. 3 a box for a set of knives, forks, and spoons.

canter (ˈkæntə*) *nu* the second fastest step of a horse, between a trot and a gallop. • *vi* 1 (of a horse) move with this step. 2 *vt* cause (a horse) to move with this step.

cantilever (ˈkæntɪˌliːvə*) *nc* an object, such as a bridge or wing, that needs supporting at only one end.

canton (ˈkæntɒn) *nc* a political district of Switzerland.

canvas ('kænvəs) 1 *nu* a strong cloth used for tents, sails, bags, painting on, etc. 2 *nc* a piece of canvas used for a painting.

canvass ('kænvəs) *vti* attempt to persuade (someone), esp. to vote a certain way.

canyon ('kænjən) *nc* a high-sided river valley, esp. in North America.

cap (kæp) *nc* 1 a hat that fits closely, esp. with a peak at the front: *a baseball cap.* 2 a small, tight cover for something: *a bottle cap.* • *vt* put a cap on; cover: *snow-capped mountains.*

capable ('keɪpəbəl) *adj* 1 skilful; able. 2 (followed by **of**) able (to do something): *I am quite capable of driving.* **capability** (ˌkeɪpə'bɪlɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties.**

capacitor (kə'pæsɪtə*) *nc* a device that stores electric charge.

capacity (kə'pæsɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 the quantity something can contain: *The capacity of this tank is 200 litres.* 2 (followed by **for**) an ability (to do something): *a great capacity for hard work.*

cape[1] (keɪp) *nc* an outer garment without sleeves.

cape[2] *nc* a point of land sticking out to sea: *Cape Horn.*

caper ('keɪpə*) *nc* 1 a jump; leap. 2 a playful action; prank. • *vi* leap about playfully.

capillary (kə'pɪlərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a very narrow tube, esp. a blood vessel.

capital ('kæpɪtəl) *nc* 1 the town from which a country is governed. 2 also **capital letter** a letter such as A, B, or C, as compared with a, b, and c. 3 *nu* money, esp. when being invested. • *adj* (punishable) with death: *a capital offence; capital punishment.*

capitalise ('kæpɪtəlaɪz) *vi* (followed by **on**) take advantage of; make the most of: *He capitalised on their lack of experience.*

capitalism ('kæpɪtəlɪzəm) *nu economics* a system in which people can own factories, etc., privately, compete with each other for business, and make profits for themselves. **capitalist** *adj* to do with capitalism. • *nc* a person who believes in capitalism or works in a capitalist society.

capitulate (kə'pɪtjuˌleɪt) *vi* give in; surrender. **capitulation** (kəˌpɪtjʊ'leɪʃən) *nu*

capitulum (kə'pɪtjʊləm) *nc, pl* **-la** (lə) *botany* a kind of flower consisting of a circle of smaller flowers with the youngest in the centre.

capricious (kə'prɪʃəs) *adj* given to do unexpected things; fickle; unpredictable.

capsize (kæp'saɪz) 1 *vi* (of a boat) turn over in the water. 2 *vt* turn (a boat) over.

capsule ('kæpsjuɪl) *nc* 1 a small container for medicine that you swallow whole, like a pill. 2 the part of most spacecraft in which the astronauts sit and which comes back to earth. 3 the seed-case of some plants.

captain ('kæptɪn) *nc* 1 a person in charge of a ship or plane. 2 an officer in a navy or an army. 3 a person in charge of a sports team. • *vt* be captain of.

caption ('kæpʃən) *nc* a piece of writing connected with or describing a picture, as in a newspaper.

captivate ('kæptɪˌveɪt) *vt* cause to pay much attention: *We were captivated by the wonderful colours of the tropical sunset.*

captive ('kæptɪv) *adj* caught; not free. • *nc* a person or animal that has been caught; prisoner. **captivity** (ˌkæp'tɪvɪtɪ) *nu*

captor ('kæptə*) *nc* a person who captures someone or something.

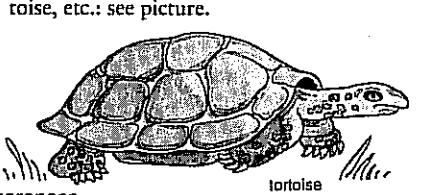
capture ('kæptʃə*) *vt* catch; take prisoner. • *ncu* 1 (an example of) capturing someone or something. 2 *nc* a captured person or thing.

car (kɑː) *nc* 1 also **motor car,** *US* **automobile** a road vehicle for carrying up to five people. 2 a carriage on a railway train: *a sleeping-car.* 3 the cabin of an airship or cable-car. **car park** land or a building where cars may be left.

carafe (kə'ræf) *nc* a glass container without a handle or lid, used to serve water or wine, esp. during a meal.

caramel ('kærəməl) 1 *nu* burnt sugar, used in cooking. 2 *nc* a soft sweet made of milk, butter, and sugar.

carapace ('kærəˌpeɪs) *nc* the hard shell that covers part of the body of a crab, tortoise, etc.: see picture.



carapace

carat ('kærət) *nc* 1 a measure of the weight of a diamond = 0.2 g. 2 a measure of the relative quantity of gold in a mixture with other metals.

caravan ('kærəˌvæn) *nc* 1 a road vehicle for living in that can be pulled by a car. 2 a group of people travelling through a desert.

carbohydrate (ˌkɑɪbəʊ'haɪdreɪt) *nc* a substance such as sugar or starch that gives energy when eaten.

carbon ('kɑːbən) 1 *nu* a chemical element found esp. in carbon dioxide, coal, and oil, and as diamond: symbol C. 2 *nc infml* short for **carbon copy** or **carbon paper. carbonate** ('kɑːbənət) *nc* a compound of carbon and oxygen and a metal: *calcium carbonate.* **carbon copy** 1 a copy made with carbon paper. 2 a person or thing exactly the same as another one. **carbon dioxide** a gas that is formed when coal, wood, etc., is burned and when people and animals breathe. **carbon monoxide** a poisonous gas that is formed, for example, in the engine of a car. **carbon paper** paper covered with carbon, used for making a copy while writing.

carbonise ('kɑːbəˌnaɪz) 1 *vti* change into carbon, esp. through heating. 2 *vt* cover (something) with a layer of carbon.

carbuncle ('kɑːbʌŋkəl) *nc* a swollen sore like a boil in the skin.

carburettor *US* **carburetor** (ˌkɑːbə'retə*) *nc* the device in an engine that mixes the petrol with air.

carcass (also **carcase**) ('kɑːkəs) *nc* the dead body of an animal.

carcinogen (kɑɪ'sɪnədʒən) *nc* a substance that can cause cancer.

carcinoma (ˌkɑɪsɪ'nəʊmə) *nc, pl* **-mas, -mata** (mətə) *medicine* a cancerous tumour.

card (kɑːd) 1 *ncu* (a piece of) stiff paper, used for various purposes: *birthday card; identity card; playing-card.* 2 *nc* a small piece of stiff plastic often containing information that can be read by a machine: *credit card.* **on the cards** likely to happen. **put your cards on the table** say what your intentions are.

cardboard ('kɑːdˌbɔɪd) *nu* thick, stiff paper, stiffer than card: *a cardboard box.*

cardiac ('kɑːdɪæk) *adj medicine* to do with the heart: *cardiac muscle.* **cardiac arrest** a heart attack.

cardigan ('kɑːdɪgən) *nc* a knitted jacket, esp. made of wool.

cardinal ('kɑːdɪnəl) *adj* central: *of cardinal importance.* • *nc* 1 one of the chief members of the Roman Catholic Church, after the Pope. 2 also **cardinal number** a number such as 1, 2, or 3, as compared with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

cardio-vascular (ˌkɑːdɪəʊ'væskjʊlə) *adj medicine* of or to do with the heart and the blood-vessels.

care (keə) 1 *vti* be troubled (about); worry (about): *I don't care whether I win.* 2 *vt* (followed by an infinitive) like: *I wouldn't care to guess.* **care about** worry about; have regard for: *Don't you care about your appearance?* **care for** 1 look after: *The female bird cares for the young.* 2 like: *I don't care for rude people.* • *nu* 1 attention; concern. 2 *ncu* (a) worry; thing to worry about: *I haven't got a care in the world.* **take care** be careful; beware: *Take care not to fall.* **take care of** 1 look after; preserve: *I take care of my car.* 2 deal with; see to: *The police will take care of the thieves.*

career (kə'rɪə*) *nc* 1 the jobs you have during life. 2 a period spent in one job: *His army career was over.* • *vi* move fast and out of control: *The car careered into several others.*

carefree ('keəˌfrɪː) *adj* (of a person) untroubled; with nothing to worry about.

careful ('keəfəl) *adj* 1 done with care: *a careful piece of work.* 2 taking care; cautious: *a careful driver; Be careful!* **carefully** ('keəfəlɪ) *adv*

careless ('keəlɪs) *adj* 1 done without care: *a careless mistake.* 2 not taking care: *a careless driver.* **carelessly** *adv* **carelessness** *nu*

caress (kə'res) *vt* stroke lovingly: *He caressed his wife's hair.* • *nc* an example of caressing.

caretaker ('keəˌteɪkə*) *nc* a person whose job is to look after a building.

cargo ('kɑːgəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** a load carried by a plane or ship.

caricature ('kærɪkəˌtʃʊə*) *nc* a funny drawing, piece of acting, etc., that picks out someone's peculiarities.

caries ('keəriːz) *nu medicine* rotting of the teeth.

carnage ('kɑːnɪdʒ) *nu* many bloody deaths, esp. in a battle.

carnal ('kɑːnəl) *adj* to do with natural desires of the body, esp. sexual desires: *carnal instincts.*

carnation (kɑː'neɪʃən) *nc* a red, pink, or white flower with a long stem. • *adj* (reddish-)pink.

carnival ('kɑːnɪvəl) *nc* a celebration, with parties, processions, etc.; festival.

carnivorous (kɑː'nɪvərəs) *adj* (to do with) feeding on meat. **carnivore** ('kɑːnɪˌvɔː*) *nc* a carnivorous animal.

carol ('kærəl) *nc* a happy song, esp. a Christmas hymn.

carotid (kə'rɒtɪd) *nc, adj* (of or to do with) either of the two large blood-vessels that supply blood to the head and neck: *the carotid arteries.*

carp[1] (kɑːp) *nc* a freshwater fish about 35 cm long that lives in rivers, lakes, and ponds: see picture at **fish.**

carp[2] *vi* complain or criticise in an annoying way.

carpal ('kɑːpəl) *nc anatomy* any of the bones of the wrist.

carpel ('kɑːpəl) *nc botany* the female reproductive organ of a flower, consisting of an ovary, style, and stigma.

carpenter ('kɑːpɪntə*) *nc* a person who makes things, such as furniture, from wood. **carpentry** ('kɑːpɪntrɪ) *nu* making things from wood or things made from wood; woodwork.

carpet ('kɑːpɪt) *nc* 1 a thick woven floor cover. 2 something like a carpet: *a carpet of snow.* • *vt* cover (something) with a carpet or something like a carpet.

carriage ('kærɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a road vehicle pulled by horses, esp. in former times. 2 *Brit* a railway vehicle for passengers. *nu* 3 carrying; transport. 4 the position of a person's body, esp. when walking.

carrier ('kærɪə*) *nc* 1 a person or thing that carries. 2 *medicine* a person or animal that can catch a disease and pass it on to others without suffering from it. 3 a business that transports people or goods. **carrier bag** a plastic or paper bag with handles, used for carrying shopping, etc.

carrion ('kærɪən) *nu* rotting meat.

carrot ('kærət) *nc* a pointed orange vegetable that grows under the ground: see picture at **vegetables.**

carry ('kærɪ) *vt* 1 move from one place to another: *He carried his books home; The pipes carry oil across the country.* 2 have with you: *I don't carry much money.* 3 have as a result: *Does murder carry the death penalty?* 4 (of a newspaper, etc.) contain: *Most newspapers carry advertisements.* 5 influence in one's favour: *He carried his audience with him.* 6 (of a committee) approve (a proposal); pass. 7 win (an election). 8 *vi* travel: *His voice carries well.* **carried away** very excited. **carry off** 1 take away, esp. by force: *They attacked our town and carried off our women.* 2 win (a prize). 3 manage to do (something) well. **carry on** 1 continue. 2 manage or run (a business). **carry-on** ('kærɪˌɒn) *nu infml, Brit* unnecessary activity; fuss. **carry out** do; perform: *The operation was carried out badly.*

cart (kɑːt) *nc* 1 a vehicle pulled by horses, used to carry goods. 2 any other light vehicle without an engine: *a hand-cart.* • *vt* carry (something heavy), esp. with difficulty.

cartilage ('kɑːtɪlɪdʒ) *ncu* (a piece of) soft material between bones in a joint.

carton ('kɑːtən) *nc* a cardboard box for goods.

cartoon (kɑː'tuːn) *nc* 1 a funny drawing. 2 a cinema film made from drawings. **cartoonist** *nc* a person who draws cartoons.

cartridge ('kɑːtrɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a case containing explosive and a bullet, for use in a small gun. 2 a tube containing ink, for use in a fountain pen. 3 a holder for film that fits into a camera. 4 a holder for recording tape that fits into a tape-recorder. 5 the part of a record-player that picks up sound from a record.

carve (kɑːv) *vt* 1 make (something, esp. a shape or pattern) out of (wood, stone, etc.) by cutting. 2 cut (meat) for eating. **carver** *nc* **carving** *nc* an object or pattern carved out of wood, stone, etc.

cascade (kæs'keɪd) *nc* a large quantity of water falling or flowing over rocks. • *vi* fall or flow in large quantities.

case[1] (keɪs) *nc* 1 an example of something. 2 a situation; state of affairs: *If that is the case, I'll go.* 3 an example of or a person with a disease: *a bad case of smallpox.* 4 an example of a crime to be solved: *Sherlock Holmes' most famous case.* 5 *law* a court action: *a murder case.* 6 a set of reasons for a court action: *He hasn't a good case.* 7 *grammar* a class of nouns in some languages: *the possessive case.* **in any case** whatever may happen; anyway: *Is it raining?—I'll go in any case.* **in case** so as to be safe (if): *He took his umbrella in case (it rained).* **in case of** *fml* in the event of; should... happen: *In case of fire, shout 'Fire!'*

case[2] *nc* 1 a container or covering. 2 short for **briefcase** or **suitcase.**

cash (kæʃ) *nu* coins and banknotes. • *vt* obtain cash for (a cheque, etc.). **cash crop** a crop that is grown to sell, rather than to feed the farmer's family. **cash in on** *infml* take advantage of.

cashier (kæ'ʃɪə*) *nc* a person who collects or gives out cash in a shop, bank, etc.

casing ('keɪsɪŋ) *nc* a cover round something, such as an engine.

casino (kə'siːnəʊ) *nc* a building in which gambling games such as roulette are played.

cask (kɑːsk) *nc* a barrel, esp. used for wine.

casket ('kɑːskɪt) *nc* 1 a small box for money or jewels. 2 *US* See **coffin.**

cassava (kə'sɑːvə) *nu* also **manioc** a root vegetable used to make flour and several foods: see picture at **vegetables.**

casserole ('kæsəˌrəʊl) *nc* 1 a cooking pot with a lid. 2 a meal, etc. made in such a pot: *beef casserole.*

cassette (kə'set) *nc* 1 a holder for recording-tape that fits into a tape-recorder. 2 a holder for videotape that fits into a video

recorder. 3 a holder for film that fits into a camera. **cassette recorder** a tape-recorder that records on and plays cassettes.

cassock ('kæsək) *nc* a full-length garment like a coat worn by Christian priests.

cast (kɑːst) *vt* 1 throw. 2 cause: *The tree casts a long shadow; She cast a spell on the frog.* 3 express: *He cast doubts on my honesty.* 4 put into a particular form. 5 choose (actors) for (a play or film): *He was cast as Macbeth.* 6 make (metal, wax, etc.) go hard in the shape of (an object): *cast iron; a statue cast in bronze.* • *nc* 1 a throw. 2 the actors chosen for a play or film. 3 an object cast in metal, wax, etc. 4 a casing, esp. of plaster, for a broken arm, etc. **cast iron** a kind of iron that contains a lot of carbon. **cast-iron** *adj* 1 made of cast iron. 2 very strong.

castanet (ˌkæstə'net) *nc* a Spanish musical instrument made of two small shell-shaped pieces of wood that are hit together: see picture at **musical instruments.**

castaway ('kɑːstəˌweɪ) *nc* a person who reaches land from a ship that has been wrecked.

caste (kɑːst) *nc* a class of people in Hindu society in India.

caster (also **castor**) ('kɑːstə*) *nc* a small wheel fixed to furniture for moving it around. **caster sugar** sugar that is finer than granulated sugar.

castle ('kɑːsəl) *nc* 1 a building that protected the people in it from an attacking army: see picture. 2 also **rook** a chess piece that moves in straight lines.

castle

castor ('kɑːstə*) *n* See **caster. castor oil** oil, made from the castor oil plant, used as a medicine.

castrate (kæs'treɪt) *vt* remove the testicles of. **castration** (kæs'treɪʃən) *nu*

casual ('kæʒjʊəl) *adj* 1 accidental; chance: *a casual encounter.* 2 not regular or not permanent: *casual work.* 3 informal: *casual clothes.* 4 slight; faint: *He's only a casual acquaintance.* 5 not taking care or paying attention. **casually** *adv*

casualty ('kæʒjʊəltɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a person who is hurt or killed in an accident or war.

cat (kæt) *nc* 1 a furry animal often kept as a pet: see picture at **animals.** 2 any animal of the family including the lion, tiger, and lynx.

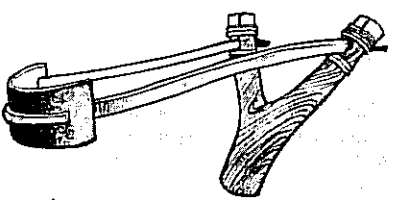
cataclysm ('kætəˌklɪzəm) *nc* a sudden, violent change, esp. a flood or earthquake.

catalogue *US* **catalog** ('kætəˌlɒg) *nc* a list of books, paintings, or other objects. • *vt* make such a list of (something).

catalyst ('kætəˌlɪst) *nc* 1 *chemistry* a substance that speeds up a reaction without being used up itself. 2 a person or thing that encourages something to happen.

catamaran (ˌkætəmə'ræn) *nc* a boat with two hulls side by side.

catapult ('kætəˌpʊlt) *nc* a device with a strip of elastic used to fire small stones, etc.: see picture. • *vti* (cause to) travel very fast.



catapult

cataract ('kætəˌrækt) *nc* 1 a steep, narrow stretch of a river; rapids. 2 a condition of the eye, in which the lens becomes difficult to see through.

catarrh (kə'tɑː*) *nu* inflammation, esp. of the nose and throat.

catastrophe (kə'tæstrəfɪ) *nc* a disaster; terrible event. **catastrophic** (ˌkætə'strɒfɪk) *adj*

catch (kætʃ) *vt* 1 take hold of (esp. something moving): *to catch a ball.* 2 capture, after pursuing: *The police caught the thief.* 3 discover (someone doing something wrong). 4 be in time to join: *to catch a train.* 5 start to suffer from (a disease). 6 hear and understand: *I didn't catch what he said.* 7 hit: *The ball caught me on the leg.* 8 receive: *I caught a glimpse of him.* 9 cause to become hooked: *I've caught my sleeve on a nail.* • *nc* 1 an example of taking hold of something. 2 a person or thing that is caught. 3 a quantity of caught fish. 4 a device for fastening something: *a door catch.* 5 a hidden disadvantage or problem: *This looks too easy—there must be a catch.* **catcher** *nc* **catchment area** 1 an area of land from which water drains into a river, lake, etc. 2 the area around a school, hospital, etc., where most of the pupils and patients come from. **catch on**

1 become popular. 2 understand. **catch out** show that (someone) has made a mistake. **catch up with** reach (someone you are following) by going faster than them.

catechism ('kætə,kɪzəm) *nc* a number of questions and answers that teach, esp. about the Christian religion.

category ('kætɪgərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a class: *What category is this in?* **categorise** ('kætɪgəraɪz) *vt* put in a category.

cater ('keɪtə*) *vi* 1 do what is needed (for); allow: *We cater for everyone's wishes.* 2 provide food (for): *to cater for a dance.* **caterer** *nc* **catering** *nu*

caterpillar ('kætə,pɪlə*) *nc* the young form of a butterfly or moth, with many legs and no wings. **caterpillar track** See **track** (def. 5).

cathedral (kə'θi:drəl) *nc* the chief Christian church building in a diocese.

catheter ('kæθɪtə*) *nc medicine* a long thin tube that is used to pass liquid into or draw liquid out of a part of the body.

cathode ('kæθəʊd) *nc physics* the part by which electrons leave a battery or enter electrical devices; a negative electrode. **cathode-ray tube** the glass tube that produces the picture in television, radar, etc.

catholic ('kæθəlɪk) *adj* relating to many varied people or things; general; wide: *a catholic taste in music.* **Catholic** *adj, n* See **Roman Catholic.**

cation ('kæt,aɪən) *nc* a positively charged ion.

cattle ('kætəl) *n pl* bulls and cows kept by farmers for meat and milk.

Caucasian (kɔ:'keɪʒən) *nc, adj* also **Caucasoid** ('kɔ:kə,zɔɪd) (of or to do with) a white person; (someone) belonging to a race with light-coloured skin.

caudal ('kɔ:dəl) *adj* 1 *anatomy* of or to do with the rear part of the body. 2 *zoology* of or to do with the tail.

caught (kɔ:t) past tense and past participle of **catch.**

cauldron ('kɔ:ldrən) *nc* a large pot for cooking in, esp. over a fire.

cauliflower ('kɒlɪ,flaʊə*) *nc* a type of cabbage; (sometimes *nu*) the large, white, round flower head of this vegetable eaten as food: see picture at **vegetables.**

cause (kɔ:z) *nc* 1 something that makes something else be or happen: *The cause of the fire is not yet known.* 2 reason: *There's no cause for complaint.* 3 something wanted; interests; a claim: *Our cause is just; in the cause of peace.* • *vt* make (something) be or happen.

causeway ('kɔ:zweɪ) *nc* a raised road, etc., across marsh or water.

caustic ('kɔ:stɪk) *adj chemistry* able to burn or corrode something: *caustic soda.*

cauterise ('kɔ:tə,raɪz) *vt medicine* burn (a wound, tissue, etc.) to stop bleeding, destroy infection, etc.

caution ('kɔ:ʃən) 1 *nu* care in thinking ahead; prudence: *Caution—men at work!* 2 *nc* a warning; being told to be careful. • *vt* warn; try to persuade: *He was cautioned against breaking the law again.* **cautionary** *adj* that warns: *a cautionary tale.* **cautious** ('kɔ:ʃəs) *adj* careful; prudent. **cautiously** *adv*

cavalcade (,kævəl'keɪd) *nc* a procession of people on horses or in cars.

cavalier (,kævə'lɪə*) *nc* a soldier who rides a horse. • *adj* without regard for others.

cavalry ('kævəlrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a group of soldiers who ride on horses or travel in vehicles.

cave (keɪv) *nc* a natural space under the ground. **cave in** collapse: *The roof caved in.*

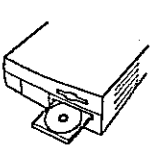
cavern ('kævən) *nc* a cave, esp. a large one. **cavernous** *adj*

caviar ('kævɪɑ:*) *nu* the eggs of a sturgeon (a fish), used as food.

cavity ('kævɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a space inside something; hollow: *a cavity wall.* 2 a rotten part of a tooth.

cayenne (keɪ'en) *nu* also **cayenne pepper** a powder made from dried hot peppers.

CD-ROM ('si:,di:'rɒm) *nc* compact disc read-only memory; a disc used in computing that contains a lot of information, often with sound and moving pictures, but cannot be used to store new information: see picture. See also **compact disc** under **compact.**



CD-ROM

cease (si:s) *vti fml* stop. **ceasefire** *nc* an agreement between people fighting a war or battle that they will stop fighting for a time. **ceaseless** ('si:slɪs) *adj*

cedar ('si:də*) *nc* an evergreen tree with cones and flat, spreading branches.

cede (si:d) *nc fml* 1 give up (esp. land). 2 give in on; admit.

ceiling ('si:lɪŋ) *nc* 1 the inside surface on top of a room. 2 the most that is allowed or possible: *a wage ceiling.*

celebrate ('selɪˌbreɪt) *vti* 1 enjoy or hold a special event to mark (an occasion such as a birthday). 2 perform a religious ceremony. **celebrated** *adj* famous; praised. **celebration** (ˌselɪ'breɪʃən) *ncu*

celebrity (sɪ'lebrɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a popular, famous person.

celery ('selərɪ) *nu* a plant whose thick bunch of stalks are eaten: see picture at **vegetables.**

celestial (sɪ'lestɪəl) *adj* 1 to do with the sky or with space: *celestial bodies.* 2 to do with heaven; divine: *celestial thoughts.*

celibate ('selɪbət) *adj, nc* (someone who is) unmarried, esp. because of a religious promise not to marry. **celibacy** ('selɪbəsɪ) *nu*

cell (sel) *nc* 1 a small space, esp. one of those into which something is divided. 2 the smallest living part of anything living. 3 a room for a prisoner in a prison or police station. 4 a device for making electricity by chemical action; battery. 5 a group of people in a secret organisation.

cellar ('selə*) *nc* 1 a room below ground-level in a building. 2 a wine store.

cello ('tʃeləʊ) *nc, pl* **-los** a stringed musical instrument played between the knees with a bow: see picture at **musical instruments.**

cellophane ('seləˌfeɪn) *nu* a thin, clear material used esp. for wrapping food.

cellular ('seljʊlə*) *adj* to do with or made from cells (**cell** defs. 1, 2).

Celluloid ('seljʊˌlɔɪd) *nu Trademark* a clear plastic material used esp. for camera film.

cellulose ('seljʊˌləʊz) *nu* a material found in the cell walls of living plants and used for making such things as paper.

Celsius ('selsɪəs) *adj* (used to describe degrees of temperature on a scale on which water freezes at 0 degrees and boils at 100 degrees: abbrev. C): *40°C.*

cement (sɪ'ment) *nu* 1 a grey powder made of limestone and clay that is mixed with sand and water and used in building. 2 a substance used for sticking something particular: *polystyrene cement.* • *vt* 1 fix (something) in place with cement. 2 make firm or stronger: *Our journey together cemented our friendship.*

cemetery ('semɪtrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a piece of land where dead people are buried.

censer ('sensə*) *nc* a container in which incense is burned.

censor ('sensə*) *nc* a person who can forbid something such as the sending of a letter or showing of a film. • *vt* remove a part of or forbid (a letter, film, etc.) in this way. **censorship** ('sensəˌʃɪp) *nu* the act of censoring or the power to censor.

censure ('senʃə*) *vt* say that you disapprove strongly of; condemn. • *nu* the act of censuring; condemnation.

census ('sensəs) *nc* the counting of something, esp. the people in a country.

cent (sent) *nc* See appendix. **per cent** out of every hundred: *five per cent of 200 is ten.* Symbol (with figures): %.

centaur ('sentɔː*) *nc* a mythological creature supposed to have had the head, arms, and chest of a man and the body and legs of a horse.

centenary (sen'tiːnərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** the point in time a hundred years after the event.

center ('sentə*) *US n, v* See **centre.**

centigrade ('sentɪˌgreɪd) *adj* See **Celsius.**

centilitre *US* **centiliter** ('sentɪˌliːtə*) *nc* a measure of capacity: see appendix.

centimetre *US* **centimeter** ('sentɪˌmiːtə*) *nc* a measure of length: see appendix.

centipede ('sentɪˌpiːd) *nc* a small, long, thin animal with many legs.

central ('sentrəl) *adj* 1 at or to do with a centre. 2 chief; important. **central heating** a heating system in a building in which heat is produced in one place and carried into the rooms. **centrally** *adv*

centralise ('sentrəˌlaɪz) *vt* 1 move (something) to a centre. 2 put (something, esp. government) in one place. **centralisation** (ˌsentrəlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu*

centre *US* **center** ('sentə*) *nc* 1 a middle, esp. the point in the middle of a circle. 2 a place for a particular activity or purpose or where something is sold: *shopping centre; leisure centre.* 3 a group of politicians who are not far to the left or right. • *vt* move (something) to a centre. **centre on, around,** or **round** have as a centre or central idea: *His talk centred on music.*

centrifugal (ˌsentrɪ'fjuːgəl) *adj* moving or to do with movement away from a centre: *centrifugal force.*

centripetal (ˌsentrɪ'piːtəl) *adj* moving or to do with movement towards a centre: *centripetal force.*

centrum ('sentrəm) *nc, pl* **-trums, -tra** (trə) the main part of any of the bones of the spine.

century ('sentʃʊrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a period of one hundred years. 2 a score of one hundred, esp. in cricket.

cephalopod ('sefələˌpɒd) *nc* a sea-animal that has a large head and long tentacles with suckers, such as the octopus, squid, or cuttlefish.

cephalothorax (ˌsefələ'θɔːræks) *nc* the front part of the body of a crab, lobster,

etc., which consists of the head and thorax joined together.

ceramic (sɪ'ræmɪk) 1 *nu* a hard material made by heating clay or another mineral strongly. 2 *nc* an object made of ceramic. • *adj* to do with ceramics. **ceramics** *nu* (*with singular verb*) the art or practice of making ceramics.

cercus ('sɜːkəs) *nc, pl* **-ci** (siː) either of two parts used for feeling, etc., at the end of the abdomen of some insects and other animals.

cereal ('sɪərɪəl) *nc* 1 a grass plant that produces edible seeds, such as wheat, rice, or maize. 2 a food made from one of these types of seed.

cerebral ('serɪbrəl) *adj* to do with the cerebrum or the whole brain.

cerebrum ('serɪbrəm) *nc, pl* **-brums, -bra** the part of the brain controlling thinking.

ceremonial (ˌserɪ'məʊnɪəl) *adj* to do with a ceremony: *A king has many ceremonial duties.* • *nu* ceremonial events.

ceremonious (ˌserɪ'məʊnɪəs) *adj* done with ceremony.

ceremony ('serɪmənɪ) 1 *nc* a grand or formal event, such as opening a building or getting married. 2 *nu* grandeur or formality: *with due ceremony.* **stand on ceremony** continue to behave formally.

certain ('sɜːtən) *adj* sure: *He's certain to come; Are you certain she's here?* • *determiner* 1 some particular: *I do not understand certain things.* 2 a particular: *a certain Dr Jones.* • *pron* some (particular ones): *Certain of these are good.*

certainly ('sɜːtənlɪ) *adv* 1 in a sure manner: *He faced the danger certainly.* 2 definitely; to be sure: *Does it hurt?—It certainly does!*

certainty ('sɜːtəntɪ) 1 *nu* the quality of being certain. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that is certain to happen or be true.

certificate (sə'tɪfɪkɪt) *nc* a piece of paper reporting a fact: *a birth certificate.*

certify ('sɜːtɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 report (something) to be true or that (something) is true: *I certify that John Smith is ill.* 2 report that (someone) is insane.

cervical ('sɜːvɪkəl, sə'vaɪkəl) *adj* 1 of or to do with the **cervix** (def. 1): *the cervical vertebrae.* 2 of or to do with the **cervix** (def. 2): *cervical cancer.*

cervix ('sɜːvɪks) *nc, pl* **cervixes, cervices** (sə'vaɪsiːz) 1 the neck. 2 the part at the entrance to the uterus.

cessation (se'seɪʃən) *nu fml* stop; stopping: *at the cessation of the war.*

cession ('seʃən) *fml* 1 *nu* the act of ceding. 2 *nc* something ceded.

cesspit ('sespɪt) *nc* a tank for storing liquid waste, esp. sewage.

CFC (ˌsiːef'siː) *nc* (usually *pl*) chlorofluorocarbon; a kind of gas used in aerosols, refrigerators, etc., esp. formerly, that may cause damage to the ozone layer.

chafe (tʃeɪf) 1 *vti* rub on (something) and (cause to) become sore. 2 *vi* become angry (at). • *nc* a sore caused by chafing.

chaff (tʃɑːf) *nu* the husks on grains of corn when separated by beating.

chagrin ('ʃægrɪn) *nu* annoyance; displeasure.

chain (tʃeɪn) *nc* 1 a line of rings, esp. of metal, one passing through the next. 2 a series: *a chain of events.* • *vt* join together or fasten with a chain. **chain reaction** the causing of one event by another. **chain smoker** a person who smokes one cigarette immediately after another. **chain store** one of several shops with the same owner or manager.

chair (tʃeə*) *nc* 1 a seat with a back for one person. 2 the position of a professor at a university: *the chair of English.* 3 (the position of) the person in charge of a meeting: *Mr Jones took the chair.* • *vt* be in charge of (a meeting).

chairman ('tʃeəmən) *nc, pl* **-men, chairwoman** *nc, pl* **chairwomen** the person in charge of a meeting.

chalet ('ʃæleɪ) *nc* 1 a Swiss style of house with a broad, shallow, sloping roof. 2 a small wooden house or hut.

chalice ('tʃælɪs) *nc* a large cup, esp. of silver and used at a Christian Communion.

chalk (tʃɔːk) 1 *nu* a white rock made chiefly of calcium carbonate. 2 *ncu* (a piece of) this used for writing or drawing, esp. on a blackboard. • *vti* write or draw (something) with chalk. **chalky** *adj*

challenge ('tʃælɪndʒ) *vt* 1 (followed by **to**) call on (someone) to take part in: *I challenge you to a fight.* 2 (followed by an infinitive) call on (someone) (to do something that you do not believe is possible). 3 not accept as true, just, etc.: *I challenge your right to question me.* • *nc* 1 an example of challenging. 2 something such as a job that makes you want to try hard at it. **challenger** *nc* **challenging** *adj*

chamber ('tʃeɪmbə*) *nc* 1 a room used by a parliament, council, or law court. 2 a space inside something such as the space for a shell in a gun. 3 (*pl*) the office of a judge or barrister. **chamberlain** ('tʃeɪmbəlɪn) *nc* a person who organises a royal palace. **chambermaid** ('tʃeɪmbəˌmeɪd) *nc* a woman who cleans bedrooms, esp. in a hotel. **chamber**

music classical music that is written for and played by a small group of musicians.

chameleon (kə'mɪːlɪən) *nc* a small lizard that can change its colour and pattern to disguise itself.

chamois 1 ('ʃæmwʌ) *nc, pl* **chamois** an animal like a goat. 2 ('ʃæmɪ) also **chamois leather** *ncu* (a piece of) soft leather from the skin of a goat or sheep.

champ (tʃæmp) *vti* chew (food) noisily.

champagne (ʃæm'peɪn) *nu* a sparkling white wine made in NE France.

champion ('tʃæmpɪən) *nc* 1 a person who wins a competition in a game or sport. 2 a person who helps or supports someone or something: *a champion of human rights.* • *vt* help; support. **championship** ('tʃæmpɪən,ʃɪp) 1 *nc* a competition. 2 *nu* the condition of being a champion.

chance (tʃɑːns) 1 *nu* the accidental nature of events: *It was only chance that brought me here. nc* 2 the degree to which something is probable; likelihood: *There's not much chance of it raining.* 3 an opportunity: *Go while you have the chance.* 4 a lucky event. **by (any) chance** perhaps; possibly: *Did I by any chance leave my bag here?* **by chance** unexpectedly; by accident. **take a chance** do something that is dangerous or a risk. • *adj* accidental: *a chance meeting.* • *vt* 1 dare to do something. 2 *vi* happen unexpectedly. **chance on** or **upon** find by accident: *I chanced on this old map.*

chancellor ('tʃɑːnsələ*) *nc* 1 the leader of some governments. 2 the head of a university.

chandelier (,ʃændə'lɪə*) *nc* a hanging holder for a number of candles or light bulbs.

change (tʃeɪndʒ) *vti* 1 (often followed by **into**) (cause to) become (something else): *They changed their garage into a workshop.* 2 (cause to) become different: *She's changed in the last ten years.* 3 (often followed by **into** or **out of**) put different clothes on: *If we're going out I must change (into something smart); You must change out of those old clothes.* 4 *vt* (often followed by **for**) give (something) and receive (something different): *I want to change pounds for dollars.* • *nc* 1 an example of changing. 2 something different: *You're early for a change.* 3 a (spare) set of clothes. *nu* 4 small coins. 5 money given back after payment for something with too large a coin or note. **changeable** ('tʃeɪndʒəbəl) *adj* likely to change: *changeable weather.* **change your mind** See **mind.**

channel ('tʃænəl) *nc* 1 a narrow part of the sea: *the English Channel.* 2 a part of an area of water, for use by ships. 3 a broad cut; groove. 4 a path or band for transmitting electrical, esp. radio and television, signals. 5 (*pl*) a way of taking some official action: *You must apply for this grant through the usual channels.* • *vt* 1 cause to move in a certain direction. 2 make a channel in.

chant (tʃɑːnt) *nc* 1 a simple tune. 2 something spoken by a number of people together. • *vti* 1 sing (a song) to a chant. 2 speak as a chant.

chaos ('keɪɒs) *nu* a disorganised state; confusion. **chaotic** (keɪ'ɒtɪk) *adj*

chap[1] (tʃæp) *nc infml, Brit* a boy or man.

chap[2] *vti* (of skin), (cause to) become sore owing to cold or water: *chapped lips.*

chapel ('tʃæpəl) *nc* 1 a small church, esp. in an army camp, hospital, etc. 2 a room like a small church within a larger one.

chaperon (also **chaperone**) ('ʃæpə,rəʊn) *nc* a female companion for an unmarried woman in the company of a man. • *vt* act as a chaperon for.

chaplain ('tʃæplɪn) *nc* a Christian priest serving people in a school, army, etc.

chapter ('tʃæptə*) *nc* 1 a numbered part of a book. 2 a large number; series: *a chapter of accidents.*

char[1] (tʃɑː*) *vti* (cause to) become black from heat, esp. fire.

char[2] *infml n* short for **charwoman.** • *vi* work as a charwoman.

character ('kærɪktə*) *nc* 1 nature; the way someone or something is or behaves. 2 *infml* a person, esp. in respect of their nature: *He's a nice character.* 3 *infml* an unusual or interesting person: *Old soldiers can be real characters.* 4 a person in a film, play, or book: *Which character do you play?* 5 a written letter or figure.

characterise ('kærɪktə,raɪz) *vt* 1 be characteristic or typical of. 2 describe the character of.

characteristic (,kærɪktə'rɪstɪk) *adj* in someone's or something's nature; typical: *It's characteristic of him not to say hello.* • *nc* something characteristic: *the characteristics of frogs.*

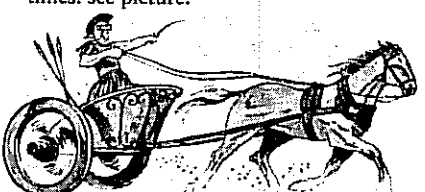
charade (ʃə'rɑːd) *nc* 1 (*pl*) a game in which a word is guessed from actions each representing a part of it. 2 an action that is not what it seems to be: *This competition is a charade—the winner has already been chosen.*

charcoal ('tʃɑː,kəʊl) *nu* a dark form of carbon made by heating wood, etc., used for example as a fuel or for drawing.

charge (tʃɑːdʒ) *vt* 1 ask (someone) for (an amount of money) for something: *How much do you charge for mending a puncture?; She charged me £50.* 2 *law* say that (someone) is guilty (of something); accuse: *He was charged with murder.* 3 fill (with a strong feeling): *charged with enthusiasm.* 4 (often followed by **up**) fill (a battery) with electricity. 5 *vi* (often followed by **up**) (of a battery) fill with electricity. 6 *vti* rush (at) or attack: *The soldiers charged the enemy.* • *nc* 1 an amount of money asked for something. 2 an accusation: *He's on a charge of murder.* 3 an amount of explosive. 4 a rush or attack. 5 *ncu* (an amount of) stored electricity. **in charge (of)** in a position of power (over); responsible (for): *Our teacher is in charge of games; Who's in charge here?*

charger ('tʃɑːdʒə*) *nc* also **battery charger** a device for charging a battery.

chariot ('tʃærɪət) *nc* a vehicle with two wheels pulled by a horse, esp. in ancient times: see picture.



chariot

charitable ('tʃærɪtəbəl) *adj* 1 kind. 2 to do with charity, esp. with an organisation that helps people.

charity ('tʃærɪtɪ) *nu* 1 kindness. 2 money or help given to people who need it. 3 *nc, pl* **-ties** an organisation that collects money to help people.

charlatan ('ʃɑːlətən) *nc* someone who pretends to be able to do something they cannot.

charm (tʃɑːm) 1 *ncu* an attractive or pleasing quality: *a country cottage with great charm.* 2 *nc* a small piece of jewellery, supposed to bring luck. • *vt* 1 influence with your pleasing quality. 2 put a magic spell on. **charming** *adj* very attractive or pleasing.

chart (tʃɑɪt) *nc* 1 a drawing giving information in lines, shapes, etc.: *a weather chart.* 2 a map for either ships or planes. • *vt* 1 show (information) on a chart. 2 follow; record: *This book charts the history of medicine.*

charter ('tʃɑːtə*) *nc* 1 the hiring of a plane, ship, or train: *charter flights.* 2 a piece of paper giving demands, rights, etc. 3 a piece of paper giving the permission of the king or queen for an organisation to be started. • *vt* hire (a plane, ship, or train). **chartered** *adj* having a formal qualification for a profession: *a chartered engineer.*

charwoman ('tʃɑː,wʊmən) *nc, pl* **-women** a woman who cleans an office or home.

chase (tʃeɪs) *vt* 1 follow and try to catch: *The police were chasing a thief.* 2 (often followed by **away, off,** etc.) make (someone or something) go away: *Don't chase the birds away.* • *ncu* (an example of) chasing.

chasm ('kæzəm) *nc* 1 a deep hole or crack in the ground. 2 a very large difference between two groups of people, two beliefs, etc.

chassis ('ʃæsɪ) *nc* 1 the frame of a vehicle, with its wheels and engine but no doors, etc. 2 the frame of a radio, television, etc., with no working parts.

chaste (tʃeɪst) *adj* sexually pure. **chastity** ('tʃæstɪtɪ) *nu*

chasten ('tʃeɪsən) *vt* 1 correct by punishment. 2 make (someone) feel sorry, ashamed, etc.

chastise (tʃæ'staɪz) *vt, fml or old-fashioned* punish, esp. by beating. **chastisement** *nu*

chat (tʃæt) *vi* talk informally. • *ncu* (an) informal talk: *I'll have a chat with her.*

château ('ʃætəʊ) *French nc, pl* **châteaux** ('ʃætəʊz) a French castle or country house.

chattel ('tʃætəl) *nc* (often *pl*) *law* an object that belongs to you.

chatter ('tʃætə*) *vi* 1 talk on and on about unimportant things. 2 (of birds and animals) make rapid noises. 3 (of the teeth) knock together when you are cold. • *nu* talking about unimportant things. **chatterbox** ('tʃætə,bɒks) *nc infml* a person who chatters.

chauffeur ('ʃəʊfə*) *nc* a person who drives a car for someone.

chauvinism ('ʃəʊvɪ,nɪzəm) *nu* 1 being too much in favour of one's own country. 2 also **male chauvinism** believing that men are better than women. **chauvinist** *nc* **chauvinistic** *adj*

cheap (tʃiːp) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not expensive. 2 of poor quality: *cheap and nasty.* 3 unkind; dishonest: *That was a cheap trick.* **cheaply** *adv*

cheat (tʃiːt) *vti* 1 be dishonest with (someone): *He cheats at cards.* 2 (often followed by **out of**) get money from (someone) dishonestly: *I was cheated out of £5.* • *nc* 1 a person who cheats. 2 a dishonest action, plan, etc.

check (tʃek) *vti* 1 make sure that (something) is correct, safe, etc.: *Have you checked your petrol?* 2 (cause to) pause or stop: *He checked the car's movement.* *vt* 3 *US* mark with a tick, as in filling up a form. • *nc* 1 the act of checking (**check** defs. 1, 2). 2 *US* a ticket for something given or handed over. 3 *US* See **cheque.** 4 *US* See **bill**[1] (def. 1). 5 a pattern of squares or crossing lines. 6 any position of the king in chess in which it could be taken. **check in** 1 arrive and report at a hotel, airport, etc. 2 give in (your luggage) at an airport, etc. **checkmate** (ˌtʃekˈmeɪt) *nc* a position of the king in chess in which it could be taken and from which it cannot escape. **check out** 1 leave a hotel, etc. 2 make sure that (something) is correct, in order, etc.: *to check out the facts of a story.* **check-out** (ˈtʃekˌaʊt) *nc* a desk at a shop where you pay. **checkpoint** (ˈtʃekˌpɔɪnt) *nc* a place where people must stop to have their papers, etc., checked, for example when crossing a border. **check up (on)** make a check (on). **check-up** (ˈtʃekˌʌp) *nc* a check or test of something, esp. your health.

checkers (ˈtʃekəz) *US n* See **draughts.**

cheek (tʃiːk) 1 *nc* the soft part on each side of the face. 2 *nu infml* behaviour that is too familiar; impudence: *He had the cheek to call me old.* **cheeky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** behaving too familiarly; impudent.

cheer (tʃɪə*) *vti* 1 (often followed by **up**) (cause to) become happier. 2 shout 'hurrah' to express approval or praise (for): *Everyone cheered their team.* • *nc* a shout of 'hurrah'. **cheerful** *adj* happy; bright. **cheerfully** *adv* **cheers!** *interj* 1 (said before drinking.) 2 *infml, Brit* thank you. 3 *infml, Brit* goodbye.

cheerio (ˌtʃɪərɪˈəʊ) *interj infml, Brit* goodbye.

cheery (ˈtʃɪərɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** happy; cheerful. **cheerily** *adv*

cheese (tʃiːz) *ncu* (a type or whole piece of) a solid food made from milk, usually hard. **cheesecloth** (ˈtʃiːzˌklɒθ) *nu* a thin, open, cotton material.

cheetah (ˈtʃiːtə) *nc* a large, wild, spotted member of the cat family.

chef (ʃef) *nc* a cook, esp. the chief cook in a restaurant.

chemical (ˈkemɪkəl) *nc* a substance used in chemistry. • *adj* to do with chemistry or chemicals. **chemically** *adv*

chemist (ˈkemɪst) *nc* 1 a person who sells medicines. 2 a person who studies or works in chemistry.

chemistry (ˈkemɪstrɪ) *nu* the study of what substances are made of and how they behave when put together.

chemotherapy (ˌkiːməʊˈθerəpɪ) *nu medicine* the treatment of a disease such as cancer using chemicals.

cheque *US* **check** (tʃek) *nc* a piece of paper telling a bank to pay someone some money. **chequebook** *US* **checkbook** (ˈtʃekˌbʊk) *nc* a number of cheques fastened together in the form of a book.

chequered (ˈtʃekəd) *adj* 1 having a pattern of black and white squares. 2 varied: *a chequered career.*

cherish (ˈtʃerɪʃ) *vt* 1 value highly; treasure. 2 have; hold onto: *a cherished ambition.*

cherry (ˈtʃerɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a small, round, red or black fruit with a stone.

cherub (ˈtʃerəb) *nc, pl* **cherubs, cherubim** (bɪm) 1 a being in heaven, represented as a child with wings. 2 a pretty or sweet child.

chess (tʃes) *nu* a game played on a board with sixty-four squares by moving your sixteen pieces and taking your opponent's.

chest (tʃest) *nc* 1 the upper half of the main part of the body. 2 the lungs: *I've got a bad chest.* 3 a large, strong box for goods or belongings. **chest of drawers** a piece of furniture with a number of drawers.

chestnut (ˈtʃesˌnʌt) *nc* 1 a tree producing nuts that are eaten. 2 one of these nuts. 3 *nu* (esp. of hair) the reddish-brown colour of this nut.

chew (tʃuː) *vt* bite again and again, esp. to soften food for swallowing. **chew over** think about carefully. • *nc* an act of chewing. **chewing gum** *nu* a soft substance chewed for pleasure but not swallowed.

chick (tʃɪk) *nc* a young bird, esp. a young chicken.

chicken (ˈtʃɪkɪn) 1 *nc* a bird kept for its meat and eggs. 2 *nu* meat from a chicken. • *adj slang* afraid to do something. **chicken out (of)** decide not to do (something) because you are afraid. **chicken pox** (pɒks) a disease producing fever and a rash.

chickpea (ˈtʃɪkˌpiː) *nc* 1 a plant that is grown for its pale brown seeds, which are shaped like large peas and can be cooked and eaten. 2 one of the seeds of this plant.

chicory (ˈtʃɪkərɪ) *nu* 1 a plant grown for its stalks and its roots. 2 chicory roots, used mixed with or instead of coffee.

chide (tʃaɪd) *vt old-fashioned* scold.

chief (tʃiːf) *adj* most important; main. • *nc* the most important person of a group; head. **chiefly** *adv*

chieftain (ˈtʃiːftɪn) *nc* a chief, esp. of a group such as a Scottish clan.

chiffon ('ʃɪfɒn) *nu* a kind of very thin material made of nylon, silk, etc.

chigger ('tʃɪgə*) *nc* also **jigger** 1 a tropical flea that burrows into the skin of people and animals. 2 the larva of a tiny animal, which causes itching of the skin.

child (tʃaɪld) *nc, pl* **children** ('tʃɪldrən) 1 a young person up to the age of about fifteen. 2 a son or daughter. **childbirth** ('tʃaɪld,bɜːθ) *nu* giving birth to a baby. **childhood** *nc* 1 the condition of being a child. 2 the period when you are a child. **childless** *adj* not having had any children: *a childless couple.* **childish** *adj* having or to do with the bad qualities of a child, such as being silly or afraid. **childlike** *adj* having or to do with the good qualities of a child, such as trust or innocence.

chill (tʃɪl) 1 *nu* coldness. 2 *nc* a cold. • *adj* cold. • *vt* cool or freeze (esp. food).

chilli ('tʃɪlɪ) *nc* a small, hot pepper used in food.

chilly ('tʃɪlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** cold.

chime (tʃaɪm) *vti* 1 (of a bell) (cause to) ring. 2 give (the time) by chiming: *The clock chimed four.* • *nc* 1 a bell, esp. one made from a tube. 2 the sound made by a bell.

chimney ('tʃɪmnɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a structure for the smoke from a fire, esp. one of brick on top of a house. **chimneypot** ('tʃɪmnɪ,pɒt) *nc* a short pipe on top of a chimney.

chimpanzee (,tʃɪmpæn'zɪː) (*infml abbrev.* **chimp**) *nc* a small ape; the closest animal to man: see picture at **animals.**

chin (tʃɪn) *nc* the point of the head below the mouth.

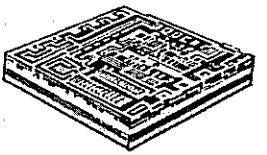
china ('tʃaɪnə) *nu* 1 a hard material made from baked clay. 2 plates, cups, etc., made from this.

chink[1] (tʃɪŋk) *nc* a tiny hole; crack.

chink[2] *nc* the sound of glasses, coins, etc., touching. • *vti* (cause to) make this noise.

chintz (tʃɪnts) *nu* shiny, printed cotton cloth.

chip (tʃɪp) *nc* 1 a small piece knocked or cut off something: *wood chips.* 2 the place in china, glass, etc., where a piece has been knocked or cut off. 3 *Brit* a long, thin piece of potato, fried in deep oil. 4 *US* See **crisp.** 5 a tiny piece of silicon containing a large number of electric circuits and used in computers: see picture. • *vt* 1 knock or cut (a piece) off (something): *This glass is chipped.* 2 *vi* break off in small pieces.



chip

chiropodist (kɪ'rɒpədɪst) *nc* a person who treats problems of the feet.

chirp (tʃɜːp) *nc* a fast high sound made by a bird or insect. • *vi* make this sound.

chisel ('tʃɪzəl) *nc* a pointed tool either for cutting wood or for chipping stone, etc.: see picture at **tools.** • *vt* cut or chip with a chisel.

chitin ('kaɪtɪn) *nu* a substance that forms part of the outer covering of crabs, locusts, etc.

chivalry ('ʃɪvəlrɪ) *nu* 1 the honour, courage, and other qualities of a knight in the Middle Ages. 2 (of men) respect for women; polite behaviour towards women. **chivalrous** *adj*

chloric ('klɔːrɪk) *adj* of or to do with chlorine.

chloride ('klɔːraɪd) *nc chemistry* a compound of chlorine and a metal, such as sodium: *Sodium chloride is common salt.*

chlorine ('klɔːriːn) *nu* a chemical element found mainly in common salt and used esp. for making water pure: symbol Cl.

chloroform ('klɔːrə,fɔːm) *nu* a liquid formerly given to people to smell to make them unconscious.

chlorophyll *US* **chlorophyl** ('klɔːrə,fɪl) *nu* the green substance in plants that changes energy from the light of the sun into starch.

chock (tʃɒk) *nc* an object put against a wheel to stop a car, plane, etc., moving.

chocolate ('tʃɒklɪt) 1 *nu* a hard, brown, sweet food made from cocoa. 2 *nc* a small piece of chocolate containing a nut, toffee, etc. • *adj* dark brown.

choice (tʃɔɪs) *nc* 1 the act of choosing. 2 something chosen. 3 an ability to choose: *I had to do it—I had no choice.* 4 a range of things to choose from: *There's not much choice.* • *adj* excellent: *choice apples.*

choir (kwaɪə*) *nc* a group of singers that sings in a church, gives concerts, etc.

choke (tʃəʊk) *vti* 1 (cause to) have difficulty in breathing. 2 (cause to) become blocked or held up: *The streets are choked with traffic.* • *nc* a device that controls the mixture of air and petrol in an engine.

cholera ('kɒlərə) *nu* a disease giving esp. bad diarrhoea and carried in water and food.

cholesterol (kə'lestə,rɒl) *nu* a substance found in animal tissues, blood, and fats.

choose (tʃuːz) 1 *vti* decide to have or use (something) rather than one or more other things: *They chose John for the job.* 2 *vt* like; want: *I wouldn't choose to meet him again.* **choosy** *adj* wanting only particular or the best things; fussy.

chop (tʃɒp) *vt* 1 cut by hitting with an axe, etc.: *I chopped a tree down.* 2 cut into small pieces: *chopped vegetables.* • *nc* 1 the act of chopping. 2 a piece of meat, cut to include a rib: *a lamb chop.* **chopper** *nc* 1 a small axe. 2 *infml* a helicopter. **choppy** *adj* (of the sea) rough. **chopsticks** ('tʃɒp,stɪks) *n pl* a pair of sticks used in one hand for eating with, esp. in China, Korea, and Japan.

choral ('kɔːrəl) *adj* to do with a choir.

chord (kɔːd) *nc* a number of musical notes produced together.

chore (tʃɔː*) *nc* 1 an unpleasant task. 2 a cleaning, etc., task in the home.

choreographer (,kɒrɪ'ɒgrəfə*) *nc* a person who makes up dance movements, esp. for ballet. **choreography** *nu*

chorus ('kɔːrəs) *nc* 1 a group of people who sing together; choir. 2 a piece of music sung by a chorus. 3 the part of a song repeated after each verse.

chose (tʃəʊz) past tense of **choose.**

chosen ('tʃəʊzən) past participle of **choose.**

Christ (kraɪst) *n* See **Jesus Christ.**

christen ('krɪsən) *vt* 1 give (a Christian name) to (someone) at a baptism. 2 name; call. **christening** *nc*

Christendom ('krɪsəndəm) *nu* all Christians together.

Christian ('krɪstʃən) *adj* to do with (the qualities taught in) Christianity. • *nc* a follower of Christianity. **Christian name** *nc* a name given at a baptism; a personal name, as compared with a family name. **Christianity** (,krɪstɪ'ænɪtɪ) *nu* the religion started by Jesus Christ.

Christmas ('krɪsməs) *nc* also **Christmas Day** the day on which Christians remember the birth of Jesus Christ; 25 December.

chrome (krəʊm) *nu* (objects covered with) chromium plate.

chromium ('krəʊmɪəm) *nu* a chemical element; a grey metal used to make steel hard and for shiny plating: symbol Cr.

chromosome ('krəʊmə,səʊm) *nc* one of the tiny parts of a living cell that contain genes.

chronic ('krɒnɪk) *adj* 1 (esp. of a disease) lasting a long time. 2 *slang* very bad.

chronicle ('krɒnɪkəl) *nc* an account of events. • *vt* record (an event) in a chronicle.

chronological (,krɒnə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* in the order in which things happen.

chrysalis ('krɪsəlɪs) *nc, pl* **chrysalises, chrysalides** (krɪ'sælɪ,diːz) the form of a moth or butterfly at the stage before becoming adult.

chrysanthemum (krɪ'sænθɪməm) *nc* a plant with brightly coloured flowers: see picture at **flowers.**

chubby ('tʃʌbɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person) fat; plump.

chuck[1] (tʃʌk) *vt infml* throw.

chuck[2] *nc* the part of a machine that holds something, esp. a drill bit, and spins it round.

chuckle ('tʃʌkəl) *vi* laugh a little. • *nc* a little laugh.

chum (tʃʌm) *nc infml, old-fashioned* a good friend.

chunk (tʃʌŋk) *nc* a piece.

church (tʃɜːtʃ) *nc* 1 a building used for religious, esp. Christian, services. 2 often **Church** an organisation within Christianity: *the Church of India.* 3 *nu* Christianity. **churchyard** ('tʃɜːtʃ,jɑːd) *nc* the land round a church, esp. used for burying the dead.

churlish ('tʃɜːlɪʃ) *adj* (of a person) rude; difficult to deal with.

churn (tʃɜːn) *nc* 1 a large container for milk. 2 a container for making butter in. • *vt* 1 stir (milk or cream) to make (butter). 2 (often followed by **up**) mix; stir. **churn out** *infml* produce a lot of (things) in a short time: *churning out souvenirs for the tourists.*

chute[1] (ʃuːt) *nc* a slope with sides for sliding things down or pouring water down.

chute[2] *n infml* short for **parachute.**

chutney ('tʃʌtnɪ) *ncu* a (type of) food made from fruit, sugar, and vinegar.

chyme (kaɪm) *nu* the thick liquid mass in which partially digested food leaves the stomach.

cicada (sɪ'kɑːdə) *nc* a large insect that has thin wings and produces a loud, high noise by vibrating parts of its abdomen.

cider ('saɪdə*) *nu* an alcoholic drink made from apples.

cigar (sɪ'gɑː*) *nc* a roll of dried tobacco leaves for smoking.

cigarette (,sɪgə'ret) *nc* a small quantity of finely cut tobacco rolled in paper, for smoking.

cilium ('sɪlɪəm) *nc, pl* **-lia** (lɪə) a short hair-like part on the surface of a cell or organism, which causes movement: *The bronchi are lined with cilia.*

cinch (sɪntʃ) *nc infml* an easy task.
cinchona (sɪŋˈkəʊnə) *ncu* (the bark of) a tree from which quinine and other medicinal substances are obtained.
cinder (ˈsɪndə*) *nc* a piece of a substance left after a fire because it has not burnt.
cinema (ˈsɪnɪmə) 1 *nc* a building or room in which films are shown. 2 *nu* also **the cinema** the making of films.
cinnamon (ˈsɪnəmən) *nu* a spice made from the bark of a tree.
cipher (also **cypher**) (ˈsaɪfə*) *nc* a way of rewriting a message to keep it secret; code.
circa (ˈsɜːkə) *prep* in about (a year): *circa 1800.*
circle (ˈsɜːkəl) *nc* 1 an endless line making a round shape: see picture at **shapes.** 2 a round shape. 3 a number of things arranged in a circle: *A circle of people stood round me.* 4 a group of people with a common interest: *a circle of friends.* 5 a group of seats above the main body of a theatre or cinema: *the dress circle.* • *vti* be or move in a circle (round).
circuit (ˈsɜːkɪt) *nc* 1 a trip once all the way round something. 2 a racetrack that begins and ends at the same place. 3 a complete path for electric current. **circuitous** (ˌsɜːˈkjuːɪtəs) *adj* not following the shortest path.
circular (ˈsɜːkjʊlə*) *adj* 1 in the shape of a circle. 2 (of an argument) returning to the same point. • *nc* a letter sent to many different people.
circulate (ˈsɜːkjʊˌleɪt) *vti* 1 (cause to travel round and round in a space or endless system; move freely. 2 pass (news, a book, etc.) round a circle of people. **circulation** (ˌsɜːkjʊˈleɪʃən) *nu* 1 the act of circulating. 2 the movement of blood round the body. 3 *nc* the number of copies sold of a newspaper, magazine, etc.
circumcise (ˈsɜːkəmˌsaɪz) *vt* cut off the loose skin at the end of the penis. **circumcision** (ˌsɜːkəmˈsɪʒən) *nc*
circumference (səˈkʌmfərəns) *nc* (the length of) the edge of a circle.
circumnavigate (ˌsɜːkəmˈnævɪˌgeɪt) *vt* sail completely round (esp. the world).
circumscribe (ˌsɜːkəmˈskraɪb) *vt* 1 draw a line round. 2 *fml* shut in; restrict.
circumstance (ˈsɜːkəmˌstæns) *nc* 1 the place, time, etc., at which something happens: *The circumstances of his death are suspicious.* 2 an event. **circumstantial** (ˌsɜːkəmˈstænʃəl) *adj* detailed; unimportant.
circus (ˈsɜːkəs) *nc* 1 a travelling group of people who entertain with physical skills and trained animals. 2 a place in a town where several streets meet: *Piccadilly Circus.*
cirrhosis (sɪˈrəʊsɪs) *nu* a disease of the liver that may be caused by a poor diet or by drinking too much alcohol.
cirrus (ˈsɪrəs) *nu* very high, thin cloud made of tiny pieces of ice.
cistern (ˈsɪstən) *nc* a water tank in a house.
citadel (ˈsɪtədəl) *nc* a building built for defence inside a city.
cite (saɪt) *vt* mention (a writer, part of a book, etc.) in order to support an argument, etc. **citation** 1 *ncu* an example of citing. 2 *nc* something cited from a book; quotation.
citizen (ˈsɪtɪzən) *nc* 1 a person who lives in a (particular) town. 2 a person who belongs to a particular country. **citizenship** *nu*
citrus (ˈsɪtrəs) *nc* any tree of the family including the orange, lemon, and grapefruit. • *adj* to do with (the fruit of) any of these trees.
city (ˈsɪtɪ) *nc* 1 a large town. 2 *Brit* a town named a city by the king or queen, usually with a cathedral.
civic (ˈsɪvɪk) *adj* to do with a city, a town, or its citizens.
civil (ˈsɪvɪl) *adj* 1 to do with ordinary life; not military, legal, or religious: *civil defence; civil marriage.* 2 polite; helpful. **civility** (sɪˈvɪlɪtɪ) *nu* politeness. **civil service** the organisations that run a country that are not elected. **civil servant** someone who works for a section of the civil service. **civil war** a war between different groups of people who belong to the same country.
civilian (sɪˈvɪljən) *adj* not to do with an army, navy, or air force. • *nc* a civilian person.
civilise (ˈsɪvɪˌlaɪz) *vt* improve the society of (a people); stop (a people) being wild, unjust, etc. **civilisation** (ˌsɪvɪlaɪˈzeɪʃən) 1 *nc* a stage of human social development: *ancient Chinese civilisation.* 2 *nu* the act of civilising. **civilised** *adj*
clad (klæd) *adj literary* clothed.
claim (kleɪm) *vt* 1 demand (something) as being your right: *I won, so I claimed my prize.* 2 say to be true: *He claims that he was here yesterday.* • *nc* 1 an act of claiming. 2 something claimed.
claimant (ˈkleɪmənt) *nc* a person who claims something.
clairvoyant (ˌkleəˈvɔɪənt) *adj* able to see things that cannot normally be seen, such as future events. • *nc* a clairvoyant person.
clam (klæm) *nc* a kind of sea-animal with a shell in two halves.

clamber ('klæmbə*) *vi* climb with difficulty.

clammy ('klæmɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** cold and sticky or wet: *clammy hands.*

clamour *US* **clamor** ('klæmə*) *nu* shouting, as from a large number of people. • *vi* make a clamour. **clamour for** demand.

clamp (klæmp) *nc* a device for pressing objects together. • *vt* press (objects) together (with a clamp). **clamp down on** take action against: *The police are clamping down on crime.*

clan (klæn) *nc* all the descendants of one person, esp. in Scotland.

clandestine (klæn'destɪn) *adj* secret, often because not legal: *a clandestine plan.*

clang (klæŋ) *nc, vi* (make) a ringing noise, such as that from a bell.

clank (klæŋk) *nc, vi* (make) a rattling noise, such as that of a chain.

clap (klæp) *vti* 1 hit (things) together to make a sharp noise: *to clap your hands.* 2 clap your hands to show approval: *He was clapped loudly.* 3 *vt* put suddenly or with force: *He was clapped in prison for ten years.* • *nc* 1 the sound of clapping. 2 the act of clapping.

claret ('klærɪt) *ncu* (a) red wine made in the Bordeaux district of France.

clarify ('klærɪˌfaɪ) 1 *vt* make clear or easy to understand. 2 *vti* make or become pure.

clarinet (ˌklærɪ'net) *nc* a musical instrument blown with the mouth, with keys and a single reed: see picture at **musical instruments.**

clarity ('klærɪtɪ) *nu* the quality of being clear.

clash (klæʃ) 1 *vti* strike together. *vi* 2 not go or fit together. 3 fight or play against each other. 4 (of colours) look ugly together. 5 (of events) happen at the same time. • *nc* the act or an example of clashing.

clasp (klɑːsp) *vt* hold or take hold of firmly. • *nc* a device for holding a book, coat, etc., closed.

class (klɑːs) *nc* 1 a group of people who are taught together in a school, college, etc. 2 a lesson in a school, college, etc. 3 a group of similar people or things. 4 a group of people with similar jobs, habits, etc.: *the working class.* 5 *nu* the existence of such groups in society: *the class system.* • *vt* place in a **class** (def. 3). **classmate** ('klɑːsˌmeɪt) *nc* another person in your own class at school. **classroom** ('klɑːsˌrʊm) *nc* a room in a school in which classes are given.

classic ('klæsɪk) *adj* 1 (of art and literature) of the best sort. 2 being a good example of its own type; typical: *a classic case of this disease.* 3 famous or popular. • *nc* a classic person or thing.

classical ('klæsɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with ancient Greece and Rome or the ancient Greek or Latin languages. 2 to do with music that is studied and listened to seriously.

classify ('klæsɪˌfaɪ) *vt* 1 put in classes. 2 not make (information) public because it might help a country's enemies. **classification** (ˌklæsɪfɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) classifying. 2 *nc* the name of the class into which something is put.

clatter ('klætə*) *nu, vi* (make) a repeated sharp noise, such as that of tins knocking together.

clause (klɔːz) *nc* 1 a part of a sentence containing a subject and a verb. 2 a part of a document, such as an agreement.

claustrophobia (ˌklɔstrə'fəʊbɪə) *nu* a fear of being in closed spaces. See also **agoraphobia. claustrophobic** *adj*

clavicle ('klævɪkəl) *nc* also **collarbone** the bone joining each shoulder blade to the breastbone.

claw (klɔː) *nc* 1 the curved pointed nail on each toe of the feet of birds and some animals, such as cats. 2 the double pointed arm of a shellfish, such as a lobster. • *vt* tear at (something) with claws or your hands.

clay (kleɪ) *ncu* (a type of) smooth earth that can be made into bricks, pots, etc., by forming and heating.

clean (kliːn) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not dirty; free from dust, stains, and other things that should not be there. 2 not written on: *clean paper.* 3 not containing bad language: *a clean joke.* 4 simple; smooth: *a plane with clean lines.* 5 with no cause for blame: *a clean record.* • *vti* 1 make or be made clean. 2 *vt* make something clean by removing: *I cleaned the oil off the floor.* • *nc* the act of cleaning: *It has had a clean but still looks dirty.* • *adv* completely; neatly: *The rope was cut clean through.* **clean-cut** ('kliːnkʌt) *adj* neat: *a clean-cut young man.* **cleaner** *nc* **cleaning** *nu* **cleanly** *adv* **clean up** 1 clean. 2 get rid of unwanted people or things.

cleanliness ('klenlɪnəs) *nu* (esp. of a person, room, etc.) the state of being clean.

cleanse (klenz) *vt* make clean or pure.

clear (klɪə*) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 able to be seen through: *clear water.* 2 easy to understand. 3 able to understand; sure: *I'm not clear what you want.* 4 without clouds: *clear weather.* 5 firm: *a clear decision.* 6 empty; with nothing in the way: *a clear road.* 7

free from guilt: *a clear conscience.* **keep clear of** avoid. **stand clear** keep away. **clear-cut** ('klɪəkʌt) *adj* firm; definite: *clear-cut plans.* **clearly** *adv* • *vti* 1 make or become clear. 2 remove (something) from: *Clear the room!* *vt* 3 no longer think (someone) guilty: *I was cleared of the charge.* 4 pass without touching: *The bus only just cleared the bridge.* 5 allow to happen or be used: *Has your plan been cleared with the police?* **clear away** remove and put away. **clear off** *infml* go away. **clear out** 1 remove (things) from. 2 *infml* go out or away. **clear up** 1 (of the weather) become bright or clear. 2 settle or explain (an affair). 3 remove (things) from; tidy up or away.

clearance ('klɪərəns) 1 *ncu* (an example of) clearing. 2 *nc* a space left when one thing passes another. 3 *nu* permission for something to happen.

clearing ('klɪərɪŋ) *nc* a space in a wood or forest.

cleavage ('kliːvɪdʒ) *nc* the space between a woman's breasts.

cleave (kliːv) *vti* split.

clef (klef) *nc music* a sign to show at what pitch the notes should be played.

cleft (kleft) past tense and past participle of **cleave.** • *nc* a split; crack.

clemency ('klemənsɪ) *nu* not punishing someone; mercy.

clench (klentʃ) *vt* 1 close tightly: *clenched teeth.* 2 hold tightly.

clergy ('klɜːdʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** 1 the priests and ministers of the Christian Church or any part of it. 2 the leaders of a religion. **clergyman** *nc, pl* **-men** a member of a clergy.

clerical ('klerɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with clerks. 2 to do with the clergy.

clerk (klɑɪk *US* klɜːk) *nc* 1 a person who files letters, keeps the records, etc., in an office. 2 *US* See **salesclerk** under **sale.**

clever ('klevə*) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 good at learning or understanding. 2 able to work well with one's hands. **cleverly** *adv* **cleverness** *nu*

cliché ('kliːʃeɪ) *nc* a word or phrase used so much that its original meaning is no longer thought about.

click (klɪk) *nc* a light, sharp noise, as when a light switch is turned on. • *vti* 1 (cause to) make this noise. 2 *vi infml* become clear.

client ('klaɪənt) *nc* a person or firm to whom you sell goods or a service. **clientele** (,kliːɒn'tel) *nc* all your clients.

cliff (klɪf) *nc* a tall, steep rock face, esp. facing the sea.

climate ('klaɪmɪt) *nc* 1 the weather of a place. 2 a general opinion or conditions: *the economic climate.* **climatic** (klaɪ'mætɪk) *adj*

climax ('klaɪmæks) *nc* 1 the most interesting, exciting, etc., point of an event. 2 the most important part in a story, play, piece of music, etc. **climactic** (klaɪ'mæktɪk) *adj*

climb (klaɪm) *vti* 1 (often followed by **up**) go up (stairs, a hill, etc.). 2 go up (a mountain) as a sport. 3 *vi* rise: *Prices always climb when goods are in short supply.* • *nc* an act or place of climbing. **climb down** 1 go down (something). 2 give up an opinion, demand, etc. **climber** *nc*

clinch (klɪntʃ) *vt* settle (an argument or deal).

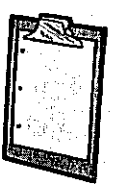
cling (klɪŋ) *vi* hold or stick tightly: *Cling on or you'll fall.*

clinic ('klɪnɪk) *nc* a building where sick or hurt people are treated. **clinical** *adj* 1 to do with the treating of sick or hurt people. 2 having a purpose and not meant to please: *a clinical approach.*

clink (klɪŋk) *nc* a high, sharp sound, as of glasses touching. • *vti* (cause to) make this sound.

clip[1] (klɪp) *vt* 1 cut (a part) off (something), esp. with scissors. 2 make (a hole) in (something, esp. a ticket). 3 *infml* hit.

clip[2] *nc* a device for holding things together or something closed: *a paper clip.* • *vt* fasten (something) to something else or hold (things) together with a clip: *I clipped the papers together and put them in the envelope.* **clipboard** ('klɪp,bɔːd) *nc* a piece of board to which papers can be clipped, providing a hard surface to write on: see picture.



clipboard

clippers ('klɪpəz) *nc* a tool for cutting or clipping.

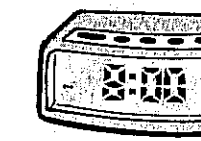
clipping ('klɪpɪŋ) *nc* a piece cut out of something, esp. a newspaper.

clique (kliːk, klɪk) *nc* a small group of people who are friendly with each other but not with people outside the group.

cloak (kləʊk) *nc* an outer garment without sleeves. • *vt* hide; disguise. **cloakroom** ('kləʊkrʊm) *nc* a room for leaving coats in.

clock (klɒk) *nc* 1 a device showing the time of day: see picture. 2 a device for measuring

distance driven, a taxi fare, etc. **clock in** or **out** arrive at or leave work, esp. stamping a card with the time at which you do so. **clockwise** ('klɒkwaɪz) *adv* round in the same direction as the hands of a clock move. **clockwork** ('klɒkwɜɪk) *nu* the device that works a clock or a toy.



clock

clod (klɒd) *nc* 1 a lump of earth. 2 *infml* a stupid or careless person.

clog (klɒg) *vti* block or become blocked. • *nc* a wooden shoe, or a heavy leather shoe with a wooden sole.

cloister ('klɔɪstə*) *nc* a covered path round a garden or courtyard, esp. in a monastery. **cloistered** *adj* cut off from ordinary life: *a cloistered existence.*

clone (kləʊn) *nc* something that is exactly the same as something else, esp. an animal or plant produced from the cells of another. • *vt* make a clone of; produce as a clone.

close (kləʊz) *vti* 1 shut; put (a door, cover, etc.) in place or be put in place: *The door won't close.* 2 shut; put a door, cover, etc., on, or have a door, cover, etc.: *I closed the box.* 3 bring or come together: *Close the curtains.* 4 (of a shop, etc.) (cause to) stop business: *The shop closes at 5.30.* 5 finish; bring or come to an end: *The meeting was closed.* **close down** (of radio, television, a business, etc.) stop sending, trading, etc. **closed shop** a place of work in which all workers have to be members of a trade union. **closing** *adj* that happens at the end: *his closing speech.* • (kləʊs) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 near; not far away: *close to my house.* 2 in detail; careful: *Take a close look.* 3 similar: *It's not the same, but it's close.* 4 (of a friend or relationship) good; valued. 5 (of air, the weather, etc.) unpleasantly hot or wet. 6 secretive. **closely** *adv* **closeness** *nu* **close together** (of two or more things) near to each other. • *adv* near: *Don't get too close!* **close-up** ('kləʊsʌp) *nc* a photograph taken near its subject. • *nc* (kləʊz) 1 the act of closing. 2 an end or finish. (kleʊs) 3 a space between buildings or round a building, esp. a cathedral. 4 a small road, usually closed at one end, in a town or village.

closet ('klɒzɪt) *nc* 1 a small room. 2 a small cupboard.

closure ('kləʊʒə*) *nc* 1 being closed or the act of closing. 2 something, such as a piece of wire, that closes something else.

clot (klɒt) *vti* (cause to) turn into a soft solid: *Blood soon clots in a wound.* • *nc* 1 a lump of something clotted. 2 *infml, Brit* a stupid or foolish person.

cloth (klɒθ) 1 *ncu* (a type of) material made from wool, cotton, silk, etc. 2 *nc* a piece of cloth used for wiping, covering, etc.

clothe (kləʊð) *vt* 1 dress; put clothes on. 2 cover. **clothes** *nu* articles of dress; shoes, coats, etc. **clothing** *nu* clothes.

cloud (klaʊd) 1 *ncu* a white or grey body of tiny drops of water or ice in the sky. *nc* 2 any other body of things in the air: *a cloud of dust.* 3 something that threatens or brings gloom. • *vti* 1 (often followed by **over**) make or become cloudy. 2 make or become dark or unclear. **cloudless** *adj* **cloudy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered with clouds. 2 (of water, etc.) not clear.

clove[1] (kləʊv) *nc* 1 a tree grown esp. in Zanzibar. 2 a dried, unopened flower of this tree, used to give food a taste.

clove[2] past tense of **cleave. cloven** (kləʊvən) past participle of **cleave. cloven hoof** the divided foot of some animals, such as cows, pigs, sheep, goats, etc.

clover ('kləʊvə*) *ncu* a (type of) small plant with leaves in threes.

clown (klaʊn) *nc* a person who entertains with a funny act in a circus or behaves in an amusing way. • *vi* act as a clown.

club (klʌb) *nc* 1 a stick used as a weapon. 2 See **golf club.** 3 a group of people with a common interest or the building used by such a group: *a cricket club.* 4 a playing-card with a black shape like a clover leaf on it. • *vt* hit with a club. **club together** give money for a common purpose.

cluck (klʌk) *vi* (of a hen) make a low repeated noise. • *nc* this noise.

clue (kluɪ) *nc* a piece of information that helps you guess or discover something. **not have a clue** not know at all: *I haven't a clue where it is.*

clump (klʌmp) *nc* 1 a small group, esp. of trees. 2 a lump, esp. of earth. • *vti* 1 form clumps (from). 2 *vi* walk heavily.

clumsy ('klʌmzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 careless or awkward in handling things. 2 awkwardly made: *a clumsy arrangement.* **clumsily** *adv*

clung (klʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **cling.**

cluster ('klʌstə*) *nc* a group of similar things. • *vti* form a cluster (of).

clutch (klʌtʃ) 1 *vt* hold or take hold of firmly. 2 *vi* (followed by **at**) take hold of firmly. • *nc* 1 a firm hold. 2 a device for connecting a spinning part of a machine to one that, to start with, is not spinning, as in a car. 3 (*pl*) power; control: *in the clutches of the enemy.*

clutter ('klʌtə*) *nc* a disorganised group of objects. • *vt* (often followed by **up**) fill untidily.

coach (kəʊtʃ) *nc* 1 a large road vehicle for up to about fifty passengers. 2 a railway vehicle for passengers. 3 a teacher, esp. of a sport. • *vt* teach, esp. in a sport.

coagulate (kəʊ'ægjʊˌleɪt) *vti* (of milk, blood, etc.) (cause to) become a soft solid; clot.

coal (kəʊl) *ncu* (a piece of) black rock made of carbon that is burned or used to make coal gas, coke, etc. **coalfield** ('kəʊlfiːld) *nc* a district under which coal is found. **coal gas** gas made from coal and burned for heat or light. **coal mine** a hole or tunnel dug in the ground in order to get coal out.

coalesce (ˌkəʊə'les) *vi* join together; become one.

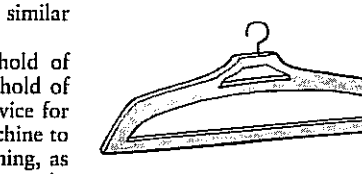
coalition (ˌkəʊə'lɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) joining together, esp. of two political parties to form a government.

coarse (kɔɪs) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 made of large, rough, etc., parts: *coarse cloth.* 2 rude: *coarse language.* **coarsely** *adv*

coast (kəʊst) *nc* the edge of land next to the sea. **coastal** *adj* **coastguard** ('kəʊstˌgɑɪd) *nc* a person whose job is to get help for people in danger at sea, etc. **coastline** ('kəʊstlaɪn) *nc* the shape of a coast. • *vi* travel without using (much) power.

coat (kəʊt) *nc* 1 an outer garment with arms that covers from the neck to the hips or below. 2 the hair on the body of an animal. 3 a layer of paint, dirt, etc. **coat of arms** a pattern of pictures representing a family or town: see picture. **coat hanger** an object used for hanging clothes on: see picture. • *vt* put or be a layer on.

coat of arms



coat hanger

coating ('kəʊtɪŋ) *nc* a layer; coat.

coax (kəʊks) *vt* persuade gently.

coaxial (kəʊ'æksɪəl) *adj* having the same axis. **coaxial cable** a type of cable used to transmit radio signals, etc., consisting of a length of insulated wire surrounded by an insulated layer of woven wire.

cob (kɒb) *n* See **corn cob** under **corn**[1].

cobalt ('kəʊbɔːlt) *nu* a chemical element; metal used in steel: symbol Co.

cobbler ('kɒblə*) *nc old-fashioned* a person who repairs shoes.

cobblestone ('kɒbəlˌstəʊn) *nc* also **cobble** a rounded stone used to make a road surface, esp. formerly.

cobra ('kəʊbrə, 'kɒbrə) *nc* a poisonous snake that can blow up its neck to look like a hood: see picture at **reptiles.**

cobweb ('kɒbweb) *nc* the net spun by a spider to catch insects.

cocaine (kə'keɪn, ˌkəʊ'keɪn) *nu* a drug, to which people can become addicted, that is used as an anaesthetic.

coccus ('kɒkəs) *nc, pl* **cocci** ('kɒksaɪ) a type of bacterium that is spherical or nearly spherical in shape.

coccyx ('kɒksɪks) *nc anatomy* the small triangular bone at the lower end of the spine.

cochineal (ˌkɒtʃɪ'niːl) *nu* a dark red substance obtained from the crushed, dried bodies of a type of insect, used to colour food, etc.

cock (kɒk) *nc* 1 a male bird, esp. the male of the hen kept for its eggs. 2 a tap for water, etc. • *vt* 1 turn upwards: *The horse cocked its ears.* 2 set (a gun) ready for firing.

cockatoo (ˌkɒkə'tuɪ) *nc* a bird; type of parrot with a crest on its head.

cockle ('kɒkəl) *nc* a shellfish that can be eaten.

cockney ('kɒknɪ) *adj, ncu* (to do with) (the language of) a person born in the East End of London.

cockpit ('kɒkpɪt) *nc* the space in a plane or ship for the pilot.

cockroach ('kɒkrəʊtʃ) *nc* a large, brown insect found in some houses: see picture at **insects.**

cocktail ('kɒkteɪl) *nc* 1 a mixed drink

containing spirits. 2 a dish made from a particular food: *prawn cocktail.*

cocky ('kɒkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** too proud; too confident: *Don't get cocky—you haven't won yet!*

cocoa ('kəʊkəʊ) *nu* 1 a powder made from cacao seeds and used to make chocolate. 2 a drink made from this.

coconut ('kəʊkənʌt) *nc* 1 a large, hard, brown fruit with a solid white lining and white liquid inside. 2 also **coconut palm** the tree bearing this fruit.

cocoon (kə'kuːn) *nc* the case in which an insect develops.

cod (kɒd) *nc, pl* **cod** a large fish that is eaten: see picture at **fish.**

code (kəʊd) *nc* 1 a system of letters or other characters used for a message so as to disguise its meaning. 2 a group of letters or other characters that have a particular meaning in computing, etc. • *vt* put (a message, etc.) into code.

co-ed (ˌkəʊ'ed) *infml adj* short for **co-educational.** • *nc* 1 *Brit* a co-educational school. 2 *US* a girl at a co-educational school.

co-education (ˌkəʊedjuː'keɪʃən) *nu* educating boys and girls in the same schools. **co-educational** *adj*

coefficient (ˌkəʊ'fɪʃənt) *nc* 1 a number multiplying another quantity: *The coefficient of 2a is 2.* 2 *physics* the measure of a quality of a material.

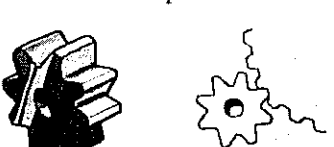
coerce (kəʊ'ɜːs) *vt* force (somebody) to do something. **coercion** (kəʊ'ɜːʃən) *nu*

coffee ('kɒfɪ) *nu* 1 a drink made from coffee beans. 2 also **coffee beans** roasted and ground coffee seeds. 3 a light-brown colour. **coffee-pot** *nc* a tall pot with a handle, for making coffee in.

coffer ('kɒfə*) *nc* a strong box, esp. for money.

coffin ('kɒfɪn) *US* **casket** *nc* a box in which a dead person is buried or burned.

cog (kɒg) *nc* 1 one of the teeth round a wheel that turns another wheel in a machine. 2 also **cog-wheel** a small wheel with teeth round it: see picture.



cog

cognac ('kɒnjæk) *nu* a strong French alcoholic drink made from wine.

cohabit (ˌkəʊ'hæbɪt) *vi* (of people who have a sexual relationship but are not married) live together.

cohere (kəʊ'hɪə*) *vi* 1 stick together. 2 (of an argument) make sense. **coherent** (kəʊ'hɪərənt) *adj* making sense. **coherently** *adv* **cohesion** (kəʊ'hiːʒən) *nu* sticking together.

coil (kɔɪl) *vti* arrange or be arranged in rings or turns. • *nc* 1 (a turn of) something coiled. 2 a coil of wire through which electricity is passed.

coin (kɔɪn) *nc* a small, usually round piece of metal used as money. • *vt* 1 make (a coin). 2 invent (a word). **coinage** ('kɔɪnɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a system of coins: *decimal coinage.* 2 an invented word. 3 the inventing of a word.

coincide (ˌkəʊɪn'saɪd) *vi* 1 happen at the same time. 2 meet or touch. **coincidence** (kəʊ'ɪnsɪdəns) *nc* an example of coinciding; chance event. **coincidental** (ˌkəʊɪnsɪ'dentəl) *adj*

coitus ('kəʊɪtəs) *nu* the physical activity between two people or two animals that can result in the production of young; sexual intercourse.

coke (kəʊk) *nu* coal that has been heated to drive off coal gas and is burned for heat.

colander ('kʌlɪndə*) *nc* a dish with holes in for straining food.

cold (kəʊld) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 at a low temperature; not warm or hot. 2 unfriendly. 3 without feeling: *a cold decision.* **cold-blooded** *adj* 1 (of an animal) having a blood temperature that changes with the temperature around it. 2 unfeeling; cruel: *cold-blooded murder.* **cold feet** a feeling of fear that makes you decide not to do something: *I was planning to go, but I got cold feet.* **coldly** *adv* **cold war** a period in which countries are unfriendly and likely to go to war. • *nu* 1 the absence of heat. 2 *nc* an illness giving running nose, sore throat, cough, etc.

coleopteran (ˌkɒlɪ'ɒptərən) *nc biology* a type of insect, such as the beetle or weevil, in which the front wings form a shell-like casing over the hind wings.

coliform bacteria ('kɒlɪfɔɪm) bacteria that are found in the intestines of people and animals and sometimes cause disease.

collaborate (kə'læbəˌreɪt) *vi* 1 work together (with someone). 2 help an enemy that has occupied your country. **collaboration** *nu*

collage ('kɒlɑːʒ) *ncu* (a picture made by) sticking pieces of paper, cloth, etc., onto card or paper.

collapse (kə'læps) *vi* 1 fall down or in: *The old house collapsed.* 2 (of a person) fall down from tiredness or illness. 3 *vti* (be

able to) fold up: *These chairs collapse.* **collapsible** *adj* able to fold up. • *nc* an example of collapsing.

collar ('kɒlə*) *nc* 1 the part of a garment round the neck. 2 a band, esp. of leather, round an animal's neck. **collarbone** ('kɒlə,bəʊn) *n* See **clavicle.**

collate (kə'leɪt) *vt* collect and arrange (information or pages of a book) in order.

collateral (kə'lætərəl) *nu* something of value promised to a lender if their money is not paid back.

colleague ('kɒliːg) *nc* a person with whom you work.

collect (kə'lekt) 1 *vti* gather together: *I collected everyone's books; Water collected in the bucket.* *vt* 2 obtain and put with others for interest: *I collect stamps.* 3 fetch; call for: *I'll collect you tomorrow.* 4 regain control of (yourself). **collection** 1 *ncu* (an example of) collecting. *nc* 2 a body of collected things or material. 3 a collected sum of money. **collective** *adj* 1 formed by or forming a collection. 2 to do with a group of people acting together: *collective bargaining.* • *nc* something, such as a farm, that is run collectively. **collectively** *adv* **collector** *nc*

college ('kɒlɪdʒ) *nc* 1 (a part of) a university. 2 a place of education, esp. of a particular kind, for students who have left school: *an art college.*

collide (kə'laɪd) *vi* strike violently together.

collie (kɒlɪ) *nc* a dog with a long, narrow head and long hair.

colliery ('kɒljərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a coal mine and the buildings connected with it.

collision (kə'lɪʒən) *nc* (an example of) colliding.

colloid ('kɒlɔɪd) *nc science* a kind of solution or suspension that contains very tiny particles.

colloquial (kə'ləʊkwɪəl) *adj* 1 to do with talking, as compared with writing. 2 (of language) familiar; conversational.

collude (kə'luːd) *vi* work secretly (with someone), esp. in something dishonest. **collusion** (kə'luːʃən) *nu*

cologne (kə'ləʊn) *nu* also **eau de cologne** a liquid put on the body for its pleasant smell.

colon¹ ('kəʊlɒn) *nu* the sign (:) used in writing, esp. in front of an example or quotation.

colon² *nc anatomy* the next to last part of the large intestine.

colonel ('kɜːnəl) *nc* an important officer in most armies and some air forces.

colonial (kə'ləʊnɪəl) *adj* to do with a colony. • *nc* a person living in a colony.

colonialism *nu* the practice of owning colonies.

colonise ('kɒlənaɪz) *vt* make (a place) into a colony. **colonisation** (,kɒlənaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu* **colonist** ('kɒlənɪst) *nc* a person who starts or lives in a colony.

colonnade (,kɒlə'neɪd) *nc architecture* a row of columns or pillars.

colony ('kɒlənɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** 1 (the people living in) a country owned by another one: *Britain had many colonies.* 2 a group of people living within a larger group: *a colony of artists in Paris.*

colossal (kə'lɒsəl) *adj* very big; huge.

colour *US* **color** ('kʌlə*) *nc* 1 a quality of the light produced or reflected by something, such as red, green, or blue. 2 a paint with a particular colour. 3 the colour of a person's skin: *Colour makes no difference.* • *vt* 1 give a colour or colours to. 2 influence; affect: *Her opinion was coloured by jealousy.* **colour-blind** *adj* (of a person) who sees different colours as the same. **coloured** *adj* (in South Africa) of someone of racially mixed descent. **colourful** *adj* 1 with many or bright colours. 2 interesting. **colouring** *nu* 1 the colours of something. 2 a substance added to food to make it a different colour. **colourless** *adj* 1 with few or dull colours. 2 uninteresting.

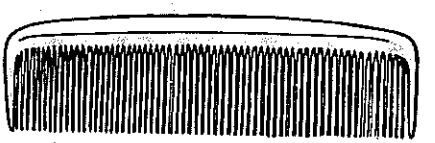
colt (kəʊlt) *nc* a young male horse.

column ('kɒləm) *nc* 1 a thick upright supporting a building. 2 a long line of people, vehicles, etc.; series of numbers. 3 a group of printed lines, one below the other, esp. in a newspaper.

columella (,kɒljʊ'melə) *nc, pl* **-lae** (liː) *biology* the central part of some organs of plants or animals, such as the organ that produces spores in certain fungi and mosses.

coma ('kəʊmə) *nc* an unconscious state caused by injury, lack of food, etc.

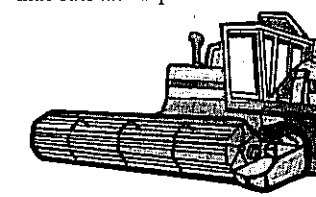
comb (kəʊm) *nc* a long, narrow object with teeth along one side for arranging your hair with: see picture. • *vt* use a comb on (your hair).



comb

combat ('kɒmbæt) 1 *nu* fighting. 2 *nc* a fight. • *vt* fight against: *to combat disease.* **combatant** ('kɒmbətənt) *nc* a person who fights.

combine (kəm'baɪn) *vti* join together. **combination** (ˌkɒmbɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu* the action or result of combining. **combine harvester** ('kɒmbaɪn) a moving machine that cuts and separates corn: see picture.



combine harvester

combustion (kəm'bʌstʃən) *nu* burning; being changed or destroyed by fire. **combustible** (kəm'bʌstɪbəl) *adj* able to burn; flammable.

come (kʌm) *vi* 1 move, esp. towards the speaker: *Come here!* 2 arrive or be brought: *Has the letter come yet?* 3 happen: *Monday comes after Sunday.* 4 reach: *My coat comes down to my knees.* 5 (followed by **from**) live in; be a native of: *Where do you come from?* 6 be or become: *The button is coming loose.* **come about** happen. **come across** 1 find by chance. 2 (of a person or message) have an (intended) effect: *How did I come across?* **come back** 1 return. 2 be remembered: *His name has just come back to me.* **comeback** ('kʌmbæk) *nc* a return to power, popularity, etc. **come by** 1 get; obtain. 2 visit someone for a short time. **come down** 1 come to a lower place. 2 (of prices) fall. 3 (of a plane) land. **comedown** ('kʌmdaʊn) *nc* a disappointment. **come forward** say you are willing to do something. **come in** 1 enter. 2 have a use or something to do: *This is where you come in.* 3 prove to be (esp. useful). **come in for** get. **come into** 1 enter. 2 be given (something) by someone when they die. **come off** 1 become loose or separate. 2 succeed. **come on** 1 improve; do well. 2 (of electricity, a radio programme, etc.) start. **come out** 1 go to a social occasion: *Can you come out for dinner?* 2 become known: *If you don't tell us now, it will come out later.* 3 appear; be produced: *My book comes out tomorrow.* 4 (of flowers) bloom. 5 be clear in a photograph: *You came out well.* **come over** 1 (of a person or message) have an (intended) effect. 2 *infml* feel: *I came over all hot.* 3 visit someone. **come round** 1 become conscious again. 2 visit someone. 3 occur again: *My birthday will come round soon.* **come through** 1 move to a different room. 2 live, manage, etc., in spite of (a disease, etc.). **come to** 1 become conscious again. 2 add up to: *This all comes to a lot of money.* 3 be a case of: *If it comes to war, we'll lose.* **come under** 1 have as a title or heading: *Poetry comes under literature.* 2 have in charge of you: *Soldiers come under an officer.* **come up** 1 come to a higher place. 2 happen: *I can't go—something's come up.* 3 (of the sun) rise. 4 be discussed: *I thought that problem would come up.* 5 grow out of the ground. **come up against** meet (a difficulty, etc.). **come upon** find by chance. **come up to** be as good as: *You just don't come up to what I expected.* **come up with** produce: *You've come up with the answer!*

comedy ('kɒmɪdɪ) 1 *nu* the quality of something that makes you laugh; humour. 2 *ncu* (a play or other piece of) entertainment that makes you laugh. **comedian** (kə'miːdɪən) *nc* a person who entertains with comedy.

comet ('kɒmɪt) *nc* a large, bright object with a tail that travels fast through space.

comfort ('kʌmfət) 1 *nu* a feeling of being at ease, in body or mind. 2 *nc* someone or something that brings comfort. • *vt* make (someone) less sad or less worried. **comfortable** *adj* 1 bringing comfort: *a comfortable bed.* 2 enjoying comfort: *Are you comfortable?* **comfortably** *adv* **comforting** *adj*

comic ('kɒmɪk) *adj* 1 to do with comedy. 2 funny. • *nc* a comic person; comedian. **comical** *adj* funny.

coming ('kʌmɪŋ) *adj* next; future: *the coming summer.* **up and coming** about to become good; promising: *an up and coming writer.* • *nc* the act of arriving.

comma ('kɒmə) *nc* the sign (,) used in writing, esp. where one pauses in reading.

command (kə'mɑːnd) *nc* 1 the act of telling someone to do something; order. *nu* 2 a knowledge (of a language): *Her command of English is very good.* 3 authority; power to give commands: *in command of a ship.* • *vt* give (someone) a command.

commandant ('kɒmənɑːnt) *nc* an officer in charge of a camp, prison, etc.

commandeer (ˌkɒmən'dɪə*) *vt* take for use by the army, etc.

commander (kə'mɑːndə*) *nc* 1 a person who commands. 2 an officer in a navy.

commandment (kə'mɑːndmənt) *nc* one of the Ten Commandments in the Bible.

commando (kə'mɑːndəʊ) *nc, pl* **-dos, -does** (a member of) a group of soldiers, for example who attack land from the sea.

commemorate (kə'meməreɪt) *vt* cause people to remember (an event or dead person).

commence (kə'mens) *vti fml* start; begin. **commencement** *nc*

commend (kə'mend) *vt* 1 praise: *Your work is to be commended.* 2 *fml* give to someone to look after. **commendable** *adj* that ought to be praised. **commendation** (ˌkɒmen'deɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) commending.

commensurate (kə'mensjʊrət) *adj fml* in a suitable or the proper amount: *Your pay will be commensurate with your position in the company.*

comment ('kɒment) *ncu* 1 a note; remark. 2 (a) criticism. • *vi* make a remark: *Would you like to comment on the news?* **commentary** ('kɒmənterɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a set of remarks about something, such as literature or a sports event. **commentator** ('kɒmənˌteɪtə*) *nc* someone who gives a commentary.

commerce ('kɒmɜːs) *nu* the activity of trading with other people; buying and selling. **commercial** (kə'mɜːʃəl) *adj* to do with commerce. • *nc* an advertisement on radio or television.

commiserate (kə'mɪzəreɪt) *vi* (often followed by **with**) express sympathy (with). **commiseration** (kəˌmɪzə'reɪʃən) *ncu*

commission (kə'mɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) committing something. 2 *nc* a task. 3 *nu* the condition of being an officer in an army, etc. 4 *nc* a group of people appointed to discover or discuss something. 5 *nu* money paid to someone who brings you business. **commissionaire** (kəˌmɪʃə'neə*) *nc Brit* a person who meets people as they arrive outside a theatre, hotel, etc. **commissioner** *nc* 1 a member of a commission. 2 a person in a position of power: *a commissioner of police.*

commit (kə'mɪt) *vt* 1 do (something, esp. a crime). 2 give for keeping, etc.: *Commit this to memory.* **commit yourself** promise or decide to do something. **commitment** *nc* 1 (an example of) committing. 2 a promise to attend, do, or pay something.

committee (kə'mɪtɪ) *nc* a group of people who discuss and decide things together.

commodity (kə'mɒdɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** something that is traded.

common ('kɒmən) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 existing in large quantities or happening frequently. 2 belonging to more than one person: *This is in our common interest.* 3 ordinary: *a common soldier.* 4 *derogatory* ordinary and not pleasant. **commonly** *adv* **commonplace** ('kɒmənpleɪs) *adj, nu* (something) very ordinary. **common sense** good judgement or sense. • *nc* a piece of public land. **in common** together or shared: *My brother and I have a lot in common.*

commoner ('kɒmənə*) *nc* a person who is not a noble.

Commons ('kɒmənz) *n* **the (House of) Commons** the elected lower house in the British parliament. See also **the House of Lords** under **Lords.**

commonwealth ('kɒmənwelθ) *nc* a republic. **the Commonwealth (of Nations)** Britain and countries now or in the past ruled by Britain.

commotion (kə'məʊʃən) *nc* a noisy disturbance.

communal ('kɒmjʊnəl) *adj* belonging to or used by everyone in a particular group.

commune ('kɒmjuːn) *nc* a group of people other than a family who share a home and their belongings.

communicate (kə'mjuːnɪkeɪt) *vti* give (and receive) (information): *I'd like to communicate this news to the president; Can we communicate with the ship by radio?* **communication** (kəˌmjuːnɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) communicating. 2 *nc* something communicated; message. **communicative** (kə'mjuːnɪkətɪv) *adj* 1 to do with communication. 2 willing to talk.

communion (kə'mjuːnɪən) *nu* the sharing of thoughts, feelings, etc. **(Holy) Communion** the Christian service of giving bread and wine to worshippers.

communiqué (kə'mjuːnɪkeɪ) *nc* an official message from a government, etc., to the public.

communism ('kɒmjʊnɪzəm) *nu* a system in which all factories, etc., are owned by the nation as a whole. **communist** *nc* a person who believes in communism.

community (kə'mjuːnɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 the people living in a place. 2 a group of people of one race, religion, etc.: *the Indian community in Britain.*

commute (kə'mjuːt) 1 *vi* travel to and from work every day, esp. in and out of a big city. 2 *vt law* change (a sentence) into a less serious one. **commuter** *nc* a person who commutes to and from work.

compact (kəm'pækt) *adj* small for its value or usefulness. **compact disc** ('kɒmpækt) a small disc on which music, etc., has been recorded, which can be played in a machine that uses a laser beam to produce the sound. *abbrev.* CD. See also **album; CD-ROM.** • *vt* press together. • ('kɒmpækt) *nc* a small, flat tin of face powder.

companion (kəm'pænjən) *nc* a person who keeps you company: *a travelling companion.* **companionship** *nu* being or having a companion.

company ('kʌmpənɪ) 1 *nu* the fact of being with someone. *nc* 2 a business that trades as itself. 3 a group of people, actors, or soldiers. **keep (someone) company** be or go with (someone), so that they do not feel lonely or bored.

comparable ('kɒmprəbəl) *adj* 1 able to be compared. 2 alike.

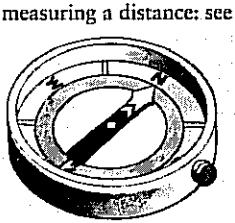
comparative (kəm'pærɪtɪv) *adj* 1 to do with comparison. 2 by comparison with something else. • *nc, adj* (to do with) the form of an adjective or adverb meaning 'more...': *'Slower' is the comparative of 'slow'.* **comparatively** *adv* See also **superlative.**

compare (kəm'peə*) *vt* 1 (often followed by **with**) consider the difference between (something) and (something else): *I've compared this year's profit with last year's.* 2 (followed by **to**) consider as alike: *She hates being compared to her mother.* 3 *vi* (often followed by **with**) be alike: *This year's results just don't compare with last year's results.*

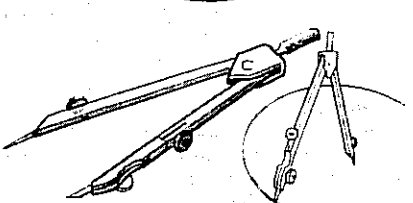
comparison (kəm'pærɪsən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) comparing. 2 *nu* likeness: *This one has no comparison with the old one.*

compartment (kəm'pɑɪtmənt) *nc* 1 a separate part of a container. 2 a separate part of a railway carriage for six to twelve people.

compass ('kʌmpəs) *nc* 1 an instrument that shows direction by pointing to the north: see picture. 2 also **pair of compasses** an instrument used for drawing a circle or measuring a distance: see picture.



compass



pair of compasses

compassion (kəm'pæʃən) *nu* pity for someone. **compassionate** *adj*

compatible (kəm'pætɪbəl) *adj* (often followed by **with**) able to go or fit together (with).

compatriot (kəm'pætrɪət) *nc* a person from the same country as someone else.

compel (kəm'pel) *vt* force (someone) (to do something): *He was compelled to leave.*

compensate ('kɒmpenseɪt) *vt* (often followed by **for**) give (someone) something, esp. money, to make up (for loss, damage, etc.). **compensation** (ˌkɒmpen'seɪʃən) *nu*

compère ('kɒmpeə*) *nc* a person who introduces the separate acts in a show. • *vti* act as compère (for).

compete (kəm'piːt) *vi* 1 try to do better (than other people): *I'm competing with twenty others for this job.* 2 take part (in a competition, race, etc.).

competent ('kɒmpɪtənt) *adj* 1 able (to do something well). 2 (of a piece of work) well done. **competence** *nu*

competition (ˌkɒmpɪ'tɪʃən) *nu* 1 rivalry; competing against someone or something. 2 someone or something against which you are competing. 3 *nc* an event in which people compete. **competitive** (kəm'petɪtɪv) *adj* 1 to do with competition. 2 likely to have success in competing: *very competitive prices.* **competitor** (kəm'petɪtə*) *nc*

compile (kəm'pɑɪl) *vt* gather or put together: *I've compiled a list of our customers.* **compilation** (ˌkɒmpɪ'leɪʃən) *ncu* 1 (an example of) compiling. 2 something compiled.

complacent (kəm'pleɪsənt) *adj* too pleased with yourself.

complain (kəm'pleɪn) *vt* 1 (often followed by **about**) say you are not satisfied (with): *I want to complain about these shoes—they're worn out already.* 2 (followed by **of**) say you are suffering (from): *to complain of a cold.* **complaint** 1 *ncu* (an example of) complaining. 2 *nc* something complained about or of, esp. an illness.

complement ('kɒmplɪmənt) *nc* 1 someone or something that makes something complete. 2 a complete amount. 3 *mathematics* the difference between a right angle and a smaller angle. 4 *grammar* a noun phrase that follows verbs like 'be' or 'become': *In 'he is my brother', 'my brother' is the complement.* • *vt* make complete; be a complement to. **complementary** (ˌkɒmplɪ'mentrɪ) *adj* forming a complement.

complete (kəm'pliːt) *adj* 1 having everything necessary. 2 thorough: *a complete waste of time.* 3 finished. **complete with** having, esp. as something extra: *The*

computer comes complete with software and a printer. • *vt* 1 finish: *to complete your work; a completed painting.* 2 fill in (a form). **completely** *adv* **completeness** *nu* **completion** (kəm'pliːʃən) *nu*

complex ('kɒmpleks) *adj* 1 made up of parts. 2 (of a problem, etc.) complicated. • *nc* 1 a group of suppressed ideas that affect behaviour: *an inferiority complex.* 2 a group of connected buildings: *a sports complex.*

complexion (kəm'plekʃən) *nc* 1 the appearance of the skin of someone's face: *He has a dark complexion.* 2 a way in which something must be considered.

complexity (kəm'pleksɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the quality of being complex. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that makes something else complex.

complicate ('kɒmplɪkeɪt) *vt* make complicated. **complicated** *adj* hard to understand, sort out, etc.: *a complicated job.* **complication** (ˌkɒmplɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of complicating. 2 *nc* something that complicates something such as an illness.

complicity (kəm'plɪsɪtɪ) *nu* the fact of being part of something, esp. a crime.

compliment ('kɒmplɪmənt) *nc* 1 an expression of praise: *He made some nice compliments about my dress.* 2 (*pl*) a formal greeting: *with the compliments of the manager.* • *vt* praise; give (someone) a compliment. **complimentary** (ˌkɒmplɪ'mentrɪ) *adj* 1 forming a compliment. 2 given free of charge: *She sent me a complimentary copy of her new book.*

comply (kəm'plaɪ) *vi* (usually followed by **with**) obey; follow (a request, etc.).

component (kəm'pəunənt) *adj* forming part of something. • *nc* a component part: *car components.*

compose (kəm'pəuz) *vt* 1 put together. 2 write (music, poetry, etc.). 3 calm or settle (someone, esp. yourself). 4 *vi* write music. **composed** *adj* (of a person) calm. **composer** *nc* a person who writes music.

composite ('kɒmpəzɪt) *adj, nc* (something) made of parts.

composition (ˌkɒmpə'zɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of composing. 2 *nc* something composed, esp. a piece of music or an essay.

compost ('kɒmpɒst) *nu* animal or vegetable waste used for feeding plants.

composure (kəm'pəuʒə*) *nu* the quality of being composed.

compound¹ ('kɒmpaund) *adj* made up of parts. **compound interest** interest on the original amount borrowed and on all the unpaid interest. • *nc* any compound thing, esp. one of chemical elements. • (kəm'paund) *vt* 1 mix or join (things) to make (a compound). 2 make worse: *to compound a problem.*

compound² *nc* a piece of land closed in so as to keep people or things inside.

comprehend (ˌkɒmprɪ'hend) 1 *vti* understand. 2 *vt fml* include. **comprehensible** (ˌkɒmprɪ'hensəbəl) *adj* able to be understood. **comprehension** (ˌkɒmprɪ'henʃən) *nu* the act of understanding or ability to understand.

comprehensive (ˌkɒmprɪ'hensɪv) *adj* including or to do with all or many types. **comprehensive school** also **comprehensive** a large school for children of all abilities from about eleven to eighteen.

compress (kəm'pres) *vt* make smaller by pressing together. • ('kɒmpres) *nc* a folded-up wet cloth pressed against a part of the body, to stop swelling or bleeding. **compression** *nu* **compressor** *nc* a machine that compresses a gas.

comprise (kəm'praɪz) *vt* 1 include. 2 form: *The examination is comprised of three papers.*

compromise ('kɒmprəmaɪz) *nc* an agreement reached by both sides giving up some points. • *vi* 1 reach a compromise. 2 *vt* 1 risk damaging the reputation of, through an unwise action. 2 weaken or put in danger: *Don't compromise your chances of success.*

compulsion (kəm'pʌlʃən) 1 *nu* being compelled. 2 *nc* a very strong urge.

compulsive (kəm'pʌlsɪv) *adj* unable to stop doing something, esp. something wrong: *a compulsive liar.*

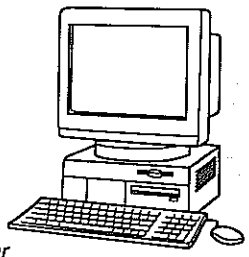
compulsory (kəm'pʌlsərɪ) *adj* that must be done, followed, etc.: *compulsory rules.*

compunction (kəm'pʌŋkʃən) *nu fml* regrets; hesitation: *I have no compunction about refusing to go.*

computation (ˌkɒmpjʊ'teɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) working something out with numbers.

compute (kəm'pjuːt) *vt* work out with numbers or with a computer.

computer (kəm'pjuːtə*) *nc* an electric device for working out problems with numbers and for storing, arranging, and supplying information: see picture. **computerise** (kəm'pjuːtəˌraɪz) *vt* use a computer or computers to do (something), store (information), run (a business), etc.: *The new factory will be fully computerised.* **computer language** See under **language. computing** *nc* the use of computers.


computer

comrade ('kɒmrɪd) *nc* a friend or companion. **comradeship** *nu*

con (kɒn) *infml nc* also **con trick** an example of tricking someone, esp. out of money. • *vt* trick (esp. out of money or into doing something).

concave (ˌkɒn'keɪv) *adj* having a side that curves in. See also **convex.**

conceal (kən'siːl) *vt* hide. **concealment** *nu*

concede (kən'siːd) *vt* 1 allow; agree that (something) is true: *I concede most of the points in your argument.* 2 allow someone to win: *to concede the match.*

conceit (kən'siːt) *nu* thinking that you are better than you are. **conceited** *adj*

conceive (kən'siːv) *vti* 1 become pregnant with (a child). 2 (often followed by **of**) imagine: *I can't conceive of a more stupid idea.* **conceivable** *adj* **conceivably** *adv*

concentrate ('kɒnsəntreɪt) 1 *vti* come or bring together. 2 *vt* make stronger or purer: *concentrated fruit juice. vi* 3 (often followed by **on**) think very hard (about): *I'm trying to concentrate on my work.* 4 (followed by **on**) occupy yourself chiefly (with): *To start with, I'm concentrating on important things.* **concentration** (ˌkɒnsən'treɪʃən) *nu* 1 the act of concentrating. 2 hard thought. 3 *nc* something concentrated. **concentration camp** a prison camp, esp. during a war but for people other than enemy soldiers.

concentric (kən'sentrɪk) *adj* (of circles) having the same centre.

concept ('kɒnsept) *nc* an idea.

conception (kən'sepʃən) 1 *nu* the act of conceiving. 2 *nc* an idea.

concern (kən'sɜːn) *vt* affect; be to do with: *Does this concern you?* **be concerned with** be to do with; be about: *The article is concerned with air pollution.* **concern with** take an interest in. • *nc* 1 something that affects or is to do with someone or something; responsibility: *That's no concern of yours.* 2 a business. 3 *nu* worry: *a cause for concern.* **concerned** *adj* 1 that is being discussed: *The play concerned finishes next week.* 2 worried. **concerning** *prep* to do with.

concert ('kɒnsət) *nc* a musical entertainment. **concert hall** a hall in which concerts are given. **concert-master** *US* See **leader.**

concerted (kən'sɜːtɪd) *adj* organised or done together: *a concerted effort.*

concerto (kən'tʃeətəʊ) *nc, pl* **-tos, -ti** (tɪ) a piece of music for a single instrument and an orchestra.

concession (kən'seʃən) 1 *nu* the act of conceding. 2 *nc* something conceded, such as the right to sell goods made by someone else.

conch (kɒntʃ) *nc* (a sea-animal with) a large, spiral shell, which can be blown into when empty to make a deep sound.

conciliate (kən'sɪlɪeɪt) *vi* try to put a stop to an argument or disagreement between people. **conciliation** (kənˌsɪlɪ'eɪʃən) *nu* **conciliatory** (kən'sɪljətrɪ) *adj*

concise (kən'saɪs) *adj* short but not missing out anything important: *a concise dictionary.*

conclude (kən'kluːd) 1 *vti* finish. 2 *vt* (followed by **that**) decide; work out: *I conclude from what you said that you don't like me.* **conclusion** (kən'kluːʒən) *nc* 1 the end. 2 an opinion reached after thinking about the facts. 3 *ncu* (a) settlement.

conclusive (kən'kluːsɪv) *adj* deciding; that proves something: *conclusive facts.*

concoct (kən'kɒkt) *vt* make up or invent (a dish, false story, etc.). **concoction** (kən'kɒkʃən) *ncu*

concord ('kɒŋkɔːd) *nu* agreement.

concourse ('kɒŋkɔːs) *nc* a large, open space in a public building, at a station or airport, etc.

concrete ('kɒŋkriːt) *nu* a mix of cement, stones, sand, and water used for building. • *vt* cover with concrete. • *adj* real; actually existing; definite.

concur (kən'kɜː*) *vi fml* 1 happen together. 2 (often followed by **with**) agree. **concurrent** (kən'kʌrənt) *adj* 1 happening together. 2 in agreement.

concussion (kən'kʌʃən) *nu* injury to the brain caused by a blow to the head.

condemn (kən'dem) *vt* 1 say that you disapprove of. 2 (of a judge, etc.) sentence (to a punishment). **condemnation** (ˌkɒndem'neɪʃən) *nu*

condensation (ˌkɒnden'seɪʃən) *nu* 1 the act of condensing or something that has been condensed. 2 water that has condensed on a surface such as a window.

condense (kən'dens) 1 *vti* make or become smaller. 2 *vt* cause (a gas) to become liquid. 3 *vi* (of a gas) become liquid.

condenser (kən'densə*) *nc* a device for condensing gases.

condescend (ˌkɒndɪ'send) *vi* agree (to do something that you consider too ordinary for you). **condescension** (ˌkɒndɪ'senʃən) *nu* behaving in this way.

condiment ('kɒndɪmənt) *nc* something added to food for its taste, esp. salt or pepper.

condition (kən'dɪʃən) 1 *ncu* a state: *in good condition. nc* 2 something on which something else depends: *conditions of service.* 3 (*pl*) a state of affairs: *weather conditions.* • *vt* cause to act in a particular way. **on condition that** if, as a condition; providing. **conditional** (kən'dɪʃənəl) *adj* depending (on something). • *grammar adj, n* (a verb) expressing a condition: *the conditional form.*

condolence (kən'dəʊləns) *nc* (often *pl*) an expression of sympathy.

condom ('kɒndəm) *nc* a thin, rubber covering for the man's penis when he has sex, esp. as a form of contraception.

condone (kən'dəʊn) *vt* say that (an action) is not wrong: *I certainly don't condone crime.*

conducive (kən'djuːsɪv) *adj* (often followed by **to**) helpful; permitting: *Noise is not conducive to study.*

conduct (kən'dʌkt) *vt* 1 lead or guide (a meeting, orchestra, sightseeing group, etc.). 2 manage: *He conducts his affairs well.* 3 allow (electricity, heat, etc.) to pass. • ('kɒndʌkt) *nu* behaviour: *a prize for good conduct.* **conduction** *nu* **conductive** *adj* that can (easily) conduct (heat or electricity). **conductor** *nc* 1 a person who conducts an orchestra. 2 a person who takes the money for tickets on a bus, etc. 3 something that conducts heat, electricity, etc.

conduit ('kɒndɪt, 'kɒndjʊɪt) *nc* a pipe carrying either a liquid or electric wires.

cone (kəʊn) *nc* 1 a solid shape having a circle at one end and a point at the other: see picture at **shapes.** 2 something shaped like a cone, such as the fruit of a pine tree.

confectionery (kən'fekʃənrɪ) *nu* sweets. **confectioner** *nc* a maker or seller of sweets.

confederacy (kən'fedərəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 a union of nations or peoples formed into one political group. 2 a group of people formed to do something, esp. a crime. **confederate** (kən'fedərət) *nc* a member of a confederacy. • (kən'fedəreɪt) *vti* form (into a confederacy). **confederation** (kənˌfedə'reɪʃən) *nc* a confederacy, esp. of nations or peoples.

confer (kən'fɜː*) 1 *vi* discuss; talk. 2 *vt* (usually followed by **on**) give (an honour, prize, etc.): *to confer a university degree on a student.*

conference ('kɒnfərəns) *nc* a meeting at which something is discussed.

confess (kən'fes) *vti* say that you did (something wrong): *I confess that I broke it; He confessed to murder.* **confession** *ncu*

confetti (kən'fetɪ) *nu* tiny pieces of coloured paper thrown at a bride and bridegroom.

confidant (ˌkɒnfɪ'dænt) *nc* someone whom you choose to trust and confide in.

confide (kən'faɪd) *vti* tell your secrets (to someone).

confidence ('kɒnfɪdəns) 1 *nu* believing that you can do something well; trust in yourself, in someone, or in something. 2 *nc* a secret told to someone. **in confidence** as a secret. **confident** ('kɒnfɪdənt) *adj* believing in yourself, in someone, or in something; having confidence. **confidential** (ˌkɒnfɪ'denʃəl) *adj* to be kept secret. **confidently** *adv*

configuration (kənˌfɪgjʊ'reɪʃən) *nc* a shape or outline; how parts of something are arranged.

confine (kən'faɪn) *vt* 1 control. 2 keep in too small a place. 3 put in prison. **confinement** (kən'faɪnmənt) *ncu* 1 being put in prison; being controlled. 2 giving birth to a child. **confines** ('kɒnfaɪnz) *n pl* limits; borders.

confirm (kən'fɜːm) *vt* 1 make (an opinion, idea, feeling, etc.) more sure. 2 make (someone) a full member of a Christian Church. **confirmation** (ˌkɒnfə'meɪʃən) *ncu* **confirmed** (kən'fɜːmd) *adj* not likely to change: *a confirmed bachelor.*

confiscate ('kɒnfɪskeɪt) *vt* take (something) away from someone as a punishment.

conflict ('kɒnflɪkt) *nc* a quarrel or fight. • (kɒn'flɪkt) *vi* be in opposition.

confluence ('kɒnflʊəns) *nc* the place where two or more rivers join and begin to flow together.

conform (kən'fɔːm) *vi* be in agreement with; do what other people say: *conform to the rules.* **conformity** (kən'fɔːmɪtɪ) *nu*

confound (kən'faʊnd) *vt* confuse (and surprise).

confront (kən'frʌnt) *vt* face (something unpleasant); oppose. **confrontation** (ˌkɒnfrʌn'teɪʃən) *ncu*

confuse (kən'fjuːz) *vt* 1 mix up; not be able to tell the difference between. 2 make (someone) puzzled. **confused** *adj* **confusing** *adj* **confusion** (kən'fjuːʒən) *nu*

congeal (kən'dʒiːl) *vti* change to a thick or solid state.

congenial (kən'dʒiːnjəl) *adj* 1 having the same interests, etc., as someone else. 2 pleasant; that suits you: *congenial work.*

congenital (kən'dʒenɪtəl) *adj* (of a disease or defect) existing from birth.

congestion (kən'dʒestʃən) *nu* being too full: *traffic congestion.* **congested** (kən'dʒestɪd) *adj* too full.

conglomerate (kən'glɒməreɪt) *vti* gather or collect together into a round mass. • (kən'glɒmərət) *nc* a large company that consists of smaller companies making many different things. **conglomeration** (kənˌglɒmə'reɪʃən) *ncu*

congratulate (kən'grætjʊleɪt) *vt* tell (someone) you are glad about their good news, etc. **congratulations** (kənˌgrætjʊ'leɪʃənz) *n pl* words that congratulate.

congregate ('kɒŋgrɪgeɪt) *vti* meet together. **congregation** (ˌkɒŋgrɪ'geɪʃən) *nc* a meeting of people, esp. for a church service.

congress ('kɒŋgres) *nc* one or more special meetings to discuss important business. **Congress** a national body, esp. of the USA, that makes laws. **congressional** (kəŋ'greʃənəl) *adj* **congressman** *nc, pl* **-men, congresswoman** *nc, pl* **-women** a member of Congress.

congruent ('kɒŋgrʊənt) *adj geometry* having the same size and shape: *congruent triangles.*

conical ('kɒnɪkəl) *adj* having the shape of a cone.

coniferous (kə'nɪfərəs) *adj* (of some trees) having fruit called cones. **conifer** ('kɒnɪfə*) *nc* a coniferous tree.

conjecture (kən'dʒektʃə*) *fml nc, vti* (a) guess.

conjugal ('kɒndʒʊgəl) *adj fml* of marriage; of husband and wife: *conjugal love.*

conjugate ('kɒndʒʊgeɪt) *vt grammar* give the forms of (a verb). **conjugation** (ˌkɒndʒʊ'geɪʃən) *ncu*

conjunction (kən'dʒʌŋkʃən) 1 *nc grammar* a word that joins other words, sentences, etc., together. 2 *nu* union. **in conjunction with** together with.

conjunctivitis (kənˌdʒʌŋktɪ'vaɪtɪs) *nu medicine* inflammation of the outer surface of the eyeball and the inner surface of the eyelid.

conjure ('kʌndʒə*) *vti* do a trick that looks like magic; make (something) appear. **conjurer** ('kʌndʒərə*) *nc* a person who performs such tricks.

connect (kə'nekt) *vti* join; link: *Please connect these wires together; I'm connected with the football club; The two crimes may be connected.* **connection** (kə'nekʃən) *nc* 1 a link: *an electrical connection.* 2 a train, bus, etc., that takes passengers on the next part of a journey. **in connection with** to do with; about.

connive (kə'naɪv) *vi* 1 work together secretly. 2 (followed by **at**) take no notice, when you should, of (what is wrong).

connoisseur (ˌkɒnə'sɜː*) *nc* a person who is a good judge in some matter of taste: *a connoisseur of painting.*

connotation (ˌkɒnəʊ'teɪʃən) *nc* an extra, second meaning suggested by a word.

conquer ('kɒŋkə*) *vt* defeat (an enemy, a country, or bad habits). **conqueror** *nc* **conquest** ('kɒŋkwest) *ncu* the act of conquering or something conquered.

conscience ('kɒnʃəns) *ncu* a feeling that tells you right from wrong: *a guilty conscience.*

conscientious (ˌkɒnʃɪ'enʃəs) *adj* careful to do nothing wrong or badly. **conscientiously** *adv* **conscientiousness** *nc*

conscious ('kɒnʃəs) *adj* 1 awake; noticing: *She was not conscious during the operation.* 2 aware: *He is conscious of his mistakes; safety-conscious parents.* **consciously** *adv* **consciousness** *nu*

conscript (kən'skrɪpt) *vt* force (someone) by law to join an army, navy, or air force. • ('kɒnskrɪpt) *nc* a person who is conscripted. **conscription** (kən'skrɪpʃən) *nu*

consecrate ('kɒnsɪkreɪt) *vt* give (something) completely to God; make holy. **consecration** (ˌkɒnsɪ'kreɪʃən) *nu*

consecutive (kən'sekjʊtɪv) *adj* following on: *One, two, three are consecutive numbers.* **consecutively** *adv*

consensus (kən'sensəs) *nc* agreement by most of the people.

consent (kən'sent) *vi* agree or allow. • *nu* agreement.

consequence ('kɒnsɪkwəns) *nc* a result.

consequent ('kɒnsɪkwənt) *adj* following as a result of other causes. **consequently** *adv*

conservation (ˌkɒnsə'veɪʃən) *nu* the caring for and protection of old buildings, the countryside, wildlife, etc.

conservative (kən'sɜːvətɪv) *adj* not liking change; having usual interests, tastes, etc.; cautious.

conservatory (kən'sɜːvətrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a building or room made of glass for delicate plants to grow in or for people to sit and relax in.

conserve (kən'sɜːv) *vt* keep or save from harm or loss.

consider (kən'sɪdə*) *vt* 1 think over carefully. 2 show thought for: *consider people's feelings.* 3 have an opinion: *He's considered a great writer; I consider her a fool.*

considerable (kən'sɪdərəbəl) *adj* very great. **considerably** *adv*

considerate (kən'sɪdərət) *adj* caring about people. **consideration** (kən,sɪdə'reɪʃən) 1 *nu* thinking about; caring. 2 *nc* something that must be thought about as a possible reason. **take into consideration** think about in connection with something else.

considering (kən'sɪdərɪŋ) *prep* in spite of: *He is very active considering his age.*

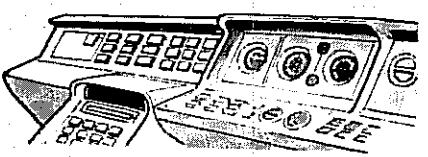
consign (kən'saɪn) *vt* send (goods, etc.). **consignment** *ncu*

consist (kən'sɪst) *vi* 1 (followed by **of**) be made up of: *The team consists of six people; Water consists of hydrogen and oxygen.* 2 (followed by **in**) have as the only or most important thing.

consistency (kən'sɪstənsɪ) *nu* 1 the degree of thickness of a liquid, etc. 2 agreement or harmony. **consistent with** in agreement with. **consistently** *adv*

console[1] (kən'səul) *vt* comfort. **consolation** (,kɒnsə'leɪʃən) *nc*

console[2] ('kɒnsəul) *nc* 1 a board for the controls of a plane, car, etc.: see picture. 2 the container of a television set that stands on the floor.



console

consolidate (kən'sɒlɪdeɪt) *vti* 1 make or become stronger. 2 (esp. of companies) combine into one. **consolidation** (kən,sɒlɪ'deɪʃən) *ncu*

consonant ('kɒnsənənt) *nc* 1 a speech sound produced by partly stopping the flow of air through the mouth. 2 a letter of the alphabet such as *b, d,* or *f.* See also **vowel.**

consort ('kɒnsɔɪt) *nc* the wife or husband of a ruler. **consort with** (kən'sɔɪt) spend a lot of time with; be a friend or companion of: *She has been consorting with people her parents disapprove of.*

consortium (kən'sɔɪtɪəm) *nc* a group of people or businesses that work together.

conspicuous (kən'spɪkjuəs) *adj* easily seen.

conspiracy (kən'spɪrəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** a secret plan made by a group of people. **conspirator** (kən'spɪrətə) *nc* a person who makes a secret plan with other people.

conspire (kən'spaɪə*) *vti* make secret plans (with other people).

constable ('kʌnstəbəl) *nc* a policeman.

constant ('kɒnstənt) *adj* 1 never changing. 2 loyal; faithful. • *nc* something that stays the same. **constantly** *adv*

constellation (,kɒnstə'leɪʃən) *nc* a group of stars.

consternation (,kɒnstə'neɪʃən) *nu* a feeling of fear and worry.

constipation (,kɒnstɪ'peɪʃən) *nu* difficulty in emptying the body of solid waste. **constipated** ('kɒnstɪ,peɪtɪd) *adj* suffering from constipation.

constituency (kən'stɪtjuənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** the voters in a town, etc., who choose their own Member of Parliament; the town itself.

constituent (kən'stɪtjuənt) *nc* 1 a part of something. 2 a voter in a constituency. • *adj* making up a whole: *the constituent parts of a mixture.*

constitute ('kɒnstɪtjuɪt) *vt fml* be a part or the whole of.

constitution (,kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃən) *nc* 1 the health of one's body: *a strong constitution.* 2 the laws of a government. **constitutional** (,kɒnstɪ'tju:ʃənəl) *adj* of the laws, etc., of a government. • *nc fml* a short, frequent walk to keep healthy.

constrain (kən'streɪn) *vt* force (someone) to do something: make (yourself) do something by the force of your own feelings. **constraint** (kən'streɪnt) *nu*

constrict (kən'strɪkt) *vt* press into too small a space. **constriction** *nc*

construct (kən'strʌkt) *vt* build. **construction** (kən'strʌkʃən) *nc* 1 a building. 2 the way words are arranged in a sentence. 3 the meaning of what is said or done. **constructive** *adj* useful and helpful.

construe (kən'stru:) *vt* explain the meaning of (words or actions); give a particular meaning to (words or actions).

consul ('kɒnsəl) *nc* a member of government living abroad to help their own people there. **consulate** ('kɒnsjʊlət) *nc* the consul's offices.

consult (kən'sʌlt) *vt* get help or information from (a person, book, etc.). **consultant** (kən'sʌltənt) *nc* an expert who gives advice. **consultation** (,kɒnsəl'teɪʃən) *ncu*

consume (kən'sju:m) *vt fml* 1 eat or drink. 2 destroy: *consumed by fire.* **consuming**

adj having no control over your feelings: *consuming anger.*

consumer (kən'sjuːmə*) *nc* a person who buys and uses goods.

consummate ('kɒnsəmeɪt) *vt* make (something) perfect or complete; make (a marriage) complete by having sex. **consummation** (ˌkɒnsə'meɪʃən) *nc*

consumption (kən'sʌmpʃən) 1 *nc* using up; eating. 2 *nu* a disease of the lungs.

contact ('kɒntækt) *nu* 1 touch: *The wires are in contact with each other.* 2 communication: *The pilot had lost contact with the ground staff.* 3 *nc* a person who you know in a professional way: *business contacts.* **contact lens** a very small, thin lens, usually of plastic, that is placed on the eye to improve vision. • *vt* get in touch with (someone) by letter, telephone, etc.

contagious (kən'teɪdʒəs) *adj* (of an illness) likely to be spread by contact (or touch).

contain (kən'teɪn) *vt* 1 have or hold: *This jug contains one litre of water; His report contains some new facts.* 2 control (your feelings, a problem, etc.): *We couldn't contain our laughter.*

container (kən'teɪnə*) *nc* 1 a box, cup, bucket, etc., made to hold things inside. 2 a large, metal box for transporting goods.

contaminate (kən'tæmɪneɪt) *vt* spoil; make unfit for use. **contamination** (kənˌtæmɪ'neɪʃən) *nu*

contemplate ('kɒntempleɪt) 1 *vt* (look at and) think about. 2 *vi* think what you might do. **contemplation** (ˌkɒntem'pleɪʃən) *nu* **contemplative** ('kɒntempleɪtɪv) *adj*

contemporary (kən'temprərɪ) *adj* 1 belonging to the same period of time. 2 modern. • *nc, pl* **-ries** a person of the same age.

contempt (kən'tempt) *nu* a lack of respect (for someone or something). **contemptible** (kən'temptəbəl) *adj* causing or deserving contempt. **contemptuous** (kən'temptjuəs) *adj* having or showing contempt.

contend (kən'tend) *vi* 1 take part in a race, contest, etc. 2 quarrel or fight. 3 *vt* argue about (something). **contender** *nc*

content[1] (kən'tent) *adj* pleased; happy. **contented** *adj* satisfied. **contentedly** *adj* **contentment** *nu*

content[2] (kɒntent) *nc* 1 the amount a container can hold. 2 (*pl*) that which is inside a book, room, pocket, etc.

contention (kən'tenʃən) 1 *nu* quarrelling. 2 *nc* an argument. **contentious** (kən'tenʃəs) *adj* causing arguments.

contest ('kɒntest) *nc* a race, match, fight, competition, etc. • (kən'test) *vti* 1 compete. 2 argue (about something). **contestant** (kən'testənt) *nc* a person who fights, competes, etc.

context ('kɒntekst) *ncu* the words before and after a word, sentence, etc., that help show its meaning.

continent ('kɒntɪnənt) *nc* one of the main large pieces of land in the world. **the Continent** the mainland of Europe. **continental** (ˌkɒntɪ'nentəl) *adj* **continental drift** the very slow movement of the continents over millions of years. **continental shelf** the land below the sea around a continent; where the water is shallow.

contingency (kən'tɪndʒensɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** something that may happen. **contingent** *adj* 1 not certain. 2 (followed by **upon**) that may happen if something else happens first. • *nc* part of a group of people.

continual (kən'tɪnjuəl) *adj* seeming never to stop and occurring regularly. **continually** *adv*

continue (kən'tɪnjuː) *vti* keep doing or being; go on speaking, doing, etc., after stopping. **continuation** (kənˌtɪnju'eɪʃən) *nu*

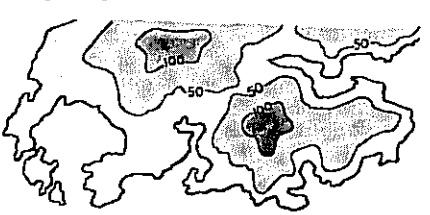
continuity (ˌkɒntɪ'njuːətɪ) *nu* a state of going on and on without a break.

continuous (kən'tɪnjuəs) *adj* going on for a long time without stopping: *continuous rain.* **continuously** *adv*

continuum (kən'tɪnjuəm) *nc, pl* **-nuums** or **-nua** (njuə) a continuous series in which one part runs into the next, or something made up of parts that cannot be separated or distinguished.

contortion (kən'tɔːʃən) *nc* twisting out of its normal shape: *bodily contortions.*

contour ('kɒnˌtuə*) *nc* a line showing the shape or height of something, esp. on a map: see picture.



contour

contraband ('kɒntrəbænd) *nu* goods taken secretly in or out of a country against the law.

contraception (ˌkɒntrə'sepʃən) *nu* the prevention of becoming pregnant. See also **family planning.** **contraceptive** *nc, adj* (a drug, device, etc.) used in contraception.

contract ('kɒntrækt) *nc* a business agreement. • (kən'trækt) *vt* 1 make (a business agreement). 2 get (an illness). 3 *vi* get smaller or shorter.

contraction (kən'trækʃən) 1 *nu* getting smaller or shorter. 2 *nc* a short form of a word or phrase: *'It's' is a contraction of 'it is'.*

contractor (kən'trækt*ə**) *nc* a person or business that agrees to do work or provide goods.

contradict (ˌkɒntrə'dɪkt) *vt* 1 say that (something) is not true. 2 say that (someone) is wrong. **contradiction** *nc* **contradictory** (ˌkɒntrə'dɪktrɪ) *adj*

contralto (kən'trælt*ə*ʊ) *n* See **alto** (def. 1).

contraption (kən'træpʃən) *nc* a machine that looks strange.

contrary ('kɒntrərɪ) *adj* opposite: *contrary to the facts.* **on the contrary** (used to oppose what has just been said.)

contrast ('kɒntrɑɪst) 1 *nu* putting together different objects to show their differences. 2 *nc* a difference between such objects. • (kən'trɑɪst) *vti* 1 compare so that differences are clear. 2 show differences.

contravene (ˌkɒntrə'viːn) *vt* go against (the law). **contravention** (ˌkɒntrə'venʃən) *nc*

contribute (kən'trɪbjuːt) *vti* join with others to buy, give, or do (something). **contribution** (ˌkɒntrɪ'bjuːʃən) *ncu* **contributor** (kən'trɪbjut*ə**) *nc* a person who contributes.

contrite ('kɒntrɑɪt) *adj* showing sorrow and guilt. **contrition** (kən'trɪʃən) *nu*

contrive (kən'trɑɪv) *vti* find a way of doing (something).

control (kən'trəʊl) 1 *nu* power or direction: *The driver has control of the train.* 2 *nc* a way of regulating or directing something. 3 (*pl*) switches for making a machine, car, etc., work. • *vt* have power over. **controller** *nc* a person who controls something. **under** or **out of control** able or not able to be kept in order.

controversy ('kɒntrəˌvəɪsɪ, kən'trɒvəɪsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** an argument, usually on public matters. **controversial** (ˌkɒntrə'vəɪʃəl) *adj*

convalesce (ˌkɒnvə'les) *vi* get better after an illness. **convalescence** *nu* **convalescent** *nc, adj* (a person) getting better after an illness.

convection (kən'vekʃən) *nu* carrying heat by the movement of heated water, air, etc.

convene (kən'viːn) *vti* send for (people) to come or get together for (a meeting).

convenience (kən'viːnjəns) *nu* being right or suitable; usefulness. **convenient** *adj* **conveniently** *adv* **public convenience** a lavatory.

convent ('kɒnvənt) *nc* a house in which nuns live.

convention (kən'venʃən) 1 *nc* a number of meetings to discuss one thing, esp. politics or business. 2 *ncu* usual behaviour or custom. **conventional** *adj* usual.

converge (kən'vəɪdʒ) *vi* meet at a point, or at the same place. **convergent** (kən'vəɪdʒənt) *adj*

conversant (kən'vəɪsənt) *adj* (followed by **with**) knowing (something) well: *I'm not conversant with your system.*

conversation (ˌkɒnvə'seɪʃən) 1 *nu* speaking. 2 *nc* a talk: *conversations with friends.* **conversational** *adj*

converse[1] (kən'vəɪs) *vi fml* talk.

converse[2] ('kɒnvəɪs) *adj* opposite. • *nu* an opposite statement. **conversely** *adv*

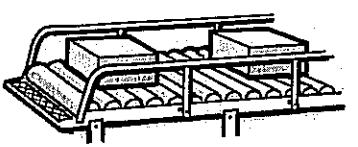
conversion (kən'vəːʃən) 1 *nu* change from one form, way, use, etc., into another. 2 *nc* a change of faith, opinion, etc.

convert (kən'vəɪt) 1 *vti* change (from one form, way, use, etc., into another). 2 *vt* get (someone) to change their opinion, faith, etc. • ('kɒnvəɪt) *nc* a person who changes, esp. to a different religion.

convertible (kən'vəɪtəbəl) *adj* able to be changed. • *nc* a car with a roof that can be folded or removed.

convex (ˌkɒn'veks) *adj* having a side that curves out. See also **concave.**

convey (kən'veɪ) *vt* 1 carry. 2 give: *Convey my thanks to her.* **conveyor belt** (in a factory) a belt for carrying goods, etc.: see picture. **conveyance** *nc* a cart, car, etc., for carrying goods or people.



conveyor belt

convict (kən'vɪkt) *vt* prove in a law court that (someone) is guilty. • ('kɒnvɪkt) *nc* a convicted person, esp. one who is in prison.

conviction (kən'vɪkʃən) 1 *nu* proving of guilt. 2 *nc* a firm belief in an idea, etc.

convince (kən'vɪns) *vt* make (a person) believe something: *I convinced him of the truth; She convinced me she was right.* **convincing** *adj*

convivial (kən'vɪvɪəl) *adj* merry; enjoying fun with other people.

convocation (ˌkɒnvəʊ'keɪʃən) *nu* calling together of people to a meeting.

convoy ('kɒnvɔɪ) *nc* a number of ships, lorries, cars, etc., travelling together, esp. for protection.

convulse (kən'vʌls) *vt* make (the body) shake violently: *convulsed with laughter.* **convulsion** *nc* **convulsive** *adj*

coo (kuː) *vi* make a soft sound like a dove or a pigeon. • *nc* such a noise.

cook (kʊk) *vti* make (food) ready to eat by heating it: *She cooked the meal; These vegetables cook very quickly.* • *nc* a person who cooks. **cookbook** *nc* also **cookery book** a book on how and what to cook. **cooker** *nc* an apparatus for cooking; stove. **cookery** ('kʊkərɪ) *nu* cooking with skill and ability.

cookie ('kʊkɪ) *nc US* a biscuit.

cool (kuːl) *adj* 1 between warm and cold. 2 (of a person) calm; not very friendly. 3 *slang* very good. • *vti* (cause to) become cool. **coolly** *adv* **coolness** *nu*

coop (kuːp) *nc* a cage for hens. **coop up** shut into a small space.

co-operate (kəʊ'ɒpəreɪt) *vi* work together for the same aim. **co-operation** (kəʊˌɒpə'reɪʃən) *nu* **co-operative** *adj* willing to help. • *nc* a farm, shop, etc., or a society owned and operated for the benefit of the people who work in it or use its services.

co-ordinate (kəʊ'ɔːdɪneɪt) *vt* 1 make (things or people) work together well or be equally important. 2 bring together (things or people) to increase efficiency. • (kəʊ'ɔːdɪnɪt) *nc mathematics* one of a group of numbers used to state exactly the position of a point on a graph. **co-ordination** (kəʊˌɔːdɪ'neɪʃən) *nu* **co-ordinator** *nc* a person who co-ordinates.

cop (kɒp) *nc slang* a policeman.

cope (kəʊp) *vi* (followed by **with**) deal with (a person, work, difficulty, etc.).

co-pilot ('kəʊpaɪlət) *nc* a second person at the controls in a plane.

copious ('kəʊpjəs) *adj* more than enough.

copper ('kɒpə*) 1 *nu* red metal: symbol Cu. *nc* 2 a coin made of copper. 3 *slang* a policeman.

copra ('kɒprə) *nu* the dried insides of a coconut.

copse (kɒps) *nc* a small wood with small trees and bushes.

copulation (ˌkɒpjʊ'leɪʃən) *nc* having sex; the act by which a male and female produce children.

copy ('kɒpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pies** 1 something made to be or look like something else: *Please make a copy of this letter.* 2 (of a book, etc.) one example: *They published thousands of copies of the newspaper.* • *vt* 1 make a copy of; reproduce. 2 do the same as (someone else). **copyright** ('kɒpɪraɪt) *nu law* the right given to a writer of books, music, etc., to be the only producer of the work.

coral ('kɒrəl) *nu* a hard red, white, or pink substance produced by the bodies of small sea-animals: see picture.

coral

cord (kɔːd) *nc* 1 a piece of thick string. 2 a piece of wire that carries electricity to an iron, telephone, etc. 3 a part of the body like a cord: *spinal cord.* **cordless** *adj* (of an iron, telephone, etc.) having no **cord** (def. 2).

cordial ('kɔːdjəl) *adj* polite and kind. • *nc* a sweet fruit drink.

cordon ('kɔːdən) *adj* a line of police to stop people entering a place. **cordon off** block off (a place).

corduroy ('kɔːdərɔɪ) *nu* a thick, cotton cloth with raised lines.

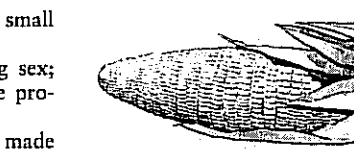
core (kɔː*) *nc* 1 the heart or centre of anything. 2 the part of an apple, etc., with the seeds.

cork (kɔːk) 1 *nu* a light, tough substance from the outer covering of an oak tree. 2 *nc* a piece of this used to close the hole in a bottle. **corkscrew** ('kɔːkskruː) *nc* a tool for pulling out corks.

corm (kɔːm) *nc* a swollen underground part at the base of the stem of certain plants.

cormorant ('kɔːmərənt) *nc* a large, black sea-bird.

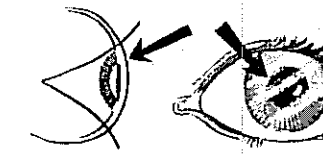
corn[1] (kɔːn) *nu* 1 *Brit* any of various cereal plants, esp. wheat. 2 *US* also *Brit* **maize** a kind of tall cereal plant grown for its ears of yellow seeds. **corn cob** the hard centre of an ear of **corn**[1] (def. 2): see picture. **cornfield** *nc* a field in which corn is growing.



corn cob

corn[2] *nc* a hard piece of skin, esp. on a toe, that causes pain.

cornea ('kɔɪnɪə) *nc* the outer part of the eye that lets light through and covers the iris: see picture.



cornea

corner ('kɔɪnə*) *nc* 1 a place where two sides or edges meet at an angle: *in the corner of the room; a street corner.* 2 a hard place to get out of. • *vt* stop (someone) from getting away. **cornerstone** ('kɔɪnəstəʊn) *nc* 1 a stone, laid at a public event, forming the corner of a building. 2 something on which other things depend.

cornet ('kɔɪnɪt) *nc* 1 a small, brass musical instrument that is blown: see picture at **musical instruments.** 2 a container shaped like a cone filled with ice cream.

cornflour ('kɔɪnflaʊə*) *nu* flour made from maize.

cornflower ('kɔɪnflaʊə*) *nc* a plant with blue flowers that grows wild in cornfields.

corolla ('kərɒlə) *nc* all the petals of a flower.

corollary (kə'rɒlərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 something that needs no proof because it comes from something else that has been proved. 2 the expected result.

corona (kə'rəʊnə) *nc, pl* **-s, -nae** (niː) a circle of white light seen round the sun or moon.

coronary ('kɒrənərɪ) *adj* of the blood-vessels that supply blood to the heart. • *nc* also **coronary thrombosis** a blockage in one of the blood-vessels that can cause a heart attack.

coronation (ˌkɒrə'neɪʃən) *nc* the crowning of a king or queen.

coroner ('kɒrənə*) *nc* a person who finds out the reasons for a violent or unnatural death.

coronet ('kɒrənɪt) *nc* a small crown.

corporal[1] ('kɔɪpərəl) *adj* of the body: *corporal punishment.*

corporal[2] *nc* an ordinary soldier.

corporate ('kɔɪpərət) *adj* of a group of people, esp. council members elected to govern a town.

corporation (ˌkɔɪpə'reɪʃən) *nc* 1 a group of people acting together, esp. council members. 2 a large business organisation.

corps (kɔː*) *n pl* a large organised group of people: *the army corps.*

corpse (kɔɪps) *nc* a dead body.

corpuscle ('kɔɪpʌsəl) *nc* a red or white cell in the blood.

correct (kə'rekt) *adj* 1 right; true: *a correct answer.* 2 proper: *correct behaviour.* • *vt* 1 make or put right, esp. by showing mistakes. 2 alter: *Correct your course.* **correction** (kə'rekʃən) 1 *nu* making right. 2 *nc* a mistake made right. **corrective** (kə'rektɪv) *adj* making right what was wrong: *corrective training.* • *nc* something that corrects. **correctly** *adv*

correlate ('kɒrəleɪt) 1 *vi* (followed by **with**) have things in common with. 2 *vt* establish a relationship between. **correlation** ('kɒrə'leɪʃən) *nc*

correspond (ˌkɒrɪ'spɒnd) *vi* 1 (followed by **with** or **to**) be in agreement with. 2 (followed by **to**) be equal to. 3 (followed by **with**) send and receive letters. **corresponding** (ˌkɒrɪ'spɒndɪŋ) *adj* same; very like. **correspondingly** *adv*

correspondence (ˌkɒrɪ'spɒndəns) *nc u* 1 being the same; agreement. 2 writing of letters; set of letters about a particular matter or between certain people: *He kept his correspondence with the bank.* **correspondence course** a course of study in which a person studies at home, sending and receiving work, lessons, etc., by post. **correspondent** (ˌkɒrɪ'spɒndənt) *nc* 1 a person who writes and receives letters. 2 a person whose job is to get news for a newspaper.

corridor ('kɒrɪdɔː*) *nc* a long, narrow passage from which doors open off into rooms.

corroborate (kə'rɒbəreɪt) *vt* add more proof that (an opinion, etc.) is right.

corrode (kə'rəʊd) *vti* slowly destroy or be worn away, esp. by chemical action. **corrosion** (kə'rəʊʒən) *nu* **corrosive** *adj*

corrugated ('kɒrəgeɪtɪd) *adj* bent into small waves or wrinkles to make stronger: *corrugated iron.*

corrupt (kə'rʌpt) *adj* (of a person or their behaviour) evil; dishonest. • *vt* make (someone or something good) go bad: *Pollution corrupts the air we breathe.* **corruption** (kə'rʌpʃən) *nu*

corset ('kɔɪsɪt) *nc* a stiff garment, worn next to the skin round the waist and hips, to improve the shape of the body.

cortex ('kɔɪteks) *nc, pl* **-tices** (tɪˌsiːz) 1 *anatomy* the outer layer of a part of the body, such as the kidney or the brain. 2 *botany* one of the outer layers of the roots and stems of plants.

cortisone ('kɔɪtɪˌsəʊn) *nu* a type of hormone that can be made artificially for use in medicine, to treat people with rheumatism, allergies, leukaemia, etc.

cosine ('kəʊˌsaɪn) *nc mathematics* (of one of the acute angles of a right-angled triangle) the ratio of the length of the side adjacent to the angle to the length of the hypotenuse. See also **sine.**

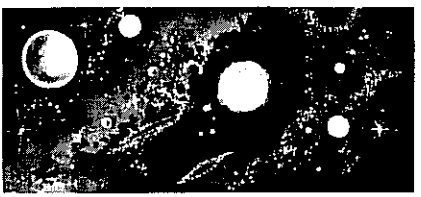
cosmetics (kɒz'metɪks) *n pl* creams, powders, etc., used to make the skin and hair beautiful. **cosmetic** (kɒz'metɪk) *adj* changing only the appearance of something.

cosmic ('kɒzmɪk) *adj* of stars, planets, and space.

cosmonaut ('kɒzmənɔːt) *nc* a person, esp. a Russian, who travels in a spacecraft.

cosmopolitan (ˌkɒzmə'pɒlɪtən) *adj* 1 of all parts of the world. 2 having wide experience.

cosmos ('kɒzmɒs) *nu* the system of all stars and space: see picture.



cosmos

cost (kɒst) *ncu* the amount of money for which something is bought or sold. • *vt* 1 have as a price: *It costs too much money.* 2 cause (someone) to lose (something): *This mistake will cost you your job.* **at all costs** no matter what happens. **costly** ('kɒstlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest. cost of living** money needed to live at a generally accepted level.

costume ('kɒstjuːm) 1 *nu* a fashion in dress, esp. of a nation, or of a time: *national costume; period costume. nc* 2 clothes for a special purpose: *swimming costume.* 3 the clothes worn by an actor in a play, film, etc.

cosy ('kəʊzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** warm and comfortable.

cot (kɒt) *nc* a small bed with high sides for a child. **cot death** (an example of) the sudden death of a baby while asleep.

cotangent (kəʊ'tændʒənt) *nc mathematics* (of one of the acute angles of a right-angled triangle) the ratio of the length of the side adjacent to the angle to the length of the side opposite to the angle. See also **tangent** (def. 1).

cottage ('kɒtɪdʒ) *nc* a small house, esp. in the country.

cotton ('kɒtən) *nu* the white, soft covering of the cotton plant's seeds, used for making cloth; (sometimes *nc*) cloth and thread made from cotton. **cotton wool** *nu* unspun cotton, used esp. for cleaning and protecting wounds.

cotyledon (ˌkɒtɪ'liːdən) *nc* a leaf that forms inside the seed of a plant before it germinates.

couch (kaʊtʃ) *nc* 1 a long, comfortable seat for two or more people. 2 a bed on which you lie to be examined by a doctor.

cough (kɒf) *vi* make a sharp, violent noise in the throat when pushing air out of the lungs. • *nc* the sound or act of coughing.

could (kʊd unstressed kəd) past tense of **can²**. 1 used to be able to: *I could do that when I was a child.* 2 (in a question) would: *Could you help me, please?* 3 (to say that something might be possible) were able to: *I would help you if I could.* 4 might: *This could be our chance to escape.*

couldn't ('kʊdənt) *v* could not.

could've ('kʊdəv) *v* could have: *I wish I could've gone with you.*

coulomb ('kuːlɒm) *nc* a measure of electric charge: *abbrev.* C.

council ('kaʊnsəl) *nc* a group of people elected to advise, make rules, etc. **councillor** ('kaʊnsələ*) *nc*

counsel ('kaʊnsəl) *vt* give advice. **counselling** *nu* **counsellor** ('kaʊnsələ*) *nc*

count (kaʊnt) 1 *vi* say numbers in order. *vt* 2 add up (numbers, etc.); find out how many (things, people, etc.) there are by saying numbers in order. 3 include. 4 consider. • *nc* 1 total. 2 a nobleman. **countdown** ('kaʊntdaʊn) *ncu* the (counting of the) amount of time left before a rocket takes off. **count in** *infml* include. **count on** depend on. **count out** *infml* do not include: *Count me out!* **count up** add up.

counter¹ ('kaʊntə*) *nc* 1 the table in a shop or bank over which goods or money are passed. 2 a small disc used in games.

counter² *adv* **counter to** opposite; against: *counter to my wishes.* • *vt* 1 oppose; set yourself against. 2 *vi* act after you have been attacked.

counteract (ˌkaʊntə'rækt) *vt* make of no use by an opposite action.

counterbalance ('kaʊntəˌbæləns) *nc* something, esp. a weight, equal to another and balancing it. • (ˌkaʊntə'bæləns) *vt* act against and so make less important.

counterclockwise (ˌkaʊntə'klɒkwaɪz) *US adv, adj* See **anticlockwise.**

counterfeit ('kaʊntəfɪt) *adj* made as a copy of something else, for a wrong purpose: *counterfeit money.* • *nc* a copy, usually worthless. • *vt* copy, for a wrong purpose.

counterfoil ('kaʊntəfɔɪl) *nc* a part of a cheque or bill, showing that money has been paid.

counterpart ('kaʊntəpɑːt) *nc* a person or thing exactly like another, or together making a whole.

counter-productive (ˌkaʊntəprə'dʌktɪv) *adj* having an effect that is the opposite of what was wanted.

countersign ('kaʊntəsaɪn) *vt* add your name on (a paper, etc.) that has already been signed.

counter-tenor (ˌkaʊntə'tenə*) *n* See **alto** (def. 2).

countess ('kaʊntɪs) *nc* the wife of a nobleman; noble lady as important as a count.

countless ('kaʊntlɪs) *adj* too many to count.

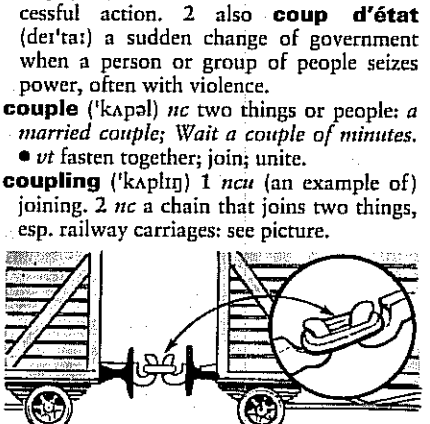
country ('kʌntrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 the land of a nation; land where you were born. *nu* 2 the land outside towns and cities, esp. used for farming. 3 a large area of land: *the North Country.* 4 the people of a nation. **countryside** ('kʌntrɪsaɪd) *nu* the land outside towns.

county ('kaʊntɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** one of the parts, each under local government, into which a state or country, esp. Britain, is divided.

coup (kuː) *nc French* 1 a sudden and successful action. 2 also **coup d'état** (deɪ'tɑː) a sudden change of government when a person or group of people seizes power, often with violence.

couple ('kʌpəl) *nc* two things or people: *a married couple; Wait a couple of minutes.* • *vt* fasten together; join; unite.

coupling ('kʌplɪŋ) 1 *ncu* (an example of) joining. 2 *nc* a chain that joins two things, esp. railway carriages: see picture.



coupling

coupon ('kuːpɒn) *nc* a paper ticket, etc., showing that you have a right to something.

courage ('kʌrɪdʒ) *nu* the ability to be brave. **courageous** (kə'reɪdʒəs) *adj* brave.

courgette (kʊə'ʒet) *nc US* **zucchini** a long vegetable with a dark-green skin; baby marrow: see picture.

courgette

courier ('kʊrɪə*) *nc* 1 a person who is paid to help tourists and take them sightseeing. 2 a messenger.

course (kɔːs) 1 *nu* going forward; passing: *the course of events. nc* 2 a direction: *the ship's course.* 3 a ground on which a race is run or a game played. 4 a part of a meal: *Soup is the first course.* 5 a series of things coming one after the other: *a course of talks on politics.* **in due course** at the proper time. **in the course of** during. **of course** yes; naturally: *Of course we can help you.*

court (kɔːt) *nc* 1 the judges, etc., who have come together to deal with law cases. 2 short for **courthouse** or **courtroom.** 3 a ground marked out for a game: *tennis court. nu* 4 the chief home of a king or queen; all the people attending the king or queen. 5 a name of a building or street: *The address is 5 Westbury Court.* • *vt* 1 *old-fashioned* (of a person) try to win the love of (someone), esp. in order to marry them. 2 (of an animal) try to attract (a mate). 3 *vi old-fashioned* have a boyfriend or girlfriend; spend time with a boyfriend or girlfriend. **courthouse** *nc* the building in which judges, etc., sit. **court-martial** (ˌkɔːt'mɑːʃəl) *nc, pl* **courts-martial** a law court held by armed forces for crimes against their law. **courtroom** *nc* the main room in the courthouse. **courtship** ('kɔːtʃɪp) *nu* the act of courting; the period of time that two people spend courting, esp. before marriage. **courtyard** *nc* an open space with walls or buildings on all sides.

courteous ('kɜːtjəs) *adj* polite. **courteously** ('kɜːtjəslɪ) *adv*

courtesy ('kɜːtəsɪ) *ncu* (an act of) polite behaviour.

courtier ('kɔːtɪə*) *nc* a person who attends at a royal court.

cousin ('kʌzən) *nc* the child of your uncle or aunt.

covalent (kəʊ'veɪlənt) *adj chemistry* (of a bond) in which electrons are shared between atoms in a molecule.

cove (kəʊv) *nc* a place where the coast bends in towards the land and out again; bay.

covenant ('kʌvənənt) *nc* a serious promise; legal agreement.

cover ('kʌvə*) *vt* 1 lay something over (something else), esp. to protect or hide it: *Cover the bed with a blanket.* 2 lie on top of: *Leaves covered the ground.* 3 travel: *We covered many miles.* 4 deal with; include: *His lecture covered all our questions.* 5 report. 6 watch over; protect: *Cover my escape.* • *nu* 1 shelter: *Get under cover from the rain.* *nc* 2 a thing that covers. 3 the outside of a book. **coverage** ('kʌvərɪdʒ) *nu* reporting of events for television, for a newspaper, etc. **cover for** do the work of (someone who is absent). **covering** ('kʌvərɪŋ) *nc* something that covers: *a covering of snow.* **cover up** hide. **cover-up** *nc* an attempt to hide a mistake or to stop people finding out the truth. **take cover** run and hide.

covert ('kʌvət) *adj* secret; sly: *a covert look from the corner of her eye.*

covet ('kʌvɪt) *vt* want (something, esp. belonging to someone else) very much.

cow (kaʊ) *nc* the female of the cattle family; the female of some other animals. • *vt* make afraid by threats. **cowboy** ('kaʊbɔɪ) *nc US* a man in charge of cattle. **cowhide** ('kaʊhaɪd) *nu* leather made from a cow's skin.

coward ('kaʊəd) *nc* a person who is not brave. **cowardice** ('kaʊədɪs) *nu* **cowardly** *adv* not brave.

cower ('kaʊə*) *vi* bend one's body away from something frightening.

cowslip ('kaʊslɪp) *nc* a small, yellow flower that grows in fields: see picture at **flowers.**

coxa ('kɒksə) *nc, pl* **coxae** ('kɒksiː) 1 *anatomy* the hip bone or hip joint. 2 *zoology* the part of an insect's leg where it is joined to the body.

coy (kɔɪ) *adj* **-er, -est** modest and shy; pretending to be shy.

coyote ('kɔɪəʊt) *nc* a wolf that lives in the grasslands of N America.

crab (kræb) *nc* a sea creature with a hard shell and ten legs: see picture.

crab

crack (kræk) *nc* 1 the line or place at which something has been broken. 2 a sharp blow: *a crack on the head.* 3 a sudden sharp noise: *the crack of a whip.* • *vti* 1 (cause to) make a sharp noise. 2 (cause to) partly break: *He cracked his skull.* **crack down on** *infml* take action against. **cracker** ('krækə*) *nc* 1 a thin, dry biscuit. 2 a kind of firework. 3 also **Christmas cracker** a paper toy that explodes harmlessly when the ends are pulled. **crack up** *infml* get an illness of the mind; become weak and ill, esp. in old age.

crackle ('krækəl) *vi* make small cracking noises, one after another.

cradle ('kreɪdəl) *nc* a small bed that rocks, for a baby. • *vt* hold closely.

craft (krɑːft) *nc* 1 a job or skill, esp. one that needs cleverness with the hands. 2 *pl* **craft** a boat or plane. **craftsman** *nc, pl* **-men, craftswoman** *nc, pl* **-women** a person who has a **craft** (def. 1). **craftsmanship** ('krɑːftsmənʃɪp) *nu*

crafty ('krɑːftɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** cunning. **craftily** *adv* **craftiness** *nu*

crag (kræg) *nc* a high, sharp rock. **craggy** ('krægɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** rough; not regular.

cram (kræm) *vt* 1 fill too full. 2 push (something) too much into (too small a place): *Don't cram your mouth with food.* 3 *vti* (help someone to) fill the mind with facts just before an examination.

cramp[1] (kræmp) *ncu* (an attack of) sudden pain caused by the muscles getting tight.

cramp[2] *nc* also **cramp-iron** (in building) a metal bar with bent ends used for holding together stone, wood, etc. • *vt* stop (something) from moving or growing.

cranberry ('krænbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a red berry, sharp in taste, that grows on a bush.

crane (kreɪn) *nc* 1 a bird with long legs and a long neck that stands in water. 2 a machine with a long arm for lifting heavy weights.

cranium ('kreɪnɪəm) *nc, pl* **-nia** the bones of the head that protect the brain.

crank (kræŋk) *nc* 1 a device for changing movement up and down into circular movement; a bent handle for this purpose. 2 *infml* a person with unusual ideas and habits. **crankshaft** ('kræŋkʃɑːft) *nc* a thick metal bar turned by a car or train engine which passes power to the wheels.

cranny ('krænɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** a narrow opening, esp. in a wall.

crash (kræʃ) *nc* 1 a loud noise caused by something breaking or falling. 2 an accident caused by a car, train, plane, etc. 3 a business failure: *the Wall Street crash.* • *vi* 1 fall or go violently and noisily into something. 2 *vti* cause (a car, etc.) to crash. **crash course** a lesson or series of lessons in which you learn the most important facts about something in a short time. **crash helmet** a strong hat worn by a motorcyclist, etc., for protection. **crash**

landing the dangerous landing of a plane that is damaged or out of control.

crass (kræs) *adj* very stupid: *a crass remark.*

crate (kreɪt) *nc* a large box, made of boards that do not fit closely, for carrying goods.

crater ('kreɪtə*) *nc* an opening in a volcano that sends out fire and ashes: see picture.

crater

cravat (krə'væt) *nc* a piece of cloth worn round the neck.

crave (kreɪv) *vti* (often followed by **for**) want (something) very much; long for. **craving** ('kreɪvɪŋ) *nc*

crawl (krɔːl) *vi* 1 move slowly on the hands and knees. 2 go or walk slowly: *The traffic crawled along.* 3 *infml* be agreeable to someone just to get something from them. 4 be covered (with insects, etc.): *The castle was crawling with sightseers.* • *nu* 1 a slow movement. 2 a way of swimming.

crayfish ('kreɪfɪʃ) *nc* also **crawfish** ('krɔːfɪʃ) an animal with a shell and ten legs that lives in freshwater.

crayon ('kreɪɒn, 'kreɪən) *nc* a coloured pencil or stick of coloured wax or chalk for drawing or colouring. • *vt* draw or colour with a crayon.

craze (kreɪz) *nc* something that interests many people greatly for a short time. • *vt* make mad or excited. **crazy** ('kreɪzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 mad. 2 *infml* fond of; very interested in: *She's crazy about him.* **crazily** ('kreɪzɪlɪ) *adv*

creak (kriːk) *nc* a short, high noise: *the creak of a door.* • *vi* make a creak.

cream (kriːm) *nu* 1 the fatty part of milk that rises to the top. 2 the best part of anything. 3 *nc* a soft fat that is used as a cosmetic, a polish, etc.: *face cream; shoe cream.* 4 *ncu* a pale yellow or white colour. • *adj* pale yellow or white. • *vt* make (something) creamy or add cream to (something). **cream off** take away the best part of (something) esp. for your own use. **creamy** *adj*

crease (kriːs) *nc* a line made by folding. • *vt* make a line by folding or crushing.

create (kriː'eɪt) *vt* 1 bring into being; make: *God created the world.* 2 appoint (someone) to a certain position. **creation** (kriː'eɪʃən) *nu* 1 the making of something, esp. the world. 2 all things that exist.

creative (kriː'eɪtɪv) *adj* full of new ideas; artistic. **creativity** (kriːeɪ'tɪvɪtɪ) *nu*

creator (kriː'eɪtə*) *nc* someone who creates. **the Creator** God.

creature ('kriːtʃə*) *nc* any human being or animal.

crèche (kreɪʃ, kreʃ) *nc* a place where parents may leave their babies and young children during the day.

credentials (krɪ'denʃəlz) *n pl* letters saying that you can be trusted, esp. when applying for a job.

credible ('kredəbəl) *adj* that can be believed: *a credible story.* **credibility** (ˌkredə'bilɪtɪ) *nu* ability to be believed or trusted.

credit ('kredɪt) *nu* 1 trust, esp. in someone's promise that they will pay what they owe. 2 money owned by a person, business, etc., in a bank account. 3 money lent by a bank. 4 good reputation; recognition for doing something: *The manager takes all the credit for our hard work.* 5 a system in which goods are bought at one time but paid for later: *buy a washing-machine on credit.* • *vt* 1 believe (someone) has something: *I credited her with more sense.* 2 put money into (a bank account). **creditable** ('kredɪtəbəl) *adj* deserving praise. **credit card** a card allowing a person to get money or goods and pay later. **creditor** ('kredɪtə*) *nc* a person to whom you owe money. **creditworthy** ('kredɪtˌwɜːðɪ) *adj* trusted to pay debts.

credulity (krɪ'djuːləɪ) *nu* much eagerness to believe. **credulous** ('kredjʊləs) *adj* eager to believe.

creed (kriːd) *nc* a set of beliefs on a subject, esp. Christianity.

creek (kriːk) *nc* a stream.

creep (kriːp) *vi* 1 move silently with the body close to the ground, or on tiptoe. 2 (of plants) grow over a wall or along the ground. • *nc derogatory* a person who tries to make someone important like them. **creeper** *nu* a plant with a long, weak stem that grows along the ground, up walls, around tree trunks, etc. **creepy** ('kriːpɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** giving a feeling of fear.

cremate (krɪ'meɪt) *vt* burn the dead body of (someone). **cremation** (krɪ'meɪʃən) *ncu*

crenulated ('krenjʊˌleɪtɪd) *adj* (of a leaf, etc.) having many small rounded notches along the edge.

creosote ('krɪəsəʊt) *nu* an oily liquid obtained from coal, used to prevent decay of wood.

crêpe (kreɪp) *nu* cloth or paper with a wrinkled surface.

crept (krept) past tense and past participle of **creep.**

crescendo (krə'ʃendəʊ) *nc* a gradual increase in the loudness of a piece of music. • *adj, adv* getting louder.

crescent ('kresənt) *nc* 1 the curve of the moon when only partly seen: see picture. 2 anything with this shape, such as a row of houses.

crescent

cress (kres) *nu* a plant with leaves that are often included in a salad.

crest (krest) *nc* 1 the feathers on top of a bird's head. 2 the top, esp. of a wave, hill, etc. 3 the design over a coat of arms, or this design by itself. • *vt* reach the top of. **crestfallen** ('krest,fɔːlən) *adj* sad; disappointed.

crevasse (krɪ'væs) *nc* a deep split in ice on a mountainside.

crevice ('krevɪs) *nc* a small crack in a building, wall, etc.

crew (kruː) *nc* a group of people working together, esp. on a ship or plane.

crib (krɪb) *nc* 1 a large, open box with food for animals. 2 a bed for a new baby. • *vti infml* cheat by copying.

cricket[1] ('krɪkɪt) *nc* a jumping insect that makes a high sound with its wings: see picture at **insects.**

cricket[2] *nu* a ball game played by two teams of eleven each, on a grass field. **cricketer** *nc*

cried (kraɪd) past tense of **cry.**

crime ('kraɪm) *nc* 1 a wrong act that breaks the law. 2 any wrong act: *It's a crime to beat that old horse.* **criminal** ('krɪmɪnəl) *nc* a person guilty of an act that will be punished by law. • *adj* wrong: *criminal offences.*

crimp (krɪmp) *vt* make (esp. hair) wavy or curly.

crimson ('krɪmzən) *adj* of a deep red colour.

cringe (krɪndʒ) *vi* bend down or move backwards from fear or shame.

crinkle ('krɪŋkəl) *nc* a small fold in paper, cloth, etc. • *vti* (cause to) be full of folds.

cripple ('krɪpəl) *nc* a person who has an injury, esp. of the leg or foot. • *vt* 1 cause (someone) to have such an injury. 2 harm or weaken: *This strike will cripple the industry.* **crippled** *adj*

crisis ('kraɪsɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (siːz) a time when danger or trouble reaches its worst.

crisp (krɪsp) *adj* 1 hard but easily broken: *crisp toast.* 2 fresh and firm: *a crisp lettuce.* 3 (of the weather) cold and frosty. • *nc US* **chip** a thin piece of potato cooked in oil. **crispbread** ('krɪspbred) *nu* a thin, hard biscuit made from cereal. **crisply** ('krɪsplɪ) *adv*

crisscross ('krɪskrɒs) *adj* with lines crossing each other. • *vi* 1 make a crisscross pattern. 2 *vt* cover with crossing lines.

criterion (kraɪ'tɪərɪən) *nc, pl* **-ria** (rɪə) the rule or example by which something is measured or valued.

critic ('krɪtɪk) *nc* 1 a person who is paid to make judgements on films, plays, concerts, etc. 2 a person who points out faults. **critical** ('krɪtɪkəl) *adj* 1 very important: *a critical time in his life.* 2 (of a person) ready to find fault. 3 to do with the work of a critic. **critically** *adv*

criticise ('krɪtɪsaɪz) *vti* give an opinion (on something); find fault. **criticism** ('krɪtɪsɪzəm) *ncu*

croak (krəʊk) *nc* a hoarse sound made in the throat, esp. by or like a frog. • *vti* make this sound; speak (words) in a croak.

crochet ('krəʊʃeɪ) *nu* a kind of knitting done by passing loops of thread through each other with a small needle. • *vti* make (something) by doing crochet.

crockery ('krɒkərɪ) *n pl* plates, dishes, cups, etc., esp. made of baked earth.

crocodile ('krɒkədaɪl) *nc* a large water reptile with thick skin and a long tail: see picture at **reptiles.**

crocus ('krəʊkəs) *nc* a small plant that has purple, yellow, or white flowers in spring: see picture at **flowers.**

crony ('krəʊnɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** *infml* a close friend.

crook (krʊk) *nc* 1 a stick with a curve at the top, esp. used by a person in charge of sheep. 2 *infml* a person guilty of a crime; a person not to be trusted. • *vti* bend: *crook one's finger.* **crooked** ('krʊkɪd) *adj* 1 bent. 2 *infml* wrong; against the law.

croon (kruːn) *vti* sing (a song) in a low voice.

crop (krɒp) *nc* 1 the season's produce of fruit, grain, etc.; the plants that form this produce: *Beans are our main crop.* 2 (the handle of) a whip: *riding crop.* 3 short hair. 4 a number of persons or things. **crop rotation** growing a different crop in the same field each year, in order to

keep the soil fertile. • *vt* cut off; (of animals) bite (grass). **crop up** appear when not expected.

croquet ('krəʊkeɪ) *nu* a game played on grass in which wooden balls are hit with wooden hammers through hoops.

cross (krɒs) *nc* 1 the mark made when one line is drawn across another. 2 two pieces of wood tied across each other, esp. the Cross on which Jesus Christ was put to death. 3 some trouble or suffering you have to bear. 4 (of animals or plants) a mixture of two different kinds. • *vt* 1 go from one side of to the other: *cross a road.* 2 put (something) across (something else): *cross your legs.* 3 *vti* meet; lie across: *The tracks cross here.* 4 *vt* (of animals or plants) mix two different kinds. **cross out** draw a line through a word, etc., to show it is not wanted: *Look for mistakes and cross them out.* • *adj* angry. **crossly** *adv*

crossbar ('krɒsbɑː*) *nc* a long piece of metal across something, esp. a bicycle frame.

crossbow ('krɒsbəʊ) *nc* a weapon made of a curved piece of wood with a wire stretched between the two ends, and a wooden handle, used for shooting arrows.

crossbreed ('krɒsbriːd) *vt* mix (two different kinds of animals or plants) to produce another kind. • *nc* an animal or plant produced by crossbreeding.

crosscountry (ˌkrɒs'kʌntrɪ) *adj* across fields and not roads: *a crosscountry run.* **crosscountry running** *nu* the sport of running crosscountry.

cross-examine (ˌkrɒsɪg'zæmɪn) *vt* question (someone) to check that their answers or another person's answers were true, esp. in a law court.

cross-fertilisation (ˌkrɒsˌfɜːtɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu* the joining of male and female seeds from different plants to produce a new plant.

crossing ('krɒsɪŋ) *nc* 1 the act of going across: *a ship's crossing.* 2 a place where a road and a railway cross. 3 a place where a street is crossed on foot.

cross-legged ('krɒslegd, 'krɒslegɪd) *adj, adv* (sitting) with one leg crossed over the other.

cross-pollination (ˌkrɒsˌpɒlɪ'neɪʃən) *nu* the transfer of pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part of another flower.

cross-purposes (ˌkrɒs'pɜːpəsɪz) *n pl* **at cross-purposes** not understanding each other, often because of having different opinions.

cross-reference (ˌkrɒs'refərəns) *nc* a direction to another part of a book for more information.

crossroads ('krɒsrəʊdz) *nc* 1 the place where two roads cross each other. 2 a time in life when an important decision must be made.

cross-section (ˌkrɒs'sekʃən) *nc* 1 the view of something when seen as if cut straight through. 2 an example; representative group: *a cross-section of the public.*

crosswise ('krɒswaɪz) *adj, adv* lying or placed across.

crossword ('krɒswɜːd) *nc* also **crossword puzzle** a puzzle in which a square has to be filled with words across and down after first solving given clues.

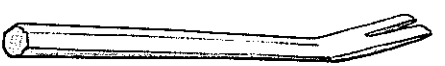
crotchet ('krɒtʃɪt) *US* **quarter note** *nc* (in music) a note with a black head and a long stem, lasting one beat.

crouch (kraʊtʃ) *vi* 1 lower the body with the legs bent, in fear or to hide. 2 (of an animal) lie ready to make a sudden attack.

crow[1] (kreʊ) *nc* a large, black bird: see picture at **birds. as the crow flies** in a straight line.

crow[2] *vi* (of a cock) make a sharp cry; (of a baby) make small, happy sounds.

crowbar ('krəʊbɑː*) *nc* a long, iron bar used for lifting heavy things: see picture.



crowbar

crowd (kraʊd) *nc* a large number of people or things gathered together. • *vti* gather together; fill (a space) with people, etc.: *They crowded into the hall.* **crowded** *adj* full.

crown (kraʊn) *nc* 1 a circle of gold, etc., worn on the head of a king or queen. 2 a top (esp. of the head). **the Crown** the powers or property of the king, queen, or government. • *vt* 1 appoint (someone) king or queen by placing a crown on their head. 2 add the final, best, or worst detail to.

crucial ('kruːʃəl) *adj* very important.

crucible ('kruːsɪbəl) *nc* a pot for melting metals.

crucifix ('kruːsɪfɪks) *nc* a model of Jesus Christ on the Cross. **crucifixion** (ˌkruːsɪ'fɪkʃən) *ncu* the punishment of fixing someone to a wooden cross; an example of this. **crucify** ('kruːsɪfaɪ) *vt* punish (someone) with crucifixion.

crude (kruːd) *adj* 1 in its raw, natural state: *crude oil.* 2 not polite; rough: *crude*

manners. 3 not finished properly: *a crude painting.*

cruel ('kru:əl) *adj* 1 (of a person) not caring about, or taking pleasure in, making people suffer. 2 causing pain and suffering: *a cruel winter.* **cruelty** ('kru:əlti) *nc,u* (an act of) being cruel.

cruise (kru:z) *vti* sail slowly around (a sea or ocean), esp. for pleasure. • *nc* a holiday on a boat. **cruiser** ('kru:zə*) *nc* a fast warship or motor-powered pleasure boat.

crumb (krʌm) *nc* a very small piece of bread, cake, etc.; very small amount of anything.

crumble ('krʌmbəl) *vti* break or fall into very small pieces; fall slowly into ruin. **crumbly** ('krʌmbli) *adj* **-ier, -iest** likely to crumble.

crumple ('krʌmpəl) 1 *vt* crush into folds. 2 *vi* become full of folds.

crunch (krʌntʃ) *vti* make a crushing noise with the teeth when eating (something hard) or with the feet when walking (on something hard). • *nc* a crushing noise. **come to the crunch** come to a difficult point where action is needed. **crunchy** *adj*

crusade (kru:'seid) *nc* 1 one of the wars fought by the Christians against the Muslims in the Middle Ages. 2 any action for a good cause. **crusader** *nc*

crush (krʌʃ) *vt* 1 press so as to break, harm, or put out of shape. 2 press into folds. 3 break (someone's) spirit or resistance: *a crushing defeat.* • *nu* 1 a crowd pressed together: *a crush at the exit.* 2 a fruit drink.

crust (krʌst) *nc* the hard outer part, esp. of bread or a pie; any hard surface: *the earth's crust.*

crustacean (krʌ'steiʃən) *nc* a water animal with a hard shell, such as a crab.

crutch (krʌtʃ) *nc* a stick used by a person who cannot walk well through injury or illness; anything which you depend on.

crux (krʌks) *nu* the most difficult or important part: *the crux of the matter.*

cry (krai) *vi* 1 (of certain animals) make sounds; call. 2 call out: *He cried for help.* 3 *vti* weep (tears) and make sounds (of pain, joy, fear, grief, etc.). • *nc, pl* **cries** 1 (of an animal) a call. 2 a weep: *Have a good cry—it'll make you feel better.* 3 a shout; calling out.

crypt (kript) *nc* a room under the level of the ground, esp. beneath a church.

cryptic ('kriptik) *adj* secret; with a meaning that is not clear.

crystal ('kristəl) 1 *nu* a hard, clear, natural substance. 2 *nc* a shape some substances take when they change from liquids to solids: *ice crystals.* **crystalline** ('kristəlain) *adj* **crystallise** ('kristəlaiz) *vti* (cause to) form crystals.

CS gas ('si:es) a gas that makes the eyes sore and causes pain in breathing, used by the police during riots, etc.

cub (kʌb) *nc* a young bear, lion, tiger, or fox. **Cub Scout** a young boy belonging to the junior part of the Scouts.

cube (kju:b) *nc* 1 a block having six equal square sides: see picture at **shapes.** 2 *mathematics* the result when a number is multiplied by itself twice: *The cube of two is eight.* • *vt* (multiply) a number by itself twice. **cube root** the number whose **cube** (def. 2) is a number that is mentioned: *Two is the cube root of eight.* **cubic** ('kju:bik) *adj* 1 shaped like a cube. 2 (of a metre, etc.) measuring space in height, depth, and width: *a box of 1.5 cubic metres.* **cuboid** ('kju:bɔid) *adj* shaped like a cube.

cubicle ('kju:bikəl) *nc* a very small room within a larger one.

cuckoo ('kuku:) *nc* a bird that has a call like the sound of its name and lays its eggs in the nests of other birds: see picture at **birds.**

cucumber ('kju:kʌmbə*) *nc* a creeping plant with long green fleshy fruit eaten in salads: see picture at **vegetables.**

cud (kʌd) *n* **chew the cud** (of a cow, etc.) bring food back from its stomach and chew it again.

cuddle ('kʌdəl) *vt* hold in your arms in a loving way: *cuddle the baby.* • *nc* an act of cuddling: *have a cuddle; I gave her a cuddle.* **cuddly** ('kʌdli) *adj* that is nice to cuddle: *a cuddly toy.*

cudgel ('kʌdʒəl) *nc* a thick stick used as a weapon.

cue[1] (kju:) *nc* 1 an actor's words or action showing what another actor should say or do. 2 a hint.

cue[2] *nc* a long stick used for striking balls in a table ball game such as billiards.

cuff[1] (kʌf) *nc* the end of a sleeve, esp. of a shirt or coat. **off the cuff** *infml* without planning.

cuff[2] *nc* a light blow with the hand, often in a friendly way. • *vt* give such a blow.

cuisine (kwi'zi:n) *nu French* way of cooking.

cul-de-sac ('kʌldə'sæk) *nc pl* **cul-de-sacs, culs-de-sac** a street closed at one end.

culinary ('kʌlinəri) *adj* to do with cooking.

cull (kʌl) *vt* 1 choose; pick (a flower, etc.); gather (facts, etc.). 2 choose the best animals from (a group), and kill the others.

culminate ('kʌlmɪneɪt) *v* **culminate in** reach the highest point; end in. **culmination** (ˌkʌlmɪ'neɪʃən) *nc*

culprit ('kʌlprɪt) *nc* a person or thing blamed for a wrong deed.

cult (kʌlt) *nc* 1 (a group of people having) a set of religious beliefs. 2 an interest or enthusiasm, esp. one that is not likely to last for long.

cultivate ('kʌltɪveɪt) *vt* 1 make (land) ready for crops; grow (flowers, etc.). 2 give time and care to improving (your mind, a friendship, etc.). **cultivated** *adj* having good manners and good taste. **cultivation** (ˌkʌltɪ'veɪʃən) *nu* **cultivator** ('kʌltɪveɪtə*) *nc* a person or machine that prepares land for crops.

culture ('kʌltʃə*) *nu* 1 the ways, art, beliefs, etc., of a people. 2 improvement of the mind and spirit by study and thought; growth of human powers. 3 the growing of something, esp. needing special care, such as silk, bees, or bacteria. **cultural** ('kʌltʃərəl) *adj* **culturally** *adv*

culvert ('kʌlvət) *nc* a large pipe for carrying water, electric wires, or gas under the ground.

cumbersome ('kʌmbəsəm) *adj* awkward to move or carry.

cumulative ('kjuːmjʊlətɪv) *adj* 1 increasing in number or amount. 2 caused by a steady increase.

cumulonimbus (ˌkjuːmjʊləʊ'nɪmbəs) *nc, pl* **-bi** (baɪ) a tall, dark cloud that is often shaped like an anvil at the top: *Cumulonimbus clouds bring thunderstorms.*

cumulus ('kjuːmjʊləs) *nc, pl* **-li** (laɪ) a set of clouds heaped on top of each other.

cunning ('kʌnɪŋ) *adj* clever, esp. at tricking or deceiving people. • *nu* cleverness.

cup (kʌp) *nc* 1 a small container that is open at the top, usually with a handle; this container with a drink in it: *a cup of tea.* 2 a vessel, often of gold or silver, given as a prize. **cupful** ('kʌpfʊl) *nc* the amount a cup will hold.

cupboard ('kʌbəd) *nc* a piece of furniture with shelves for keeping things in: *a kitchen cupboard.*

cur (kɜː*) *nc derogatory* 1 a dog. 2 an unpleasant person.

curate ('kjʊərət) *nc* an assistant priest in a parish.

curator (ˌkjʊə'reɪtə*) *nc* a person in charge of a building, esp. a museum or art gallery.

curb (kɜːb) *vt* hold back; keep under control. • *nc* 1 a chain or strap passing under a horse's jaw to control it. 2 *US* See **kerb.**

curd (kɜːd) *nu* also **curds** *n pl* the thick part of sour milk, eaten or used to make cheese.

curdle ('kɜːdəl) *vti* (cause to) turn sour and become solid: *The milk curdled.*

cure (kjʊə*) *nc* 1 healing or being healed; treatment for an illness or disease. 2 something that gets rid of something bad. • *vt* 1 heal; make healthy. 2 treat (meat, fish, etc.) to keep from going bad. **curable** *adj*

curfew ('kɜːfjuː) *nc* the time after which people must stay indoors.

curio ('kjʊərɪəʊ) *nc* a rare object, of value because it is unusual, beautiful, etc.

curious ('kjʊərɪəs) *adj* 1 eager to learn. 2 too interested in other people's affairs. 3 strange. **curiosity** (ˌkjʊərɪ'ɒsətɪ) 1 *nu* being curious. 2 *nc* a rare or unusual object. **curiously** *adv*

curl (kɜːl) *nc* a lock of hair made to curve; anything curved like this: *a curl of smoke.* • *vti* (cause to) turn into curves and waves. **curl up** lie with the legs and arms bent towards the body: *The dog curled up in front of the fire.* **curly** ('kɜːlɪ) *adj*

curlew ('kɜːljuː) *nc* a water-bird with long legs and a long beak.

currant ('kʌrənt) *nc* 1 a small dried grape, esp. used in cakes. 2 a small red, white, or black fruit, or the bush on which it grows.

currency ('kʌrənsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies** 1 the money in use in a country. 2 *nu* the time during which something is in use: *Fashionable ideas of limited currency.*

current ('kʌrənt) *adj* 1 in general use. 2 happening in, or belonging to, the present: *the current state of affairs.* **current affairs** things that are happening in politics, etc., at the present time. **currently** *adv* • *nc* a flow of water, air, electricity, etc.

curriculum (kə'rɪkjʊləm) *nc, pl* **-la** (lə) a course of study; timetable. **curriculum vitae** ('viːtaɪ) *Latin* a list of facts about yourself, your education, your work experience, etc., used when applying for a job.

curry[1] ('kʌrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a dish of meat, eggs, fish, etc., cooked with spices. **curried** *adj* cooked with spices: *curried chicken.*

curry[2] *v* **curry favour** try to please by helping, praising (esp. falsely), etc.

curse (kɜːs) *nc* 1 a set of words calling for evil or punishment to happen to someone or something. 2 a wrong use of God's name to show anger, etc. • *vt* 1 call for evil to come on (someone). 2 *vi* use bad language. **cursed with** suffering from: *cursed with bad luck.*

cursor ('kɜːsə*) *nc* a symbol on a computer screen that moves around to indicate a position: see picture.

cursor

cursory ('kɜːsərɪ) *adj* done quickly, without paying attention to detail: *a cursory examination.*

curt (kɜːt) *adj* (of a person's manner of speaking) with a few words and not very polite. **curtly** *adv*

curtail (kɜː'teɪl) *vt* cut short: *curtail a speech.*

curtain ('kɜːtən) *nc* 1 a cloth at a window to keep out light, etc.; anything that hides or protects. 2 (in the theatre) the cloth between the stage and audience before and after the performance. • *vt* provide curtains for.

curtsey ('kɜːtsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** (of a girl or woman) the act of bending the knees and bowing the head and shoulders in honour of a king, queen, etc. • *vi* make a curtsey.

curvature ('kɜːvətʃə*) *ncu* curving; being curved: *curvature of the spine.*

curve (kɜːv) *nc* a line that is not straight and is without angles. • *vti* bend without angles.

cushion ('kʊʃən) *nc* 1 a kind of pillow for sitting on, resting your back against, etc. 2 something that has a protective effect. • *vt* protect.

cusp (kʌsp) *nc* the point where two curves meet.

custard ('kʌstəd) 1 *nu* a sweet sauce made of milk, sugar, eggs, etc. 2 *nc* a pudding made of milk, sugar, and eggs.

custody ('kʌstədɪ) *nu* 1 care: *a child in the custody of her father.* 2 being in prison. **custodian** (kʌ'stəʊdɪən) *nc* keeper.

custom ('kʌstəm) 1 *nc* any of the ways, manners, etc., of a country or people: *a local custom.* *nu* 2 the usual way of behaving. 3 the support given to a business, esp. a shop, by its customers. **customary** ('kʌstəmərɪ) *adj* usual. **customarily** *adv*

customer ('kʌstəmə*) *nc* a person who buys goods or pays for a service, esp. regularly.

customs ('kʌstəmz) *n pl* 1 the tax paid to the government when goods are brought into the country. 2 the place at a port or airport where bags are searched.

cut (kʌt) *vt* 1 harm or injure with a sharp edge: *He cut his finger with the knife.* 2 divide in pieces with scissors, a knife, etc. 3 make shorter or less: *He cut my hair short; The manager cut their wages.* 4 *vi* be able to cut or be cut. **cut across** get somewhere quicker by going straight across rather than around. **cutaway** ('kʌtəweɪ) *adj* with some parts missing to show the inside. **cut back (on)** make the size, number, or cost less. **cutback** ('kʌtbæk) *nc* a reduction. **cut someone dead** pretend not to have seen someone you know. **cut down (on)** make less or smaller in number, size, etc. **cut in** enter suddenly; interrupt. **cut off** remove; stop the flow of: *The electricity was cut off.* **cut-off** ('kʌtɒf) *nc* a device for stopping the flow of something. **cut out** 1 stop working suddenly: *The engine cut out.* 2 remove or make separate by cutting: *cut an article out of the paper.* 3 stop (eating, doing) something: *cut out smoking.* **cut-out** ('kʌtaʊt) *nc* 1 a device for stopping a current of electricity when necessary. 2 a shape cut from something: *paper cut-outs.* **cut up** cut into pieces. • *nc* 1 an act of cutting; blow from something with a sharp edge; wound or mark made by such a blow. 2 something that has been made less: *a wage cut; a hair cut.* 3 *infml* share: *After the robbery, everyone will get their cut.*

cute (kjuːt) *adj* **-r, -st** attractive; pleasant.

cuticle ('kjuːtɪkəl) *nc* the outer layer of the skin, esp. at the lower edge of the nail of a finger or toe.

cutlery ('kʌtlərɪ) *nu* tools such as knives, forks, and spoons used for eating with.

cutter ('kʌtə*) *nc* 1 a person or thing that cuts. 2 a small boat belonging to a ship.

cutthroat ('kʌtθrəʊt) *nc* a murderer. • *adj* 1 fierce, without pity: *cutthroat competition.* 2 (of a razor) having a long blade that is not protected.

cutting ('kʌtɪŋ) *nc* 1 a passage dug under a hill, etc., for a road, railway, etc. 2 a piece cut from a newspaper. 3 a piece cut from a plant for growing another one. • *adj* (of remarks, etc.) unkind; hurtful.

cuttlefish ('kʌtəlfɪʃ) *nc, pl* **cuttlefish, cuttlefishes** a sea-animal with ten arms, which sends out black liquid when being chased.

cyanide ('saɪənaɪd) *nu* a very poisonous chemical.

cybernetics (ˌsaɪbə'netɪks) *nu science* the study of the control and passing on of information in animals and machines.

cycle ('saɪkəl) *nc* 1 a set of events arranged

and repeated so that each one happens at a regular time. 2 a bicycle. ● *vi* ride a bicycle. **cyclic** ('saɪklɪk) *adj* happening at regular times. **cyclist** ('saɪklɪst) *nc* a person who rides a cycle.

cyclone ('saɪkləʊn) *nc* 1 a violent wind. 2 a large area of low air pressure, around which winds blow. See also **anticyclone. cyclonic** (saɪ'klɒnɪk) *adj*

cygnet ('sɪgnɪt) *nc* a young swan.

cylinder ('sɪlɪndə*) *nc* 1 a solid or hollow body shaped like a tube: see picture at **shapes.** 2 a tube-shaped space in an engine with a piston inside it. **cylindrical** (sɪ'lɪndrɪkəl) *adj*

cymbal ('sɪmbəl) *nc* one of a pair of round brass plates struck together to make a musical sound: see picture at **musical instruments.**

cynical ('sɪnɪkəl) *adj* not believing that people are good; sneering. **cynic** *nc* **cynicism** ('sɪnɪsɪzəm) *nu*

cypher ('saɪfə*) *n* See **cipher.**

cypress ('saɪprəs) *nc* an evergreen tree that has dark leaves.

cyst (sɪst) *nc* a sac that grows in the body and contains liquid.

cytology (saɪ'tɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of the cells of plants and animals.

czar (zɑː*) *n* See **tsar.**

D

dab[1] (dæb) *vt* touch lightly; put (esp. liquid) (on a surface) briefly and without rubbing. • *nc* a light touch.

dab[2] *nc* a small fish with a flat body.

dab[3] *adj* **dab hand** *infml* an expert in something.

dabble ('dæbəl) *vt* splash (something) about in water: *She dabbled her hands in the stream.* **dabble in** do something from time to time, but not seriously.

dachshund ('dækshund) *nc* a small dog with a long body and short legs.

dad (dæd) *nc infml* a father.

daddy ('dædɪ) *infml nc, pl* **-dies** a father.

daffodil ('dæfədɪl) *nc* a yellow spring flower growing from a bulb: see picture at **flowers.**

daft (dɑːft) *adj infml, chiefly Brit* silly; without much sense.

dagger ('dægə*) *nc* a short knife with two sharp edges used as a weapon.

daily ('deɪlɪ) *adj* happening every day or every day except Sunday and possibly Saturday. • *adv* every day. • *nc, pl* **-lies** 1 a newspaper that comes out daily. 2 a person who is paid to come to do housework daily.

dainty ('deɪntɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a woman or girl) small and pretty; (of things) pretty; fragile. 2 fussy (over food, cleanliness, etc.). **daintily** ('deɪntɪlɪ) *adv*

dairy ('deərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a place where butter, cheese, etc., is made from milk, esp. on a farm; place dealing in milk and milk products. 2 a shop selling milk, butter, eggs, etc. **dairy products** also **dairy produce** milk, butter, cheese, etc.

dais ('deɪɪs) *nc* a platform in a large room.

daisy ('deɪzɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** a small, white, field or garden flower with a yellow centre: see picture at **flowers.**

dally ('dælɪ) *vi* 1 (followed by **with**) amuse oneself carelessly with. 2 pass the time by standing around and doing nothing definite.

dam[1] (dæm) *nc* a wall built to hold back water and stop floods, or to raise its level to form a lake for storing water. • *vt* build a dam to hold back (a river).

dam[2] *nc* the mother of an animal.

damage ('dæmɪdʒ) 1 *nu* harm, injury, or destruction. 2 (*pl*) *law* money paid to make up for loss, injury, etc. • *vt* cause damage to.

damask ('dæməsk) *nu* cloth with patterns on both sides.

dame (deɪm) *nc* 1 *Brit* a title of great respect given to a woman. 2 *US slang* a woman.

damn (dæm) *vt* 1 say that (someone or something) is bad. 2 (of God) punish (someone) for ever. **damn!** *interj slang* (cry of anger or unhappiness). **damnation** (dæm'neɪʃən) *nu* being cursed; punishment lasting for ever. **damned** (dæmd) *adj* 1 cursed. 2 *infml* stupid; very bad. • *adv infml* very.

damp (dæmp) *adj* rather wet. • *nu* moisture (in the air, a house, etc.). **damp course** a strip of plastic, etc., placed between the lower bricks of a house to stop damp rising from the ground up the walls. • *vt* also **dampen** 1 make rather wet. 2 make less; get rid of: *The teacher's remarks damped their high spirits.* **damp down** put out (a fire) by covering with ashes, etc.

damper ('dæmpə*) *n* **put a damper on** make less happy.

dance (dɑːns) *vi* 1 move in time to music. 2 skip or jump about. 3 *vt* do special steps to music: *dance a waltz.* • *nc* 1 a set of steps to music; a special form of these steps. 2 an occasion when people come to dance. **dancer** *nc* a person who dances, esp. in public for money.

dandelion ('dændɪlaɪən) *nc* a small, yellow, field flower.

dandruff ('dændrʌf) *nu* small bits of dead skin which are found in the hair.

danger ('deɪndʒə*) 1 *nu* the possibility of harm, injury, or death. 2 *nc* something that causes harm, etc.: *Smoking is a danger to health.* **in** or **out of danger** likely or no longer likely to meet danger. **dangerous** ('deɪndʒərəs) *adj* **dangerously** *adv*

dangle ('dæŋgəl) 1 *vi* hang and move loosely. 2 *vt* hold or carry (something) to hang loosely.

dank (dæŋk) *adj* **-er, -est** cold and damp in an unhealthy way.

dappled ('dæpəld) *adj* marked with spots of colour or shadow.

dare (deə*) 1 *vti* be brave or rude enough to (do something): *How dare you speak to me like that!* 2 *vt* test someone's bravery by asking them to do something: *I dare you to climb that tree.* **I daresay** it is very likely. **do something for a dare** do something to prove one is brave. **daredevil** ('deədevəl) *nc* a person who is not afraid of danger. • *adj* showing no fear of

danger: *daredevil stunts.* **daring** ('deərɪŋ) *adj* 1 brave. 2 new and unusual: *a daring play.* • *nu* bravery; boldness.

daren't (deənt) *v* dare not.

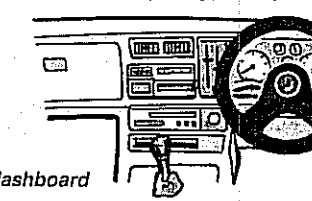
dark (dɑːk) *adj* 1 with very little or no light. 2 (of colour) almost black. 3 sad: *The war brought dark days for everyone.* 4 secret or bad: *the dark act of murder.* • *nu* the state of having no light; night. **keep someone in the dark** not tell someone about something. **darken** *vti* **darkly** *adv* **darkness** *nu* **darkroom** ('dɑːkruːm) *nc* a room where photographs are developed.

darling ('dɑːlɪŋ) *nc* a person who is much loved. • *adj infml* loved very much.

darn (dɑːn) *vt* mend (esp. clothes) with a needle and cotton. • *nc* a place that has been repaired in this way.

dart (dɑːt) *nc* 1 a sudden movement. 2 a small arrow. • *vti* (cause something to) move quickly. **dartboard** ('dɑːt,bɔːd) *nc* the round board used in the game of **darts.** **darts** *nu* a game in which small arrows are thrown at a round board marked with numbers.

dash (dæʃ) *nc* 1 a sudden rush. 2 a small amount added. 3 a short race run quickly. 4 a small line (—) used in writing or printing. **dashboard** ('dæʃbɔːd) *nc* a board in a car with lights, switches, etc.: see picture. • *vi* 1 make a sudden movement. 2 *vti* throw (something or someone) with violence: *She dashed the vase to the ground.* 3 *vt* destroy (esp. someone's hopes). **dashing** ('dæʃɪŋ) *adj* lively; brave; smart.



dashboard

data ('deɪtə) *n pl* 1 facts; pieces of information. 2 (*with singular verb*) information stored in a computer. **database** ('deɪtəbeɪs) *nc* a collection of information stored in a computer. **data processing** *nu* working on data to get information.

date¹ (deɪt) *nc* 1 the time shown by the day, month, year, or all three. 2 *infml* a meeting with someone at an arranged time and place; person of the other sex whom you meet in this way. **out-of-date** old-fashioned. **up-to-date** See **up-to-date.** • *vt* 1 put a **date¹** (def. 1) on (esp. a letter). 2 connect to a period of time: *pots dating from Roman times.* 3 *vti infml* go out regularly (with someone) on a **date¹** (def. 2).

dated ('deɪtɪd) *adj* belonging to the past; old-fashioned.

date² *nc* a small, brown, sweet, sticky fruit with a stone.

daub (dɔːb) *vt* 1 cover (a wall) with clay, plaster, etc. 2 make dirty marks on. 3 *vi* paint badly. • *nc* 1 a covering of clay, etc. 2 a badly done painting.

daughter ('dɔːtə*) *nc* someone's female child. **daughter-in-law** ('dɔːtərɪnlɔː) *nc, pl* **daughters-in-law** the wife of someone's son.

daunt (dɔːnt) *vt* put off from doing something through fear, etc. **daunting** ('dɔːntɪŋ) *adj* causing fear, anxiety, etc.: *a daunting task.* **dauntless** ('dɔːntlɪs) *adj* brave.

dawdle ('dɔːdəl) *vi* go slowly, wasting time.

dawn (dɔːn) *nc* the start of day as it begins to grow light; the beginning of anything: *the dawn of literature.* • *vi* begin to get light. **dawn on (someone)** begin to be understood by (someone): *It dawned on me where I had seen her before.*

day (deɪ) *nc* 1 the time between two nights when it is light. 2 the time of twenty-four hours. 3 (*pl*) period: *in the old days.* 4 a person's length of life: *back in grandmother's day.* **call it a day** decide enough work has been done for the day. **day by day** as time goes by: *He grew weaker day by day.* **one day** some time in the past or in the future. **some day** at some time in the future. **the other day** on a recent day. **daybreak** *nc* the time when the sun rises. **daydream** *vi* have dreamy thoughts while awake. • *nc* events imagined, usually when you should be busy doing something else. **daylight** *nu* the light of the sun. **daytime** *nu* the time when the sun is in the sky.

daze (deɪz) *vt* make (someone) unable to think clearly. **in a daze** in a condition where clear thoughts are impossible.

dazzle ('dæzəl) *vt* 1 make almost blind with bright light. 2 astonish or impress (someone).

dead (ded) *adj* 1 not alive any more. 2 not able to feel or move much because of being cold or hurt. 3 no longer used: *a dead language.* 4 *infml* boring. • *adv* completely; very: *dead silly; stop dead.* **at dead of; in the dead of** at the quietest time of: *at dead of night.* **the dead** people who have died. **deaden** ('dedən) *vt* take away feeling, pain, etc. **dead heat** a race in which two or more people, horses, etc., finish at exactly the same time. **deadline** ('dedlaɪn) *nc* the time by which a piece of

work must be finished. **deadlock** ('dedlɒk) *nc* a point at which no agreement seems likely. **deadly** ('dedlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** likely to cause death. • *adv* 1 as if dead. 2 very: *deadly serious.*

deaf (def) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not able to hear. 2 not wanting to hear: *deaf to offers of peace.* **the deaf** people who cannot hear. **deafen** ('defən) *vt* make (someone) deaf or unable to hear because of noise: *a deafening crash.*

deal (di:l) *vt* give out; hand out. **deal in** buy and sell: *She deals in antiques.* **deal with** 1 handle (a problem, a person, etc.). 2 do business with (someone). • *nc* 1 the handing out of cards in a card game. 2 a business agreement. **a deal (of)** a lot (of): *You caused a great deal of trouble; It cost a good deal more than I expected.* **dealer** *nc* 1 a person who buys and sells goods. 2 a person who gives out cards in a card game. **dealings** ('di:lɪŋz) *n pl* treatment of others, esp. in business.

dealt (delt) past tense and past participle of **deal.**

dean (di:n) *nc* 1 a priest in charge of other priests. 2 the head of part of a university; person responsible for students' behaviour.

dear (dɪə*) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 loved. 2 costing a lot of money. 3 important; precious. 4 a polite way to start a letter: *Dear Madam...* • *nc* a lovable person. **dear me!; oh dear!** (cries of surprise, grief, etc.). **dearly** *adv* very much: *I would dearly like to come.*

dearth (dɜ:θ) *nc fml* a lack.

death (deθ) 1 *ncu* the end of (someone's) life. 2 *nu* the state of being dead. 3 *nc* the end of something. **put to death** kill. **deathbed** *nc* the bed in which someone is about to die: *He confessed on his deathbed.* **deathly** *adj* as pale, quiet, etc., as death: *a deathly hush.*

debar (dɪ'bɑ:*) *vt* (followed by **from**) shut out; prevent from doing or having something.

debase (dɪ'beɪs) *vt* lower the value or worth of.

debate (dɪ'beɪt) *nc* a formal talk between two speakers, or two sets of speakers, each taking the opposite side of a question. • *vti* consider or argue about (a problem, question, etc.). **debatable** (dɪ'beɪtəbəl) *adj*

debauchery (dɪ'bɔ:tʃərɪ) *nu* the habit of having too much food, drink, and sexual enjoyment.

debilitate (dɪ'bɪlɪteɪt) *vt* make (someone) weak: *debilitating heat.*

debit ('debɪt) *nc* (the side of an account book showing) money owed or spent from a person's account. • *vt* write down (money) spent from or take (money) out of (an account).

debris ('deɪbri:, 'debri:) *nu* what is left, usually broken and in pieces: *Clear up the debris after the fight.*

debt (det) *nc* 1 the money, goods, etc., owing to someone. 2 the state of owing money, etc. **be in someone's debt** owe (someone) an act of kindness. **debtor** ('detə*) *nc* a person who owes.

debug (,di:'bʌg) *vt* remove faults from (a computer program).

debut ('deɪbu:, 'debju:) *nc* (someone's) first appearance in public as an actor, dancer, musician, etc. **debutante** ('debjuta:nt) *nc* a daughter of rich parents making her first appearance in society.

decade ('dekeɪd) *nc* a period of ten years.

decadence ('dekədəns) *nu* a falling from a former high level, esp. in art, literature, behaviour, etc. **decadent** *adj*

decaffeinated (dɪ'kæfɪ,neɪtɪd) *adj* (of coffee) with all or most of the caffeine removed.

decalcify (di:'kælsɪ,faɪ) *vt* remove calcium or lime from (bones, teeth, etc.).

decanter (dɪ'kæntə*) *nc* a glass bottle for wine, etc., with a small block of glass to close the top.

decapitate (dɪ'kæpɪteɪt) *vt* cut off the head of.

decarbonise (di:'kɑ:bənaɪz) *vt* remove carbon from (something, esp. the inside of an engine).

decathlon (dɪ'kæθlɒn) *nc* a contest in athletics in which each contestant has to take part in ten different sports.

decay (dɪ'keɪ) *vti* 1 (cause to) become rotten; go bad. 2 get worse; lose power. • *nu* the state of decaying.

deceased (dɪ'si:st) *adj fml* dead. **the deceased** the dead person.

deceit (dɪ'si:t) 1 *nu* a wrong or false idea, etc., given to a person on purpose. 2 *nc* a trick. **deceitful** (dɪ'si:tful) *adj* **deceive** (dɪ'si:v) *vt* cause (someone) to believe something that is not true.

December (dɪ'sembə*) *n* the twelfth and last month of the year, after November.

decent ('di:sənt) *adj* 1 right and proper; modest. 2 *Brit* kind; good enough. **decency** ('di:sənsɪ) *nu*

deception (dɪ'sepʃən) 1 *nu* causing a person to believe what is false. 2 *nc* a trick. **deceptive** (dɪ'septɪv) *adj*

decibel ('desɪ,bel) *nc* a measure of the intensity of sound.

decide (dɪ'saɪd) *vt* 1 find an answer to (a

question, argument, etc.): *Decide the matter now; You decide where to go.* 2 *vti* make a choice: *I decided to leave home; They decided on Bali for their honeymoon.* **decidedly** (dɪ'saɪdɪdlɪ) *adv* without doubt.

deciduous (dɪ'sɪdjʊəs) *adj* (of some trees) having leaves that fall off in winter.

decimal ('desɪməl) *adj* of the number ten or tenth parts. • *nc* also **decimal fraction** a number such as *.65*, 2.31. **decimal point** the dot in a decimal fraction.

decimate ('desɪmeɪt) *vt* kill or destroy almost all of.

decipher (dɪ'saɪfə*) *vt* work out the meaning that is hidden in (a piece of writing, etc.): *decipher a code.*

decision (dɪ'sɪʒən) *nu* 1 settling a question; making a judgement. 2 determination. 3 *nc* an act of deciding; a judgement. **decisive** (dɪ'saɪsɪv) *adj* 1 (of a person) without doubts; definite. 2 settling a matter: *the decisive battle of the Civil War.*

deck (dek) *nc* 1 a floor or level of a ship, bus, etc. 2 *chiefly US* a set of cards for a card game. **deckchair** ('dektʃeə*) *nc* a folding chair of wood and strong cloth, used outside. • *vt* make attractive: *decked with coloured lights; The children were decked out in their best clothes.*

declaim (dɪ'kleɪm) *vti* talk in a strong voice about (something). **declaim against** speak with deep feeling against something.

declare (dɪ'kleə*) *vt* 1 make known: *declare an interest.* 2 confess to having goods on which tax has to be paid to the government. 3 say very seriously: *He declared that he would leave.* **declaration** (,deklə'reɪʃən) *ncu*

declension (dɪ'klenʃən) *nu grammar* the act of declining (**decline** def. 3).

decline (dɪ'klaɪn) 1 *vti* refuse (an invitation, etc.). 2 *vi* become worse, weaker, less, etc.: *This country's influence is declining.* 3 *vt grammar* give the forms of a word, such as a noun. • *nc* lessening; lowering; becoming worse.

decode (,dɪ:'kəʊd) *vt* find the meaning of (a secret message or code).

decompose (,dɪ:kəm'pəʊz) *vti* 1 (cause to) separate into simpler parts. 2 (cause to) become rotten. **decomposition** (,dɪ:kɒmpə'zɪʃən) *nu*

decompression (,dɪ:kəm'preʃən) *nu* the act of reducing pressure, esp. on a diver who has been working in conditions of higher than normal pressure.

decontaminate (,dɪ:kən'tæmɪ,neɪt) *vt* make (a place, thing, etc.) free from dangerous substances, germs, radioactivity, etc.

decor ('deɪkɔ:*, 'dekɔ:*) *nu* the style in which a room or house is decorated or furnished.

decorate ('dekəreɪt) *vt* 1 make attractive. 2 give (someone) a medal for bravery, etc. 3 *vti* paint, etc., (a room or house). **decoration** (,dekə'reɪʃən) *ncu* **decorative** ('dekərətɪv) *adj* **decorator** *nc*

decorum (dɪ'kɔ:rəm) *nu* correct behaviour.

decoy ('di:kɔɪ) *nc* someone or something that causes a person or animal to go the wrong way, esp. into a trap.

decrease (di:'kri:s) *vti* make or become less. • ('di:kri:s) *ncu* (an example of) getting less.

decree (dɪ'kri:) *nc* an order given by someone in power; judgement made in a law court. • *vti* demand (something) by law, power of government, etc.

decrepit (dɪ'krepɪt) *adj* old and weak; in bad condition.

dedicate ('dedɪkeɪt) *vt* 1 give up (your time, etc.) to a special purpose. 2 (of the writer of a book) write words inside (a book) thanking someone for their help, etc. **dedicated** *adj* **dedication** (,dedɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu*

deduce (dɪ'dju:s) *vt* reach (an answer, etc.) from the facts or from using your reason.

deduct (dɪ'dʌkt) *vt* take away (a part of something); take (one number) from a total.

deduction (dɪ'dʌkʃən) 1 *nu* deducting; taking away. 2 *nc* that which is taken away. 3 *nu* deducing; reaching an opinion, etc. 4 *nc* the opinion reached.

deed (di:d) *nc* 1 an act; something done on purpose: *a brave deed.* 2 *law* a written agreement.

deem (di:m) *vt fml* believe; be of the opinion: *He deemed it necessary to return.*

deep (di:p) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 going far down from the top, front, or edge: *a deep hole.* 2 needing much thought to understand. 3 (of colour) dark; (of sound) low. 4 intense: *deep thought.* • *adv* far (into). **deepen** ('di:pən) *vti* **deep-freeze** (,di:p'fri:z) *vt* keep (food) in good condition for a long time by freezing it. • ('di:p,fri:z) *nc* a metal box for frozen food. **deeply** ('di:plɪ) *adv* **deep-sea** (,di:p'si:) *adj* of the deeper parts of the sea: *deep-sea diving.* **deep-seated** (,di:p'si:tɪd) *adj* not easily changed or moved because existing deep in (someone's character, etc.).

deer (dɪə*) *nc* a graceful animal, the male having horns like the branches of a tree: see picture at **animals.**

deface (dɪ'feɪs) *vt* spoil or damage the appearance of (a surface, picture, etc.).

defame (dɪ'feɪm) *vt* try to harm the reputation of (someone) by saying bad things. **defamation** (,defə'meɪʃən) *nu*

default (dɪ'fɔːlt) *vi* fail to do something, esp. to pay a debt or appear in a law court. • *nu* failure to pay, appear, etc.

defeat (dɪ'fiːt) *vt* 1 win a victory over: *defeat the enemy.* 2 cause (a person, plan, etc.) to fail. • *ncu* (an example of) being defeated: *Be brave in defeat.*

defecate ('defəkeɪt) *vi* empty the body of solid waste. **defecation** (,defə'keɪʃən) *nu*

defect ('diːfekt) *nc* a fault. • (dɪ'fekt) *vi* leave your own country, party, etc., to be loyal to another. **defective** (dɪ'fektɪv) *adj* not perfect; wrong or broken.

defence *US* **defense** (dɪ'fens) 1 *nu* the fighting against attack. 2 *nc* something that protects against attack. 3 *ncu law* the facts used to defend a person accused of a crime. **defenceless** *adj*

defend (dɪ'fend) *vt* 1 protect. 2 give reasons for (what you believe, etc.). 3 *sport* guard, to prevent the other team winning. **defendant** (dɪ'fendənt) *nc law* a person who is accused of a crime. **defender** (dɪfendə*) *nc* a person who defends.

defensive (dɪ'fensɪv) *adj* 1 with an aim to protect. 2 (of a person) always defending your actions, etc. **on the defensive** ready to defend yourself, esp. when you expect to be attacked.

defer[1] (dɪ'fɜː*) *vt* put off to a later time.

defer[2] *vi* (followed by **to**) show respect by giving way to another person's opinion, etc. **deference** ('defərəns) *nu* **deferential** (,defə'renʃəl) *adj*

defiance (dɪ'faɪəns) *nu* refusal to obey or show respect. **defiant** (dɪ'faɪənt) *adj*

deficiency (dɪ'fɪʃənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 a lack. 2 *nu* the state of there not being enough. **deficient** (dɪ'fɪʃənt) *adj*

deficit ('defɪsɪt) *nc* the amount by which something, esp. a sum of money, is not enough.

defile (dɪ'faɪl) *vt* make dirty or evil.

define (dɪ'faɪn) *vt* give the exact meaning of.

definite ('definɪt, 'defənət) *adj* 1 of which there is no doubt; clear. 2 (of a person) firm. **definite article** See under **article.** **definitely** *adv*

definition (,defɪ'nɪʃən, ,defə'nɪʃən) 1 *ncu* the exact meaning of a word; set of words used to show this meaning. 2 *nu* clearness, esp. of a photograph.

definitive (dɪ'fɪnɪtɪv) *adj* needing no further change; final.

deflate (dɪ'fleɪt) 1 *vti* let the air or gas out of (a balloon, tyre, etc.). *vt* 2 *economics* lower (prices) or cause (the amount of money) to become less. 3 make (someone) feel suddenly sad or let down. **deflation** (dɪ'fleɪʃən) *nu*

deflect (dɪ'flekt) *vti* (cause to) turn aside: *He deflected the blow with his arm.* **deflection** *nc*

deforestation (diː,fɒrɪs'teɪʃən) *nu* the act of clearing trees or removing forests from an area of land.

deform (dɪ'fɔːm) *vt* make twisted or ugly by putting out of shape. **deformed** *adj* **deformity** (dɪ'fɔːmɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties**

defraud (dɪ'frɔːd) *vt* cheat (someone), esp. in money matters.

defrost (,diːfrɒst) *vt* 1 remove ice from (esp. inside a refrigerator or freezer). 2 cause (frozen food) to thaw.

deft (deft) *adj* **-er, -est** neat and clever, esp. with the hands. **deftly** *adv*

defunct (dɪ'fʌŋkt) *adj* no longer used; no longer existing or working.

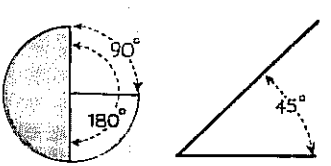
defuse (diː'fjuːz) *vt* 1 remove the fuse from (a bomb, etc.) so that it will not explode. 2 make (a situation, etc.) calmer or less dangerous.

defy (dɪ'faɪ) *vt* 1 tell (someone) to be ready to prove or do something difficult. 2 show no respect for (rules, etc.).

degenerate (dɪ'dʒenəreɪt) *vi* become worse in quality. • (dɪ'dʒenərət) *adj* having sunk from a higher state. • *nc* something, esp. a person, in a low condition.

degrade (dɪ'greɪd) *vt* 1 *science* move to a lower class; decompose. 2 put (someone) to shame. **degradation** (,degrə'deɪʃən) *nu*

degree (dɪ'griː) *nc* 1 a step or stage: *a high degree of ability.* 2 a measure of angles: see picture. 3 a measure of heat. 4 a title given by a university, usually for passing an examination. **by degrees** gradually.



degree

dehydrate (,diːhaɪ'dreɪt) *vti* (cause to) lose water, esp. from food or the body. **dehydration** (,diːhaɪ'dreɪʃən) *nu*

deign (deɪn) *vi* **deign to** do something pleasantly, but show that you feel too good for the task, etc.: *Will you deign to come to my party?*

deity ('diːɪtɪ, 'deɪətɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a god or goddess.

dejected (dɪ'dʒektɪd) *adj* sad; in low spirits. **dejection** (dɪ'dʒekʃən) *nu*

delay (dɪ'leɪ) *vti* 1 (go slowly to) make (someone or something) late. 2 postpone (something) to a later date. • *ncu* (an example of) being delayed; pause.

delectable (dɪ'lektəbəl) *adj* (esp. of food) very pleasing.

delegate ('delɪgət) *nc* a person whose job is to act for others. • ('delɪgeɪt) *vt* appoint (someone) to do something in your place. **delegation** (,delɪ'geɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of delegating. 2 *nc* a group of delegates.

delete (dɪ'liːt) *vt* draw a line through (a word, sentence, etc.); remove. **deletion** (dɪ'liːʃən) *ncu*

deliberate (dɪ'lɪbərət) *adj* 1 done with firm intention. 2 slow and careful. **deliberately** *adv* • (dɪ'lɪbəreɪt) *vti* think carefully and seriously (about what to do): *He deliberated before making his decision.* **deliberation** (dɪ,lɪbə'reɪʃən) *ncu*

delicacy ('delɪkəsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies** 1 (an example of) pureness of feeling, taste, manners, etc. 2 *nc* a very nice piece of food.

delicate ('delɪkət) *adj* 1 soft; pretty; beautifully made: *delicate pink; delicate silks.* 2 easily injured or broken; (of a person) weak. 3 gentle and tender with the hands, with other people's feelings, etc. 4 needing careful treatment. **delicately** *adv*

delicatessen (,delɪkə'tesən) *nc* a shop that sells good food, usually cooked.

delicious (dɪ'lɪʃəs) *adj* having a very pleasant taste, smell, etc.

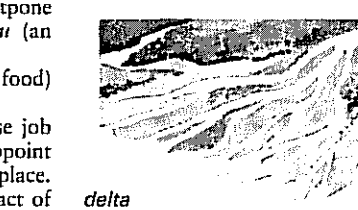
delight (dɪ'laɪt) *vt* make happy or very pleased: *His success delights me.* • *ncu* (something that gives) pleasure. **delight in** take great pleasure in. **be delighted** be very pleased. **delightful** *adj* **delightfully** *adv*

delinquency (dɪ'lɪŋkwənsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies** (an example of) breaking of laws; not doing your duty. **delinquent** (dɪ'lɪŋkwənt) *nc* a person guilty of delinquency, esp. a young person who has broken the law. • *adj* guilty of delinquency.

delirious (dɪ'lɪrɪəs) *adj* 1 acting and talking in a wild way, esp. in illness. 2 *infml* very excited or happy. **delirium** (dɪ'lɪrɪəm) *nu* the state of being delirious.

deliver (dɪ'lɪvə*) *vt* 1 take or give (something) to a place, person, etc.: *deliver the mail.* 2 (help to) give birth to a baby. 3 set free. 4 speak: *to deliver a speech.* **deliverance** (dɪ'lɪvərəns) *nu* the act of delivering (**deliver** def. 3). **deliver from** save from. **delivery** (dɪ'lɪvərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (an example of) delivering (**deliver** defs. 1, 2, 4).

delta ('deltə) *nc* the land between the branches of a river at its mouth: see picture.



delta

delude (dɪ'luːd) *vt* give (someone) a wrong idea on purpose.

deluge ('deljuːdʒ) *nc* a flood; huge number or amount: *a deluge of complaints.* • *vt* overwhelm.

delusion (dɪ'luːʒən) 1 *nu* giving or being given a wrong idea on purpose. 2 *nc* a wrong idea, esp. in an illness of the mind.

de luxe (də'lʊks, dɪ'lʌks) *adj* of the very best and most expensive kind.

delve (delv) *vi* **delve into** look into very carefully.

demagnetise (diː'mægnə,taɪz) *vt* remove magnetism or magnetic properties from (something).

demagogue ('deməgɒg) *nc* a leader or politician whose words cause strong feelings among the people.

demand (dɪ'mɑːnd) *vti* 1 ask (for something), in a way that sounds like an order; claim. 2 *vt* need: *This letter demands a quick reply.* • *nc* 1 a claim. 2 *nu* a need, esp. for goods that people want to buy: *strong demand for lamb.* **in demand** wanted by a lot of people. **on demand** as soon as asked for. **demanding** *adj* needing a lot of something, esp. attention or effort.

demarcation (,diːmɑː'keɪʃən) *nu* marking the outer edges or the limits, esp. of the responsibility of someone's job.

demean (dɪ'miːn) *vt* bring (someone, esp. yourself) down in the opinion of others. **demeaning** *adj*

demeanour *US* **demeanor** (dɪ'miːnə*) *nu* the way someone behaves.

demented (dɪ'mentɪd) *adj* crazy.

demilitarise (diː'mɪlɪtə,raɪz) *vt* remove armed forces from: *a demilitarised zone.*

democracy (dɪ'mɒkrəsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies** 1 a government chosen by the people in elections; a country ruled in this way; this system of government. 2 a system allowing freedom for everyone: *Can a family be a democracy?* **democrat** ('deməkræt) *nc* a person who believes in the right to choose a government. **democratic**

(ˌdeməˈkrætɪk) *adj* 1 to do with democracy. 2 giving equal rights to everyone.

demography (dɪˈmɒgrəfɪ) *nu* the study of the numbers of births, deaths, etc., in a country to get information about society. **demographic** (ˌdeməˈgræfɪk) *adj*

demolish (dɪˈmɒlɪʃ) *vt* destroy (esp. old buildings). **demolition** (ˌdeməˈlɪʃən) *nu*

demon (ˈdiːmən) *nc* 1 an evil spirit. 2 *infml* an evil or naughty person.

demonstrate (ˈdemənstreɪt) 1 *vt* show by proving or explaining. 2 *vi* take part in a public meeting, procession, etc., to show your feelings about a matter. **demonstration** (ˌdemənˈstreɪʃən) *ncu* **demonstrator** *nc* **demonstrative** (dɪˈmɒnstrətɪv) *adj* showing openly how you feel.

demoralise (dɪˈmɒrəlaɪz) *vt* make (a person or group) lose respect for their own ability: *Defeat demoralises an army.*

demote (dɪˈməʊt) *vt* move down to a lower rank, position, etc.

demure (dɪˈmjʊə*) *adj* quiet and serious; pretending to be shy.

den (den) *nc* 1 a wild animal's cave. 2 a secret place, esp. for thieves. 3 a room in a house used esp. by one particular member of a family for work, etc.

denial (dɪˈnaɪəl) *nc* an act of saying that something is not true or that you do not know about something.

denim (ˈdenɪm) *n* 1 *nu* strong cotton cloth, esp. used for jeans. 2 (*pl*) a pair of trousers made of denim; jeans.

denitrify (diːˈnaɪtrɪfaɪ) *vt* remove nitrogen or nitrogen compounds from (something).

denomination (dɪˌnɒmɪˈneɪʃən) *nc* 1 the name showing the class or kind something belongs to. 2 a group of people with the same religious beliefs. 3 a group of banknotes, weights, etc.

denominator (dɪˈnɒmɪneɪtə*) *nc* the number below the line in a fraction: 2 *is the denominator in* $\frac{1}{2}$.

denote (dɪˈnəʊt) *vt* be a sign of; show.

denounce (dɪˈnaʊns) *vt* speak against (someone or something) in public; accuse.

dense (dens) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 not easily seen through, esp. mist, steam, etc. 2 with little or no space in between: *a dense crowd.* 3 stupid. **densely** *adv*

density (ˈdensɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the state of having very little space in between. 2 *ncu, pl* **-ties** *science* the relation of mass to volume (of a substance).

dent (dent) *nc* a hollow place in a surface, caused esp. by a blow. • *vti* (cause to) have dents.

dental (ˈdentəl) *adj* of the teeth.

dentist (ˈdentɪst) *nc* a person whose work is repairing, cleaning, and taking out teeth. **dentistry** (ˈdentɪstrɪ) *nu*

denture (ˈdentʃə*) *nc* (usually *pl*) a set of false teeth.

denude (dɪˈnjuːd) *vt* make bare.

denunciation (dɪˌnʌnsɪˈeɪʃən) *ncu* accusing (a person) in public.

deny (dɪˈnaɪ) *vt* 1 say (something) to be not true or not known to you. 2 refuse to give what is asked for or needed.

deodorant (diːˈəʊdərənt) *nu* a powder, spray, etc., used to prevent or cover up bad smells, esp. of the body.

deoxidise (diːˈɒksɪˌdaɪz) *vt* remove oxygen atoms from something: *a deoxidised compound.*

deoxygenate (diːˈɒksɪdʒəˌneɪt) *vt* remove oxygen from (something): *deoxygenated air.*

depart (dɪˈpɑːt) *vi* 1 (followed by **from**) leave; go away from, esp. of a train, bus, etc.: *The train departs from platform three.* 2 (followed by **from**) turn away from what is the usual or right thing to do: *to depart from the truth.*

department (dɪˈpɑːtmənt) *nc* a part of a business, university, school, shop, etc.: *the college's science department.* **departmental** (ˌdiːpɑːtˈmentəl) *adj* **department store** a large shop with several parts selling different goods in each.

departure (dɪˈpɑːtʃə*) *ncu* 1 (an example of) leaving; going away. 2 a turning away from doing the usual; taking a new direction.

depend (dɪˈpend) *vi* 1 (followed by **on**) rely on for help; trust. 2 change according to: *Our plans depend on the weather.* **that** or **it all depends on...** that or it is not certain until (something else is known first). **dependable** (dɪˈpendəbəl) *adj* trustworthy.

dependant (dɪˈpendənt) *nc* a person, esp. a child, who relies on someone for a home, etc.

dependence (dɪˈpendəns) *nu* a state of relying on others for their support; trust.

dependency (dɪˈpendənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** a country that is controlled by another.

dependent (dɪˈpendənt) *adj* 1 unable to do without something: *dependent on drugs.* 2 being not certain until something else is known.

depict (dɪˈpɪkt) *vt* show in a picture; describe in words.

deplete (dɪˈpliːt) *vt* reduce or use up (a store of something).

deplore (dɪˈplɔː*) *vt* feel deep sorrow or anger about (something), because you consider it to be wrong: *He deplored his son's rudeness.* **deplorable** (dɪˈplɔːrəbəl) *adj*

deploy (dɪ'plɔɪ) *vt* spread out (soldiers, resources, etc.) to be ready for action, use, etc.

deport (dɪ'pɔːt) *vt* send (esp. a dangerous or bad person) out of a country. **deportation** (ˌdiːpɔː'teɪʃən) *ncu*

depose (dɪ'pəʊz) *vt* remove (someone, esp. a leader or ruler) from a position of power.

deposit (dɪ'pɒzɪt) *nc* 1 money put into a bank, etc., for safety; part of an amount of money owed, the rest to be paid later. 2 a layer of solid matter that builds up or is left behind. • *vt* 1 put down. 2 put into a bank, etc., for safety. 3 leave (a layer of solid matter) behind or at the bottom. **depositor** (dɪ'pɒzɪtə*) *nc* a person who puts money into a bank.

depot ('depəʊ) *nc* 1 a place where goods, esp. for soldiers, are kept. 2 a place where buses are kept. 3 *chiefly US* a railway station.

depraved (dɪ'preɪvd) *adj* choosing to do wrong and evil things, esp. because influenced by bad company. **depravity** (dɪ'prævɪtɪ) *ncu*

deprecate ('deprɪkeɪt) *vt fml* show you do not approve of.

depreciate (dɪ'priːʃɪeɪt) 1 *vti* (cause to) become less in value. 2 *vt* make (someone) feel of little or no value. **depreciation** (dɪˌpriːʃɪ'eɪʃən) *nu*

depress (dɪ'pres) *vt* 1 make sad or low in spirits. 2 make (esp. trade) less, smaller, etc. 3 *fml* press down: *Depress the red button.* **depressed** *adj* **depressing** *adj* **depression** (dɪ'preʃən) *ncu*

deprive (dɪ'praɪv) *vt* take away from; prevent from doing or having. **deprivation** (ˌdeprɪ'veɪʃən) *ncu*

depth (depθ) *ncu* 1 being deep; distance from the surface to the bottom or from the front to the back. 2 the measure of deep feelings, thoughts, etc. 3 (*pl*) the deepest part of: *the depths of the sea.* **out of your depth** 1 in water that is deeper than your height. 2 in a situation that is too difficult for you to cope with.

deputation (ˌdepjʊ'teɪʃən) *nc* a group of people chosen to speak or act for others.

deputy ('depjʊtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a person chosen to act for another person. 2 (in some countries) a member of parliament. **deputise** ('depjʊtaɪz) *vi* act as a deputy.

derail (dɪ'reɪl) *vt* cause (a train) to run off the railway lines.

derange (dɪ'reɪndʒ) *vt* put out of order. **deranged** (dɪ'reɪndʒd) *adj* mad.

derelict ('derɪlɪkt) *adj* (esp. of a building) left without an owner; falling to pieces.

deride (dɪ'raɪd) *vt* laugh unkindly at; make fun of. **derision** (dɪ'rɪʒən) *nu* **derisive** (dɪ'raɪsɪv) *adj* **derisory** (dɪ'raɪzərɪ) *adj* ridiculously small: *a derisory sum of money.*

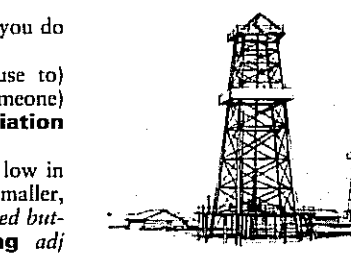
derive (dɪ'raɪv) (followed by **from**). 1 *vt* get; obtain: *Petrol is derived from oil.* 2 *vi* (of a word) come from. **derivation** (ˌderɪ'veɪʃən) *ncu* **derivative** (dɪ'rɪvətɪv) *adj often derogatory* copying something else. • *nc* something, esp. a word or substance, coming from something else: *Petrol is one of the derivatives of oil.*

dermatology (ˌdɜːmə'tɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of diseases of the skin. **dermatologist** *nc* a person who studies and treats diseases of the skin.

dermis ('dɜːmɪs) *nu biology* the inner layer of the skin, below the epidermis, containing blood-vessels, fat, etc.

derogatory (dɪ'rɒgətərɪ) *nc* not respectful.

derrick ('derɪk) *nc* 1 a tall machine for lifting and moving heavy weights, esp. on a ship. 2 the frame over an oil well: see picture.



derrick

dervish ('dɜːvɪʃ) *nc* a member of one of a number of Muslim religious groups, some of which are noted for their poor and simple lives.

descend (dɪ'send) *vti* come or go down (something): *descend a hill; descend quickly.* **be descended from** come from (your ancestors). **descend on** arrive without warning. **descend to** lower or humble yourself. **descendant** (dɪ'sendənt) *nc* a person who has come from an earlier member of the family.

descent (dɪ'sent) *ncu* 1 a coming down; slope. 2 the line of family a person has come from.

describe (dɪ'skraɪb) *vt* 1 show in words what something is like: *Describe his face to me.* 2 *mathematics* draw (a shape).

description (dɪ'skrɪpʃən) *ncu* 1 (an example of) the act of describing. 2 kind: *people of every description.* **descriptive** (dɪ'skrɪptɪv) *adj*

desecrate ('desɪkreɪt) *vt* put (a sacred

place) to wicked use. **desecration** (ˌdesɪˈkreɪʃən) *nu*

desegregate (ˌdiːˈsegrɪgeɪt) *vt* stop the segregation of. **desegregation** (ˌdiːsegrɪˈgeɪʃən) *nc*

desert[1] (ˈdezət) *nc* a large piece of land that is without water and trees, and is covered in sand. **desertification** (dɪˌzɜːtɪfɪˈkəɪʃən) *nu geography* the process by which fertile land turns into desert.

desert[2] (dɪˈzɜːt) *vt* 1 leave (a place) empty. 2 leave (your duty, your family, etc.) to look after itself. 3 *vti* leave (esp. the army) without permission. **deserter** (dɪˈzɜːtə*) *nc* a person who leaves, esp. the army, without permission. **desertion** (dɪˈzɜːʃən) *ncu*

deserts (dɪˈzɜːts) *nu* what a person deserves: *A coward gets his just deserts.*

deserve (dɪˈzɜɪv) *vt* have a right to (certain treatment) because of good or bad actions, etc. **deservedly** (dɪˈzɜːvɪdlɪ) *adv*

design (dɪˈzaɪn) 1 *nc* a plan or drawing showing how something could be made, built, etc. 2 *nu* the way something is made, built, etc. *nc* 3 a pattern. 4 a plan in the mind. • *vt* 1 have an idea for; make (something) specially for. 2 draw a plan for. **designer** (dɪˈzaɪnə*) *nc*

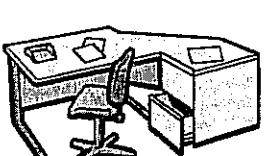
designate (ˈdezɪgneɪt) *vt* 1 appoint (a person) to do a job. 2 mark out clearly. **designation** (ˌdezɪgˈneɪʃən) *ncu*

desirable (dɪˈzaɪərəbəl) *adj* worth having or wanting. **desirability** (dɪˌzaɪərəˈbɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

desire (dɪˈzaɪə*) 1 *ncu* a deep wish or want. 2 *nc* that which is wished for or wanted. • *vt* want very much. **desirous** (dɪˈzaɪərəs) *adj*

desist (dɪˈzɪst, dɪˈsɪst) *vi fml or humorous* stop doing something.

desk (desk) *nc* 1 a piece of furniture like a table, at which to write, study, do business, etc.: see picture. 2 a place in a hotel, etc., where visitors, customers, etc., are dealt with: *reception desk.*



desk

desolate (ˈdesələt) *adj* 1 sad and lonely; without friends. 2 (of a place or land) poor and not lived in. **desolation** (ˌdesəˈleɪʃən) *nu*

despair (dɪˈspeə*) *nu* the feeling of no hope. • *vi* lose hope: *They despaired of finding him alive.*

despatch (dɪˈspætʃ) *n, v* See **dispatch.**

desperate (ˈdespərət) *adj* 1 not caring about danger or the law, because of grief or lack of hope. 2 very serious: *desperate trouble.* 3 wild or dangerous and unlikely to succeed. **desperately** *adv* **desperation** (ˌdespəˈreɪʃən) *nu*

despicable (ˈdespɪkəbəl) *adj* shameful and disgusting.

despise (dɪˈspaɪz) *vt* feel contempt for.

despite (dɪˈspaɪt) *prep* in spite of: *We had a good holiday, despite the weather.*

despondency (dɪˈspɒndənsɪ) *nu* sadness; low spirits. **despondent** (dɪˈspɒndənt) *adj*

despot (ˈdespɒt) *nc* a person who has complete power and uses it badly and cruelly. **despotic** (deˈspɒtɪk) *adj* **despotism** (ˈdespətɪzəm) *nu*

dessert (dɪˈzɜːt) *nc* sweet food eaten at the end of a meal. **dessertspoon** (dɪˈzɜːtˌspuːn) *nc* a medium-sized spoon used for eating a dessert, etc.

destination (ˌdestɪˈneɪʃən) *nc* a place to which someone or something is going.

destine (ˈdestɪn) *vt* (usually of God or fate) arrange (for something) to happen: *He was destined to become king.*

destiny (ˈdestɪnɪ) 1 *nu* the power that is thought to decide what will happen. 2 *nc, pl* **-nies** a person's fate.

destitute (ˈdestɪtjuːt) *adj* in great need of necessary things, esp. food, clothes, etc. **destitution** (ˌdestɪˈtjuːʃən) *nu*

destroy (dɪˈstrɔɪ) *vt* cause the complete ruin of (something); kill; make useless. **destroyer** *nc* a person who destroys; anything that destroys, esp. a fast warship that protects larger ships.

destruction (dɪˈstrʌkʃən) *nu* destroying or being destroyed. **destructive** (dɪˈstrʌktɪv) *adj* likely to destroy or damage; causing destruction.

desultory (ˈdesəltərɪ) *adj* without plan or purpose; changing often from one subject, piece of work, etc., to another.

detach (dɪˈtætʃ) *vt* separate; unfasten. **detachable** (dɪˈtætʃəbəl) *adj* **detached** (dɪˈtætʃt) *adj* 1 not joined to another: *a detached house.* 2 (of a person) not showing that you like one person, or thing, more than another; without, or not showing strong feelings. **detachment** (dɪˈtætʃmənt) *nu* 1 detaching or being detached. 2 being unaffected by the opinions, feelings, etc., of other people, or by things happening around you. 3 *nc* part of

an army, etc., separated from the rest for some special purpose.

detail ('diːteɪl) 1 *nc* a small, special item, point, fact, etc.: *details of the battle.* 2 *nu* a small part of a picture, etc.: *The drawing has been spoiled by too much detail.* **in detail** fully. • *vt* 1 give a very full account of. 2 give a special duty to. **detailed** *adj* containing many details: *a detailed report.*

detain (dɪ'teɪn) *vt* prevent from leaving; delay.

detect (dɪ'tekt) *vt* find out; observe. **detector** (dɪ'tektə*) *nc* a device for discovering the presence of something. **detection** (dɪ'tekʃən) *nu* detecting; finding out. **detective** (dɪ'tektɪv) *nc* a person whose job is to find criminals or get information.

detention (dɪ'tenʃən) *ncu* (an example of) preventing from leaving or being prevented from leaving: *Anyone who arrives late will be kept in detention after the rest of the school has gone home.*

deter (dɪ'tɜː*) *vt* discourage (someone) from doing something, esp. by making them afraid: *His gun deterred them from attacking him.*

detergent (dɪ'tɜːdʒənt) *nc* a substance used, often with water, to remove dirt, grease, etc.

deteriorate (dɪ'tɪərɪəreɪt) *vti* make or become worse, less fit for use, etc. **deterioration** (dɪˌtɪərɪə'reɪʃən) *nu*

determination (dɪˌtɜːmɪ'neɪʃən) *nu* 1 the state of being fixed and firm in purpose: *He has the determination to succeed in his new job.* 2 the finding out of a meaning, an amount, etc.

determine (dɪ'tɜːmɪn) *vti* 1 (cause to) decide firmly: *He determined to go abroad as soon as he'd finished his university course.* *vt* 2 find out (something) exactly: *Have we determined how long the journey will take?* 3 fix; decide: *The date for the meeting has now been determined.* 4 be the most important cause of. **determined** *adj* fixed and firm in purpose: *determined to succeed.* **determiner** *nc grammar* a word, such as 'a', 'this', 'many', etc., that limits the meaning of the word or words that follow it.

deterrent (dɪ'terənt) *nc, adj* (something) that deters: *A guard dog is a good deterrent.*

detest (dɪ'test) *vt* hate; dislike strongly. **detestable** *adj*

detonate ('detəneɪt) *vti* (cause to) explode. **detonator** ('detəneɪtə*) *nc* a device that explodes, esp. in a bomb, causing the rest of it to explode.

detour ('diːtuə*) *nc* a longer way round: *Make a detour to avoid the heavy traffic.*

detract (dɪ'trækt) *vi* (followed by **from**) make less in value, worth, etc.: *Her unkind nature detracts from her beauty.*

detriment ('detrɪmənt) *nu* harm; loss: *Smoking can be to the detriment of your health.* **detrimental** (ˌdetrɪ'mentəl) *adj* harmful.

deuce (djuːs) *nu* 1 (in tennis) the stage reached where each side has won three points and one side must now gain two points, one after the other, to win. 2 the two on dice or cards.

devalue (ˌdiː'væljuː) *US* **devaluate** (ˌdiː'væljuːeɪt) *vt* make the value of (something, esp. a country's currency) less. **devaluation** (dɪˌvæljuˈeɪʃən) *ncu*

devastate ('devəsteɪt) *vt* ruin; damage very badly. **devastation** (ˌdevə'steɪʃən) *nu*

develop (dɪ'veləp) 1 *vti* make or become larger or more mature; (cause to) make progress: *New plans have been developed.* 2 *vi* grow; become: *The story develops into a tale of adventure.* *vt* 3 put (a piece of land) to new use and so make it more valuable. 4 make (a picture on photographic film) able to be seen. **developing country** a poor country that has begun to make progress in producing goods, etc. **development** (dɪ'veləpmənt) 1 *nu* developing or being developed: *development of a disease.* 2 *nc* a result of something developing: *new developments in medicine.*

deviate ('diːvɪeɪt) *vi* turn away from the truth, usual course of action, etc. **deviation** (ˌdiːvɪ'eɪʃən) *ncu*

device (dɪ'vaɪs) *nc* 1 a trick; plan to deceive. 2 something made or made suitable for a particular use or purpose. **leave someone to their own devices** leave someone alone to do whatever they want.

devil ('devəl) *nc* 1 an evil spirit; cruel or wicked person. 2 (used in an expression of pity) a person: *The poor devil's son has died.* **the Devil** the spirit of evil and enemy of God. **devilish** ('devɪlɪʃ) *adj* wicked. • *adv* very: *devilish bad weather.*

devious ('diːvɪəs) *adj* 1 going a long way round: *a devious route.* 2 hard to understand because complicated; deceitful: *a devious mind.*

devise (dɪ'vaɪz) *vt* think up (an idea, plan, etc.).

devoid (dɪ'vɔɪd) *adj* **devoid of** without: *a lecture devoid of meaning.*

devolution (ˌdiːvə'luːʃən) *nu* moving power from a central organisation, esp. government, to a local one.

devote (dɪ'vəʊt) *vt* give up (all your

attention, time, etc.) to: *He devoted his life to helping others.* **devoted** *adj* very loving; loyal. **devotee** (ˌdevəˈtiː) *nc* an enthusiastic supporter. **devotion** (dɪˈvəʊʃən) *nu* 1 giving up of all your time or attention to. 2 strong love.

devour (dɪˈvaʊə*) *vt* 1 eat very hungrily or with greed. 2 (esp. of fire) destroy.

devout (dɪˈvaʊt) *adj* very loyal and sincere, esp. to religious duties. **devoutly** *adv*

dew (djuː) *nu* very small amounts of water forming on cool surfaces between evening and morning: *The fields were wet with dew.* **dewdrop** (ˈdjuːdrɒp) *nc* a tiny amount of dew. **dewy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** wet and shining (esp. with dew).

dexterity (dekˈsterətɪ) *nu* ability to do things well with the hands. **dexterous** (also **dextrous**) (ˈdekstrəs) *adj* clever with the hands.

dextrose (ˈdekstrəʊz) *nu* a type of sugar that is found in fruit, honey, animal tissue, etc.

diabetes (ˌdaɪəˈbiːtɪz) *nu* a disease in which sugar is not properly used when taken into the body. **diabetic** (ˌdaɪəˈbetɪk) *adj* of or to do with diabetes. • *nc* a person who has diabetes.

diabolical (ˌdaɪəˈbɒlɪkəl) *adj* 1 of, to do with, or like a devil; very cruel. 2 *infml* (of something that makes you angry) very bad: *diabolical rudeness.*

diadem (ˈdaɪədem) *nc literary* a crown.

diagnose (ˌdaɪəgˈnəʊz) *vt* find out the nature of (a disease, fault, etc.). **diagnosis** (ˌdaɪəgˈnəʊsɪs) *ncu, pl* **-ses** (siːz) (a result of) diagnosing.

diagonal (daɪˈægənəl) *nc* a straight line that goes across from one corner to the opposite corner of a four-sided figure. • *adj* of such a line; sloping. **diagonally** *adv*

diagram (ˈdaɪəgræm) *nc* a drawing or plan, to explain something. **diagrammatic** (ˌdaɪəgrəˈmætɪk) *adj* of or to do with a diagram. **diagrammatically** (ˌdaɪəgrəˈmætɪkəlɪ) *adv*

dial (ˈdaɪəl) *nc* 1 the face of a clock or watch. 2 a flat, round surface with a needle-like device for measuring weight, speed, etc. 3 the flat, round part of some telephones with numbers, letters, etc. 4 the disc on a radio or television set for choosing programmes. • *vt* make a telephone call to (someone); move the dial or press the buttons of a telephone to call (a telephone number).

dialect (ˈdaɪəlekt) *ncu* a different way of speaking in a part of a country, or by a class of people.

dialectic (ˌdaɪəˈlektɪk) *nu* the skill and practice of deciding whether an idea, opinion, etc., is true by debate.

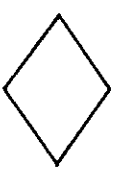
dialogue *US* **dialog** (ˈdaɪəlɒg) 1 *nc* a conversation between two people. 2 *nu* part of a play or book, that contains conversation; this kind of writing. 3 *nc* a discussion between two leaders, etc.

dialysis (daɪˈælɪsɪs) *nu medicine* the process of removing waste products artificially from the blood of a person with kidney failure, by passing the blood through a machine that filters it.

diameter (daɪˈæmɪtə*) *nc* the line that crosses through the centre of a figure, esp. a circle; length of such a line.

diametrically (ˌdaɪəˈmetrɪklɪ) *adv* completely: *diametrically opposed.*

diamond (ˈdaɪəmənd) *ncu* 1 a very hard, bright, precious stone of pure carbon: *a diamond ring. nc* 2 a figure with four equal straight sides and with angles different from a square: see picture. 3 a playing-card with a diamond shape on.



diamond

diaphragm (ˈdaɪəfræm) *nc* 1 the wall of muscle that separates the chest from the stomach and bowels. 2 a device in a camera, etc., that changes the size of the opening that lets in light. 3 a contraceptive device used by women.

diarrhoea (ˌdaɪəˈrɪə) *nu* the frequent emptying of the too liquid contents of the bowels.

diary (ˈdaɪərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a daily written account of events, thoughts, etc.; book for this purpose.

dice (daɪs) *nc* a small, solid cube, with each side marked with a different number of spots, used in games: *throw the dice.* • *vt* cut (esp. food) into small cubes.

dichloride (daɪˈklɔːraɪd) *nc chemistry* a compound containing two atoms of chlorine combined with another atom or group.

dichotomy (daɪˈkɒtəmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** a division into two that is very clearly seen, understood, etc.: *the dichotomy of wealth and poverty.*

dicotyledon (daɪˌkɒtɪˈliːdən) *nc botany* a flowering plant with two seed leaves: *Most shrubs are dicotyledons.* See also **monocotyledon.**

dictate (dɪk'teɪt) *vti* 1 speak or read (words) aloud, usually for someone to write down: *He dictated a letter.* 2 give orders, not always with the power and right to do so; govern.

dictation (dɪk'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* dictating or being dictated to. 2 *nc* a set of words, etc., that are dictated.

dictator (dɪk'teɪtə*) *nc* a person with complete power, usually obtained by force. **dictatorial** (ˌdɪktə'tɔːrɪəl) *adj* of or like a dictator; forcing others to obey. **dictatorship** (dɪk'teɪtəʃɪp) *nc* a country that is governed by a dictator; such a government.

diction ('dɪkʃən) *nu* 1 the choice and use of words in speaking or writing. 2 the way the sound of a word is made in speaking or singing.

dictionary ('dɪkʃənərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a book containing a list of words and their meanings, in the order of the alphabet.

did (dɪd) past tense of **do.**

didn't ('dɪdənt) *v* did not.

didst (dɪdst) *v old-fashioned* (used with **thou**) past tense of **do.**

die[1] (daɪ) *vi* 1 stop living. 2 come to an end. **be dying for; be dying to** *infml* want very much: *She's dying for a chance to meet him; I'm dying to know.*

die[2] *nc* 1 *chiefly US* a dice. 2 a piece of metal with a pattern, shape, etc., cut into it, for use in printing, making coins, etc.

diesel ('diːzəl) *nc* 1 also **diesel engine** an engine in which power is produced by the burning of oil inside it. 2 a vehicle that works with such an engine. 3 *nu* also **diesel oil** the fuel used in such an engine.

diet ('daɪət) *nc* 1 the kinds of food a person or animal usually eats. 2 a way of eating using special kinds of food for a particular purpose: *The doctor put her on a diet to lose weight.* • *vi* eat only certain foods in order to become thinner or for reasons of health. **dietary** ('daɪətrɪ) *adj*

differ ('dɪfə*) *vi* 1 be unlike: *Our interests differ.* 2 disagree: *We differ greatly in our political opinions.*

difference ('dɪfrəns) 1 *nu* being unlike: *the difference between a tree and a bush.* 2 *nc* the way or measure in which things are unlike: *a difference of two years in our ages.* **different** ('dɪfrənt) *adj* 1 unlike; not the same. 2 various: *For several different reasons he decided not to go to university.* **differently** *adv*

differential (ˌdɪfə'renʃəl) *adj* of or to do with a difference. • *nc* a difference, for example between wages.

differentiate (ˌdɪfə'renʃɪeɪt) *vt* 1 show or see a difference. 2 make a difference between. **differentiation** (ˌdɪfərenʃɪ'eɪʃən) *nc*

difficult ('dɪfɪkəlt) *adj* 1 not easy; hard to do, understand, or explain. 2 (of a person) hard to please; causing trouble: *What a difficult child he is!* **difficulty** ('dɪfɪkəltɪ) 1 *nu* being difficult. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that gets in the way because it is not easy to do, understand, or explain.

diffident ('dɪfɪdənt) *adj* having too low an opinion of yourself and your abilities. **diffidence** *nu*

diffraction (dɪ'frækʃən) *nc* the spreading out of waves of light or water after passing through a narrow gap.

diffuse (dɪ'fjuːs) *adj* 1 spread out in every direction: *diffuse light.* 2 using more words than are needed: *a diffuse speech.* • (dɪ'fjuːz) *vti* (cause to) spread or send out in every direction. **diffusion** (dɪ'fjuːʒən) *nu*

dig (dɪg) 1 *vti* break up the soil (of a piece of land): *dig the garden.* *vt* 2 remove soil to make or uncover (something): *The dog dug a hole to bury its bone; They dug up a buried city.* • *nc* 1 *infml* a sudden push. 2 a place where the ground is being dug up to uncover things belonging to times long past; the act of doing this. 3 (*pl*) *infml, Brit* rented rooms to live in.

digest (dɪ'dʒest, daɪ'dʒest) 1 *vt* change (food) in the stomach and intestine so that it can be used in the body. 2 *vi* (of food) be changed so that it can be used in the body. 3 *vt* take (information, ideas, knowledge, etc.) into the mind: *Has she digested the bad news yet?* • ('daɪdʒest) *nc* an account of a book, etc., giving the chief points only. **digestion** (dɪ'dʒestʃən, daɪ'dʒestʃən) 1 *nu* digesting. 2 *ncu* ability to digest food: *He has a weak digestion.* **digestive** (dɪ'dʒestɪv, daɪ'dʒestɪv) of, or to do with, the digestion of food: *the digestive system.*

digger ('dɪgə*) *nc* 1 a person who digs, esp. one who searches for gold. 2 a tool or machine for digging.

digit ('dɪdʒɪt) *nc* 1 a finger, thumb, or toe. 2 any of the ten numbers from zero up to nine. **digital** ('dɪdʒɪtəl) *adj* of, or using, digits: *a digital watch.* See also **analogue.**

dignified ('dɪgnɪfaɪd) *adj* having a calm and serious manner.

dignitary ('dɪgnɪtərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a person of high rank.

dignity ('dɪgnətɪ) *nu* 1 high quality of character or worth; nobility. 2 a serious manner.

digress (daɪ'gres) *vi* leave the main subject in speaking or writing. **digression** (daɪ'greʃən) *ncu*

dike (daɪk) *n* See **dyke.**

dilapidated (dɪ'læpɪdeɪtɪd) *adj* (of buildings, furniture, etc.) in need of repair.

dilate (daɪ'leɪt) *vti* (cause to) become wider or larger.

dilemma (dɪ'lemə, daɪ'lemə) *nc* a difficult situation in which neither choice of two courses of action is a good one.

diligence ('dɪlɪdʒəns) *nu* the giving of all your attention, energy, etc., to your work, or to what you have to do. **diligent** ('dɪlɪdʒənt) *adj* giving care, hard work, attention, etc., to what you do. **diligently** *adv*

dilute (daɪ'luːt) *vt* make weaker or thinner by mixing with water or another liquid: *to dilute paint.* • *adj* diluted: *dilute nitric acid.*

dim (dɪm) *adj* 1 not bright or clear: *dim lights; The old man's memories were very dim.* 2 *infml* not very clever. **dimly** *adv*

dime (daɪm) *nc US* a coin with the value of ten cents.

dimension (daɪ'menʃən) *nc* 1 a measurement, such as height, length, width, etc. 2 (*pl*) size. **dimensional** (daɪ'menʃənəl) *adj* having one or more measurements: *A square is two-dimensional, but a cube is three-dimensional.*

diminish (dɪ'mɪnɪʃ) *vti* (cause to) become less or smaller.

diminutive (dɪ'mɪnjʊtɪv) *adj* 1 very tiny; more than usually small. 2 *grammar* to do with letters added to the end of a word showing smallness. • *nc grammar* a word formed by adding letters in this way: *'Booklet' is a diminutive of 'book'.*

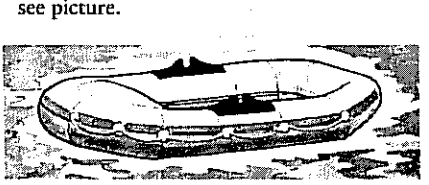
dimple ('dɪmpəl) *nc* a tiny hollow place in the cheek or chin: *The baby smiled and showed his dimples.*

din (dɪn) *nu derogatory* a loud noise that goes on for a long time: *the din of the traffic.*

dine (daɪn) 1 *vi* eat dinner. 2 *vt* give dinner to. **diner** ('daɪnə*) *nc* 1 a person who dines. 2 the part of a train where people have meals. 3 *US* a restaurant.

ding-dong ('dɪŋˌdɒŋ) *nu* the sound of bells ringing, often in turn. • *adv* with such a sound. • *adj infml* (of an argument, discussion, etc.) in which first one and then the other seems to be winning.

dinghy ('dɪŋgɪ) *nc, pl* **-ghies** a small, open boat; rubber boat that is inflated for use: see picture.



dinghy

dingy ('dɪndʒɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** dirty and dull in appearance.

dining-room ('daɪnɪŋrʊm) *nc* a room in a house, hotel, etc., where meals are eaten.

dinner ('dɪnə*) *nc* the chief meal of the day, eaten in the middle of the day or in the evening.

dinosaur ('daɪnəsɔː*) *nc* 1 a huge reptile that lived in times long past and no longer exists. 2 anything huge, useless, and old-fashioned.

dint (dɪnt) *n* **by dint of** by means of (something that requires effort): *by dint of hard work.*

diocese ('daɪəsɪs) *nc* a district in the care of a bishop.

diode ('daɪˌəʊd) *nc science* a device that allows electric current to pass through in one direction only.

dioxide (daɪ'ɒksaɪd) *nc chemistry* a molecule formed by two atoms of oxygen with one other element: *carbon dioxide.*

dioxin (daɪ'ɒksɪn) *nc* a very poisonous substance produced in certain industrial processes.

dip (dɪp) *vt* 1 put into water or other liquid, for a short time only. 2 *vi* go down slightly and come up quickly: *Birds dipped and rose in flight.* **dip into** read bits of (a book). • *nc* 1 dipping. 2 *infml* a short swim; quick bath. 3 a hollow or downward slope: *a dip in the road.*

diphtheria (dɪf'θɪərɪə) *nu* a serious disease that affects breathing and is easily passed on to others.

diphthong ('dɪfθɒŋ) *nc* two letters that together make one sound.

diploid ('dɪplɔɪd) *biology adj* (of a cell or organism) having a pair of chromosomes. • *nc* a diploid cell or organism. See also **haploid.**

diploma (dɪ'pləʊmə) *nc* a printed statement showing that someone has passed an examination, or is now trained to do something.

diplomacy (dɪ'pləʊməsɪ) *nu* 1 the (skill of) managing of affairs, agreements, etc., between different governments. 2 the ability to deal with people and situations successfully. **diplomat** ('dɪpləmæt) *nc* a person who acts for the government of their country in a foreign country. **diplomatic** (ˌdɪplə'mætɪk) *adj* 1 of diplomacy or diplomats. 2 dealing with people and situations in a tactful way.

dipteran ('dɪptərən) *nc* an insect that has a single pair of wings and that can suck with its mouthparts, such as flies, mosquitoes, etc. **dipterous** *adj*

dire ('daɪə*) *adj* very bad or terrible: *They were living in dire poverty.*

direct (dɪ'rekt) *adj* 1 straight; not going round about: *a direct road.* 2 going straight to the point: *a direct insult; His answers were direct.* 3 with nobody and nothing coming between: *I want to speak to him direct.* • *vt* 1 tell or show the way: *Can you direct me to the nearest town, please?* 2 order someone to do something. 3 cause to turn: *Please direct your eyes this way.* 4 send; aim at: *direct a letter; direct a remark.* 5 control; manage: *direct a business.* **direct current** electricity that goes one way only: *abbrev.* DC. See also **alternating current** under **alternate. directly** (dɪ'rektlɪ) *adv* 1 in a direct manner. 2 at once. 3 soon. **directness** (dɪ'rektnɪs) *nu* **direct object** *grammar* showing the chief object of the action of the verb. **direct speech** words repeated, or written, as actually spoken.

direction (dɪ'rekʃən) *nc* 1 the course to take or the way to go to reach a point, place, etc. 2 (often *pl*) order; information on what to do, where to go, etc.: *Read the directions on the bottle before taking the medicine; We followed her directions and easily found the house.* 3 *nu* guidance: *He's a good student but needs direction.*

directive (dɪ'rektɪv) *nc* an order; instruction.

director (dɪ'rektə*) *nc* a person who controls the affairs of a business, industry, etc.

directory (dɪ'rektərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a book with a list of people, businesses, etc., in a district or industry; book with a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers.

dirge (dəɪdʒ) *nc* a sad song sung for a dead person.

dirt (dəɪt) *nu* 1 unwanted matter, such as mud, dust, etc., that makes something not clean. 2 earth; soil. 3 (information about) bad acts. **dirty** ('dəɪtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 not clean; covered with dirt, stains, etc. 2 *infml* (of behaviour) mean; unworthy: *What a dirty trick!* 3 rude; obscene: *a dirty joke.*

disability (ˌdɪsə'bɪlətɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 *nu* being unable to do something because of a lack, weakness, etc. 2 *nc* a thing that makes someone unable to do something. **disabled** (dɪs'eɪbəld) *adj* without the power to do something, esp. because of illness or injury.

disadvantage (ˌdɪsəd'vɑɪntɪdʒ) 1 *nc* something that makes progress, success, etc., difficult. 2 *nu* harm to one's reputation, etc.; loss. **at a disadvantage** in a worse situation than others; likely to make less progress or have less success.

disagree (ˌdɪsə'griː) *vi* not agree; have another opinion. **disagreeable** (ˌdɪsə'griːəbəl) *adj* bad-tempered; unpleasant: *What a disagreeable old man!* **disagreement** 1 *nu* disagreeing. 2 *nc* an argument; difference of opinion. **disagree with** (of food or a climate) not suit: *I like Italy but Italian food disagrees with me.*

disappear (ˌdɪsə'pɪə*) *vi* go out of sight, esp. suddenly; be no longer seen. **disappearance** (ˌdɪsə'pɪərəns) *ncu*

disappoint (ˌdɪsə'pɔɪnt) *vt* fail to do something that (someone) expects and so make (someone) sad: *He disappointed his parents by failing the examination.* **disappointed** *adj* sad because what you hoped for or expected has not happened. **disappointing** *adj* causing disappointment: *a disappointing result.* **disappointment** (ˌdɪsə'pɔɪntmənt) 1 *nu* becoming disappointed. 2 *nc* someone or something that causes disappointment.

disapprove (ˌdɪsə'pruːv) *vi* say or show that your opinion of someone or something is not good. **disapproval** (ˌdɪsə'pruːvəl) *nu*

disarm (dɪs'ɑɪm) *vt* 1 take weapons away from. 2 remove anger or doubt from by being friendly, honest, etc. 3 *vi* (of a nation) give up weapons; reduce the size of an army, etc. **disarmament** (dɪs'ɑɪməmənt) *nu* taking away or giving up weapons. **disarming** *adj* friendly and charming.

disarray (ˌdɪsə'reɪ) *nu* disorder; confusion.

disaster (dɪ'zɑɪstə*) *nc* a great and serious accident. **disastrous** (dɪ'zɑɪstrəs) *adj* of or causing disaster: *a disastrous mistake.*

disband (dɪs'bænd) *vti* break up (a group, team, organisation, etc.).

disbelief (ˌdɪsbə'liːf) *nu* a lack of belief; feeling that something is not true. **disbelieve** (ˌdɪsbə'liːv) *vt* refuse to believe.

disc *US* **disk** (dɪsk) *nc* a round, thin, flat object such as a record or a coin. See also **disk. disc jockey** a person who plays records of popular music, esp. on a radio programme or at a discotheque.

discard (dɪs'kɑɪd) *vt* throw away as useless or not good enough to keep.

discern (dɪ'səɪn) *vt fml* 1 see clearly with the mind. 2 manage to see, hear, or feel, esp. in spite of some difficulty. **discernible** (dɪ'səɪnəbəl) *adj* that is possible to discern. **discerning** *adj* having good judgement of quality.

discharge (dɪs'tʃɑːdʒ) *vt* 1 carry out; do: *discharge your duties well.* 2 unload (goods from a ship). 3 allow to go: *After his operation he was discharged from the hospital.* 4 fire (a gun or other weapon). 5

dismiss (someone) from employment. 6 *vti* give or send out: *Poisonous matter was discharging from his wound.* • ('dɪstʃɑːdʒ) *nc* discharging or being discharged.

disciple (dɪ'saɪpəl) *nc* a follower and supporter, esp. of a religious leader.

discipline ('dɪsɪplɪn) *nu* 1 training to bring about self-control and obedience to rules, etc. 2 behaviour produced by such training. *nc* 3 a set of rules for good behaviour or training. 4 a subject of knowledge. • *vt* 1 use control over. 2 punish. **disciplinary** (dɪsɪ'plɪnərɪ) *adj*

disclaim (dɪs'kleɪm) *vt* say that you do not want or have nothing to do with (something): *She disclaimed any responsibility for the accident.*

disclose (dɪs'kləʊz) *vt* make known. **disclosure** (dɪs'kləʊʒə*) *ncu*

disco ('dɪskəʊ) *n* short for **discotheque.**

discolour *US* **discolor** (dɪs'kʌlə*) *vti* (cause to) become changed or spoiled in colour.

discomfort (dɪs'kʌmfət) 1 *nu* lack of ease of body or mind. 2 *nc* something that causes discomfort.

disconcert (ˌdɪskən'sɜːt) *vt* make (someone) feel unsure or upset.

disconnect (ˌdɪskə'nekt) *vt* 1 separate things that were connected or fitted together. 2 cut off (a supply, telephone line, etc.).

disconsolate (dɪs'kɒnsələt) *adj* sad; without hope.

discontent (ˌdɪskən'tent) *nu* lack of satisfaction with what you have; wanting more, something better, etc. **discontented** *adj*

discontinue (ˌdɪskən'tɪnjuː) *vti* (cause to) come to an end; stop.

discord ('dɪskɔːd) 1 *nu* disagreement of opinions, feelings, etc.; quarrelling. 2 *nc* a conflict; difference of opinion. 3 *ncu music* (a set of notes that cause) unpleasant sound. **discordant** (dɪs'kɔːdənt) *adj music* having or making an unpleasant sound.

discotheque ('dɪskətek) *nc* a place where records are played for people to dance to.

discount ('dɪskaʊnt) *nc* an amount taken off the real price of goods for some reason. • *vt* 1 take a certain amount off the real price of (goods). 2 (dɪs'kaʊnt) ignore as being untrue, of no value, worth, etc.

discourage (dɪ'skʌrɪdʒ) *vt* 1 take away feelings of courage or confidence. 2 persuade (someone) not to do something: *Her teachers discouraged her from leaving school.*

discourse ('dɪskɔɪs) *fml nc* a speech. • *vi* talk or write (on a subject) esp. for a long time.

discourteous (dɪs'kɜːtjəs) *adj* not polite; bad-mannered.

discover (dɪ'skʌvə*) *vt* 1 find out the existence of (something): *Columbus discovered America.* 2 find out; realise; learn: *I discovered how greedy he is when he came to dinner!; Have the police discovered how she died?* **discoverer** *nc* a person who makes a discovery. **discovery** *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 *nu* discovering, or being discovered. 2 *nc* a thing that is discovered.

discredit (dɪs'kredɪt) *vt* refuse to believe; show doubt about the value of (something, someone's reputation or worth, etc.). • *nu* 1 loss of reputation. 2 *nc* a person or thing that causes this loss: *He's a discredit to his family.*

discreet (dɪ'skriːt) *adj* careful and thoughtful in what you say or do, so as not to make someone worried. **discreetly** *adv*

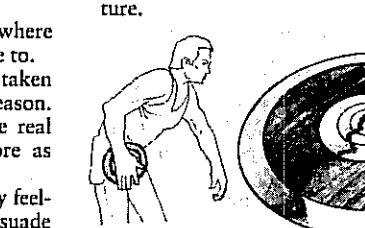
discrepancy (dɪ'skrepənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 *nu* lack of agreement. 2 *nc* a difference: *There are discrepancies between his account of the accident and yours.*

discrete (dɪs'kriːt) *adj* 1 individually separate. 2 consisting of individually separate parts.

discretion (dɪ'skreʃən) *nu* 1 the giving of careful thought to what you say or do. 2 the right or ability to think about and decide what is the proper or best thing to do: *Use your discretion.*

discriminate (dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt) *vti* make or see a difference between. **discriminate against** decide that someone or something should be treated worse than the rest. **discriminating** *adj* 1 having the power to see or make small differences. 2 giving a person, thing, etc., special treatment. **discrimination** (dɪˌskrɪmɪ'neɪʃən) *nu* treating one group of people differently from another; discriminating: *racial discrimination.*

discus ('dɪskəs) *nc* a heavy disc of wood, metal, or stone, thrown in sports: see picture.



discus

discuss (dɪ'skʌs) *vt* talk over the details of (a matter, problem, etc.). **discussion** (dɪ'skʌʃən) 1 *nu* discussing or being

discussed. 2 *nc* a talk about a subject, etc.; argument.

disdain (dɪs'deɪn) *vt* feel that (something) is not worth your notice or attention; refuse: *He disdained to join in the argument.* • *nu* a feeling that someone or something is not worth your notice or attention: *a look of disdain.* **disdainful** *adj*

disease (dɪ'ziːz) 1 *nc* an illness; disorder of the body or mind. 2 *nu* an unhealthy state. **diseased** *adj* with or harmed by disease.

disembark (ˌdɪsɪm'bɑːk) *vi* leave a ship and go on shore.

disenchanted (ˌdɪsɪn'tʃɑɪntɪd) *adj* no longer liking or believing something as you did. **disenchantment** *nu*

disengage (ˌdɪsɪn'geɪdʒ) 1 *vt* separate from; remove (esp. soldiers from battle). 2 *vi* become separated or removed.

disentangle (ˌdɪsɪn'tæŋgəl) *vti* (cause to) become free of knots, difficulties, disorder, etc.

disfigure (dɪs'fɪgə*) *vt* spoil or damage the appearance of: *Her face was disfigured in a car accident; Ugly new buildings disfigured the city.*

disgrace (dɪs'greɪs) *nu* 1 shame; dishonour. 2 *nc* a person or thing that brings about loss of honour, respect, etc.: *You're a disgrace to the school!* • *vt* bring shame, dishonour, etc., on. **disgraceful** *adj* shameful.

disgruntled (dɪs'grʌntəld) *adj* in a bad mood, esp. because something has gone wrong; grumpy.

disguise (dɪs'gaɪz) *vt* 1 change the appearance of (someone or something) in order to deceive. 2 hide: *He disguised his hatred of his job since it would be difficult to find another.* • *nu* 1 changing of appearance, etc., in order to hide or conceal. 2 *nc* a thing used, an action taken, etc., to cause such a change. **in disguise** having changed your appearance so that people who know you will not recognise you.

disgust (dɪs'gʌst) *nu* a strong feeling of dislike; anger caused by lack of justice, bad behaviour, etc. • *vt* cause a feeling of disgust. **disgusting** *adj*

dish (dɪʃ) *nc* 1 a broad plate, often oval or square, with a flat bottom, used to hold food: *a vegetable dish; a soup dish.* 2 a particular kind of food, ready to eat. **the dishes** all the plates, cups, saucers, etc., that are used for a meal: *It's your turn to wash the dishes!* **dish out** *infml* give out (presents, etc.). **dishwasher** *nc* a machine for washing dishes.

dishearten (dɪs'hɑɪtən) *vt* cause to lose hope, confidence, or courage. **disheartening** *adj*

dishevelled (dɪ'ʃevəld) *adj* untidy.

dishonest (dɪs'ɒnɪst) *adj* not honest; intending to cheat, deceive, or steal. **dishonesty** *nu*

dishonour (dɪs'ɒnə*) *ncu* (someone or something that causes) shame; loss of honour, reputation, or self-respect. • *vt* 1 treat without respect. 2 bring shame on.

disillusion (ˌdɪsɪ'luːʒən) *vt* make (someone) free from ideas or beliefs that are pleasing but false. • *nu* also **disillusionment** having lost such ideas or beliefs; disappointment or sadness. **disillusioned** *adj*

disinfect (ˌdɪsɪn'fekt) *vt* make free from germs: *After her illness we disinfected her bedroom.* **disinfectant** (ˌdɪsɪn'fektənt) *nc* a chemical substance used to disinfect.

disintegrate (dɪs'ɪntɪgreɪt) *vti* (cause to) break up or fall into small pieces. **disintegration** (dɪsˌɪntɪ'greɪʃən) *nu*

disinterested (dɪs'ɪntrəstɪd) *adj* 1 having no feelings or opinions of your own on a matter, and therefore a good judge. 2 *infml* not caring to know or learn about something.

disjointed (dɪs'dʒɔɪntɪd) *adj* not joined up, or put together, in a smooth way: *His speech was rather disjointed.*

disk (dɪsk) *nc* 1 *computers* a device in which a magnetic head reads and writes information on spinning plates. See also **floppy disk** under **floppy; hard disk** under **hard.** 2 *US* See **disc.**

dislike (dɪs'laɪk) *vt* think not likable, pleasing, or satisfying. • *nc* the feeling that someone or something is not pleasant.

dislocate ('dɪsləkeɪt) *vt* 1 put (esp. a bone in the body) out of the proper place: *He dislocated his ankle when he fell off his bicycle.* 2 put out of the usual order: *The trains were dislocated during the rail strike.* **dislocation** (ˌdɪslə'keɪʃən) *nu*

dislodge (dɪs'lɒdʒ) *vt* move (someone or something) from a particular (fixed) place: *The strong wind dislodged several roof tiles.*

disloyal (dɪs'lɔɪəl) *adj* not loyal. **disloyalty** *nu* being disloyal; disloyal actions, behaviour, etc.

dismal ('dɪzməl) *adj* 1 gloomy; miserable: *What dismal weather we're having!* 2 *infml* very poor in quality: *As a teacher he's dismal.*

dismantle (dɪs'mæntəl) *vt* separate (machinery, etc.) into parts: *The car would not start so I dismantled the engine to see what was wrong.*

dismay (dɪs'meɪ) *nu* a feeling of surprise and fear or worry. • *vt* cause (someone) to have this feeling.

dismember (dɪs'membə*) *vt* 1 tear or cut off the limbs from (a body). 2 divide (a country, etc.) into parts.

dismiss (dɪs'mɪs) *vt* 1 (of an employer) cause (a person) to leave employment. 2 send away: *At the end of the lesson the teacher dismissed the children.* 3 put out of your mind as not worth thinking about. **dismissal** (dɪs'mɪsəl) *nc*

dismount (dɪs'maʊnt) *vi* get down from a horse, bicycle, etc.

disobedience (ˌdɪsə'biːdɪəns) *nu* failure or refusal to do as ordered. **disobedient** (ˌdɪsə'biːdɪənt) *adj* not obeying.

disobey (ˌdɪsə'beɪ) *vt* take no notice of (orders, a rule, law, etc.).

disorder (dɪs'ɔːdə*) 1 *nu* lack of order; untidiness. *ncu* 2 lack of order of a political kind; a riot. 3 (an example of) illness of the body or mind. • *vt* cause (something) to be out of order. **disorderly** (dɪs'ɔːdəlɪ) *adj* 1 untidy. 2 badly-behaved; out of control.

disorganised (dɪs'ɔːgənaɪzd) *adj* without ordered arrangements, plans, thoughts, etc.

disown (dɪs'əʊn) *vt* say you know nothing about (someone or something); refuse to have anything, or anything more, to do with (someone or something).

disparage (dɪ'spærɪdʒ) *vt* cause (someone or something) to lose value or importance, by making harmful remarks. **disparagement** *nu* **disparaging** *adj*

disparity (dɪ'spærətɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** being unequal or different; an example of this.

dispassionate (dɪ'spæʃənət) *adj* without strong feelings; not affected by one's own feelings, so giving fair judgements, opinions, etc.

dispatch (also **despatch**) (dɪ'spætʃ) *vt* 1 send off by post, on a journey, on special work, etc. 2 get something done quickly: *Their business was quickly dispatched; He dispatched his meal in a hurry.* • *nu* 1 dispatching or being dispatched. 2 *nc* something sent off.

dispel (dɪ'spel) *vt* get rid of: *Her fears were dispelled.*

dispense (dɪ'spens) *vt* 1 give or deal out: *dispense kindness.* 2 prepare and give out (medicine) according to a doctor's written instructions. **dispensable** (dɪ'spensəbəl) *adj* not necessary; able to be done without or got rid of. **dispensary** (dɪ'spensərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place, usually in a chemist's shop or hospital, where medicines are prepared and given out. **dispensation** (ˌdɪspen'seɪʃən) 1 *nu* giving or dealing out: *dispensation of justice.* 2 *ncu* special permission to do something that is usually not allowed, or not to do something that is usually necessary. **dispense with** do without; make no longer necessary.

disperse (dɪ'spɜːs) *vti* (cause to) scatter: *The crowds dispersed when the match ended.* **dispersal** *nu* **dispersion** *nu*

displace (dɪs'pleɪs) *vt* 1 take (someone or something) out of the proper or usual place. 2 take the place of. **displacement** (dɪs'pleɪsmənt) *nu*

display (dɪ'spleɪ) *vt* show so as to attract attention. • *nu* 1 displaying or being displayed. 2 *nc* a show. 3 a collection of things shown in public.

displease (dɪs'pliːz) *vt* annoy; make angry. **displeasure** (dɪs'pleʒə*) *nu* a feeling of annoyance or anger; lack of satisfaction.

dispose (dɪ'spəʊz) *vt* 1 arrange (people or things) in particular positions or in order. 2 *fml* cause (someone) to be willing to do something: *His rudeness does not dispose me to like him.* **disposable** (dɪ'spəʊzəbəl) *adj* made in order to be thrown away after use: *disposable razors.* **disposal** *nu* 1 getting rid of by selling, throwing away, or giving away. 2 dealing with; arranging in certain positions or in order. 3 control. **at someone's disposal** able to be used by someone: *All our resources are at your disposal.* **dispose of** get rid of; sell; give away. **disposition** (ˌdɪspə'zɪʃən) *nc* 1 a person's character and approach to life: *She has a cheerful disposition.* 2 the arrangement of people or things. 3 a leaning towards a particular thought or action: *a growing disposition to work a four-day week.* 4 the power and right of ordering or dealing with things.

dispossess (ˌdɪspə'zes) *vt* take land, a house, etc., away from.

disproportionate (ˌdɪsprə'pɔːʃənət) *adj* not equal, being either too large, or too small.

disprove (dɪs'pruːv) *vt* show to be false.

dispute (dɪ'spjuːt) 1 *vi* argue; discuss with strong feelings. 2 *vt* declare (an opinion, fact, etc.) to be untrue or doubtful; argue about. • *ncu* an argument; discussion with strong feelings, esp. in public; strong disagreement.

disqualify (dɪs'kwɒlɪfaɪ) *vt* make unfit or unable to do something: *He was disqualified from the race.* **disqualification** (dɪsˌkwɒlɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu*

disquiet (dɪs'kwaɪət) *vt* fill with worry, distrust, doubt, etc. • *nu* being troubled or worried.

disregard (ˌdɪsrɪˈgɑɪd) *vt* take no notice of; treat without respect. ● *nu* lack of interest, respect, or attention: *He shows a complete disregard of the rules.*

disrepair (ˌdɪsrɪˈpeə*) *nu* in a bad condition due to lack of repair.

disrepute (ˌdɪsrɪˈpjuːt) *nu* bad reputation: *Part of the town has fallen into disrepute because of street fighting there.* **disreputable** (dɪsˈrepjʊtəbəl) *adj* with a bad reputation.

disrespect (ˌdɪsrɪˈspekt) *nu* lack of politeness or respect. **disrespectful** *adj*

disrobe (ˌdɪsˈrəʊb) *vti fml or humorous* take off (someone's) formal robes, clothes, etc.

disrupt (dɪsˈrʌpt) *vt* break up or delay the progress of, esp. by causing a disturbance: *The meeting was constantly disrupted by people asking difficult questions.* **disruption** (dɪsˈrʌpʃən) *ncu* **disruptive** *adj*

dissatisfy (ˌdɪˈsætɪsfaɪ) *vt* fail to satisfy. **dissatisfaction** (dɪˌsætɪsˈfækʃən) *nu*

dissect (dɪˈsekt, daɪˈsekt) *vt* 1 cut into pieces in order to examine (esp. a body, plant, etc.). 2 look very carefully into all the details of (an idea, argument, etc.). **dissection** *nu*

disseminate (dɪˈsemɪneɪt) *vt* spread about in various directions: *to disseminate ideas.*

dissent (dɪˈsent) *vi* refuse to agree, esp. to certain beliefs. ● *nu* disagreement; failure to agree with certain beliefs, etc. **dissension** (dɪˈsenʃən) *nu* quarrelling due to failure to agree. **dissenter** *nc* a person who dissents.

dissertation (ˌdɪsəˈteɪʃən) *nc* a long speech or written report, esp. for a university degree.

dissident (ˈdɪsɪdənt) *nc* a person who has a very different opinion from other people in a group on some subject, esp. a political one. ● *adj* disagreeing.

dissimilar (dɪˈsɪmɪlə*) *adj* unlike; of a different kind.

dissipate (ˈdɪsɪpeɪt) 1 *vti* (cause to) scatter or disappear. 2 *vt* waste (time, money, etc.) by using in a foolish way.

dissociate (dɪˈsəʊʃɪeɪt) *vt* separate. **dissociate yourself from** have nothing to do with (someone or something): *I dissociate myself from your ideas.*

dissolve (dɪˈsɒlv) 1 *vti* (of a solid) (cause to) become liquid by being put into liquid. 2 *vt* put an end to; break up: *dissolve parliament.* **dissolution** (ˌdɪsəˈluːʃən) *nu* breaking up; ending: *dissolution of a marriage.*

dissuade (dɪˈsweɪd) *vt* advise (someone) not to do something.

distance (ˈdɪstəns) *nc* 1 a measure of the amount of space between two points, etc.: *It's only a short distance to the station from here.* 2 a large amount of time: *From a distance of fifty years my childhood seemed a happy one.* **in the distance** at a point far away. **distant** (ˈdɪstənt) *adj* 1 far away: *a distant country; in the distant past.* 2 (of someone or their behaviour) not showing an interest in, or wanting to share, the feelings of others. 3 not very close or easily seen: *There's only a distant likeness between her and her sister.* **distantly** *adv*

distasteful (dɪsˈteɪstfʊl) *adj* unpleasant; not to your liking.

distemper (dɪˈstempə*) *nu* 1 a coloured substance mixed with water for painting walls, etc. 2 a disease of dogs. ● *vt* paint with distemper.

distend (dɪˈstend) *vti* (cause to) swell out because of something pressing from inside: *the distended stomachs of the children.*

distil *US* **distill** (dɪˈstɪl) 1 *vt* make (a liquid) pure by heating, evaporating, then cooling and collecting in a separate container. 2 *vi* (of a liquid) come out of a substance in drops. 3 *vt* obtain (the main points) from a subject, etc. **distillation** (ˌdɪstɪˈleɪʃən) 1 *nu* distilling or being distilled. 2 *nc* a substance produced by distilling. **distillery** (dɪˈstɪləɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where alcoholic liquid is distilled.

distinct (dɪˈstɪŋkt) *adj* 1 clear: *in a distinct voice.* 2 definite: *a distinct smell of curry; There's a distinct change in the weather today.* 3 separate. **distinctly** *adv*

distinction (dɪˈstɪŋkʃən) *nu* 1 difference in quality or kind. 2 being superior or of very high quality: *a writer of distinction. nc* 3 something that shows one thing to be different from another. 4 a special mark of honour, such as a medal or title.

distinctive (dɪˈstɪŋktɪv) *adj* showing a difference or easily seen or noticed among others: *the distinctive uniform of a policeman.*

distinguish (dɪˈstɪŋgwɪʃ) *vt* 1 see, notice, etc., the difference between. 2 bring honour on (yourself) because of actions, behaviour, or qualities: *He distinguished himself at university.* 3 see, hear, etc., with an effort: *Can you distinguish the road clearly in this mist?* 4 show the difference: *How do you distinguish between a lion and a lioness?* **distinguishable** (dɪˈstɪŋgwɪʃəbəl) *adj* **distinguished** (dɪˈstɪŋgwɪʃt) *adj* famous; very high in quality; deserving notice.

distort (dɪˈstɔːt) *vt* 1 change the usual

shape of (something) so as to become twisted: *Anger distorted her face.* 2 twist the meaning of: *distort the truth.* **distortion** (dɪ'stɔːʃən) 1 *nu* distorting or being distorted. 2 *nc* something that has been changed out of its usual shape or meaning.

distract (dɪ'strækt) *vt* cause (someone's attention) to move away from something. **distraction** (dɪ'strækʃən) 1 *nu* distracting or being distracted. 2 *nc* something that draws your attention away from something.

distraught (dɪ'strɔːt) *adj* nearly crazy with pain, sorrow, worry, etc.: *distraught with grief.*

distress (dɪ'stres) *nu* great pain, sorrow, trouble, etc. • *vt* cause distress to. **distressed** *adj* **distressing** *adj*

distribute (dɪ'strɪbjuːt) *vt* 1 give out or send out: *The teacher distributed the books to the students.* 2 spread out. **distribution** (ˌdɪstrɪ'bjuːʃən) *nu* distributing or being distributed; the way in which something is distributed: *There is an unequal distribution of wealth in most countries.* **distributor** (dɪ'strɪbjuːtə*) *nc* 1 a person or company that distributes. 2 a device in a petrol engine that distributes electricity to the sparking-plugs.

district ('dɪstrɪkt) *nc* part of a country, city, town, etc.

distrust (dɪs'trʌst) *vt* have no belief or confidence in. • *nu* lack of trust or belief.

disturb (dɪ'stɜːb) *vt* 1 upset the calm, peace, or rest of: *Don't disturb the baby.* 2 cause worry to (someone). 3 change the usual state of: *disturb the balance of nature.* **disturbance** (dɪ'stɜːbəns) *ncu*

disuse (dɪs'juːs) *nu* the state of not being used any more. **disused** (dɪs'juːzd) *adj* no longer used.

ditch (dɪtʃ) *nc* a narrow channel dug at the side of a road, etc., for carrying off water. • *vt slang* 1 bring (a plane) down into the sea because of engine trouble, etc. 2 get rid of: *She's ditched her boyfriend.*

dither ('dɪðə*) *vi* hesitate; be unable to decide what to do.

ditto ('dɪtəʊ) *nc* the same. **ditto marks** the sign (〃) used to represent a word, for example in a list, to avoid writing it again.

divan (dɪ'væn) *nc* a long, soft seat on which to sit or lie.

dive (daɪv) *vi* 1 jump head first into water, usually from a height. 2 go down quickly; go out of sight: *The large bird dived down onto its prey; His hand dived into his pocket for money.* **diver** ('daɪvə*) *nc* 1 a person who dives in order to work or search under water, esp. in the sea. 2 a person who jumps head first into water. **diving** *nu* **diving board** a board from which people **dive** (def. 1), esp. into a swimming-pool.

diverge (daɪ'vɜːdʒ) *vi* (of two paths, lines, opinions, etc.) gradually move away from each other. **divergence** (daɪ'vɜːdʒəns) *ncu* **divergent** (daɪ'vɜːdʒənt) *adj*

diverse (daɪ'vɜːs) *adj* of various sorts. **diversely** *adv* **diversity** (daɪ'vɜːsɪtɪ) *ncu* a variety: *a diversity of opinions.*

diversify (daɪ'vɜːsɪfaɪ) 1 *vt* increase the variety of: *We diversified our journey, travelling by sea and by rail.* 2 *vi* (of a business, etc.) increase the variety of its products, activities, etc. **diversification** (daɪˌvɜːsɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu*

diversion (daɪ'vɜːʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) turning away from the main or usual path: *The road is being repaired so there's a diversion.* 2 *nc* something to do, see, etc., to pass the time in a pleasant or restful way.

divert (daɪ'vɜːt) *vt* 1 change the direction of. 2 turn away the attention of; amuse.

divest (daɪ'vest) *vt* 1 take off the clothes of. 2 take away from; make free of: *divest them of power; He was divested of all responsibility.*

divide (dɪ'vaɪd) 1 *vti* (cause to) split up into smaller parts. *vt* 2 separate from another or into groups. 3 cause a difference of opinion, etc., among: *Our thoughts on the matter are divided.* 4 *mathematics* see how many times a smaller number is contained in (a greater number): *Twenty divided by ten gives two.*

dividend ('dɪvɪdend) *nc* a share of the profit made by a business, divided among its owners.

divider (dɪ'vaɪdə*) *nc* an upright, movable frame or a piece of furniture, used to divide a room into two parts. **dividers** (dɪ'vaɪdəz) *n pl mathematics* a device with two arms joined by a hinge, used for measuring, dividing lines, etc.

divine (dɪ'vaɪn) *adj* 1 of or to do with God or a god; sacred. 2 *infml* lovely; very pleasant: *What a divine hat she's wearing!*

divinity (dɪ'vɪnətɪ) *nu* 1 being divine. 2 the study of the nature of God, and of the beginnings of belief in religion. 3 *nc, pl* **-ties** a god, goddess, etc.

divisible (dɪ'vɪzəbəl) *adj mathematics* able to be divided with nothing left over: *Sixteen is divisible by four.*

division (dɪ'vɪʒən) 1 *nu* dividing or being divided. *nc* 2 that which divides: *Hedges or walls form divisions between fields.* 3 a difference of opinion, view, etc. 4 a part that

has been separated by division. 5 a part of the army, navy, police, etc.

divorce (dɪ'vɔːs) *ncu* (an example of) the legal separation and end of the marriage of a husband and wife. • *vt* 1 end a marriage between (a man and woman) or to (a husband or wife) by law. 2 separate: *Religion and morality cannot be divorced.* **divorcee** (dɪˌvɔː'siː) *nc* a divorced person.

divulge (daɪ'vʌldʒ) *vt* make known (what has been a secret).

dizzy ('dɪzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 an unpleasant feeling as if everything is turning round and round and you are going to fall. 2 (of a very high place) making you feel dizzy: *the dizzy heights of the mountains.* **dizziness** *nu*

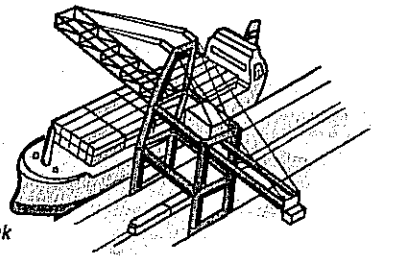
DNA (ˌdiːen'eɪ) *nu* deoxyribonucleic acid; a substance found in chromosomes that contains important genetic information.

do (duː unstressed də) 1 *v* (used to start a question): *I want to go now—Do you?* *vt* 2 carry out an action; perform; finish: *Have you done your work yet?* 3 make; produce: *I'll do the dinner; Do six copies of this letter, please.* 4 arrange; deal with: *I'll do the flowers; Could you do the kitchen?—It really needs a good clean.* 5 *infml* cheat: *I've been done!* 6 *infml* visit a place, country, etc., to see the sights: *We're doing London this year.* 7 study: *doing history at university.* 8 solve: *do a puzzle.* 9 cook: *Is the meat done yet?* *vi* 10 act: *You'd do well to get home before the rain starts.* 11 be enough; be all right: *The house is small, but it will do for now.* **have to do with** be concerned with: *My affairs have nothing to do with you.* **how do you do?** (usual words said when people are introduced.) **do away with** put an end to; get rid of. **do out of** prevent from having. **do up** 1 fasten: *Will you do my zip up for me, please?* 2 *infml* improve the appearance of (a building, etc.) by cleaning, repairing, painting, etc. **do with** find useful or necessary: *That child looks as if it could do with a bath!* **do without** be able to continue, or manage, without.

docile ('dəʊsaɪl) *adj* easily controlled: *a docile child.* **docility** (dəʊ'sɪlətɪ) *nu*

dock[1] (dɒk) *nc* a place by or in a river, etc., where ships are loaded, unloaded, built, or repaired: see picture. • *vti* (of a ship) bring or come into a dock. **docker** *nc* a person who works at a dock.

dock[2] *vt* 1 cut (the tail) of an animal. 2 take away a part of (someone's wages, supplies, etc.): *They docked half my pay for being late.*



dock

dock[3] *nc* the place in a court of law where a prisoner stands.

doctor ('dɒktə*) *nc* 1 a person who gives medical care to people who are ill, injured, etc. 2 a person who has been given the highest degree by a university. • *vt* 1 give medical care to. 2 repair (a machine, etc.). 3 make false: *These accounts have been doctored.* 4 remove the male or female parts of (an animal). **doctorate** ('dɒktərət) *nc* the highest degree given by a university.

doctrinaire (ˌdɒktrɪ'neə*) *adj* wanting to treat beliefs, teachings, etc., as facts, before they have been proved to be true, suitable, practical, etc.

doctrine ('dɒktrɪn) 1 *nu* a set of beliefs or teachings. 2 *nc* a religious, political, etc., belief or teaching.

document ('dɒkjʊmənt) *nc* a written or printed statement that gives an account or proof of facts. • ('dɒkjʊment) *vt* prove or supply with facts. **documentary** (ˌdɒkjʊ'mentərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** *nc* a cinema or television film that is concerned with facts. • *adj* of or to do with documents. **documentation** (ˌdɒkjʊmen'teɪʃən) *nu* documents.

dodge ('dɒdʒ) *vt* 1 move suddenly and quickly in order to get out of the way of: *She ran across the road dodging the traffic.* 2 find a way of not doing (something, one's duty, etc.) by a trick or by deceiving. 3 *vi* move quickly round or behind an object to avoid or escape from someone or something: *He dodged behind a tree.* **dodger** *nc* a person who gets out of doing things and avoids difficulties, etc., by a trick, or by being deceitful.

doe (dəʊ) *nc* a female deer or rabbit.

does (dʌz unstressed dəz) *v* (used with **he, she,** or **it**) a form of **do.**

doesn't ('dʌzənt) *v* does not.

dog (dɒg) *nc* a common four-legged animal with a tail, often kept as a pet: see picture at **animals.** • *vt* follow (someone) very closely: *Bad luck dogged him wherever he went.* **dog collar** *infml* a collar worn by a priest of the Christian Church, that fastens

at the back. **dog-eared** ('dɒg,ɪəd) *adj* (of a book) having the corners of the pages turned down or worn from much use. **in the doghouse** ('dɒg,haʊs) *slang* out of favour; in disgrace.

dogged (dɒgɪd) *adj* with fixed purpose or opinion; refusing to yield. **doggedly** *adv*

dogma ('dɒgmə) 1 *nc* a belief or teaching, esp. by the Church, that is to be believed without questioning it. 2 *nu* a set of such beliefs or teachings. **dogmatic** (dɒg'mætɪk) *adj often derogatory* putting forward opinions, etc., as if they should be believed without question.

do-it-yourself (,duːɪtjɔː'self) *nu* the activity of making things, doing repairs, etc., without training, esp. in your own home. • *adj* 1 to do with this activity. 2 (able to be) done by an untrained person. *abbrev.* DIY

doldrums ('dɒldrəmz) *n pl* **in the doldrums** *infml* feeling miserable; not doing anything.

dole (dəʊl) *vt* (followed by **out**) give out (money, food, etc.) esp. to poor people. • *nu* something given out, esp. regular payments to people who are unemployed.

doleful ('dəʊlfʊl) *adj* sorrowful; sad.

doll (dɒl) *nc* a toy made to look like a person, usually for a child to play with. **doll up** dress up in smart clothes: *She dolled herself up for the party.*

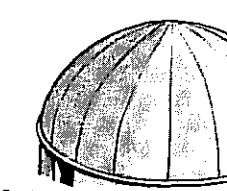
dollar ('dɒlə*) *nc* See appendix.

dolomite ('dɒlə,maɪt) *nu* a white mineral that is used for building, to make cement, etc.; rock containing a large amount of this mineral.

dolphin ('dɒlfɪn) *nc* a sea-animal like a small whale.

domain (dəʊ'meɪn) *nc* 1 an area of land controlled by a government, ruler, etc. 2 a study or activity: *Many discoveries have been made in the domain of science.*

dome (dəʊm) *nc* 1 a rounded roof: see picture. 2 anything rounded like a dome: *The dome of the skies; his dome-shaped head.*



dome

domestic (də'mestɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with the home or family. 2 (of an animal) living with people or kept as a pet. 3 of or belonging to your own country, not a foreign one: *domestic trade.* **domesticate** (də'mestɪkeɪt) *vt* 1 cause to take pleasure in home life, household duties, etc. 2 make (animals) used to living with human beings. **domesticity** (,dəʊme-'stɪsɪtɪ) *nu* home or family life.

domicile ('dɒmɪsaɪl) *nc* 1 *fml* your home. 2 *law* the place in which a person expects or intends to stay.

dominant ('dɒmɪnənt) *adj* 1 having power over others; most important. 2 (of a place or position) higher or better than others. **dominance** *nu*

dominate ('dɒmɪneɪt) *vt* 1 have power over; control. 2 (of a place) look over from a greater height: *The tall tower on the church dominated the village.* **domination** (,dɒmɪ'neɪʃən) *nu*

domineer (,dɒmɪ'nɪə*) *vi derogatory* try to rule others by force: *That big boy domineers over the other children.* **domineering** *adj*

dominion (də'mɪnjən) 1 *nu* power to rule. 2 *nc* a land, country, etc., controlled by a government or ruler.

donate (dəʊ'neɪt) *vt* give (money, goods, etc.) to a charity or good cause. **donation** (dəʊ'neɪʃən) 1 *nu* giving. 2 *nc* something given.

done (dʌn) past participle of **do.**

donga ('dɒŋgə) *nu* a gully with steep sides, formed by soil erosion.

donkey ('dɒŋkɪ) *nc* also **ass** an animal with long ears, like a small horse: see picture at **animals.**

donor (dəʊnə*) *nc* 1 a person who gives money, etc., to a charity. 2 *medicine* a person whose heart, kidney, etc., is used in a transplant operation. 3 See **blood donor.**

don't (dəʊnt) *v* do not.

doodle ('duːdəl) *infml vi* make marks on paper that mean nothing because your thoughts and attention are elsewhere. • *nc* a meaningless mark on paper.

doom (duːm) *nu* fate, usually a bad one; ruin. **doomed** *adj* certain to die, fail, or come to a bad end: *The project was doomed from the start; The ship is sinking—we're doomed!* **doomsday** ('duːmzdeɪ) *nu* the day when everyone will be judged by God. **till doomsday** for ever: *You can wait till doomsday—I won't change my mind!*

door (dɔː*) *nc* 1 a large, flat piece of wood, metal, etc., that closes the entrance to a room, building, etc.; anything that closes an opening: *knock on the door; a cupboard door.* 2 the entrance to a room, building, etc.: *He came through the door.* 3 a house: *two doors down the road.* **next**

door (in) the next house: *She lives next door to me.* **out of doors** outside; in the open air. **doorbell** *nc* a bell rung by visitors pressing a button, etc., on the front entrance to a house. **doorstep** *nc* a step that leads up to an outer door. **doorway** *nc* an opening closed by a door.

dope (dəup) *nc* 1 *infml* an illegal drug. 2 *slang* information. 3 *infml* a stupid person.

dormant ('dɔːmənt) *adj* that is not in action now but may be so in the future.

dormitory ('dɔːmətrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a large room with several beds in a school, hostel, institution, etc.

dormouse ('dɔːmaʊs) *nc, pl* **-mice** (maɪs) a small animal like a mouse that sleeps through the winter.

dorsal ('dɔːsəl) *adj anatomy* of or to do with the back.

DOS (dɒs) *nc* disk-operating system; a system for giving commands, moving information around, etc., on a computer.

dose (dəʊs) *nc* 1 a quantity of medicine to be taken at one time. 2 *infml* something unpleasant, such as an illness or punishment. • *vt* give medicine to. **dosage** ('dəʊsɪdʒ) *nu*

dost (dʌst) *v old-fashioned* (used with **thou**) a form of **do.**

dot (dɒt) *nc* a tiny, round spot or mark such as that written over an i or j; anything very tiny: *From the top of the very high tower the cars below looked like dots.* **on the dot** at exactly the right time or the time mentioned: *They arrived at 10.30 on the dot.* • *vt* mark with a dot or dots. **dotted line** a line that is made up of dots or short lines with gaps between.

dotage ('dəʊtɪdʒ) *nu* a confusion in the mind due to old age.

dote (dəʊt) *vi* (followed by **on** or **upon**) like or love too much, esp. in a foolish way.

double ('dʌbəl) *adj* 1 twice as big, much, good, etc. 2 meant for two people or things: *a double bed.* 3 having two purposes, qualities, etc. • *adv* twice. • *nc* 1 twice the amount. 2 (*pl*) *tennis* a game between two pairs of partners. 3 a person or thing that looks very like another person or thing. • *vti* 1 (cause to) become twice as great. 2 *vt* bend one half of something back over on itself. **double back** return the way you have just come. **double bass** a musical instrument like a very large violin with a very low sound. **double-check** (ˌdʌbəl'tʃek) *vti* check a second time. **double-cross** (ˌdʌbəl'krɒs) *vt* cheat or deceive. **double-dealer** (ˌdʌbəl'diːlə*) *nc* a person who deceives. **double-dealing** *adj* deceitful. • *nc* deceiving, esp. in business. **double-glazing** (ˌdʌbəl'gleɪzɪŋ) *nu* two layers of glass in a window to keep a room, etc., warm by cutting the loss of heat. **double-jointed** (ˌdʌbəl'dʒɔɪntɪd) *adj* with easy and unusual bending of the fingers and limbs. **double up** 1 (of a person) (cause to) become bent over because of pain, too much laughter, etc. 2 (of paper, etc.) (cause to) become folded over on itself.

doubly ('dʌblɪ) *adv* to twice the extent: *Look in your pocket to make doubly sure you have your train ticket.*

doubt (daʊt) 1 *nu* being uncertain. 2 *nc* a feeling of not being sure: *I have my doubts as to whether he will come.* • *vt* 1 feel not certain about. 2 *vi* be uncertain. **in doubt** uncertain: *Please ask questions if in doubt about anything.* **no doubt** 1 certainly. 2 probably: *No doubt you would like an increase in wages?* **doubtful** ('daʊtful) *adj* feeling or causing doubt; not certain. **doubtfully** ('daʊtfulɪ) *adv* **doubtless** ('daʊtlɪs) *adv* certainly; probably.

dough (dəʊ) *nu* 1 a mixture of flour and water worked by the hands into a firm paste, used for baking bread, etc. 2 *slang* money. **doughnut** ('dəʊnʌt) *nc* a cake of dough made sweet and cooked in fat.

douse (daʊs) *vt* 1 put into water; throw water over until very wet. 2 put out: *douse the light.*

dove[1] (dʌv) *nc* a grey bird like a pigeon, wild or tame: *A dove is often thought of as a sign of peace:* see picture at **birds.**

dove[2] (dəʊv) *US* past tense of **dive.**

down[1] (daʊn) *adv* 1 moving from a higher position to a lower one: *He fell down the stairs.* 2 in a lower or less important place: *They come from down south.* 3 showing time from earlier to later: *Down the years the old man had become very wise.* 4 to a smaller size or amount: *Turn down the sound on that radio!* • *prep* 1 along: *He walked down the street.* 2 at or to a lower point in or on: *The chemist's shop is farther down the road.* 3 to a lower position. **be down** be sad or low in spirits. **down with...!** get rid of (someone or something). **go down with** see under **go.** **downcast** ('daʊnkɑːst) *adj* 1 sorrowful; low in spirits. 2 (of eyes) looking down. **downfall** ('daʊnfɔːl) *nc* a fall from success to failure; ruin. **downhill** ('daʊnhɪl) *adv* towards what is lower, worse, weaker, etc. **downpour** ('daʊnpɔː*) *nc* a great fall, esp. of rain. **downright** ('daʊnraɪt) *adj* thorough: *What downright nonsense*

he talks! **downstairs** (ˌdaʊn'steəz) *adv, adj* down (the) stairs; to, of, at, or on the floor below. • *adj* of or to do with downstairs: *a downstairs cloakroom.* **downstream** (ˌdaʊn'stri:m) *adv, adj* in the direction in which a river is flowing. **down-to-earth** *adj* wise in a practical way; sensible. **downtown** ('daʊntaʊn) *adv US* to or in the main or lower part of a town. **downward** ('daʊnwəd) *adj* leading, going, or pointing to, what is further down or lower. **downwards** ('daʊnwədz) *adv* towards what is lower. **downwind** (ˌdaʊn'wɪnd) *adv, adj* in the direction in which the wind is blowing.

down² *nu* 1 the first feathers of a baby bird; these feathers used for filling cushions and pillows. 2 fine, soft hair.

dowry ('daʊrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** money or goods a woman takes to her husband on her marriage day.

doze (dəʊz) *vi* sleep for a short time; be not fully asleep. **doze off** fall asleep. • *nc* a sleep from which you can easily be awakened.

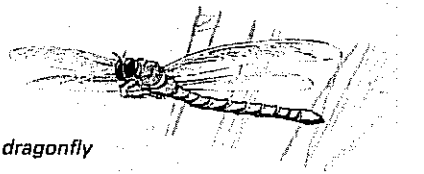
dozen ('dʌzən) *nc* 1 a set of twelve. 2 (*pl*) lots; a great number: *You've said that dozens of times!* • *adj* twelve.

drab (dræb) *adj* **-ber, -best** 1 dull; boring: *a drab life.* 2 (of colour) dull: *drab clothes.*

draft (drɑ:ft) *nc* 1 brief notes of something to be done; outline: *a draft for a letter; a draft of a new building.* 2 a written order for a bank to pay out money; taking out of money by a written order. 3 *US* part of an army, group, etc., chosen for a special duty. 4 *US* See **draught.** • *vt* 1 write brief notes or draw an outline of something to be done. 2 choose a group of people for a special duty. 3 *US* force people by law to go into the army.

drag (dræg) *vt* 1 pull (something) along with difficulty or force. 2 move or walk slowly in a tired, unwilling, etc., way: *The old woman dragged herself to the shops; dragging his feet on his way to school.* 3 *vi* (of time or anything uninteresting) seem to move slowly. • *nc* 1 *infml* someone or something boring, dull, etc. 2 *slang* a puff at a cigarette. **in drag** *infml* (of a male performer, etc.) wearing women's clothes and pretending to be a woman.

dragon ('drægən) *nc* an imaginary creature, often with wings and claws, that breathes out fire. **dragonfly** ('drægənflaɪ) *nc, pl* **-flies** an insect with two pairs of large wings and a long, narrow body: see picture.



dragonfly

drain (dreɪn) *nc* 1 a pipe, etc., through which waste and dirty water is taken away. 2 something that continues to take up a lot of time, money, etc. • *vti* 1 (of a liquid) take or be taken away by a pipe, etc. 2 make or be made dry by allowing water to flow away. 3 (cause to) become weaker by taking away: *The effort of calling for help drained his strength.* **down the drain** wasted: *three days' work down the drain.* **drainage** ('dreɪnɪdʒ) *nu* 1 draining or being drained. 2 a set of pipes, etc., for draining. 3 waste matter. **drainpipe** ('dreɪnpaɪp) *nc* a pipe that carries away waste, dirty liquid, etc.

drake (dreɪk) *nc* a male duck.

drama ('drɑ:mə) *nc* 1 a play in the theatre or on the radio or television. 2 an exciting event full of strong feelings. **dramatic** (drə'mætɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with drama. 2 sudden and exciting; having a strong effect, like an event or action in a play. **dramatically** *adv* in a dramatic way. **dramatics** *nu* 1 (*with singular verb*) the acting of plays, esp. by people for whom acting is an enjoyable hobby and not a full-time job. 2 (*with plural verb*) behaviour that is better, worse, etc., than normal in order to try and produce a strong effect. **dramatisation** (ˌdræmətaɪ'zeɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) the changing of a book, etc., into a play. 2 *nu* the making of an ordinary happening or behaviour into a drama, in order to impress. **dramatise** ('dræmətaɪz) *vt* 1 change (a book, etc.) into a play. 2 make (an ordinary happening) seem more important, serious, etc., than it is. **dramatist** ('dræmətɪst) *nc* a person who writes plays.

drank (dræŋk) past tense of **drink.**

drape (dreɪp) *vt* 1 cover with a cloth allowing it to lie, or hang in folds. 2 put in a relaxed way: *She draped her legs over the arm of a chair.* • *nc chiefly US* a curtain.

drapery ('dreɪpərɪ) *nu* 1 (the selling of) cloth, sewing goods, etc. 2 also **draperies** *n pl* cloths, curtains, etc.

drastic ('dræstɪk) *adj* (of actions) very strong in order to have a greater effect: *a drastic cure.* **drastically** ('dræstɪklɪ) *adv*

draught *US* **draft** (drɑ:ft) 1 *nc* a stream of air in a room or anywhere that is shut in:

He opened the door and a draught of cold air came in. 2 *nu* liquid that is obtained from a container other than a bottle: *draught beer.* *nc* 3 an amount drunk at one time: *a draught of medicine.* 4 the depth of water needed for a ship to pass. **draughts** (drɑːfts) *US* **checkers** *nu* (*with singular verb*) an indoor game for two people using twenty-four round pieces on a board marked out in black and white squares. **draughtsman** ('drɑːftsmən) *nc, pl* **-men** 1 a person who draws plans for new buildings, machines, etc. 2 one of the round pieces in the game of draughts. **draughty** ('drɑːftɪ) *adj* having a **draught** (def. 1) or many draughts: *a draughty room.*

draw (drɔː) *vt* 1 pull, esp. using some effort; move by pulling: *a horse drawing a cart; Draw the curtains.* 2 pull up or out: *draw water from a well; have a tooth drawn.* 3 *vti* make pictures, figures, lines, etc., with a pencil, etc.: give a picture of in words. 4 *vt* attract the attention, interest, etc., of: *The procession drew huge crowds.* 5 *vti* end (a game) without either side having won. 6 *vi* move forward, close, etc.: *They drew near to the town.* • *nc* 1 a game that ends without either side having won. 2 *nu* taking by chance: *the luck of the draw.* **drawback** ('drɔːbæk) *nc* something that delays or gets in the way of progress; disadvantage. **drawbridge** ('drɔːbrɪdʒ) *nc* a bridge that can be pulled up to stop people crossing or in order to let ships pass. **draw in** 1 (of daylight) become shorter: *The days are drawing in.* 2 encourage to join in: *She was drawn into their conversation.* 3 arrive and stop: *The train drew in at the station.* **draw out** 1 (of daylight) become longer. 2 make longer: *He drew out his visit until we thought he would never go!* 3 leave on a journey: *The ship drew out of port.* 4 take money out of a bank account: *He drew out twenty pounds.* **draw up** 1 come to a stop: *The car drew up outside our gate.* 2 put in writing to form (a statement, law, etc.).

drawer ('drɔː*) *nc* a long, box-like container that slides in and out of a piece of furniture.

drawing ('drɔːɪŋ) 1 *nu* the art of making pictures, etc., with pencil, chalk, etc., usually without colour. 2 *nc* a picture drawn in this way; plan. **drawing-pin** ('drɔːɪŋpɪn) *US* **thumbtack** *nc* a short pin with a round, flat head, used for fastening paper to a notice-board, wall, etc. **drawing-room** ('drɔːɪŋrʊm) *nc old-fashioned* a room for general use in the afternoon, and evening.

drawl (drɔːl) *vti* speak, making the sounds longer than usual. • *nu* slowness of speech.

drawn (drɔːn) past participle of **draw.**

dread (dred) *vt* be afraid of or worried about (something that is going to happen). • *nu* great fear. **dreadful** ('dredfʊl) *adj* 1 causing dread. 2 *infml* very bad: *What dreadful weather!* **dreadfully** *adv*

dream (driːm) *nc* 1 a picture or happening that you seem to see or feel while asleep. 2 a hopeful idea, plan, or picture of the future that is not likely to come true. 3 an ambition. • *vti* 1 have a dream (that something happens) while asleep. 2 imagine (something) while awake. **not dream of** not consider: *I wouldn't dream of going.* **dreamer** *nc* 1 a person who dreams. 2 a person who has hopes, plans, etc., that are not likely to come true. **dreamy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having hopes, plans, etc., that are not likely to come true. 2 like a dream, esp. a pleasant one: *dreamy music.*

dreamt (drempt) past tense and past participle of **dream.**

dreary ('drɪərɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** dull; without happiness or comfort; sad: *dreary weather.* **drearily** ('drɪərɪlɪ) *adv* **dreariness** *nu*

dredge (dredʒ) *vt* 1 (often followed by **up**) bring up (mud or pieces of plants or rocks) from the bottom of a river or sea. 2 clear (a river, harbour, etc.) in this way. • *nc* a device for doing this work. **dredger** *nc* a ship that does this work.

dregs (dregz) *n pl* 1 the waste bits remaining at the bottom of a liquid. 2 the part that is useless and worst: *the dregs of humanity.*

drench (drentʃ) *vt* make thoroughly wet: *We got drenched in the heavy rain.*

dress (dres) 1 *vti* put or have clothes on: *Are you dressed yet?* *vt* 2 put a bandage, etc., on (an injury): *dress wounds.* 3 make attractive: *dress the shop window; They dressed the streets with flags.* 4 prepare for eating or cooking: *to dress a salad with oil and vinegar.* 5 *vti* (followed by **up**) put on special clothes: *dress up for a party.* • *nc* 1 a woman's outer garment covering the body to the knees, or to the feet. 2 *nu* clothing: *They put on evening dress to go to the theatre.* **dressmaker** ('dresmeɪkə*) *nc* a person who makes clothes for women. **dressmaking** ('dresmeɪkɪŋ) *nu* making clothes for women. **dress rehearsal** the last rehearsal for a play, etc., at which the actors wear their costumes.

dresser ('dresə*) *nc* 1 a piece of furniture

in the kitchen for storing dishes, cutlery, etc. 2 *US* a chest of drawers with a mirror on the top, used in a bedroom. 3 someone who dresses.

dressing ('dresɪŋ) 1 *nu* putting on clothes. *nc* 2 a bandage, etc., put on an injury. 3 a sauce containing oil, vinegar, etc., added to food to make it tastier. **dressing-gown** ('dresɪŋgaʊn) *nc* a long garment worn indoors before dressing or after undressing. **dressing-table** *nc* a table with a mirror and drawers, used in the bedroom.

drew (druː) past tense of **draw.**

dribble ('drɪbəl) *vti* 1 (of a liquid) (cause to) flow in drops: *Babies dribble.* 2 *football* (of the ball) kick or be kicked forward in short moves.

dried (draɪd) *adj* past tense and past participle of **dry.**

drier ('draɪə*) *n* See **dryer.**

drift (drɪft) *vi* 1 be carried along by a stream of water or air. 2 move through life without a purpose or aim: *He just drifts from one job to another.* • *nu* 1 being carried along; drifting. 2 *nc* a result of drifting: *a drift of snow collected by the wind.* 3 *nu* most of the meaning: *Do you understand the drift of his speech?* **driftwood** ('drɪftwʊd) *nu* pieces of wood carried along by streams of water and onto the beach.

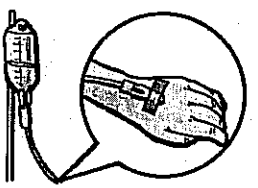
drill[1] (drɪl) *nc* 1 a tool or machine for making holes in hard surfaces, such as wood or metal: see picture at **tools.** 2 army training, such as marching, dealing with weapons, etc. 3 training in the correct way of doing things, esp. when quick action is needed: *fire drill.* • *vti* 1 make (a hole) with a drill. 2 train or be trained in army matters, or in the correct action to take in a particular situation.

drill[2] *nc* a tool or machine for making long cuts in the ground, planting seeds in them, and covering them over with earth.

drill[3] *nu* heavy, strong cotton or linen cloth with a rough surface.

drink (drɪŋk) *vt* 1 take in (liquid) through the mouth and swallow: *Drink a cup of tea.* 2 (of a plant, etc.) take in (moisture, liquid, etc.). *vi* 3 take in liquid. 4 take in alcohol, esp. in amounts much larger than is usual. **drink in** listen to with great interest or pleasure: *The children eagerly drank in the exciting stories.* **drink up** drink all of or the last part of (a drink). • *ncu* 1 liquid for drinking. 2 alcohol: *Have we got enough drink for the party?* **drinkable** ('drɪŋkəbəl) *adj* fit for drinking. **drinker** *nc* a person who drinks too much alcohol, or drinks it too often.

drip (drɪp) *vti* (of a liquid) (cause to) fall in drops. • *nu* 1 dripping. *nc* 2 a small drop of liquid. 3 *infml* a weak, silly person. 4 a device that gives a liquid at a slow rate to a sick person, esp. into a vein: see picture. **drip-dry** (ˌdrɪp'draɪ) *adj* (of a special cloth or something made from it) best dried by being allowed to drip after being washed. • *vti* dry in this way. **dripping** ('drɪpɪŋ) *nu* the fat from cooked meat, used for frying, etc.



drip

drive (draɪv) 1 *vti* cause (a vehicle) to work and move; (of a vehicle) work and move: *Can you drive a bus?; He drove into a field; The car drove away.* *vt* 2 force (animals, people, etc.) to move in the same direction. 3 force (a nail) into something by a hard strike. 4 force (someone) to do something. 5 *vi* go in a car rather than a public vehicle. • *nc* 1 an example of driving or being driven in a vehicle other than a public one. 2 a short, private road up to the front of a house. 3 *nu* the power to do things and get things done: *He hasn't got enough drive for the job.* **be driving at** mean: *What's he driving at?* **drive-in** *adj* that can be used while sitting in your car: *a drive-in cinema.* • *nc* a cinema, bank, etc., that can be used in this way. **drive off** 1 chase or frighten away. 2 go off in a vehicle. **driver** ('draɪvə*) *nc* a person who drives (esp. a car).

drivel ('drɪvəl) *nu* nonsense: *You're talking drivel; This article is a load of drivel.*

driven ('drɪvən) past participle of **drive.**

drizzle ('drɪzəl) *nu* fine rain. • *vi* (of rain) fall in very fine drops, often being blown about by the wind.

drone (drəʊn) *nc* 1 a male bee. 2 a person who does no work, passing time in a useless way. 3 *nu* a low, continuous sound like that made by a bee: *the drone of planes.* • *vi* 1 make a sound like that of a bee. 2 talk or sing with no change in the highness or lowness of the voice, and sounding uninteresting.

droop (druːp) *vi* 1 hang down, sometimes because of weakness, tiredness, or sadness. 2 *vt* let (the head) drop forward, or down. • *nu* a drooping position: *the droop of flowers in need of water.*

drop (drɒp) *vti* 1 (allow to) fall. 2 drip. *vt* 3 stop dealing with (something, esp. a person or subject): *She dropped most of her friends when she got married; We can't agree, so let's drop the subject.* 4 allow (a passenger) to get out of a vehicle: *I'll drop you in town.* • *nc* 1 a small, rounded amount of liquid: *I felt a drop of rain.* 2 a very small amount. 3 a movement from a higher position to a lower one; fall: *a drop in prices; a drop in temperature; It's a huge drop from the top of those cliffs.* **drop back** move into a position that is further back: *The old man dropped back when they reached the steep hill.* **drop by** or **in** (**on**) make a short, casual visit to. **drop off** 1 go to sleep. 2 become less in number. **drop out** (**of**) cease being a part of. **drop-out** ('drɒpaʊt) *nc* a person who ceases to take part in or be a part of something (esp. the usual way of life in a society). **droppings** ('drɒpɪŋz) *n pl* the waste matter dropped by animals or birds.

drought (draʊt) *ncu* a continuous time of dry weather: *a season of drought.*

drove[1] (drəʊv) past tense of **drive.**

drove[2] *nc* a large number of animals or people moving or being driven together.

drown (draʊn) 1 *vti* (cause to) die by sinking under water, and being unable to breathe because of this. 2 *vt* (of a loud sound) cause (another sound) not to be heard: *The noise of the traffic drowned our voices.* **drown in** be very wet with.

drowsy ('draʊzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** feeling sleepy; causing this feeling. **drowsiness** *nu*

drudge (drʌdʒ) *nc* a person whose work is hard and unpleasant. • *vi* do hard, boring, or unpleasant work. **drudgery** ('drʌdʒərɪ) *nu* hard, unpleasant work.

drug (drʌg) *nc* 1 a substance used as a medicine either on its own or in a mixture. 2 such a substance taken (esp. illegally, as a habit) by people who are not ill but who like the way it makes them feel: *drug abuse; He stole money to buy drugs.* • *vt* 1 add drugs, esp. harmful ones to (food or drink). 2 give drugs to. **drug addict** a person who takes drugs (**drug** def. 2) as a habit. **drugstore** ('drʌgstɔː*) *nc US* a chemist's shop that also sells a great variety of other goods, and includes a place to buy and eat food.

drum (drʌm) *nc* 1 a musical instrument made of a round, hollow body with skin stretched over the sides, that is beaten with sticks to produce sound: see picture at **musical instruments.** 2 a container shaped like a cylinder. • *vti* 1 (cause to) make a sound like that of a **drum** (def. 1) being beaten. 2 *vt* force (an idea) into someone's mind by repeating it: *I'll drum some sense into him.* **drummer** ('drʌmə*) *nc* a person who plays a **drum** (def. 1). **drum up** gather (support) by drawing people's attention.

drunk (drʌŋk) past participle of **drink.** • *adj* **-er, -est** (of a person) having drunk too much alcohol, causing them to walk unsteadily, behave foolishly, not speak clearly, etc. • *nc* a person who is drunk.

drunkard ('drʌŋkəd) *nc* a person who has the habit of drinking too much alcohol.

drunken ('drʌŋkən) *adj* 1 often drunk. 2 caused by, or showing the results of, too much alcohol: *a drunken quarrel.* **drunkenness** *nu*

dry (draɪ) *adj* **drier, driest** 1 not wet. 2 *infml* thirsty. 3 not interesting; boring: *a dry book.* 4 (of wine, etc.) not sweet. 5 amusing in a way that is not too obvious: *a dry remark.* • *vti* 1 (cause to) become dry. 2 *vt* keep (food) from going bad by removing moisture: *dried fish.* **dry-clean** (ˌdraɪ'kliːn) *vt* clean (clothes, etc.) with a substance that dissolves dirt, etc., without using water. **dryer** (also **drier**) ('draɪə*) *nc* a device for drying something: *a hair-dryer.* **dryness** *nu* **dry rot** *nu* a disease of wood that causes it to crumble. **dry up** 1 stop talking because of feeling nervous, or because of not knowing what else to say. 2 make or become dry.

dual ('djuːəl) *adj* of or to do with two; double: *a car with dual controls.* **dual carriageway** a road in which vehicles travelling in one direction are separated from those travelling in the opposite direction.

dub (dʌb) *vt* 1 give (someone or something) a name that is not a real name. 2 put words of a different language over (the sound of a film).

dubious ('djuːbɪəs) *adj* feeling or causing doubt. **dubiously** *adv*

duchess ('dʌtʃɪs) *nc* the wife or widow of a duke; a woman whose position and duties are the same as those of a duke.

duck[1] (dʌk) 1 *nc* a common water-bird with its toes joined by skin; female of this. *nu* 2 the flesh of this bird eaten as food. 3 *nc infml* a failure to make any runs in cricket. **duckling** ('dʌklɪŋ) *nc* a young duck.

duck[2] 1 *vi* bend the head or body quickly to avoid a blow or being seen. 2 *vt* push (someone) under water quickly, esp. as a joke.

duct (dʌkt) *nc* a small channel, etc., through which liquid is carried, esp. in the body.

ductile ('dʌktaɪl) *adj* easily shaped by pressing or beating: *ductile metals.*

dud (dʌd) *slang adj* useless: *a dud cheque.* • *nc* a useless person or thing.

due (djuː) *adj* 1 expected at a certain time: *The train is due in ten minutes.* 2 owing: *The rent is due.* 3 proper: *with due respect.* • *adv* (of a compass direction) exactly: *due east.* **due to** caused by: *The accident was due to the driver's failure to signal; mistakes due to carelessness.* **dues** (djuːz) *n pl* amounts of money that are to be paid for membership, etc.: *club dues.*

duel ('djuːəl) *nc* a fight between two people to settle a quarrel or point of honour with weapons likely to cause death; serious disagreement. • *vi* fight a duel.

duet (djuː'et) *nc* a piece of music played or sung by two people.

duffel-coat ('dʌfəl,kəʊt) *nc* a coat made of rough, woollen cloth.

dug (dʌg) past tense and past participle of **dig. dug-out** ('dʌgaʊt) *nc* 1 a place dug in the ground used for protection, esp. by soldiers in wartime. 2 a long, light boat made by hollowing out a tree trunk.

duke (djuːk) *nc* a nobleman whose position and duties are below those of a prince.

dull (dʌl) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 uninteresting: *a dull book.* 2 grey-looking; not bright: *dull weather.* 3 slow to understand: *a dull mind.* 4 not sharp: *a dull knife; dull pain.* • *vti* (cause to) become dull. **dullness** *nu*

duly ('djuːlɪ) *adv* 1 properly; in a right manner: *She was duly sorry for her mistake.* 2 at the right time: *He duly arrived on the day he'd promised.*

dumb (dʌm) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not able to speak. 2 not able to speak for a short time because of surprise, fear, etc. 3 *infml, US* stupid.

dumbfound (dʌm'faʊnd) *vt* make unable to speak for a short time because of astonishment.

dummy ('dʌmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** something made to represent and take the place of a person or the real thing (esp. used for making and displaying clothes).

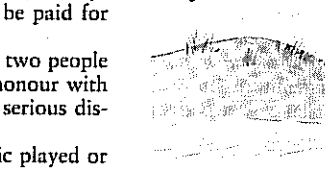
dump (dʌmp) *nc* 1 a place where rubbish, unwanted things, etc., can be left. 2 a place for storing army supplies. 3 *slang* an unpleasant, uninteresting, or dirty place: *This town is a dump!* • *vt* 1 get rid of (rubbish, etc.) by putting on a dump. 2 put (something) down or let it fall with a bump. 3 *commerce* sell goods in large amounts at a lower price abroad than in the home country. **dumping** ('dʌmpɪŋ) *nu commerce* the selling of goods in large amounts at a very low price.

dumpling ('dʌmplɪŋ) *nc* 1 a round, cooked mixture of flour and water, sometimes filled with meat, apple, etc. 2 *infml* a fat person.

dumpy ('dʌmpɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** short and fat.

dunce (dʌns) *nc* a person who is slow to learn.

dune (djuːn) *nc* a small hill or ridge of sand, esp. on the seashore or in the desert: see picture.



dune

dung (dʌŋ) *nu* the waste matter of animals, often spread over soil to make it produce more.

dungarees (,dʌŋgə'riːz) *n pl* loose-fitting trousers and bib of strong cotton cloth, often worn over clothes to protect them from dirt.

dungeon ('dʌndʒən) *nc history* an underground prison.

duodenum (,djuːəʊ'diːnəm) *nc, pl* **-dums, -da** (də) the first part of the small intestine, into which food passes when it leaves the stomach. **duodenal** *adj* of or to do with the duodenum: *a duodenal ulcer.*

dupe (djuːp) *vt* deceive. • *nc* a person who is deceived.

duplicate ('djuːplɪkeɪt) *vt* make an exact copy of. • ('djuːplɪkət) *nc* something that is an exact copy of another thing. • *adj* exactly like: *duplicate car keys.* **duplication** (,djuːplɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *nu* duplicating or being duplicated. 2 *nc* an exact copy. **duplicator** ('djuːplɪkeɪtə*) *nc* a machine that makes copies (of documents, etc.).

durable ('djʊərəbəl) *adj* that is able to last for a long time. **durability** (,djʊərə'bɪlətɪ) *nu*

duration (djʊə'reɪʃən) *nu* the length of time that something continues: *of short duration.*

duress (djʊə'res) *nu* force, esp. violence, or imprisonment used on a person to make them do something: *He confessed under duress.*

during ('djʊərɪŋ) *prep* 1 at some point in a length of time: *It rained during the night.* 2 through the whole time of.

dusk (dʌsk) *nu* the time just before night falls.

dust (dʌst) *nu* powdery dirt made up of

many tiny pieces of earth, waste matter, etc., lying on surfaces or on the ground. • *vt* 1 remove dust from. 2 cover lightly with powder. **dustbin** ('dʌstbɪn) *nc Brit* a container for rubbish. **duster** *nc* a cloth for cleaning dust from furniture, etc. **dust jacket** See **jacket** (def. 3). **dustman** ('dʌstmən) *nc, pl* **-men** *Brit* a man whose job is to collect rubbish from dustbins, etc., and take it away. **dustpan** ('dʌstpæn) *nc* a pan used to carry away dust, etc., that has been swept into it. **dustsheet** ('dʌst,ʃiːt) *nc* a large piece of cloth or plastic laid over furniture, etc., to protect it from dirt or while painting a room. **dusty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** covered with dust.

dutiful ('djuːtɪful) *adj* doing what you must, or are expected to do, willingly and regularly. **dutifully** *adv*

duty ('djuːtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 *nu* that which you ought to do by law, a promise, a feeling inside yourself, etc. 2 *nc* a particular task or responsibility: *What are the duties of your new job?* 3 *ncu* money to be paid to the government on certain goods made, brought into, or taken out of the country, etc. **duty-free** *adj* (of goods) on which **duty** (def. 3) does not have to be paid. **on** or **off duty** at or away from your regular work.

duvet ('djuːveɪ) *nc* a bed-covering filled with feathers, etc., and used instead of blankets.

dwarf (dwɔːf) *nc* 1 a person who is much smaller than usual; anything that is unusually small. 2 a very small, imaginary creature with magic powers. • *vt* cause to appear small: *He's so tall that he dwarfs everyone else.*

dwell (dwel) *vi* 1 *fml* live (in a place). 2 (followed by **on**) think or talk too much about (something). **dwelling** ('dwelɪŋ) *nc fml* a house, flat, etc., in which someone lives.

dwelt (dwelt) past tense and past participle of **dwell.**

dwindle ('dwɪndəl) *vi* gradually get less or smaller.

dye *vt* change the colour of (cloth, etc.) by putting it in coloured liquid. • *nc* a substance used for dyeing cloth.

dying ('daɪɪŋ) present participle of **die¹.**

dyke (also **dike**) (daɪk) *nc* 1 a long, thick wall of earth, etc., built to prevent water from a river or sea flooding onto the land: see picture. 2 a ditch that is used to drain water from flat land.

dyke

dynamic (daɪ'næmɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with the force that produces motion. 2 (of a person) full of force and energy. **dynamically** *adv* **dynamics** *nu* (*with singular verb*) the part of science that deals with motion and force.

dynamite ('daɪnəmaɪt) *nu* a very powerful explosive.

dynamo ('daɪnəməʊ) *nc* a machine that produces electricity.

dynasty ('dɪnəstɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a set of kings, queens, etc., related to each other and following one another in time.

dysentery ('dɪsəntərɪ) *nu* a disease with painful emptying of waste matter and blood from the bowels.

dyslexia (dɪs'leksɪə) *nu* a condition that makes it hard for someone to (learn to) read and write. **dyslexic** (dɪs'leksɪk) *adj*

dyspepsia (dɪs'pepsɪə) *nu* pain or other symptoms caused by indigestion.

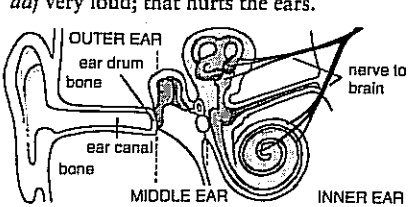
E

each (iːtʃ) *adj* (of more than one) every person, thing, etc., treated separately: *A mother loves all of her children but each in a different way.* • *determiner* each person, thing, etc. • *adv* to or for every one. **each other** (in a group of two or more people or things) the other or others; one another: *We see each other every day.*

eager ('iːgə*) *adj* showing strong desire; very willing to do something. **eagerly** *adv* **eagerness** *nu*

eagle ('iːgəl) *nc* a large bird that kills and eats other animals: see picture at **birds.**

ear¹ (ɪə*) *nc* the organ of hearing: see picture. **play by ear** 1 play (a musical instrument) without the help of printed music. 2 behave in a careful way because you are unsure of something: *I don't know if he's still angry with me—I shall have to play it by ear!* **eardrum** ('ɪədrʌm) *nc* the tight skin in the middle part of the ear that is moved by sound. **earmark** ('ɪəmɑːk) *vt* put (something) aside to be used for a special purpose. **earphone** ('ɪəfəʊn) *nc* a device put in or over the ear in order to receive sound from a radio, etc. **earrings** ('ɪərɪŋz) *n pl* rings or ornaments worn on the ears. **earshot** ('ɪəʃɒt) *nu* the distance over which you can hear or that something can be heard: *Stay within earshot in case you need help.* **ear-splitting** ('ɪə,splɪtɪŋ) *adj* very loud; that hurts the ears.



ear

ear² *nc* a head of corn, etc., containing its seeds.

earl (ɜːl) *nc* the title of a British nobleman.

early ('ɜːlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest,** *adv* 1 before the usual time. 2 near the beginning of a length of time: *in early summer.* **earliness** *nu*

earn (ɜːn) *vt* 1 get (something) in return for work. 2 deserve. **earnings** ('ɜːnɪŋz) *n pl* money that has been earned.

earnest ('ɜːnɪst) *adj* having serious intentions. **in earnest** in a serious manner. **earnestly** *adv* **earnestness** *nu*

earth (ɜːθ) *nu* 1 this planet on which we live. 2 the part of the world that is not sky. 3 soil. 4 *ncu electricity* (the wire used for) the connection of an electrical device with the ground. 5 *nc* the hole in the ground in which a fox or other wild animal lives. • *vt* connect (an electrical device) with the ground. **earthly** ('ɜːθlɪ) *adj* 1 of or to do with the world in which we live; not to do with heaven. 2 the slightest: *He hasn't an earthly chance of winning.* **earthquake** ('ɜːθkweɪk) *nc* a sudden shaking of the earth. **earthworm** ('ɜːθwɜːm) *nc* a common worm that lives in the ground. **earthy** ('ɜːθɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 of or like earth or soil: *an earthy, farmyard smell.* 2 vulgar; to do with the senses, not the spirit.

earthenware ('ɜːθənweə*) *nu* dishes, etc., made of baked earth or clay. • *adj* made of earthenware.

ease (iːz) *nu* freedom from trouble, difficulty, discomfort, pain, etc. • *vti* 1 (of pain, worry, discomfort, etc.) lessen: *I will ease your mind; The pain will soon ease.* 2 move gently: *The car eased forward.* **ease off** become less: *The rain is easing off at last; The excitement eased off when the contest was over.*

easel ('iːzəl) *nc* a frame to support a picture or blackboard.

easily ('iːzəlɪ) *adv* 1 without difficulty; with ease. 2 certainly: *She's easily the best in the class.*

east (iːst) *n* **the east** the direction in which the sun rises. **the East** the eastern part of the world, esp. Asia; the Orient. **the Far East** the countries in Asia east of India, such as China and Japan. **the Middle East** the countries in Asia west of India, such as Iran and Israel. • *adj* 1 in, towards, or facing, the east. 2 (of the wind) coming from the east. • *adv* towards the east. **easterly** ('iːstəlɪ) *adj* in or from the east. **eastern** ('iːstən) *adj* to the east; to do with the east. **eastward(s)** ('iːstwəd(z)) *adj, adv* towards the east.

Easter ('iːstə*) *nu* the Christian festival celebrating Jesus Christ's rising from the dead.

easy ('iːzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 not difficult. 2 comfortable: *an easy chair.* 3 free from trouble, difficulty, etc.: *He has an easy life.* • *adv* gently; in an easy manner. **take it easy; take things easy** rest; do little: *The doctor said I should take things easy for a while.* **easy-going** *adj* (of a person) not worrying about life; caring (too) little about what other people do.

eat (iːt) 1 *vt* take in (food) through the mouth and swallow it. 2 *vi* have a meal. 3 *vti* slowly destroy: *The sea is eating away the rock.*

eaten ('iːtən) past participle of **eat.**

eaves (iːvz) *n pl* the edge of a roof that hangs over the wall of a building. **eavesdrop** ('iːvzdrɒp) *vi* listen secretly to a private conversation. **eavesdropper** *nc* a person who eavesdrops.

ebb (eb) *vi* 1 (of the sea) flow back from the shore. 2 become fainter or less: *Conversation ebbed.* • *nu* 1 the flowing back of the sea: *the ebb and flow of the sea.* 2 becoming fainter, weaker, or less: *His health is at a low ebb.*

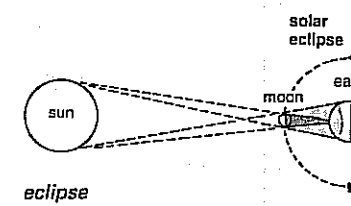
ebony ('ebənɪ) *nu* hard, heavy, black wood. • *adj* 1 made of such wood. 2 of the colour of ebony.

eccentric (ɪk'sentrɪk) *adj* 1 (of a person or their behaviour) not usual; odd; peculiar. 2 *mathematics* (of circles) not having the same centre. • *nc* an eccentric person. **eccentricity** (ˌeksen'trɪsɪtɪ) *ncu*

ecclesiastical (ɪˌkliːzɪ'æstɪkəl) *adj* of the Christian Church or its priests.

echo ('ekəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** 1 a sound sent back, such as that of your own voice on top of a hill, in a large room, etc. 2 someone or something very like someone or something else. • *vi* 1 (of a place) send back an echo. 2 (of a sound) come back as an echo. 3 *vt* copy (the words, opinions, etc., of another person).

eclipse (ɪ'klɪps) *nc* 1 the darkness, partial or complete, caused when a body such as the moon passes between the sun and the earth, or when the earth's shadow falls on the moon: see picture. 2 loss of fame, power, etc. • *vt* 1 cut off the light from: *The moon eclipsed the sun.* 2 do much better than; excel.



eclipse

ecology (ɪ'kɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of the relationship of living things to their surroundings. **ecological** (ˌiːkə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **ecologist** (ɪ'kɒlədʒɪst) *nc* a person who studies or is an expert in ecology.

economic (ˌiːkə'nɒmɪk, ˌekə'nɒmɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with economics. 2 intended to make a profit or save money. **economical** *adj* not wasteful of money, time, etc. **economically** *adv*

economics (ˌiːkə'nɒmɪks, ˌekə'nɒmɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of the influences that affect the production and distribution of wealth in a country. **economise** (ɪ'kɒnəmaɪz) *vi* reduce the money spent on something or the use of something. **economist** (ɪ'kɒnəmɪst) *nc* a person who is an expert in economics.

economy (ɪ'kɒnəmɪ) *ncu, pl* **-mies** 1 a way of spending less money or not wasting it. 2 (an example of) the control of the wealth, supplies of goods, etc., that a country has; state of a country's wealth, industry, etc.

ecosystem ('iːkəʊˌsɪstəm) *nc* the relationship between all the plants, animals, etc., that live in a place and the other things in that place.

ecstasy ('ekstəsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-sies** a state of excited joy. **ecstatic** (ek'stætɪk) *adj* of or to do with ecstasy. **ecstatically** *adv*

ectopic (ek'tɒpɪk) *adj* **ectopic pregnancy** an abnormal condition in which a fertilised egg begins to develop in part of the mother's body outside the uterus, usually in one of the Fallopian tubes.

eddy ('edɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** 1 a circular flow of water in a sea, river, etc. 2 smoke, wind, dust, etc., moving in this way.

edge (edʒ) *nc* 1 the thin, sharp side of a tool or weapon. 2 the outer part or border: *the edge of the forest.* • *vi* move slowly: *He edged away from the cliff.* **on edge** in a state of being nervous or easily annoyed. **edging** ('edʒɪŋ) *nc* a narrow border, esp. one to add decoration.

edible ('edɪbəl) *adj* fit for eating.

edict ('iːdɪkt) *nc* an order given by a ruler, etc., or by the power of a law.

edifice ('edɪfɪs) *nc fml* a building, esp. a large, impressive one.

edify ('edɪfaɪ) *vt* improve (the mind or the soul): *an edifying experience.* **edification** (ˌedɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu* improvement of the mind or the soul.

edit ('edɪt) *vt* 1 prepare (another person's) written work for printing and publishing. 2 put cinema film, tape-recordings, information in a computer, etc., into a suitable order. **edition** (ɪ'dɪʃən) *nc* 1 the form in which a book is printed. 2 the number of copies of a book, newspaper, etc., printed and published at one time: *A new edition of his book has just been published; Did you get today's edition of the daily paper?* **editor** ('edɪtə*) *nc* a person who edits. **editorial** (ˌedɪ'tɔːrɪəl) *adj* to do with editing or editors: *editorial decisions.* • *nc* a

special article in a newspaper, magazine, etc., usually written by the editor.

educate ('edjukeɪt) *vt* teach; train in order to produce a good standard of behaviour. **education** (ˌedjuˈkeɪʃən) *ncu* **educational** (ˌedjuˈkeɪʃənəl) *adj* of or to do with education: *educational books.*

eel (iːl) *nc* a snake-like fish: see picture at **fish.**

eerie ('ɪərɪ) *adj* **-r, -st** strange; causing feelings of fear and lack of ease.

efface (ɪˈfeɪs) *vt* 1 remove by rubbing out. 2 cause to have no more effect; remove.

effect (ɪˈfekt) *nc* 1 an influence produced on the mind: *a strange effect on him.* 2 a result: *the effect of very hot weather on the garden.* 3 *nu* meaning: *I've told you what she said, or words to that effect. nc* 4 (*pl*) goods owned by someone; property: *personal effects.* 5 (usually *pl*) (in films, radio broadcasts, etc.) a way of producing a sound, image, etc., that is not real: *special effects.* See also **sound effects** under **sound¹.** • *vt fml* 1 cause (something) to happen. 2 succeed in doing (something): *The doctor effected a complete cure.* **in effect** in fact. **into effect** into action: *When does the rule come into effect?* **take effect** 1 have a result: *Has the medicine taken effect yet?* 2 begin to act: *Our plans have taken effect.*

effective (ɪˈfektɪv) *adj* 1 having a result; doing or bringing about what was intended. 2 leaving an impression on the mind: *effective use of colour.* **effectively** *adv* **effectiveness** *nu*

effectual (ɪˈfektʃuəl) *adj* having a particular result: *an effectual punishment.*

effeminate (ɪˈfemɪnət) *adj often derogatory* (of a man) like a woman.

effervesce (ˌefəˈves) *vi* 1 *chemistry* give off bubbles of gas. 2 (of a person) be full of excitement and energy. **effervescence** *nu* **effervescent** *adj*

efficacy ('efɪkəsɪ) *nu* being effective. **efficacious** (ˌefɪˈkeɪʃəs) *adj* able to produce an effect.

efficient (ɪˈfɪʃənt) *adj* 1 (of a person) able to do things well and properly. 2 having the result that is wanted and done with the smallest amount of effort. **efficiency** (ɪˈfɪʃənsɪ) *nu* **efficiently** *adv*

effigy ('efɪdʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** a likeness of a person made in wood, metal, etc.

effluent ('efluənt) *nc* 1 a stream flowing out from a lake, etc. 2 *nu* liquid waste flowing out from factories, etc.

effort ('efət) 1 *nu* trying with force; trying hard: *Put some effort into it! nc* 2 an example of using effort. 3 *infml* something done, esp. as a result of trying: *It was a good effort, but not your best work.* **effortless** ('efətlɪs) *adj* without effort; easy. **effortlessly** *adv*

effrontery (ɪˈfrʌntərɪ) *nu* shameless rudeness and lack of respect.

effusive (ɪˈfjuːsɪv) *adj* (of speech or feelings) showing more than enough: *effusive thanks.*

egg (eg) *nc* 1 an oval or rounded object laid by a female bird, fish, etc., containing its young. 2 the female cell inside a mammal that is able to develop into a new life when fertilised by the male sperm. **egg-cup** *nc* a small container for holding an egg that has been boiled in its shell. **egg on** urge (someone) to do something. **eggplant** *nc* See **aubergine.**

ego ('egəʊ, 'iːgəʊ) *nc* 1 a person's own special nature, qualities, etc. 2 the opinion you have of yourself: *We tried to boost his ego by telling him how good he looked.* **egocentric** (ˌegəʊˈsentrɪk) *adj derogatory* with all your attention, interest, etc., on yourself.

egoism ('egəʊɪzəm) *nu derogatory* a state in which you are always thinking about yourself. **egoist** ('egəʊɪst) *nc derogatory* a person who is always thinking about themselves. **egoistic** (ˌegəʊˈɪstɪk) *adj*

egotism ('egətɪzəm) *nu derogatory* talking too much about yourself. **egotist** ('egətɪst) *nc derogatory* a person who talks too much about themselves. **egotistic** (ˌegəˈtɪstɪk) *adj*

eh (eɪ) *interj* (showing surprise or doubt; asking for agreement or for something to be said again because of not hearing or understanding.)

eiderdown ('aɪdədaʊn) *nc* a thick, outer bed-covering filled with feathers, etc.

eight (eɪt) *determiner, n* the number 8. **eighth** (eɪtθ) *determiner, n, adv* **eighteen** (ˌeɪˈtiːn) *determiner, n* 18. **eighteenth** (ˌeɪˈtiːnθ) *determiner, n, adv* **eighty** ('eɪtɪ) *determiner, n* 80. **eightieth** ('eɪtɪɪθ) *determiner, n, adv*

either ('aɪðə*, 'iːðə*) *determiner, pron* 1 one and the other of two: *The two children sat on either side of their father.* 2 each of two: *At either end of the room was a window.* 3 any one of. • *adv* (used after a phrase containing **not**) what is more; also: *If he isn't going, I won't either; I don't like his brother either.* • *conj* **either... or** (used to introduce the first of a choice): *We can get there either by bus or by car.*

ejaculate (ɪˈdʒækjuleɪt) *vt* 1 *fml* say

suddenly and quickly. 2 send out (liquid, esp. that containing male seed) suddenly and with force. **ejaculation** (ɪˌdʒækjʊˈleɪʃən) *ncu*

eject (ɪˈdʒekt) *vt* 1 force (someone) to leave a place. 2 throw out with force.

eke out (iːkˈaʊt) *vt* 1 add small amounts to (what you have) for your needs: *He eked out his low wages by doing extra work in the evenings.* 2 make the best use of (what you have) by being careful, etc.: *The poor family eked out their savings for as long as they could.*

elaborate (ɪˈlæbərət) *adj* very carefully planned including the smallest details; made up of many parts: *A very elaborate meal had been prepared for them.* • (ɪˈlæbəreɪt) *vi* give a more detailed account.

elapse (ɪˈlæps) *vi* (of time) pass: *Ten days have elapsed since then.*

elastic (ɪˈlæstɪk) *adj* 1 that goes back to its normal size or shape after being pulled: *Rubber bands are elastic.* 2 quite easily changed to suit new conditions, etc.: *elastic rules.* • *ncu* (an example of) an elastic substance. **elasticity** (ˌɪlæˈstɪsɪtɪ) *nu* being elastic.

elated (ɪˈleɪtɪd) *adj* joyful. **elation** (ɪˈleɪʃən) *nu* very high spirits.

elbow (ˈelbəʊ) *nc* 1 the place where the two parts of the arm join: see picture. 2 anything with a bend of this shape, such as a corner or a pipe. • *vt* push (your way) through (a crowd, etc.). **elbow grease** hard physical effort, esp. in cleaning or polishing.

elbow

elder (ˈeldə*) *adj* older; used esp. in family relationships: *She has an elder brother.* • *nc* 1 the older of two people: *He is my elder by two years.* 2 (usually *pl*) a person of greater age: *Children are told to respect their elders.* 3 a person who is worthy of respect because of age and wisdom. **elderly** *adj* between middle age and old age; rather old. **eldest** (ˈeldɪst) *adj* oldest. • *nc* the child in a family that is born first: *He's the eldest of three.*

elect (ɪˈlekt) *vt* 1 choose (someone) for the position of: *He was elected president.* 2 choose; decide. • *adj* chosen: *president elect.* **election** (ɪˈlekʃən) *ncu* (an example of) choosing someone for a position by a vote; choosing. **electoral** (ɪˈlektərəl) *adj* of or to do with an election of a person by vote. **electorate** (ɪˈlektərət) *nc* all the people having the right to vote for members of government.

electric (ɪˈlektrɪk) *adj* 1 of, to do with, or worked by electricity: *an electric light bulb.* 2 *infml* very exciting. **electrical** (ɪˈlektrɪkəl) *adj* for dealing with electricity. **electrician** (ˌɪlekˈtrɪʃən) *nc* a person who is trained to deal with electrical equipment, making and repairing it. **electricity** (ˌɪlekˈtrɪsɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the energy used to produce heat and light; science and study of this. 2 (the supply of) a continuous flow of electricity.

electrify (ɪˈlektrɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 put an amount of electricity into (a device, substance, etc.). 2 make very surprised, excited, or shocked: *We were electrified by the news.* **electrification** (ɪˌlektrɪfɪˈkeɪʃən) *nu*

electrocute (ɪˈlektrəkjuːt) *vt* kill (a person) by electricity, either by accident or as a punishment.

electrode (ɪˈlektrəʊd) *nc* a substance or object to or from which electricity flows.

electrolysis (ˌɪlekˈtrɒləsɪs) *nu science* the separation of a liquid into its chemical parts by a flow of electricity. **electrolytic** (ɪˌlektrəʊˈlɪtɪk) *adj*

electromagnet (ɪˌlektrəʊˈmægnɪt) *nc* a magnet that consists of a piece of iron or steel with a coil of wire around it, through which electricity is passed.

electromotive (ɪˌlektrəʊˈməʊtɪv) *adj* of, to do with, or producing an electric current. **electromotive force** energy per coulomb of charge available to a circuit.

electron (ɪˈlektrɒn) *nc* a tiny part of an atom that carries a negative charge of electricity. **electronic** (ˌɪlekˈtrɒnɪk) *adj* of or to do with electronics. **electronics** (ˌɪlekˈtrɒnɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) 1 the science and study of the movement of electrons in radio, television, computers, etc. 2 the business of making electronic devices.

electroplate (ɪˈlektrəʊpleɪt) *vt* cover (another metal) with gold, silver, etc., by electrolysis.

elegant (ˈelɪgənt) *adj* graceful; showing good taste; beautiful: *elegant manners.* **elegance** (ˈelɪgəns) *nu* **elegantly** *adv*

elegy (ˈelədʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** a sorrowful poem or song, esp. for the dead.

element (ˈelɪmənt) *nc* 1 *chemistry* a substance that cannot be divided into simpler parts by chemical means. 2 a necessary part. 3 (*pl*) the simple beginnings of a

subject. 4 a slight sign of: *an element of truth.* 5 a wire in an electrical apparatus that will allow only a certain amount of electricity to pass through. **the elements** the weather. **be in your element** be in a place or situation where you can do something that you enjoy very much. **elemental** (ˌelɪˈmentəl) *adj* like the dangerous forces of nature.

elementary (ˌelɪˈmentərɪ) *adj* 1 suitable for a person just starting to learn; simple: *elementary school.* 2 important; basic: *It's an elementary part of his beliefs.* **elementary particle** one of the parts of which atoms and all other forms of matter are made up: *Electrons, neutrons, and protons are elementary particles.*

elephant (ˈelɪfənt) *nc* the largest land animal alive, with a long nose and two curved tusks: see picture at **animals. white elephant** a possession that is useless or unwanted.

elevate (ˈelɪveɪt) *vt* 1 lift up; raise to a higher position. 2 improve (the mind, etc.): *an elevating conversation.* **elevation** (ˌelɪˈveɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) elevating or being elevated. *nc* 2 a high place. 3 a plan showing one side of a building: *the front elevation.* **elevator** (ˈelɪveɪtə*) *nc US* See **lift** (def. 3).

eleven (ɪˈlevən) *determiner, n* the number 11. **eleventh** (ɪˈlevənθ) *determiner, n, adv* **at the eleventh hour** at the last moment.

elf (elf) *nc, pl* **elves** (elvz) a small, imaginary creature, like a fairy.

elicit (ɪˈlɪsɪt) *vt* draw out: *to elicit information.*

eligible (ˈelɪdʒəbəl) *adj* 1 fit to be chosen; having the right qualities, qualifications etc.; suitable. 2 suitable for marriage: *an eligible bachelor.* **eligibility** (ˌelɪdʒəˈbɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

eliminate (ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt) *vt* get rid of; remove. **elimination** (ɪˌlɪmɪˈneɪʃən) *nu*

élite (eɪˈliːt) *nc* the people with the most wealth, influence, etc., in a group or in society. • *adj* to do with such people.

elixir (ɪˈlɪksə*) *nc* 1 *history* an imaginary substance that was supposed to change metals into gold or to make life last for ever. 2 something that cures any evil or trouble.

elk (elk) *nc* a kind of large deer found in North America.

ellipse (ɪˈlɪps) *nc* a regular oval. **elliptical** (ɪˈlɪptɪkəl) *adj* with the shape of an ellipse.

elm (elm) *nc* a kind of large, tall tree that loses its leaves every autumn: see picture at **trees;** (also *nu*) the hard wood of this tree.

elocution (ˌeləˈkjuːʃən) *nu* speaking and expressing yourself well, esp. in public; the study of this.

elongate (ˈiːlɒŋgeɪt) *vt* make longer (in space).

elope (ɪˈləʊp) *vi* run away from home with someone of the opposite sex, esp. in order to marry.

eloquent (ˈeləkwənt) *adj* expressing yourself clearly and well in speech. **eloquence** (ˈeləkwəns) *nu* **eloquently** *adv*

else (els) *adv* also; besides: *Where else shall we go today?; Who else is coming?* **or else** otherwise: *Hurry, or else you'll be late.* **elsewhere** (ˈelsweə*) *adv* somewhere that is not where you are.

elucidate (ɪˈluːsɪdeɪt) *vt fml* make clearer: *elucidate a problem.*

elude (ɪˈluːd) *vt* escape in a skilful way, esp. by means of a trick; avoid; stay away from. **elusive** (ɪˈluːsɪv) *adj* not easy to catch, find, remember, or understand: *an elusive thief; elusive memories.*

'em (əm) *pron infml* them.

emaciated (ɪˈmeɪsɪeɪtɪd) *adj* very thin, esp. because of illness or starvation. **emaciation** (ɪˌmeɪsɪˈeɪʃən) *nu*

emanate (ˈeməneɪt) *vi* come or flow out.

emancipate (ɪˈmænsɪpeɪt) *vt* make free from control, esp. by others: *emancipate slaves.* **emancipation** (ɪˌmænsɪˈpeɪʃən) *nu*

emasculate (ɪˈmæskjʊleɪt) *vt* take away the strength or power of.

embalm (ɪmˈbɑːm) *vt* keep (a dead body) from decaying by means of chemicals.

embankment (ɪmˈbæŋkmənt) *nc* 1 the sloping bank, or wall of earth, stones, etc., along the side of a river that prevents it overflowing. 2 a bank of earth, etc., along which a railway or road is built.

embargo (ɪmˈbɑːgəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** an order that forbids the movement of ships or trade; any order that forbids some activity.

embark (ɪmˈbɑːk) 1 *vti* go or put on board a ship. 2 *vi* (followed by **on** or **upon**) start; undertake.

embarrass (ɪmˈbærəs) *vt* make (someone) feel shy, ashamed, or uncomfortable, esp. in public. **embarrassed** *adj* **embarrassing** *adj* **embarrassment** (ɪmˈbærəsmənt) 1 *nu* embarrassing or being embarrassed. 2 *nc* a person or thing that embarrasses.

embassy (ˈembəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** the building provided for an ambassador living in a foreign country.

embed (ɪmˈbed) *vt* fix firmly into: *The bullet was embedded in the wall.*

embellish (ɪmˈbelɪʃ) *vt* add to, with decoration or details; make beautiful: *embellish*

a story; embellished with jewels. **embellishment** *ncu*

ember ('embə*) *nc* one of the pieces of burning coal or wood of a dying fire.

embezzle (ɪm'bezəl) *vt* use (money belonging to someone else that has been put in your care) for your own purposes. **embezzlement** *nu*

embittered (ɪm'bɪtəd) *adj* made bad-tempered and sad because of disappointments in life.

emblem ('embləm) *nc* a picture or design that is a sign of something; symbol: *Our group's emblem is a running bear.*

embody (ɪm'bɒdɪ) *vt* 1 give form to: *His thoughts were embodied in his poem.* 2 contain; be made up of: *Television embodies a variety of programmes.* **embodiment** (ɪm'bɒdɪmənt) *nc* someone or something that embodies; a typical or perfect example.

emboss (ɪm'bɒs) *vt* make a shape, pattern, letters, etc., stand out from a surface (of something): *notepaper with the address embossed on each sheet.*

embrace (ɪm'breɪs) *vt* 1 hold (someone) closely in your arms to show affection or love. 2 include: *The study embraced every aspect of the problem.* 3 eagerly agree to (an idea). • *nc* an act of embracing.

embroider (ɪm'brɔɪdə*) *vt* 1 decorate (a piece of cloth, etc.) with needle and coloured thread. 2 add untrue or imaginary details to (a story). **embroidery** (ɪm'brɔɪdərɪ) *nu* decorative work done with a needle and thread.

embryo ('embrɪəʊ) *nc* 1 *biology* the young of an animal or human in the early part of its development before being born or hatched. 2 anything in the early stages of development: *an embryo of an idea.* **embryonic** (ˌembrɪ'ɒnɪk) *adj* in the first stages of development.

emerald ('emərəld) *nc* a bright green precious stone. • *adj* of the colour of this: *emerald green eyes.*

emerge (ɪ'mɜːdʒ) *vi* 1 come out (from water, from being out of sight, etc.). 2 become known: *No new facts emerged from the police inquiry into the murder.* **emergence** (ɪ'mɜːdʒəns) *nu* **emergent** (ɪ'mɜːdʒənt) *adj*

emergency (ɪ'mɜːdʒənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** a sudden, serious, or dangerous happening that needs immediate action. • *adj* of or to do with an emergency.

emery ('emərɪ) *nu* a hard metal used for rubbing surfaces or for crushing them to powder.

emigrate ('emɪgreɪt) *vi* leave your own country to settle in another country. **emigrant** ('emɪgrənt) *nc* a person who emigrates. **emigration** (emɪ'greɪʃən) *ncu*

eminent ('emɪnənt) *adj* worthy of attention; famous; important. **eminence** ('emɪnəns) 1 *nu* being famous or worthy of attention. *nc* 2 an eminent person. 3 a piece of high ground. **eminently** *adv* clearly; plainly: *eminently true.*

emir (e'mɪə*) *nc* a ruler of a Muslim country in the Middle East. **emirate** (e'mɪərət) *nc* the country ruled by an emir.

emissary ('emɪsərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a person sent to take a message or to do some special work.

emission (ɪ'mɪʃən) *nu* 1 the giving out (of heat, light, sound, etc.). 2 *nc* an example of this.

emit (ɪ'mɪt) *vt* give out (heat, light, sound, etc.).

emolument (ɪ'mɒljʊmənt) *nc fml* the money obtained by someone holding authority; wages.

emotion (ɪ'məʊʃən) 1 *nu* strong feeling: *a voice full of emotion.* 2 *nc* any kind of strong feeling: *Anger is an emotion.* **emotional** (ɪ'məʊʃənəl) *adj* 1 of or to do with the emotions. 2 easily affected or excited by strong feelings. **emotionally** *adv* **emotive** (ɪ'məʊtɪv) *adj* likely to cause strong feelings: *an emotive film.*

empathy ('empəθɪ) *nu* the ability to understand and share another person's feelings.

emperor ('empərə*) *nc* the ruler of an empire.

emphasise ('emfəsaɪz) *vt* put extra force on (a word or words) to show a special meaning or importance; put a special meaning or importance on anything. **emphasis** ('emfəsɪs) *ncu, pl* **-ses** (an example of) emphasising or being emphasised. **emphatic** (ɪm'fætɪk) *adj* with emphasis: *emphatic opinions.* **emphatically** *adv*

empire ('empaɪə*) *nc* a number of countries under one government or ruler.

empirical (em'pɪrɪkəl) *adj* relying on what you can see and feel by experiments and observations and not on a theory or idea.

employ (ɪm'plɔɪ) *vt* 1 give work to, for a wage or salary. 2 *fml* use. **employee** (ˌemplɔɪ'iː) *nc* a person who is paid to work. **employer** (ɪm'plɔɪə*) *nc* a person who employs people. **employment** (ɪm'plɔɪmənt) *nu* employing or being employed; paid work.

empower (ɪm'paʊə*) *vt fml* give (someone) power to do something.

empress ('emprɪs) *nc* the wife of an emperor; queen of an empire.

empty ('emptɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 with nothing inside: *an empty box.* 2 *infml* hungry. 3 without meaning: *empty promises.* • *vti* (cause to) become empty. **emptiness** ('emptɪnɪs) *nu* **empty-handed** (ˌemptɪ'hændɪd) *adj* 1 without anything in your hands. 2 having failed to get something: *They came back empty-handed from their shopping trip.* **empty-headed** (ˌemptɪ'hedɪd) *adj* foolish; not sensible.

emu ('iːmjuː) *nc* a large, Australian bird that has long legs and is unable to fly.

emulate ('emjʊleɪt) *vt* try to do as well as or better than (someone else). **emulation** (ˌemjʊ'leɪʃən) *nu*

emulsify (ɪ'mʌlsɪˌfaɪ) *vti* (cause to) become an emulsion. **emulsifier** *nc* a substance that forms an emulsion or prevents an emulsion from separating: *Emulsifiers are added to some processed foods.*

emulsion (ɪ'mʌlʃən) *ncu* a kind of thick, creamy mixture of liquids in which very small drops of oil or fat float.

enable (ɪ'neɪbəl) *vt* make able; give (someone) the means to do something: *Having a car enables you to travel.*

enact (ɪ'nækt) *vt* 1 make a law. 2 act (a scene or part) on a theatre stage, or in life.

enamel (ɪ'næməl) *nu* 1 a glass-like material that is melted and used to cover the surface of metal, etc., to decorate or protect it. 2 the hard, shiny covering of the teeth. • *vt* cover with enamel.

enamoured *US* **enamored** (ɪ'næmənd) *adj* (followed by **of** or **with**) filled with strong liking or love (for): *I'm not enamoured of your idea.*

encase (ɪn'keɪs) *vt* put in a case; cover or shut up in a case or covering.

encephalitis (ˌensefə'laɪtɪs, ˌenkefə'laɪtɪs) *nu medicine* inflammation of the brain.

encephalogram (en'sefələˌgræm, en'kefələˌgræm) *nc* an X-ray photograph of the brain.

enchant (ɪn'tʃɑːnt) *vt* 1 have or use magic effects on. 2 charm. **enchanting** *adj* charming; very attractive. **enchantment** (ɪn'tʃɑːntmənt) 1 *nu* being enchanted. 2 *nc* something that has a magic effect or that charms. 3 *nu* charm.

encircle (ɪn'sɜːkəl) *vt* form a circle round, surround.

enclave ('enkleɪv) *nc* an area of land, or group of people, entirely surrounded by foreign land or people.

enclose (ɪn'kləʊz) *vt* 1 close in on all sides; surround. 2 include with something else: *I've sent a letter to her enclosing a photograph.* **enclosure** (ɪn'kləʊʒə*) 1 *nu* enclosing. *nc* 2 a piece of land with a wall, fence, etc., round it to make it private; any place that is closed in for a special group of people. 3 something that is included with something else.

encode (ɪn'kəʊd) *vt* put into code.

encompass (ɪn'kʌmpəs) *vt* form a circle round; contain.

encore (ɒŋ'kɔː*) *interj* again; once more. • *nc* a call from listeners for a piece of music, a song, etc., to be repeated; repeat of a piece of music, a song, etc.

encounter (ɪn'kaʊntə*) *vt* 1 meet with or experience (danger, trouble, etc.). 2 meet (a person), esp. by chance. • *nc* a meeting; an experience of: *her first encounter with crime.*

encourage (ɪn'kʌrɪdʒ) *vt* give hope to; urge (someone) to do something. **encouragement** (ɪn'kʌrɪdʒmənt) 1 *nu* encouraging. 2 *nc* something that gives hope or urges you on to do something. **encouraging** *adj*

encroach (ɪn'krəʊtʃ) *vi* (followed by **on**) enter wrongfully or take up part of (other people's land, time, or rights).

encumber (ɪn'kʌmbə*) *vt* cause difficulty to by adding troubles or making movement less easy: *encumbered with debts; She was encumbered by shopping bags and parcels.* **encumbrance** (ɪn'kʌmbrəns) *nc* something that encumbers.

encyclopedia (also **encyclopaedia**) (enˌsaɪkləˈpiːdiə) *nc* a book, or set of books, containing information on one or very many subjects, usually arranged in the order from A to Z.

end (end) *nc* 1 the last part of a period of time: *the end of the day.* 2 the finish; last part: *the end of the race.* 3 the farthest point: *the ends of the earth.* 4 a small piece that is left: *a cigarette end.* 5 a death: *He had a peaceful end.* 6 a purpose. • *vt* 1 bring (something) to an end. 2 *vi* come to an end. **in the end** at last; finally. **no end of** *infml* a lot of: *We had no end of trouble finding your address.* **ending** *nc* an end; the way something finishes. *Did the book have a good ending?* **endless** ('endlɪs) *adj* without an end; never stopping: *an endless conveyor belt.* **endlessly** *adv* **end up** finish.

endanger (ɪn'deɪndʒə*) *vt* 1 cause danger to, or make danger likely to happen to. 2 threaten the continued existence of: *endangered species of animals.*

endear (ɪn'dɪə*) *vt* cause (someone) to love someone else: *Her sweetness endeared her to him.* **endearing** *adj* **endearment** *nc*

also **term of endearment** a word or words used to someone you love.

endeavour *US* **endeavor** (ɪn'devə*) *vi* try. • *nc* an attempt.

endemic (en'demɪk) *adj* (of disease, etc.) regularly found in certain places or among certain groups of people: *Disease of the lungs is endemic among coal miners.*

endocarp ('endəˌkɑːp) *nc* the inner part of a fruit, such as the stone of a peach.

endocrine ('endəˌkraɪn, 'endəkrɪn) *adj* of or relating to (the secretions of) endocrine glands. **endocrine gland** any of the parts of the body from which hormones are secreted directly into the blood, such as the adrenal glands, thyroid, ovaries, testes, etc.

endorse (ɪn'dɔːs) *vt* 1 write your name on (the back of a cheque or written or printed statement). 2 give support to (an opinion, belief, idea, etc.). **endorsement** (ɪn'dɔːsmənt) *ncu*

endoskeleton (ˌendəʊ'skelɪtən) *nc* the skeleton inside the body of animals such as vertebrates. See also **exoskeleton.**

endow (ɪn'daʊ) *vt* give money to (a person, college, etc.) in order to provide with a regular amount every year. **be endowed with** have (a quality, ability, etc.) from the time you were born. **endowment** (ɪn'daʊmənt) 1 *nu* endowing. *nc* 2 an amount of money that will bring in a regular income. 3 an ability you have had from birth to do something well.

endure (ɪn'djʊə*) 1 *vt* suffer (pain, trouble, etc.); put up with: *She endured weeks of pain after her accident; I can't endure that woman!* 2 *vi* last; continue to exist. **endurance** (ɪn'djʊərəns) *nu* being able to bear suffering, pain, etc., with self-control or courage. **enduring** *adj* lasting.

enema ('enɪmə) *nc medicine* 1 a liquid passed into the bowel through the anus, esp. to make a person empty their body of solid waste. 2 an act of passing such liquid into the bowel.

enemy ('enəmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** 1 a person who feels strong dislike or hatred towards someone or something; a person who wishes or tries to do harm. 2 anything that wishes to cause or causes harm: *Time is our enemy.* 3 *nu* the army, etc., of a foreign country that fights against your own.

energetic (ˌenə'dʒetɪk) *adj* with force and vigour; very active: *an energetic speech; energetic walk.* **energetically** *adv* **energy** ('enədʒɪ) *nu* 1 force; liveliness: *full of energy.* 2 power (for light, heat, etc.): *Oil is an important source of energy.* **energies** *n pl infml* your power to do things: *Put your energies to good use.*

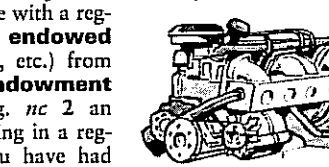
enfold (ɪn'fəʊld) *vt* put something, esp. your arms, round (something or someone) as in affection or love.

enforce (ɪn'fɔːs) *vt* 1 force people to obey (a law, etc.). 2 make (something) happen. **enforcement** (ɪn'fɔːsmənt) *nu*

engage (ɪn'geɪdʒ) 1 *vt fml* promise (to do something). 2 *vti* (cause to) be locked or joined together. *vt* 3 begin battle with (the enemy). 4 employ. **engage in** take part in; be busy with: *engaged in politics.* **engaged** (ɪn'geɪdʒd) *adj* 1 having agreed to marry. 2 (of a telephone) in use. 3 occupied; busy; working. **engagement** (ɪn'geɪdʒmənt) *nc* 1 a promise to marry. 2 a meeting (with someone); appointment. 3 *nu* the locking or joining together of two parts of a machine, etc. **engaging** (ɪn'geɪdʒɪŋ) *adj* charming: *an engaging smile.*

engender (ɪn'dʒendə*) *vt fml* cause to happen or be.

engine ('endʒɪn) *nc* 1 a machine that produces power or movement: see picture. 2 the part of a train that pulls it along.



engine

engineer (ˌendʒɪ'nɪə*) *nc* 1 a person who is an expert in dealing with engines or who has control of them. 2 a person who designs machines, roads, bridges, etc. • *vt* 1 build or deal with (roads, bridges, machines, etc.) as an engineer. 2 *infml* think of (a way of doing something), esp. in a cunning way: *engineer a secret plan.* 3 *infml* arrange. **engineering** (ˌendʒɪ'nɪərɪŋ) *nu* the study of the making and use of machines, roads, etc.; the work done by, or the job of, an engineer.

engrave (ɪn'greɪv) *vt* 1 make (a pattern, picture, etc.) by cutting into the hard surface of (metal, stone, or wood). 2 fix (ideas, feelings, etc.) deeply. **engraving** (ɪn'greɪvɪŋ) *nc* a picture made by cutting into a hard surface.

engross (ɪn'grəʊs) *vt* **be engrossed** have your interest, attention, or time completely taken up with someone or something: *be engrossed in a book.*

engulf (ɪn'gʌlf) *vt* cover or swallow up completely: *The violent seas engulfed the island; engulfed by sorrow.*

enhance (ɪn'hɑːns) *vt* make better, more beautiful, or more valuable.

enigma (ɪ'nɪgmə) *nc* a person or thing that is difficult or impossible to understand. **enigmatic** (ˌenɪg'mætɪk) *adj* mysterious. **enigmatically** *adv*

enjoy (ɪn'dʒɔɪ) *vt* 1 take pleasure in. 2 have the advantage or help of: *He has always enjoyed good health.* **enjoy yourself** pass your time happily. **enjoyable** (ɪn'dʒɔɪəbəl) *adj* pleasant: *an enjoyable occasion.* **enjoyment** 1 *nu* pleasure. 2 *nc* something that gives joy or pleasure.

enlarge (ɪn'lɑːdʒ) *vti* (cause to) become larger. **enlarge on** or **upon** write or speak about (a subject) with more details than before. **enlargement** (ɪn'lɑːdʒmənt) 1 *nu* enlarging or being enlarged. 2 *nc* a larger copy (esp. of a photograph).

enlighten (ɪn'laɪtən) *vt* make something clear to (someone): *Enlighten me about your beliefs.* **enlightenment** *nu*

enlist (ɪn'lɪst) 1 *vti* (cause to) join the army. 2 *vt* get (help or support).

enliven (ɪn'laɪvən) *vt* make full of life.

en masse (ɒn'mæs) *French* all together; as a large group.

enmity ('enmɪtɪ) *nu* hatred; state of being an enemy.

ennoble (ɪ'nəʊbəl) *vt* make the mind or the spirit better.

enormity (ɪ'nɔːmɪtɪ) 1 *nu* very great wickedness. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a serious sin, crime, or mistake. 3 *nu* the state of being huge in size.

enormous (ɪ'nɔːməs) *adj* huge; very large. **enormously** *adv* very; very much: *We enjoyed ourselves enormously.*

enough (ɪ'nʌf) *adv, determiner* as much or as many as needed. • *nu* an amount that is enough.

enquire (ɪn'kwaɪə*) *v* See **inquire.** **enquiry** *n* See **inquiry.**

enrage (ɪn'reɪdʒ) *vt* make very angry.

enrapture (ɪn'ræptʃə*) *vt* fill with great pleasure or joy.

enrich (ɪn'rɪtʃ) *vt* make rich; make better, esp. in quality: *The new baby enriched their lives.* **enrichment** *nu*

enrol *US* **enroll** (ɪn'rəʊl) *vti* (cause to) become a member of a special group. **enrolment** *US* **enrollment** 1 *ncu* (an example of) enrolling or being enrolled. 2 *nc* a person who has enrolled.

en route (ɒn'ruːt) *French* on the way.

ensemble (ɒn'sɒmbəl) *nc* 1 a piece of music in which all the musicians join together in playing; a small group of musicians who often play together. 2 a set of clothes in which the colours, etc., go well together.

enshrine (ɪn'ʃraɪn) *vt* put (something precious) in a holy place or in a place where it will be protected and respected.

ensign ('ensaɪn) *nc* 1 a flag, esp. on a ship. 2 ('ensən) *US* a naval officer of the lowest rank.

enslave (ɪn'sleɪv) *vt* 1 make (a person) an unpaid servant to another. 2 put (a person) completely under the control of something: *Money enslaves him.*

ensnare (ɪn'sneə*) *vt* catch in a trap; trick.

ensue (ɪn'sjuː) *vi fml* happen later or afterwards as a result. **ensuing** *adj*

ensure (ɪn'ʃʊə*) *vt* make certain: *ensure that the lights are switched off.*

entail (ɪn'teɪl) *vt* make (something) necessary; involve.

entangle (ɪn'tæŋgəl) *vt* cause to become caught up in a trap, net, etc., or in difficulties. **entanglement** (ɪn'tæŋgəlmənt) *ncu*

enter ('entə*) 1 *vi* go or come in: *He entered by the back door.* *vt* 2 go or come into (a place, etc.): *The children entered the classroom.* 3 become a member of: *He entered the church as a priest.* 4 write (something) in a book, list, etc. **enter for** (say that you or someone else will) take part in (a competition, race, etc.). **enter into** 1 take part in: *He entered into our conversation.* 2 start to deal with.

enteritis (entə'raɪtɪs) *nc* inflammation of the intestine, which usually causes diarrhoea.

enterprise ('entəpraɪz) 1 *nc* a task that is often difficult, or that needs courage to do. *nu* 2 the courage and ability needed for such a task. 3 the carrying out of an enterprise. **enterprising** *adj* full of courage; adventurous.

entertain (ˌentə'teɪn) *vt* 1 welcome as a guest and give food and drink to. 2 make time pass pleasantly and with amusement for (someone). 3 think about; be prepared to consider: *entertain an idea.* **entertainer** *nc* a person who is paid to entertain people by performing, singing, telling jokes, etc. **entertaining** *adj* **entertainment** 1 *nu* entertaining or being entertained. 2 *nc* a public amusement, such as a play, etc.

enthral *US* **enthrall** (ɪn'θrɔːl) *vt* 1 have all the interest and attention of: *The children were enthralled by the story.* 2 have power over, as if by magic: *He was enthralled by her beauty.* **enthralling** *adj*

enthrone (ɪn'θrəʊn) *vt* make (a person) into a king, queen, bishop, etc., with the usual ceremony.

enthusiasm (ɪn'θjuːzɪæzəm) *nu* a strong feeling of interest (for someone or

something); eagerness to do something. **enthusiast** (ɪn'θjuːzɪæst) *nc* a person who has strong feelings of interest or admiration for something. **enthusiastic** (ɪnˌθjuːzɪ'æstɪk) *adj* full of enthusiasm. **enthusiastically** *adv*

entice (ɪn'taɪs) *vt* persuade (someone) to go somewhere or do something by promises of good things; tempt: *She enticed him away from his family.*

entire (ɪn'taɪə*) *adj* whole; complete; not broken. **entirely** *adv* completely. **entirety** (ɪn'taɪərətɪ) *nu* being complete, whole, or unbroken: *a recording of the opera in its entirety.*

entitle (ɪn'taɪtəl) *vt* 1 give (a book, etc.) a title. 2 give (someone) a right to.

entity ('entɪtɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that really exists. 2 *nu* being; existence.

entomb (ɪn'tuːm) *vt* 1 bury (a dead body); act as a burial place for. 2 cover up and forget or hide.

entomologist (ˌentə'mɒlədʒɪst) *nc* a person who studies insects. **entomology** (ˌentə'mɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of insects.

entourage ('ɒntuˌrɑːʒ) *nu* the people who travel with or work for a famous or important person.

entrails ('entreɪlz) *n pl* the tubes below the stomach through which food passes; the contents of the abdomen.

entrance[1] ('entrəns) 1 *nc* an opening, such as a gate, door, etc., through which someone or something enters. 2 *ncu* (an example of) entering: *She made her entrance.* • *adj* giving the right to enter: *entrance money.*

entrance[2] (ɪn'trɑːns) *vt* fill with complete delight as if dreaming.

entrant ('entrənt) *nc* a person entering for an examination, competition, race, etc., or into a profession: *university entrants.*

entrap (ɪn'træp) *vt* 1 catch in a trap, net, etc. 2 catch by a trick.

entreat (ɪn'triːt) *vt* ask with deep feeling. **entreaty** (ɪn'triːtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** (an example of) asking with deep feeling.

entrench (ɪn'trenʃ) *vt* protect by digging a trench or ditch, or by fixing in a safe and firm position. **entrenched** *adj* firmly established; difficult or unwilling to change.

entrepreneur (ˌɒntrəprə'nɜː*) *nc* a person who plans and takes on something, esp. trade.

entropy ('entrəpɪ) *nu science* 1 the process by which heat, light, etc., gradually spread out, becoming equal everywhere in the universe. 2 a measurement of a lack of order in a system.

entrust (ɪn'trʌst) *vt* give into someone's care.

entry ('entrɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** 1 (an example of) entering. *nc* 2 a gate, door, etc., through which you enter. 3 an item written or printed in a list or book: *a dictionary entry.* 4 someone or something taking part in a race or contest.

entwine (ɪn'twaɪn) *vt* twist or wind (one thing) round another: *Their arms were entwined; Plants climbed and entwined themselves round the tree trunk.*

enumerate (ɪ'njuːməreɪt) *vt* count; name (items in a list, etc.) one by one.

enunciate (ɪ'nʌnsɪeɪt) 1 *vti* speak (a word) (clearly). 2 *vt* show in clear words what is meant by (an idea, etc.). **enunciation** (ɪˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃən) *nu*

envelop (ɪn'veləp) *vt* wrap or cover up, all round: *The mountains were enveloped in mist.*

envelope ('envələʊp) *nc* a paper container for a letter: *Write the address on the envelope.*

enviable ('envɪəbəl) *adj* causing or likely to cause envy.

envious ('envɪəs) *adj* feeling or showing envy. **enviously** *adv*

environment (ɪn'vaɪərənmənt) *nc* the surroundings in which a person or animal lives. **the environment** the natural balance of animals, plants, etc. **environmental** (ɪnˌvaɪərən'mentəl) *adj* of or to do with the environment. **environmentalist** *nc* a person who protects the environment. **environmentally friendly** also **environment-friendly** not harmful to the environment.

envisage (ɪn'vɪzɪdʒ) *vt* imagine (what you think or hope is likely to happen): *I envisage a time when everyone will be equal.*

envoy ('envɔɪ) *nc* a person sent by the government on special work, esp. to another country.

envy ('envɪ) *nu* 1 feeling of ill-will, hate, or disappointment caused by wanting something that someone else has. 2 the person or thing that causes such feeling: *Their house is the envy of their friends.* • *vt* feel envy towards (someone or something).

enzyme ('enzaɪm) *nc biology* a substance produced by the body that causes chemical changes in other substances but does not itself change.

ephemeral (ɪ'femərəl) *adj* lasting or living for a short time only.

epic ('epɪk) *nc* 1 a very long poem of the deeds of great and noble people. 2 a film or book that deals with this subject, or that is very long. • *adj* of or to do with an epic:

an epic production.

epicentre *US* **epicenter** ('epɪˌsentə*) *nc* the place on the surface of the earth below which an earthquake starts.

epicotyl (ˌepɪ'kɒtɪl) *nc botany* the part of a germinating plant stem that is between the cotyledons and the terminal bud.

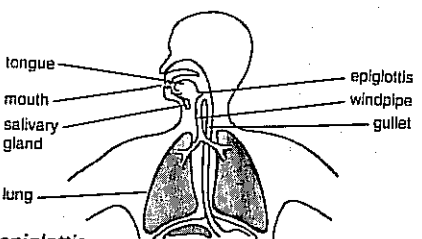
epidemic (ˌepɪ'demɪk) *nc* a situation where a disease spreads quickly among people in a district or country. • *adj* of or to do with an epidemic.

epidermis (ˌepɪ'dɜːmɪs) *nu biology* the outer layer of animals and plants.

epidural (ˌepɪ'djʊərəl) *nc medicine* an anaesthetic injected into the outer layer of the spinal cord.

epigeal (ˌepɪ'dʒiːəl) *adj botany* of or to do with germination in which cotyledons appear above the surface of the soil.

epiglottis (ˌepɪ'glɒtɪs) *nc* the flap of cartilage that covers the opening of the larynx when you swallow, so that food and liquid cannot enter: see picture.



epiglottis

epigram ('epɪgræm) *nc* a short poem or saying expressing a witty or amusing thought.

epilepsy ('epɪlepsɪ) *nu* a disease of the brain causing a person to fall down, sometimes with violent movements of the body and limbs. **epileptic** (ˌepɪ'leptɪk) *nc* a person who suffers from this disease. • *adj* of or to do with epilepsy.

epilogue *US* **epilog** ('epɪlɒg) *nc* 1 a part added at the end of a book. 2 a speech or short poem spoken by an actor to the audience at the end of a play.

episcopal (ɪ'pɪskəpəl) *adj* of or to do with bishops.

episode ('epɪsəʊd) *nc* 1 an event or happening that is one of several of a set: *the nastiest episode of his life.* 2 any of the parts of a serial on radio, television, etc.: *Don't miss next week's episode.*

epitaph ('epɪtɑːf) *nc* a set of words written about a dead person, esp. carved on the stone set up over their grave.

epithet ('epɪθet) *nc* a word that describes a quality of someone or something.

epitome (ɪ'pɪtəmɪ) *nc* the most perfect form or example of something. **epitomise** (ɪ'pɪtəmaɪz) *vt* be an epitome of.

epoch ('iːpɒk) *nc* a certain, esp. great, length of time in which something special takes place; beginning of such a time. **epoch-making** *adj* beginning a new period of time in history or in life because of a special event, etc.

equable ('ekwəbəl) *adj* calm; not easily troubled; not changing much: *an equable temper; equable climate.*

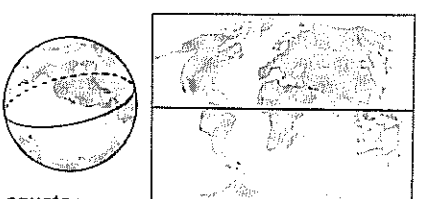
equal ('iːkwəl) *adj* the same in size, weight, value, etc. **equal to** 1 the same as. 2 being able to deal with someone or something: *Do you think he's equal to the task?* • *nc* a person or thing that is equal to another person or thing: *Though younger, she was the equal of her sister in intelligence.* • *vt* be the same as (in size, weight, value, etc.). **equalise** ('iːkwəlaɪz) *vi* make or become equal. **equality** (iː'kwɒlɪtɪ) *nu* the state of being equal. **equally** *adv*

equanimity (ˌekwə'nɪmɪtɪ) *nu* calmness of mind; not being easily disturbed: *She bore the death of her son with courage and equanimity.*

equate (ɪ'kweɪt) *vt* treat (two things) as being equal or of the same kind.

equation (ɪ'kweɪʒən) *nc mathematics* an expression in signs and numbers showing that two quantities are equal.

equator (ɪ'kweɪtə*) *nc* an imaginary line round the centre of the earth, drawn on maps halfway between the North and South Poles: see picture. **equatorial** (ˌekwə'tɔːrɪəl) *adj* of or near the equator.


equator

equestrian (ɪ'kwestrɪən) *adj* of or to do with horse-riding: *equestrian sports.* • *nc* a person who is an expert at horse-riding.

equiangular (ˌiːkwɪ'æŋgjʊlə*) *adj* having all angles equal in size.

equidistant (ˌiːkwɪ'dɪstənt) *adj* being an equal distance from: *The village is equidistant from the two largest towns in the area.*

equilateral (ˌiːkwɪ'lætərəl) *adj* having all sides equal in length.

equilibrium (ˌiːkwɪ'lɪbrɪəm) *nu* steadiness or balance; calmness of mind.

equinox ('i:kwɪnɒks) *nu* one of the two times in the year when day and night are of equal length.

equip (ɪ'kwɪp) *vt* supply with what is needed: *Are you equipped for your long journey?* **equipment** (ɪ'kwɪpmənt) *nu* 1 equipping or being equipped. 2 the things needed for a particular task or activity: *camping equipment.*

equity ('ekwɪtɪ) *nu* justice; being fair and right. **equities** *n pl* ordinary stocks and shares in a business. **equitable** ('ekwɪtəbəl) *adj* just; fair: *an equitable decision.*

equivalent (ɪ'kwɪvələnt) *adj* equal in value, amount, or meaning, but expressed differently: *This sum of money is equivalent to ten pounds in British currency.* • *nc* something equivalent: *A general in the army is the equivalent of an admiral in the navy.* **equivalence** (ɪ'kwɪvələns) *nu*

equivocal (ɪ'kwɪvəkəl) *adj* 1 (of a meaning) doubtful; that can be understood in more than one way. 2 (of a person, their character, etc.) hard to understand; shifty.

era ('ɪərə) *nc* (the beginning of) a time in history when something new or special happens.

eradicate (ɪ'rædɪkeɪt) *vt* to pull up as if by the roots; get rid of; remove. **eradication** (ɪ,rædɪ'keɪʃən) *nu*

erase (ɪ'reɪz) *vt* rub out; remove. **eraser** (ɪ'reɪzə*) *nc* a piece of rubber for rubbing out pencil marks, etc.

erect (ɪ'rekt) *vt* 1 build; place (something) in position: *erect tents.* 2 place in an upright position: *erect a statue.* • *adj* upright; standing upright. **erection** (ɪ'rekʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) erecting or being erected. 2 *nc* a building; anything erected.

erectile (ɪ'rektaɪl) *adj* (of tissues or organs of the body) that can become stiff and firm when filled with blood: *the erectile tissue of the penis.*

ergonomics (,ɜ:gə'nɒmɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of workers, working conditions, etc.

ermine ('ɜ:mɪn) 1 *nc* a small, meat-eating animal whose fur is brown in summer and white, except for a black tail-tip, in winter. 2 *nu* the fur of this animal; garment made of its winter fur: *ermine robes.*

erode (ɪ'rəʊd) *vt* wear away; slowly destroy as if by eating into. **erosion** (ɪ'rəʊʒən) *nu* eroding or being eroded: *erosion of the coast by the sea.*

erotic (ɪ'rɒtɪk) *adj* of or to do with sexual love.

err (ɜ:*) *vi* make a mistake; do wrong.

errand ('erənd) *nc* a short journey (to fetch shopping, take a message, etc.).

erratic (ɪ'rætɪk) *adj* 1 changing often in thought, behaviour, etc. 2 not regular or certain in movement. **erratically** *adv*

erroneous (ɪ'rəʊnɪəs) *adj* mistaken; not correct. **erroneously** *adv*

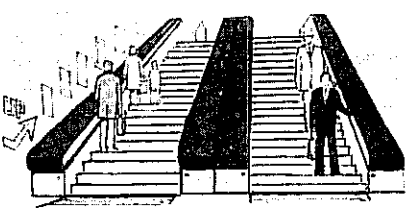
error ('erə*) 1 *nc* mistake; something done wrong. 2 *nu* being mistaken; doing wrong. **in error** by mistake.

erudite ('eru:daɪt) *adj* having or showing much knowledge. **erudition** (,eru:'dɪʃən) *nu* great knowledge or learning.

erupt (ɪ'rʌpt) *vi* 1 (of a volcano) send out smoke, ashes, etc. 2 break out: *erupt into anger.* **eruption** (ɪ'rʌpʃən) *ncu* (an example of) erupting; the breaking out of a volcano, war, etc.

escalate ('eskəleɪt) *vti* (cause to) increase in size, extent, or amount. **escalation** (,eskə'leɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) escalating: *the escalation of war.*

escalator ('eskəleɪtə*) *nc* a moving set of stairs that carries people from one floor to another in a building: see picture.



escalator

escapade ('eskəpeɪd) *nc* an exciting act with the chance of danger, trouble, etc.

escape (ɪ'skeɪp) 1 *vi* get free from prison or control. *vt* 2 get away from or avoid (an unpleasant person or thing). 3 be forgotten by: *I know his face but his name escapes me.* • *ncu* 1 (an act of) escaping. 2 something that lets you get away for a short time from reality: *Listening to music is a form of escape.* **escapism** (ɪ'skeɪpɪzəm) *nu* being an escapist. **escapist** (ɪ'skeɪpɪst) *nc* someone who tries to avoid the real and often painful facts of life by living in their imagination. • *adj* that gives an escape for a short time from real life: *escapist literature.*

escarpment (ɪ'skɑ:pmənt) *nc* a steep slope between two different levels.

eschew (ɪs'tʃu:) *vt fml* avoid; hold yourself back from.

escort ('eskɔɪt) *nc* 1 one or more people, vehicles, planes, ships, etc., going with others to protect them or as a sign of honour. 2 a partner, esp. for someone of the opposite sex on a social occasion.

• (ɪˈskɔːt) *vt* go with as an escort.

esoteric (ˌiːsəˈterɪk, ˌesəˈterɪk) *adj* for a special group of people only or for those who have particular knowledge: *esoteric interests.*

especial (ɪˈspeʃəl) *adj fml* particular; turning to one as being special or different from others: *my especial friend; He gave her especial attention.* **especially** (ɪˈspeʃəlɪ) *adv* particularly; extremely.

espionage (ˈespɪənɑːʒ) *nu* the work of getting secret information, esp. about another country's armies, etc.

esplanade (ˈesplənɪeɪd) *nc* a place for walking or riding for pleasure, esp. by the sea.

espouse (ɪˈspaʊz) *vt* support (a cause, idea, etc.).

esprit de corps (ˌespriːdəˈkɔɪ*) friendly companionship and loyalty of people joined in a group or society.

essay (ˈeseɪ) *nc* a piece of writing, usually short, on one subject. • (eˈseɪ) *vt fml* try to do (something): *essay a difficult task.*

essence (ˈesəns) *nu* 1 that which belongs naturally to a thing and makes it what it is; most important part. 2 the purest and most important qualities of a substance that remain when the unneeded parts have been taken out. 3 *ncu* a pure substance: *vanilla essence.*

essential (ɪˈsenʃəl) *adj* 1 necessary: *Honesty is essential for employees in a bank.* 2 that belongs naturally. • *nc* something that is necessary or the most important part. **essentially** *adv*

establish (ɪˈstæblɪʃ) *vt* 1 set up (a business, etc.) on a firm basis. 2 prove: *establish a fact.* 3 settle (someone) in a place. **establishment** (ɪˈstæblɪʃmənt) 1 *ncu* (an example of) establishing or being established. 2 *nc* a building or group of persons in a business, etc.

estate (ɪˈsteɪt) *nc* 1 a piece of land belonging to one person, esp. in the country. 2 a piece of land used for building houses or factories on: *a housing estate.* 3 *nu law* a person's goods and money. **estate agent** a person whose business is to buy and sell houses for other people.

esteem (ɪˈstiːm) *fml vt* 1 have a high opinion of; consider of great value or worthy of respect. 2 consider. • *nu* great respect: *He is held in high esteem.*

ester (ˈestə*) *nc chemistry* a type of compound produced when an acid reacts with an alcohol.

estimate (ˈestɪmeɪt) *vt* make a guess or judgement about (the cost, value, size, etc., of something). • (ˈestɪmət) *nc* an opinion on (the cost, size, value, etc., of something); judgement. **estimation** (ˌestɪˈmeɪʃən) *nu* respect; opinion; judgement.

estrange (ɪˈstreɪndʒ) *vt* cause to become separated by being unfriendly: *his estranged wife.*

estuary (ˈestjʊərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** the wide mouth of a river into which the sea flows.

et cetera (ɪtˈsetərə) *Latin* and so on; and other things: *abbrev.* etc.

etch (etʃ) 1 *vti* make (a picture) by using a needle and acid on a piece of metal which can be used for making copies. **etching** (ˈetʃɪŋ) 1 *nu* the skill and practice of a person who etches. 2 *nc* a picture or copy of it made in this way.

eternal (ɪˈtɜːnəl) *adj* 1 that will always exist; without beginning or end. 2 *infml* never seeming to stop: *Stop your eternal chatter!* **eternally** (ɪˈtɜːnəlɪ) *adv* for ever. **eternity** (ɪˈtɜːnɪtɪ) *nu* 1 time without end. 2 *nc infml* a time that seems endless.

ether (ˈiːθə*) *nu* a gas used in medicine to make someone unable to feel pain by putting them into a deep sleep.

ethereal (ɪˈθɪərɪəl) *adj* seeming to be of the spirit or of heaven rather than of this world: *ethereal music.*

ethics (ˈeθɪks) *nu* the study of the rules of behaviour. **ethical** (ˈeθɪkəl) *adj*

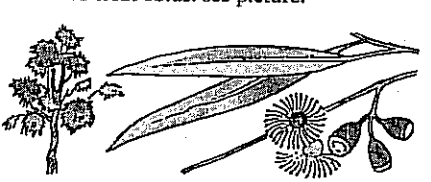
ethnic (ˈeθnɪk) *adj* of the different peoples in the world. **ethnic minority** a group of people of a different race from the majority of people in a country.

etiolate (ˈiːtɪəʊˌleɪt) *vti* (of a green plant) make or become pale or white through lack of sunlight.

etiquette (ˈetɪket) *nu* the rules for polite behaviour.

etymology (ˌetɪˈmɒlədʒɪ) 1 *nu* the study of the history of words. 2 *nc* a description of how a word was formed and developed. **etymological** (ˌetɪməˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj*

eucalyptus (ˌjuːkəˈlɪptəs) *nc* an Australian tree with leaves that produce an oil that is used to treat colds: see picture.



eucalyptus

eugenics (juˈdʒenɪks) *nc* (*with singular verb*) the study of how to produce healthy children in order to improve the human race.

eulogy (ˈjuːlədʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** a speech or piece of writing that gives praise.

eunuch (ˈjuːnək) *nc* a castrated man.

euphemism (ˈjuːfɪmɪzəm) 1 *nu* the use of a pleasant but less clear word instead of the clear, unpleasant one. 2 *nc* a word or set of words used in this way. **euphemistic** (ˌjuːfɪˈmɪstɪk) *adj* **euphemistically** *adv*

euphoria (juːˈfɔːrɪə) *nu* a feeling of great happiness. **euphoric** (juːˈfɒrɪk) *adj*

Eustachian tube (juːˈsteɪʃən) a tube in the ear that allows the pressure on the eardrum to be the same on both sides.

euthanasia (ˌjuːθəˈneɪzjə) *nu* bringing about a painless death (esp. of a person in great pain).

evacuate (ɪˈvækjʊeɪt) 1 *vti* (cause to) leave (a building). *vt* 2 remove to a safer place, esp. in times of war. 3 empty waste matter from (the body). **evacuation** (ɪˌvækjʊˈeɪʃən) *nu*

evade (ɪˈveɪd) *vt* 1 keep away from. 2 avoid (doing something) by cunning.

evaluate (ɪˈvæljʊeɪt) *vt* decide how much (something) is worth. **evaluation** (ɪˌvæljʊˈeɪʃən) *ncu*

evangelical (iːvænˈdʒelɪkəl) *adj* of the teachings of the Bible, esp. of Jesus Christ. **evangelism** (ɪˈvændʒəlɪzəm) *nu* preaching on Christ's life. **evangelist** (ɪˈvændʒəlɪst) *nc* 1 a writer of one of the four books of the Bible that tell of Christ's life. 2 a person who preaches on Christ's life.

evaporate (ɪˈvæpəreɪt) *vi* 1 (of a liquid or solid) change into a gas. 2 fade away slowly: *His fear evaporated.* 3 *vt* cause to change (a liquid or solid) into a gas. **evaporation** (ɪˌvæpəˈreɪʃən) *nu*

evasion (ɪˈveɪʒən) 1 *nu* avoiding, esp. by cunning. 2 *nc* a false reason given to avoid doing something. **evasive** (ɪˈveɪsɪv) *adj* **evasively** *adv*

eve (iːv) *nc* the day or evening before (an event); time just before (any event): *the eve of an election.*

even (ˈiːvən) *adj* 1 level; smooth. 2 equal. 3 (of a number) able to be divided by two. • *adv* 1 (used to suggest surprise before something strange or not expected): *He always wears a coat, even on a hot day.* 2 (used to make comparative words stronger): *It is even larger.* **get even (with)** punish (someone) for a wrong they have done to you. **even if** or **though** in spite of the fact that. **evenly** (ˈiːvənlɪ) *adv* 1 equally. 2 smoothly. **even so** in spite of that. **even out** make or become even.

evening (ˈiːvnɪŋ) *nc* the hours between late afternoon and going to bed. **evening class** (one of) a series of lessons given to adults in the evening. **evening dress** clothes worn in the evening at a formal event.

event (ɪˈvent) *nc* 1 anything that happens, esp. something important; happening. 2 the result of something that happens. **at all events** whatever happens. **in the event of** if; in case of. **eventful** *adj* full of things happening.

eventual (ɪˈventʃʊəl) *adj* coming as a result at the end. **eventuality** (ɪˌventʃʊˈælɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** something that might happen, esp. something unpleasant: *Be prepared for all eventualities.* **eventually** *adv* at last; after a long time.

ever (ˈevə*) *adv* 1 at any time: *Do you ever visit him?* 2 always: *an ever-present threat.* 3 (used to add force to one's words): *Why ever did you do that?* **ever so** or **such** *infml* very.

evergreen (ˈevəgriːn) *adj* (of a tree) keeping its leaves throughout the year. • *nu* such a tree.

everlasting (ˌevəˈlɑːstɪŋ) *adj* lasting for ever.

evermore (ˌevəˈmɔː*) *adv* for ever.

every (ˈevrɪ) *determiner* each and all, esp. within a group. **everybody** (ˈevrɪˌbɒdɪ), **everyone** (ˈevrɪwʌn) *pron* every person. **everyday** (ˈevrɪdeɪ) *adj* 1 happening daily. 2 ordinary. **every other** See **other.** **everything** (ˈevrɪθɪŋ) *pron* all things. **everywhere** (ˈevrɪweə*) *adv* in all places.

evict (ɪˈvɪkt) *vt law* force (a person) by law to leave a house or land. **eviction** (ɪˈvɪkʃən) *ncu*

evidence (ˈevɪdəns) *nu* anything that shows something to be true or false or helps to prove something. **evident** (ˈevɪdənt) *adj* plain to see or understand. **evidently** *adv*

evil (ˈiːvəl) *adj* bad; wicked; sinful; harmful. • *nu* 1 badness; wickedness; sin. 2 *nc* a wicked or harmful thing.

evocative (ɪˈvɒkətɪv) *adj* producing or reminding you of feelings, memories, etc.

evoke (ɪˈvəʊk) *vt* produce or remind of (feelings, memories, etc.).

evolution (ˌiːvəˈluːʃən) *nu* 1 the gradual way in which something develops or changes. 2 the idea that people, animals, and plants developed from simpler forms over millions of years. **evolutionary** (ˌiːvəˈluːʃənərɪ) *adj*

evolve (ɪˈvɒlv) *vti* develop or be developed by slow change.

ewe (juː) *nc* a female sheep.

exacerbate (ɪgˈzæsəbeɪt) *vt fml* make (a situation, disease, problem, etc.) worse.

exact (ɪg'zækt) *adj* correct in every detail. • *vt* demand and get (something) from (someone). **exacting** *adj* needing much work, attention, etc. **exactly** *adv* 1 (used as an answer) just as you say. 2 correctly in every detail. **exactness** *nu*

exaggerate (ɪg'zædʒəreɪt) *vt* make (something) seem more than it is. **exaggeration** (ɪg,zædʒə'reɪʃən) *ncu*

exalt (ɪg'zɔ:lt) *vt* 1 give power or a high position to. 2 praise highly. **exaltation** (,egzɔ:l'teɪʃən) *nu* 1 exalting or being exalted. 2 a feeling of great excitement or happiness.

exam (ɪg'zæm) *n infml* short for **examination** (def. 1).

examine (ɪg'zæmɪn) *vi* 1 try to learn about (something) by looking at it carefully. 2 put questions to (someone) to find out how much they know or understand. **examination** (ɪg,zæmɪ'neɪʃən) *nc* 1 (*infml abbrev.* **exam**) a test to find out how much someone knows or how well someone can do something. *ncu* 2 (an example of) examining. 3 (an example of) inspecting someone in order to recognise a disease. **examiner** *nc*

example (ɪg'zɑ:mpəl) *nc* 1 a fact, etc., that shows the general rule. 2 something that is like others of the same kind. 3 something to be copied because it is admired: *His life was an example to others.* **for example** to give an **example** (defs. 1, 2): *abbrev.* e.g.

exasperate (ɪg'zæspəreɪt) *vt* make (someone) very annoyed; stir up anger in (someone). **exasperating** *adj* **exasperation** (ɪg,zæspə'reɪʃən) *nu*

excavate ('ekskəveɪt) *vt* dig, esp. to find (what has been buried or hidden). **excavation** (,ekskə'veɪʃən) *ncu*

exceed (ɪk'si:d) *vt* 1 go beyond (something that is necessary, expected, or allowed). 2 be more than. **exceedingly** (ɪk'si:dɪŋlɪ) *adv old-fashioned* to an unusual or very great degree.

excel (ɪk'sel) 1 *vi* do better than others. 2 *vt* be better than (other people).

excellence ('eksələns) *nu* being of very good quality. **excellent** *adj* **excellently** *adv*

Excellency ('eksələnsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** the title used when speaking to or of some officials, esp. ambassadors or governors: *His Excellency; Your Excellency.*

except (ɪk'sept) *prep* but not; not including: *She gave presents to everyone except her sister.* **except for** but for. **except that** but for the fact that. • *vt* not include in; leave out (something) from.

exception (ɪk'sepʃən) *nc* 1 a person or a thing that is not included. 2 something to which a rule does not apply. **take exception to** not agree with. **with the exception of** but for; (but) not including. **exceptional** (ɪk'sepʃənəl) *adj* not usual; much better, greater, etc., than usual. **exceptionally** *adv*

excerpt ('eksɜ:pt) *nc* a piece of writing, music, etc., from a book, recording, etc.

excess (,ɪk'ses) 1 *nu* the amount by which something is too much. 2 *nc* the very worst kind of behaviour. **in excess of** more than. • ('ekses) *adj* more than is necessary, wanted, or allowed. **excessive** (ɪk'sesɪv) *adj* too great. **excessively** *adv*

exchange (ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ) *vt* change (something) for another. • *ncu* 1 the changing (of something) for another. 2 the giving and receiving (of things, ideas). **in exchange (for)** as a payment (for): *I gave English lessons in exchange for meals.* **exchange rate** the amount of foreign currency that can be bought for a unit of currency of another country.

exchequer (ɪks'tʃekə*) *nc* a place where public or private money is kept; the money itself. **the Exchequer** *Brit* the government office in charge of public money.

excise[1] ('eksaɪz) *nu* government tax on certain goods made or sold inside a country.

excise[2] (ɪk'saɪz) *vt* 1 take out (something) from a book, etc. 2 cut out (something) from the body.

excite (ɪk'saɪt) *vt* stir up feelings in. **excitable** *adj* easily excited. **excited** *adj* with your feelings stirred up. **excitement** (ɪk'saɪtmənt) 1 *nu* being excited. 2 *nc* something that causes excitement. **exciting** *adj* causing excitement.

exclaim (ɪk'skleɪm) *vi* cry out or say something suddenly, esp. from surprise. **exclamation** (,eksklə'meɪʃən) *ncu* **exclamation mark** the sign (!) used in writing to show a sudden cry, etc. **exclamatory** (ɪk'sklæmətərɪ) *adj*

exclude (ɪk'sklu:d) *vt* 1 keep out (someone or something). 2 prevent; make (something) not possible. **excluding** *prep* not including. **exclusion** (ɪk'sklu:ʒən) *ncu* **exclusive** (ɪk'sklu:sɪv) *adj* keeping out all but the carefully chosen. **exclusively** *adv*

excommunicate (,ekskə'mju:nɪkeɪt) *vt* forbid (someone), as a punishment, their rights as a member of the Christian Church. **excommunication** (,ekskə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃən) *nu*

excrete (ek'skriːt) *vt* get rid of (waste) from the body. **excrement** ('ekskrɪmənt) *nu*, **excreta** (ek'skriːtə) *n pl* solid waste passed out from the bowels.

excruciating (ɪk'skruːʃɪeɪtɪŋ) *adj* causing great pain in the body or mind.

excursion (ɪk'skɜːʃən) *nc* a short journey for pleasure.

excuse (ɪk'skjuːs) *nc* a reason given or words of regret for your behaviour. • (ɪk'skjuːz) *vt* 1 give reasons for the behaviour of (someone). 2 forgive. **excuse me** (used to show you are sorry to interrupt, do not agree with someone, etc.). **excusable** (ɪk'skjuːzəbəl) *adj*

execute ('eksɪkjuːt) *vt* 1 carry out (a plan, a piece of work, an order, etc.). 2 put (a person) to death, as a punishment. **execution** (ˌeksɪ'kjuːʃən) *ncu* **executioner** (ˌeksɪ'kjuːʃənə*) *nc* a person who by order of the law puts people to death.

executive (ɪg'zekjʊtɪv) *adj* of or having to do with the carrying out of plans, controlling a business, etc. • *nc* a person or a group of people with high positions in a business, company, etc.

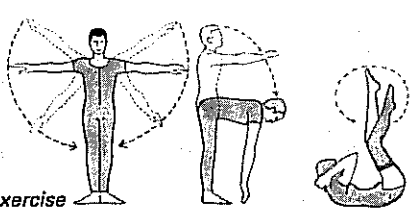
executor (ɪg'zekjʊtə*) *nc* a person chosen to carry out the wishes of someone after their death.

exemplary (ɪg'zempləɪ) *adj* acting as an example: *exemplary behaviour.*

exemplify (ɪg'zemplɪfaɪ) *vt* show or explain by example.

exempt (ɪg'zempt) *vt* make free from (a duty, payments, promise, etc.). **exemption** (ɪg'zempʃən) *ncu*

exercise ('eksəsaɪz) 1 *nu* putting your body to extra use in order to become healthier, stronger, etc. *nc* 2 something done to cause this: see picture. 3 a task to train the mind. • *vti* 1 make (your body) healthier or stronger by extra use. 2 *vt* use. **exercise book** a book with blank pages used for writing, drawing, and doing school work in.



exercise

exert (ɪg'zɜːt) *vt* use (a power, etc.) to cause something to be done. **exert yourself** try hard. **exertion** (ɪg'zɜːʃən) (an example of) trying very hard; physical effort.

exhale (eks'heɪl) *vti* breathe out. **exhalation** (ˌekshə'leɪʃən) *ncu*

exhaust (ɪg'zɔːst) 1 *nu* waste vapour or gas given out from an engine. 2 *nc* a pipe carrying such waste vapour or gas. • *vt* 1 use up; finish. 2 make very tired. **exhausted** *adj* 1 used up. 2 very tired. **exhausting** *adj* very tiring. **exhaustion** (ɪg'zɔːstʃən) *nu* **exhaustive** (ɪg'zɔːstɪv) *adj* complete in every way.

exhibit (ɪg'zɪbɪt) *vt* show (something) in a public place for people to see, enjoy, buy, etc. • *nc* an object or collection of objects shown to the public. **exhibition** (ˌeksɪ'bɪʃən) *ncu* **exhibitionist** (ˌeksɪ'bɪʃənɪst) *nc* a person who tries to be noticed, esp. by their strange clothes or behaviour. **exhibitor** (ɪg'zɪbɪtə*) *nc* a person who puts paintings, flowers, goods, etc., in an exhibition.

exhilarate (ɪg'zɪləreɪt) *vt* make lively and glad. **exhilarating** *adj* **exhilaration** (ɪgˌzɪlə'reɪʃən) *nu*

exhort (ɪg'zɔːt) *vt fml* ask (someone) in a serious manner, with deep feeling. **exhortation** (ˌegzɔː'teɪʃən) *ncu*

exhume (eks'hjuːm) *vt* dig up (a dead body) from its grave.

exile ('egzaɪl) *vt* send away, esp. to another country, as a punishment. • *ncu* 1 being sent away from your home or country. 2 *nc* a person punished in this way.

exist (ɪg'zɪst) *vi* 1 (continue to) be. 2 live. **existence** (ɪg'zɪstəns) *nu*

exit ('eksɪt) *nc* 1 a way out, as from a cinema or theatre. 2 the act of going out, esp. of an actor leaving the stage.

exonerate (ɪg'zɒnəreɪt) *vt* make (a person) free from blame, etc.

exorbitant (ɪg'zɔːbɪtənt) *adj* (of a price, demand, etc.) too much or too great.

exorcise ('eksɔːsaɪz) *vt* rid (a person or a place) of evil by prayer. **exorcism** ('eksɔːˌsɪzəm) *ncu*

exoskeleton (ˌeksəʊ'skelɪtən) *nc* the hard outer covering of animals such as arthropods. See also **endoskeleton.**

exotic (ɪg'zɒtɪk) *adj* 1 (of plants, fashions, ideas) from another country. 2 strange in an attractive way.

expand (ɪk'spænd) 1 *vti* make or become larger. 2 *vi* (followed by **on**) tell in more detail.

expanse (ɪk'spæns) *nc* a wide area, esp. of land, sky, or sea.

expansion (ɪk'spænʃən) *nu* an increase in size. **expansive** (ɪk'spænsɪv) *adj* 1 able or likely to get larger. 2 (of a person) ready and willing to show their feelings, thoughts, etc.

expatriate (eks'pætrɪət) *nc* a person who has left their own country to live abroad. • *adj* (of a person) living abroad; exiled. • (eks'pætrɪeɪt) *vt* cause (someone) to leave their own country to live abroad. **expatriation** (eks,pætrɪ'eɪʃən) *ncu*

expect (ɪk'spekt) *vt* 1 believe (something) will happen. 2 wait for (someone) to come. **be expecting** (of a woman) be pregnant. **expectant** (ɪk'spektənt) *adj* waiting for something to happen. **expectancy** (ɪk'spektənsɪ) *nu* **expectation** (,ekspek'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* waiting for something to happen. 2 *nc* the thing that is expected.

expedient (ɪk'spiːdɪənt) *adj* 1 wise or useful at a particular time. 2 not fair, but helpful. • *nc* something that is expedient.

expedite ('ekspɪdaɪt) *vt* hasten the progress of; finish or send quickly.

expedition (,ekspɪ'dɪʃən) *nc* a journey made in order to explore or discover.

expel (ɪk'spel) *vt* send (someone) away from a school, country, etc., by force, esp. as a punishment.

expend (ɪk'spend) *vt* 1 spend (money, time, care, etc.). 2 use up. **expendable** (ɪk'spendəbəl) *adj* not needed.

expenditure (ɪk'spendɪtʃə*) *nu* 1 spending. 2 using. 3 *nc* an amount of money, etc., spent.

expense (ɪk'spens) 1 *nu* money spent; cost. 2 *nc* money used for something: *travelling expenses.* **at the expense of** causing the loss of. **expensive** (ɪk'spensɪv) *adj* costing a lot of money. **expensively** *adv*

experience (ɪk'spɪərɪəns) 1 *nu* seeing or living through an event, happening, etc.; knowledge obtained in this way. 2 *nc* an event that has given you knowledge, skill, etc. • *vt* have (an) experience of. **experienced** (ɪk'spɪərɪənst) *adj* skilled in or having knowledge of.

experiment (ɪk'sperɪmənt) *nc* a test to find out what happens, esp. in science. • *vi* make an experiment. **experimental** (ɪk,sperɪ'mentəl) *adj* **experimentation** (ɪk,sperɪmen'teɪʃən) *nu* **experimenter** *nc*

expert ('ekspɜːt) *nc* a person with a lot of knowledge in a particular subject. • *adj* 1 (of an action) done with skill. 2 (of a person) having special knowledge or skill. **expertly** *adv*

expertise (,ekspɜː'tiːz) *nu* special knowledge about a particular subject.

expire (ɪk'spaɪə*) *vi* 1 *fml* die. 2 (of a length of time) come to an end. **expiration** (,ekspɪ'reɪʃən) *nu* **expiry** (ɪk'spaɪərɪ) *nu* the end, esp. of a licence or a business agreement.

explain (ɪk'spleɪn) *vt* 1 make plain or clear. 2 give the meaning of. 3 give reasons for. **explanation** (,ekspləˈneɪʃən) *ncu* **explanatory** (ɪk'splænətərɪ) *adj*

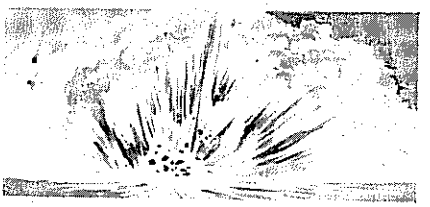
explicit (ɪk'splɪsɪt) *adj* plainly and clearly said, with nothing left out. **explicitly** *adv*

explode (ɪk'spləʊd) *vi* 1 burst with a loud noise. 2 show anger: *explode with rage.* 3 *vt* make (something) burst with a loud noise.

exploit ('eksplɔɪt) *nc* a brave or noble act. • (ɪk'splɔɪt) *vt* 1 make use of. 2 use (someone) unfairly, esp. for your own profit. **exploitation** (,eksplɔɪ'teɪʃən) *nu*

explore (ɪk'splɔː*) *vt* 1 travel round (a country, etc.) to learn more about it. 2 look at or think about carefully: *explore every possibility.* **exploration** (,eksplə'reɪʃən) *ncu* **exploratory** (ɪk'splɒrətərɪ) *adj* **explorer** *nc*

explosion (ɪk'spləʊʒən) *nc* a sudden bursting with a loud noise: see picture. **explosive** (ɪk'spləʊsɪv) *adj* likely to **explode** (defs. 1, 2). • *nc* a substance which can explode. **explosively** *adv*



explosion

exponent (ɪk'spəʊnənt) *nc* 1 a person or thing that explains the meaning of, or represents something. 2 *mathematics* the number of times another number is to be multiplied by itself.

exponential (,eskpə'nenʃəl) *adj mathematics* of, containing, or to do with a number that has been multiplied by itself a number of times.

export (ɪk'spɔːt) *vt* send (goods) abroad in order to sell. • ('ekspɔːt) 1 *nu* the act of exporting. 2 *nc* a thing that is exported. **exporter** (ɪk'spɔːtə*) *nc*

expose (ik'spəʊz) *vt* 1 uncover. 2 leave unprotected from harm. 3 make known; reveal.

exposition (,ekspəʊ'zɪʃən) 1 *nu* explaining. 2 *nc* an explanation.

expostulate (ɪk'spɒstjʊleɪt) *vi* make a mild protest; argue. **expostulation** (ɪk,spɒstjʊ'leɪʃən) *nu*

exposure (ɪk'spəʊʒə*) 1 *nu* exposing

or being exposed: *exposure to heat.* 2 *nc* a single photograph, or one of the parts of a roll of film that can make a photograph.

expound (ɪk'spaʊnd) *vt* explain with the details.

express (ɪk'spres) *vt* show or represent, esp. in words. • *adj* 1 clearly and exactly said: *It was her express wish.* 2 fast: *express train.* • *nc* a train. **expression** (ɪk'spreʃən) 1 *nu* showing your feelings or meaning by words or actions: *He gave expression to his anger. nc* 2 an example of something expressed: *Expressions of thanks were given.* 3 a word or set of words. **expressionless** *adj* not showing your feelings. **expressive** (ɪk'spresɪv) *adj* **expressly** *adv* clearly and specially. **expressway** *nc US* a wide road made for fast traffic.

expulsion (ɪk'spʌlʃən) *nc* forcing to leave or being forced to leave as a punishment, esp. from school or a country.

exquisite ('ekskwɪzɪt, ɪk'skwɪzɪt) *adj* of great beauty. **exquisitely** *adv*

extant (ek'stænt) *adj fml* (esp. of a piece of writing or printing) still existing.

extend (ɪk'stend) *vt* 1 make longer, wider, or larger: *extend your holiday; extend the garden.* 2 offer: *extend an invitation.* 3 *vi* stretch. **extension** (ɪk'stenʃən) 1 *nu* extending. 2 *nc* the part, etc., that is added. **extensive** (ɪk'stensɪv) *adj* stretching very far; that includes much. **extensively** *adv*

extensor (ɪk'stensə*) *nc anatomy* a muscle that stretches part of the body, such as the arm or the leg. See also **flexor.**

extent (ɪk'stent) *nu* 1 size; length; space or area. 2 degree or amount: *to some extent.*

exterior (ek'stɪərɪə*) *adj* to do with the outside. • *nc* the outside.

exterminate (ɪk'stɜːmɪneɪt) *vt* destroy. **extermination** (ɪk,stɜːmɪ'neɪʃən) *nu*

external (ek'stɜːnəl) *adj* of or on the outside. **externally** *adv*

extinct (ɪk'stɪŋkt) *adv* 1 no longer existing: *Some animals have become extinct.* 2 no longer able to burn or burst out: *an extinct volcano.* **extinction** (ɪk'stɪŋkʃən) *nu*

extinguish (ɪk'stɪŋgwɪʃ) *vt* put out (a fire or a light). **extinguisher** (ɪk'stɪŋgwɪʃə*) *nc* See **fire extinguisher** under **fire.**

extol (ɪk'stəʊl) *vt fml* praise highly.

extort (ɪk'stɔːt) *vt* obtain by force or threat. **extortion** (ɪk'stɔːʃən) *ncu* **extortionate** (ɪk'stɔːʃənət) *adj* (of prices, etc.) very high; too great.

extra ('ekstrə) *adj* more; more than is needed. • *nc* an added cost; something extra. • *adv* more than usually.

extract (ɪk'strækt) *vt* 1 take out: *extract a tooth.* 2 copy out (a part of a book). 3 obtain (juices, etc.) by pressing, crushing, or boiling. • ('ekstrækt) 1 *nc* a part taken from a book, etc. 2 *nu* the best part obtained by crushing, etc.: *beef extract.* **extraction** (ɪk'strækʃən) *nu* 1 taking or being taken out. 2 the family line of a person, from early times.

extradite ('ekstrə,daɪt) *vt* send (someone accused of a crime) to another country, esp. their own, for trial in a court of law. **extradition** (,ekstrə'dɪʃən) *nu*

extraordinary (ɪk'strɔːdnərɪ) *adj* very unusual. **extraordinarily** (ɪk'strɔːdnərəlɪ) *adj*

extravagant (ɪk'strævəgənt) *adj* (of money, ideas, or behaviour) wasteful; going beyond what is usual. **extravagance** (ɪk'strævəgəns) 1 *nu* being wasteful. 2 *nc* an example of being wasteful.

extreme (ɪk'striːm) *adj* 1 as far as possible from the middle; at either end of anything. 2 very great: *extreme pain; extreme kindness.* • *nc* 1 either end of anything. 2 (*pl*) things as different as possible: *extremes of heat and cold.* **extremist** *nc* a person whose opinions, etc., are too strong. **extremity** (ɪk'stremɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 furthest point. 2 (*pl*) hands and feet.

extricate ('ekstrɪ,keɪt) *vt* free (someone) from a difficult situation or from a place where they are trapped.

extrovert ('ekstrəvɜːt) *nc* a person whose thoughts are turned to life around them rather than to themselves. See also **introvert.**

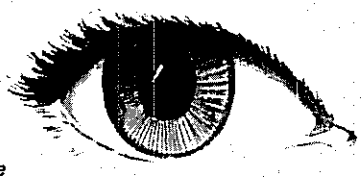
exuberant (ɪg'zjuːbərənt) *adj* 1 full of high spirits; lively. 2 (of plants) growing freely and in plenty. **exuberance** (ɪg'zjuːbərəns) *nu*

exude (ɪg'zjuːd) 1 *vi* (of a liquid) come out slowly: *Blood exuded from his wound.* 2 *vt* give off (fluid, etc.) slowly.

exult (ɪg'zʌlt) *vi* great joy; show joy because of success or victory over another person. **exultant** (ɪg'zʌltənt) *adj* **exultation** (,egzʌl'teɪʃən) *nu*

eye (aɪ) *nc* 1 the part of the body with which we see: see picture. 2 a small eye-shaped hole, esp. of a needle. • *vt* watch or look at (someone or something): *He eyed them carefully.* **have an eye for** have the ability to recognise or judge (esp. beauty, a bargain, or an opportunity). **in the eyes of** in the opinion of. **keep an eye on** take care of; watch carefully. **see eye to eye with** agree with in every way. **eyeball** ('aɪbɔːl) *nc* the eye itself behind its lids. **eyebrow** ('aɪbraʊ) *nc* the curve of hair above the eye. **eyelash**

('aɪlæʃ) *nc* one of a row of hairs on the edge of the eyelid. **eyelid** ('aɪlɪd) *nc* the upper and lower covers over the eye. **eyesight** ('aɪsaɪt) *nu* the power of seeing. **eyesore** ('aɪsɔː*) *nc* something that is very unpleasant to look at: *The new office block is an eyesore.* **eye-witness** ('aɪˌwɪtnɪs) *nc* a person who sees an event.



eye

F

fable ('feɪbəl) *nc* a short story, sometimes about animals, teaching about good and bad behaviour.

fabric ('fæbrɪk) 1 *ncu* material made from cotton, wool, silk, etc. 2 *nu* something built or put together: *the fabric of society.*

fabricate ('fæbrɪkeɪt) *vt* 1 make up (something, esp. a story) in order to deceive. 2 build; put together. **fabrication** (ˌfæbrɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu*

fabulous ('fæbjʊləs) *adj* 1 *infml* wonderful. 2 almost too difficult to believe. 3 of, in, or from a fable.

façade (fə'sɑɪd) *nc* 1 the part of a building facing the street. 2 a false appearance.

face (feɪs) *nc* 1 the front part of the head. 2 the front part or surface of something: *a clock face.* 3 (of a person) a look: *a smiling face.* **face to face** meeting together. **lose face** lose your good reputation; lose the respect of. **pull a face** twist your face to show you are not pleased, etc. **face-cloth** *nc* a small cloth for washing the face. **face value** the value of something judged by its appearance. • *vt* 1 meet without fear: *face danger.* 2 *vti* (cause to) have the face or front towards (a certain direction). **face up to** accept and deal with in a brave way.

facet ('fæsɪt) *nc* 1 one of the sides of a cut diamond, etc. 2 one particular way of looking at something: *one facet of the problem.*

facetious (fə'siːʃəs) *adj* making a joke, esp. at an unsuitable time. **facetiously** *adv*

facial ('feɪʃəl) *adj* of the face.

facile ('fæsaɪl) *adj often derogatory* easily said or done.

facilitate (fə'sɪlɪteɪt) *vt* make easy or easier.

facility (fə'sɪlɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 (often *pl*) a thing that is useful, esp. something provided for a particular purpose: *facilities for washing.* 2 *nu* ability to do something without difficulty.

facsimile (fæk'sɪmɪlɪ) *nc* a perfect copy, esp. of a piece of writing, a picture, etc.

fact (fækt) 1 *nc* something that has really happened or is certainly true. 2 *nu* truth: *The story is based on fact.* **in fact** really; (used for emphasis): *He was late—in fact he nearly didn't come at all.*

faction ('fækʃən) *nc* a small group of people, esp. in politics.

factor ('fæktə*) *nc* 1 one of the facts or conditions that help to produce a result: *Distance is a factor in speed; Money is an important factor in our discussions.* 2 *mathematics* a number (except one) that divides exactly into a larger number: *Two, four, five, and ten are factors of twenty.*

factorial (fæk'tɔːrɪəl) *nc mathematics* the result of multiplying a given number by all the numbers below it: *The factorial of 4 is* $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$.

factorise ('fæktəraɪz) *vt mathematics* change (a number) into the numbers that divide exactly into it.

factory ('fæktərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a building where goods are made.

factual ('fæktʃʊəl) *adj* to do with facts. **factually** *adv*

faculty ('fækəltɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a power of the mind or body. 2 a part of a university that teaches a particular subject or group of subjects: *Faculty of Science.*

fad (fæd) *nc* an interest likely to last for a short time only.

fade (feɪd) *vti* (cause to) slowly lose colour or freshness. **fade away** slowly lose colour, freshness, or strength; (of sights or sounds) get less until no longer seen or heard.

fag (fæg) *nc* 1 *slang* a cigarette. 2 *Brit* an unwanted task: *What a fag!* **be fagged (out)** *infml* be very tired after hard work.

faggot ('fægət) *nc* 1 a bundle of sticks tied together, used for making a fire. 2 a ball of meat.

Fahrenheit ('færənhaɪt) *adj* (used to describe degrees of temperature on a scale on which water freezes at 32 degrees and boils at 212 degrees: *abbrev.* F): *60°F.*

fail (feɪl) 1 *vt* be not able to succeed in (what you hoped to do); (*sometimes vi*) not succeed. 2 *vt* be not able to do (something); not do (something): *He failed to come.* 3 *vti* judge or be judged as unsuccessful, esp. in an examination: *The examiners failed the candidate.* 4 *vi* become weak; break down: *Her health failed; The engine failed.* • *nc* an unsuccessful attempt. **without fail** for certain, whatever happens. **failing** *nc* a fault or weak point: *Lack of courage is one of his failings.* **failure** ('feɪljə*) 1 *nu* the act of failing; lack of success. 2 *nc* a person, something, or an attempt that is not successful.

faint (feɪnt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not clearly seen, heard, tasted, or smelt. 2 (of a person) feeling ill and as if about to fall; weak. 3 (of

actions) with little force. 4 vague. • *vi* 1 fall and be no longer awake, because of illness, hunger, fear, etc. 2 become weak. • *nc* an example of being unconscious because of illness, hunger, fear, etc. **faint-hearted** *adj* not very brave. **faintly** *adv*

fair[1] (feə*) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 just or honest. 2 (of a person's skin or hair) pale; light in colour. 3 quite good. 4 average. **fairly** *adv* **fairness** *nu* **fair play** the same honest treatment for everyone.

fair[2] *nc* 1 a gathering of shows and entertainments for the public held outside at certain times. 2 a regular market for cattle, sheep, etc. 3 a large exhibition: *a trade fair.*

fairy ('feərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a small and magical creature. • *adj* of or like fairies; magic. **fairy-tale** *nc* 1 a story about fairies. 2 a lie, esp. as told by a child.

faith (feɪθ) 1 *nu* trust or belief (in someone or something). 2 *nc* a religion. **in bad faith** in order to deceive. **in good faith** with a sincere purpose. **faithful** ('feɪθful) *adj* 1 loyal or true to someone or something. 2 exact: *a faithful translation.* **faithfully** *adv* **yours faithfully** (used before your name at the end of a formal letter.) **faithless** *adj* 1 not loyal. 2 having no faith.

fake (feɪk) *nc* 1 a copy (of something) made in order to deceive: *fake jewels.* 2 someone who is not what they pretend to be. • *adj* false or pretended; not real. • *vt* 1 make a copy (of something), in order to deceive. 2 play at (a state of being ill, angry, etc.).

falcon ('fɔːlkən) *nc* a small, meat-eating bird trained to hunt other birds: see picture at **birds.**

fall (fɔːl) *vi* 1 drop down: *The rock fell; She fell and broke her leg.* 2 become less: *Prices fell.* 3 happen: *My birthday falls on a Monday this year.* 4 be overcome: *The city fell to the enemy.* **fall back** go back. **fall back on** turn to for help. **fall behind** fail to keep up with others. **fall behind with** do, or make, less than you should of (your work, regular payments, etc.). **fall for** *infml* be deceived or charmed by. **fall in** 1 collapse. 2 (of a soldier) take his place in a line of soldiers. **fall in with** 1 meet by chance and join (someone or something). 2 agree with. **fall off** become less in number or size. **fall on** attack. **fall out (with)** quarrel (with). **fall-out** ('fɔːlaʊt) *nu* flying radioactive dust after a nuclear explosion. **fall short of** fail to reach (the expected amount, level, etc.). **fall through** not happen when expected to; fail. • *nc* 1 dropping down: *a fall from his horse; a fall in prices.* 2 (*pl*) the place where a river drops over rocks or a cliff. 3 *US* autumn. 4 being overcome: *the fall of the Roman Empire.*

fallacy ('fæləsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** a false idea that seems to be true.

fallen ('fɔːlən) past participle of **fall.**

fallible ('fæləbəl) *adj* able to be wrong or to make mistakes.

Fallopian tube (fə'ləʊpɪən 'tjuːb) *anatomy* one of a pair of tubes in the female body, between the ovaries and the uterus, through which eggs pass.

fallow ('fæləʊ) *adj* (of land) ploughed but in which nothing has been planted.

false (fɔːls) *adj* 1 not true: *a false idea.* 2 not faithful: *a false friend.* 3 deceiving: *a false witness.* 4 not real: *false teeth.* **false alarm** a warning about something bad, unpleasant, or dangerous that does not happen. **falsehood** ('fɔːlshʊd) *nc* a lie. **falsely** *adv*

falsify ('fɔːlsɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 make false. 2 give a false account of. **falsification** (ˌfɔːlsɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu*

falter ('fɔːltə*) 1 *vi* move or walk in an unsteady way through fear, illness, etc. 2 *vti* (of a person) speak unsteadily.

fame (feɪm) *nu* being famous. **famed** (feɪmd) *adj* well-known; famous.

familiar (fə'mɪljə*, fə'mɪlɪə*) *adj* 1 known; able to be recognised. 2 usual. 3 not showing enough respect. **familiar to** well-known to (someone). **be familiar with** know about; know well. **familiarise** (fə'mɪljəraɪz) *vt* cause (someone, esp. yourself) to get to know something well: *familiarise yourself with the layout of the building.* **familiarity** (fəˌmɪlɪ'ærɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being familiar. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** an act showing too little respect.

family ('fæmɪlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** 1 a unit of parents and children. 2 the children of the same father and mother: *Have you any family?* 3 all the people coming from the ancestors from early times, who are all related to each other. 4 a group of animals, plants, etc., that have things in common. • *adj* of or for a family. **family planning** the control of the number of children that a man and a woman have, and when they have them, esp. by using contraception.

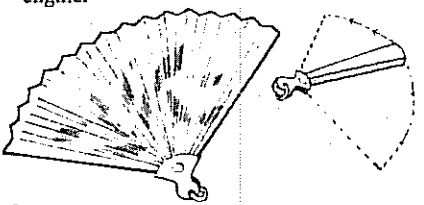
famine ('fæmɪn) *ncu* a (time of) great lack of food in a country.

famished ('fæmɪʃt) *adj infml* very hungry.

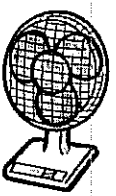
famous ('feɪməs) *adj* very well-known, esp. for something pleasing.

fan (fæn) *nc* 1 an object held folded, then spread out for moving air to cool the face: see picture. 2 a machine for moving air to cool a room, etc.: see picture. 3 *infml*

someone who admires a singer, football team, etc. • *vt* move the air to cool (yourself, a room, etc.). **fan belt** a belt in an engine that turns the fan that cools the engine.



fan 1



fan 2

fanatic (fə'nætɪk) *nc* a person with too much and often unwise, enthusiasm on a certain subject. **fanatical** (fə'nætɪkəl) *adj* **fanaticism** (fə'nætɪsɪzəm) *nu* being a fanatic.

fancy ('fænsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 *nu* imagination. *nc* 2 something imagined. 3 a desire for. • *adj* decorated; not plain: *fancy cakes.* • *vt* 1 imagine. 2 think or feel, but not know with certainty. 3 have a liking or wish for. **fanciful** ('fænsɪful) *adj* using imagination, not reason. **fancy dress** clothing that makes you look like someone else, such as a character from a story or from history, worn for parties, etc.

fanfare ('fænfeə*) *nc* the sound of trumpets blown together.

fang (fæŋ) *nc* a long, sharp, pointed tooth, esp. of a dog or snake.

fantastic (fæn'tæstɪk) *adj* 1 very strange. 2 *infml* wonderful; very good.

fantasy ('fæntəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** 1 a strange picture in the mind. 2 a strange and wild idea or piece of writing or music.

far (fɑ:*) *adj* **farther, farthest; further, furthest** distant. **the Far East** See under **east.** • *adv* 1 not near; a long way. 2 much: *far better.* **as** or **so far as** 1 up to the place of. 2 as much as: *So far as I know she went abroad.* **far and away** very much. **so far** up to now. **far away** to a great distance. **faraway** ('fɑ:rəweɪ) *adj* 1 distant. 2 (of a person's eyes) dreamy; full of thoughts. **far back** 1 a long way from the front. 2 long ago. 3 the greatest distance from the front. **far-fetched** (ˌfɑ:'fetʃt) *adj* difficult to believe; unlikely to be true. **far-flung** (ˌfɑ:'flʌŋ) *adj* having a wide extent. **far-off** ('fɑ:rɒf) *adj* distant. **far-reaching** (ˌfɑ:'ri:tʃɪŋ) *adj* having many effects. **far-sighted** (ˌfɑ:'saɪtɪd) *adj* 1 (of eyes) able to see far things clearly. 2 able to see the future clearly.

farce (fɑ:s) 1 *nc* a play or event having absurd situations which make you laugh. 2 *nu* this type of play. **farcical** ('fɑ:sɪkəl) *adj*

fare (feə*) *nc* 1 the price of a ticket when travelling. 2 a passenger in a taxi. 3 *nu old-fashioned* food set before you, esp. at a restaurant, hotel, etc. • *vi old-fashioned* get on; progress: *How did you fare?*

farewell (ˌfeə'wel) *n, interj* goodbye.

farm (fɑ:m) *nc* a piece of land with fields for growing crops, raising cattle, etc. • *vt* 1 use (land) to grow crops, raise cattle, etc. 2 *vi* lead the life of one who works on the land to produce food. **farm out (to)** send work out for others to do: *The job was farmed out to three people.* **farmer** ('fɑ:mə*) *nc* a man who owns or is in charge of a farm. **farmhouse** *nc* **farming** *nu* **farmland** *nu* **farmyard** *nc* an open space near to farm buildings.

farther ('fɑ:ðə*) *adj* more distant. • *adv* to or at a greater distance.

farthest ('fɑ:ðɪst) *adj* most distant. • *adv* to or at the greatest distance.

fascinate ('fæsɪneɪt) *vt* 1 attract greatly. 2 take all your attention. **fascinating** *adj* **fascination** (ˌfæsɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu*

fascism ('fæʃɪzəm) *nu* a system of government in which the single leader has not been chosen by the people. **fascist** *nc*

fashion ('fæʃən) *nu* 1 a way or manner of doing something. 2 style in clothes, behaviour, etc., that is most popular at a certain time. 3 *nc* an example of this style, behaviour, etc. • *vt* make or shape. **in** or **out of fashion** in or not in use, popular or not popular, etc., at a certain time. **fashionable** ('fæʃnəbəl) *adj*

fast[1] (fɑ:st) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 quick. 2 (of a clock or watch) showing a time later than the real time. 3 not easily moved: *The mud has stuck fast to my shoes.* 4 (of colours) not fading. • *adv* quickly.

fast[2] *vi* eat no food, esp. for religious reasons. • *nc* an act or time of fasting.

fasten ('fɑ:sən) 1 *vt* fix firmly; tie; join (together); close up, lock: *Fasten the suitcase; Fasten your coat.* 2 *vi* become firmly fixed. **fastener** ('fɑ:snə*) *nc* **fastening** *nc*

fastidious (fə'stɪdɪəs) *adj* difficult to please; finding fault with small things.

fat (fæt) *adj* **-ter, -test** not thin; too heavy. • *nu* 1 the oily substance found in man and animals. 2 the oily substance used in cooking. 3 *nc* a kind of such a substance: *animal fats.* **fatten** *vti* make or become fat. **fattening** *adj* likely to make you fat: *fattening foods.* **fatty** *adj*

fatal ('feɪtəl) *adj* very serious; ending in death or ruin. **fatalism** ('feɪtəlɪzəm) *nu* believing that fate decides all that happens. **fatality** (fə'tælɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** death caused by an accident; disaster. **fatally** *adv*

fate (feɪt) 1 *nu* the power that is thought to decide all that happens. 2 *nc* a person's future as decided by this power. **fated** *adj* decided or controlled by fate; bound to happen: *They were fated never to meet again.* **fateful** ('feɪtfʊl) *adj* 1 governed by fate. 2 having serious results.

father ('fɑːðə*) *nc* (*infml abbrevs.* **dad, daddy**) 1 a male parent. 2 **Father** God. 3 a priest. **Father Christmas** See **Santa Claus.** **father-in-law** ('fɑːðərɪnlɔː) *nc, pl* **fathers-in-law** the male parent of your husband or wife. **fatherhood** ('fɑːðəhʊd) *nu* the state of being a father. **fatherland** *nc* the country of your birth. **fatherly** *adj* to do with or like a father.

fathom ('fæðəm) *nc* (of water) a measure of six feet or 1.8 m. • *vt* (often followed by **out**) understand; find out.

fatigue (fə'tiːg) 1 *nu* being very tired. 2 *nc* a tiring task, esp. of soldiers. • *vt* make very tired.

fatwa (also **fatwah**) ('fætwɑː) *nc* a statement, order, or decision made by a leader of the Islamic religion.

faucet ('fɔːsɪt) *nc chiefly US* See **tap²**.

fault (fɔːlt) *nc* 1 a mark that spoils something. 2 a weakness in a person's character. 3 *nu* responsibility for being wrong: *It's your fault.* 4 *nc* a break in a layer of rock. **faultless** *adj* **faulty** *adv*

fauna ('fɔːnə) *nu* all the animals living at a certain place and time.

favour *US* **favor** ('feɪvə*) 1 *nu* being friendly, helpful, or kind to; approval. 2 *nc* a small act of kindness. 3 *nu* support: *in favour of helping other people.* • *vt* 1 treat kindly; show favour to; be helpful. 2 approve; encourage. 3 support (someone or some idea). 4 prefer; like or treat better. **do (someone) a favour** be of help to someone. **in** or **out of favour** having or not having the approval or support of people in general, or of a person in authority. **favourable** ('feɪvərəbəl) *adj* helpful; that produces good results. **favourite** ('feɪvərɪt) *adj, nc* 1 (a person or thing) that is loved or liked more than all others. 2 (a person or horse, etc.), expected to win a race, competition, etc. **favouritism** ('feɪvərɪ,tɪzəm) *nu* liking and treating one person better than others; giving one person support or preference in a way that is unfair to others.

fawn (fɔːn) *nc* a young deer. • *adj* (of colour) pale yellowish-brown.

fax (fæks) *nc* 1 a copy of a printed or written message, drawing, etc., sent by telephone. 2 a machine for sending such messages: see picture. 3 *nu* the system by which such messages are sent: *by fax.* • *vt* send (a message, etc.) by fax.

fax

fear (fɪə*) 1 *ncu* an unpleasant feeling caused by being in danger. 2 *nu* deep respect: *fear of God.* • *vt* 1 be afraid of. 2 *vi* be afraid; hesitate to do something. **for fear of** in case of. **fear for** be afraid about: *fear for their safety.* **fearful** *adj* 1 afraid. 2 *infml* very great; bad. 3 terrible. **fearless** *adj* not afraid; brave.

feasible ('fiːzəbəl) *adj* 1 able to be done; possible. 2 seeming to be likely or true.

feast (fiːst) *nc* 1 a day to celebrate a joyful religious event. 2 a very large and delicious meal, esp. one for many guests. • *vi* 1 eat, have, or take part in a feast. 2 *vt* satisfy (the mind, eyes, ears, etc.) as if at a feast: *We feasted our eyes on the beautiful painting.*

feat (fiːt) *nc* a difficult act that is done very well, esp. one needing courage or skill.

feather ('feðə*) *nc* one of the coverings that grow on the skin of a bird: see picture. **feathery** *adj*

feather

feature ('fiːtʃə*) *nc* 1 a typical quality of something: *features of his writing.* 2 one of

the parts of the face, such as the eyes, nose, etc. 3 a long, important piece of writing in a newspaper. • *vt* include; bring attention to. **feature film** the main film in a cinema programme.

February ('februəri) *n* the second month of the year, after January and before March.

fed (fed) past tense and past participle of **feed. fed up with** *slang* bored with; annoyed by.

federal ('fedərəl) *adj* of a system of government in which states of a country unite in a central government, while each keeps control of some matters. **federalism** ('fedərəlizəm) *nu*

federate ('fedəreit) 1 *vi* join together into a federation. 2 *vt* put states into such a system. **federation** (ˌfedə'reiʃən) *nc* a federal system.

fee (fiː) *nc* a payment made for a special service, such as from a doctor, lawyer, etc.; money paid to join a club, library, society, etc.

feeble ('fiːbəl) *adj* **-r, -st** weak. **feeble-minded** (ˌfiːbəl'maindid) *adj* mentally weak. **feebly** *adv*

feed (fiːd) 1 *vt* give food to, esp. a baby, an animal, or an ill person. 2 *vi* (of animals) eat. • *nc* 1 a meal for babies or animals. 2 *nu* food for animals.

feedback ('fiːdbæk) *nu infml* information about a product, etc., given, esp. by the user to its maker.

feel (fiːl) *vt* 1 explore by touching. 2 be conscious of: *feel the cold.* 3 *vti* be affected by your feelings, thoughts, etc.: *I feel strongly about it.* 4 *vt* have an idea about: *He felt he would win.* • *nu* 1 the sense of touch. 2 the act of feeling. 3 the quality (of someone or something). **feeler** *nc* 1 one of two hair-like things on an insect's head, used for feeling. 2 a suggestion. **feeling** 1 *nu* ability to feel. *nc* 2 the experience of a mood, quality, or emotion. 3 a sensation (of heat, cold, etc.). **feel like** *infml* want. **feel up to** be able, and ready, to do something.

feet (fiːt) plural of **foot.**

feign (fein) *vt fml or literary* pretend.

feldspar ('feldˌspɑː*) *ncu* a (type of) hard mineral, containing aluminium, potassium, calcium, etc., that forms rocks.

feline ('fiːlain) *adj* of or like a cat.

fell¹ (fel) past tense of **fall.**

fell² *vt* make fall; cut down (a tree); knock down (a man).

fellow ('feləu) *nc* 1 *infml* a man. 2 someone who helps to govern a university; member of a learned society, esp. to do with the arts. • *adj* a person of the same class, group, etc.: *fellow citizens; fellow workers.* **fellowship** ('feləuʃip) 1 *nu* friendship. *nc* 2 a group of people with the same interests, etc. 3 the position of a university fellow.

felony ('felənɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** a very serious crime, esp. murder, burning a building, etc. **felon** ('felən) *nc* a person guilty of such a crime.

felt¹ (felt) past tense and past participle of **feel.**

felt² *nu* a kind of thick cloth, made by the pressing flat of wool, hair, etc.: *a felt hat.*

female ('fiːmeil) *adj, nc* 1 (to do with) a woman, girl, or other animal of the sex that is able to give birth. 2 (to do with) a plant producing fruit.

feminine ('feminin) *adj* 1 of or like a woman. 2 (in some languages) of a class of nouns usually including female people and animals. **femininity** (ˌfemɪ'nɪnɪtɪ) *nu* **feminism** ('feminizəm) *nu* a movement to obtain the right of women to be treated as equal to men. **feminist** ('feminist) *nc* a person who supports or believes in feminism.

femur ('fiːmə*) *nc* the bone in the human leg from the hip to the knee.

fence¹ (fens) *nc* 1 a wall of upright sticks of wood or metal, used in a field, garden, etc., esp. to keep animals in or people out. 2 *slang* a person who buys and sells stolen goods. **sit on the fence** support neither side in an argument. **fencing** *nu* material such as wood, etc., for making a fence.

fence² *vi* 1 practise fighting with long swords. 2 avoid answering a question. **fencer** ('fensə*) *nc* **fencing** *nu* fighting with swords in a skilled way.

fend (fend) *v* **fend for** take care of (yourself). **fend off** defend yourself from (an attack, etc.).

fender ('fendə*) *nc* 1 a metal guard put round a fireplace in a room, in case coal falls out. 2 *US* See **mudguard; wing** (def. 2).

ferment (fə'ment) 1 *vti* (cause to) go through a chemical change, esp. brought about by yeast, in which sugar becomes alcohol. 2 *vi* become excited. • ('fəːment) *nc* a substance that causes other substances to go through a chemical change. **(be) in a ferment** (be) very excited. **fermentation** (ˌfəːmen'teiʃən) *nu*

fern (fəːn) *nc* a plant with long, green leaves like feathers, and without flowers.

ferocious (fə'rəuʃəs) *adj* very fierce; cruel. **ferocity** (fə'rɒsɪtɪ) *nu*

ferret ('ferit) *nc* a small animal with a long body, used for killing rats or forcing

rabbits from their holes, etc. • *vi* go hunting with ferrets. **ferret (something) out** find (something) by searching; search out.

ferric ('ferɪk) *adj* to do with or containing iron.

ferrous ('ferəs) *adj* to do with or containing iron.

ferry ('ferɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a boat that takes people or goods from one side of a river, etc., to another. • *vt* 1 take across a river, etc., in a boat. 2 take (people, goods, etc.) from one place to another on land.

fertile ('fɜːtaɪl) *adj* 1 (of land) producing much; (of a person's mind) full of ideas. 2 able to produce children. **fertility** (fə'tɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

fertilise ('fɜːtɪlaɪz) *vt* 1 make (earth, etc.) fertile. 2 make (a female seed, egg, etc.) able to produce. **fertilisation** (ˌfɜːtɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu* **fertiliser** ('fɜːtɪlaɪzə*) *nc* a substance added to earth in order to produce better crops.

fervent ('fɜːvənt) *adj* very enthusiastic; eager. **fervently** *adv* **fervour** ('fɜːvə*) *nu* being fervent.

fester ('festə*) *vi* 1 (of a wound, etc.) become full of poison. 2 (of the mind, etc.) continue to be bitter and angry.

festival ('festɪvəl) *nc* an occasion of entertainments, etc., esp. one that takes place each year to celebrate a religious event, or in connection with the arts: *a film festival.*

festive ('festɪv) *adj* of a festival or feast day; joyful. **festivity** (fe'stɪvɪtɪ) *nu* **festivities** *n pl* happy and joyful events.

festoon (fe'stuːn) *nc* a chain made of coloured paper, ribbons, flowers, across a room, etc., as a decoration. • *vt* hang or decorate with festoons.

fetch (fetʃ) *vt* 1 go for and bring back: *fetch the doctor; Please fetch my coat.* 2 bring in; sell for (a price).

fête (feɪt) *nc* an entertainment or festival at which money is raised for a special purpose: *church fête; garden fête.* • *vt* honour; give much attention to.

fetish ('fetɪʃ) *nc* 1 something believed to have magic power, esp. by a person who does not believe in any religion. 2 anything to which foolish or unnatural attention is given.

fetter ('fetə*) *nc* 1 a chain for a prisoner's feet. 2 (often *pl*) anything that stops a person's progress. • *vt* 1 put in chains. 2 control or prevent.

fetus ('fiːtəs) *n* See **foetus.**

feud (fjuːd) *nc* a quarrel that has continued for a long time, esp. between two people, families, or groups.

feudal ('fjuːdəl) *adj history* of the system of people holding land in return for giving their services to the owner. **feudalism** ('fjuːdəlɪzəm) *nu*

fever ('fiːvə*) *nu* 1 a high temperature of the body, esp. caused by illness. 2 anxiety or excitement. 3 *nc* an illness causing high temperature of the body. **feverish** *adj* **feverishly** *adv*

few (fjuː) *adj* **-er, -est** *pron* (*with a plural n*) not many: *He made few mistakes in his work.* **a few** a small number of; some. **few and far between** not happening often.

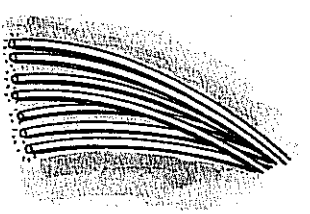
fez (fez) *nc* a hat without a brim, worn by men in some countries.

fiancé (fɪ'ɒnseɪ) *nc* a man whom a woman has promised to marry. **fiancée** (fɪ'ɒnseɪ) *nc* a woman whom a man has promised to marry.

fiasco (fɪ'æskəʊ) *nc* a complete failure.

fib (fɪb) *infml nc* a lie, esp. not a serious one. • *vi* tell a fib.

fibre *US* **fiber** ('faɪbə*) 1 *nc* one of the hair-like parts that form a substance: *cotton fibre; nerve fibre. nu* 2 a substance made up of hair-like parts. 3 the way hair-like parts of a substance are arranged: *material of loose fibre.* **fibreglass** ('faɪbəglɑːs) *nu* fibres of glass woven together, made into a material for building or a substance for preventing loss of heat. **fibre optics** *nu* (*with singular verb*) the use of very thin glass tubes to carry light and information: see picture. **fibrous** ('faɪbrəs) *adj*



fibre optics

fibril ('faɪbrɪl) *nc biology* a small fibre; part of a muscle, etc., that is like a thread.

fibroid ('faɪbrɔɪd) also **fibroma** (faɪ'brəʊmə) *nc medicine* a tumour made up of fibrous tissue: *Fibroids are not malignant growths.*

fibrositis (ˌfaɪbrə'saɪtɪs) *nu medicine* inflammation of the fibrous tissue around the muscles.

fickle ('fɪkəl) *adj* likely to change. **fickleness** *nu*

fiction ('fɪkʃən) 1 *nc* something that is imagined. 2 *nu* stories. **fictional** *adj* of or from fiction. **fictitious** (fɪk'tɪʃəs) *adj* not real; invented.

fiddle ('fɪdəl) *infml nc* 1 a violin. 2 the act of cheating, esp. in business. • *vi* 1 play the fiddle. 2 make small, useless, movements; do things without a purpose: *She fiddled with her necklace; He did nothing but fiddle about.* 3 *vt* cheat, esp. in business. **fiddler** *nc infml* 1 a person who plays a fiddle. 2 a person who cheats. **fiddling** *adj infml* useless; unimportant. **fiddly** *adj infml* difficult to do, use, etc., esp. because of smallness.

fidelity (fɪ'delɪtɪ) *nu* 1 being loyal or faithful. 2 being exact or correct. **high fidelity** See under **high.**

fidget ('fɪdʒɪt) *vi* move about in a restless way. • *nc* a person who fidgets.

field (fi:ld) *nc* 1 a piece of land for cattle or for growing crops, etc., esp. surrounded by stone walls, hedges, etc. 2 any large, open space: *a football field.* 3 a subject of interest, activity, etc.: *His field is politics.* 4 an area of land where minerals are found and removed: *a coalfield.* 5 the area over which something extends, has an effect, etc.: *field of vision; magnetic field.* **fielder** *nc* (in cricket and baseball) a person whose purpose is to stop or catch the ball. **field marshal** the officer with the highest position in the army. **field study** the study of a subject by getting information from visiting and talking to people.

fiend (fi:nd) *nc* 1 a devil; very cruel person. 2 someone who gives their whole mind or all their time to something particular: *a fiend for hard work; a drug fiend.* **fiendish** *adj* very cruel.

fierce (fɪəs) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 violent; cruel: *fierce temper; a fierce wind.* 2 intense: *fierce heat.* **fiercely** *adv* **fierceness** *nu*

fiery ('faɪərɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 very hot; like fire. 2 (of a person) easily made angry.

fifteen (ˌfɪf'ti:n) *determiner, n* the number 15. **fifteenth** (ˌfɪf'ti:nθ) *determiner, n, adv* **fifth** (fɪfθ) *determiner, n, adv* of the number 5. **fifty** ('fɪftɪ) *determiner, n* 50. **fifty-fifty** *adj* equal: *a fifty-fifty chance.* • *adv* equally; in half: *We shared the profits fifty-fifty.* **fiftieth** ('fɪftɪɪθ) *determiner, n, adv*

fig (fɪg) *nc* a small, sweet fruit with many small seeds: see picture at **fruits.**

fight (faɪt) 1 *vi* use force; struggle; resist. *vt* 2 use force or struggle against (someone or something). 3 try to overcome: *fight fear; fight disease.* • *nc* 1 a battle between two or more people or animals. 2 a boxing match. 3 *nu* (of a person) courage; spirit. **fighter** *nc* 1 a person who fights. 2 a fast plane that attacks enemy planes.

figment ('fɪgmənt) *nc* something that is invented or imagined: *a figment of the imagination.*

figurative ('fɪgjʊrətɪv) *adj* (of words) that represent something rather than give its exact meaning: *'I could eat a horse' is a figurative way of saying 'I am very hungry'.* **figuratively** *adv*

figure ('fɪgə*) *nc* 1 the shape of the human body: *She has a good figure.* 2 a number, esp. written down: *the figure 8; He's not good at figures.* 3 a drawing, painting, or shape cut out in stone, etc., of a person, animal, bird, etc. 4 (esp. in a book) a drawing or plan to explain something. • *vt* 1 *infml, US* think. 2 *vi* appear: *He figures in the new play.* **figurehead** *nc* 1 a decorative figure, cut out in wood, placed at the painted front of a ship. 2 a person in an important position but without much influence. **figure of speech** a set of words that represent something rather than give an exact meaning. **figure out** solve; understand (something) after working it out.

filament ('fɪləmənt) *nc* a hair-like piece; thin metal wire in an electric light.

file[1] (faɪl) *nc* a steel tool with a rough surface for making things smooth or shorter. • *vt* make smooth or cut with a file: *file your nails.* **filings** *n pl* very small pieces of metal produced by filing.

file[2] *nc* a container, esp. a box, drawer, or cover, for keeping papers, etc., together and in the right order. • *vt* 1 place in a file. 2 *vi* march, one behind the other. **rank and file** ordinary soldiers; ordinary people. **filing cabinet** a piece of furniture with drawers in which files are kept.

filial ('fɪljəl) *adj fml* to do with a son or daughter.

filariasis (ˌfɪlə'raɪəsɪs) *nu medicine* a disease caused when a tiny worm carried by mosquitoes enters the blood or lymph of a person or animal.

fill (fɪl) 1 *vi* become full. 2 *vt* make (someone or something) full. **fill in** finish or make complete, by adding what is needed: *He filled in an application form for the job.* **fill out** 1 become fatter or larger. 2 *chiefly US* fill in. **fill up** make or become full. **filling** *nc* material used by a dentist to fill up a hole in a tooth. **filling-station** *nc* a place where petrol is bought to fill up a car engine.

fillet ('fɪlɪt) *nc* a thin piece of meat or fish with the bones removed. • *vt* take out the bones from meat or fish.

filly ('fɪlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** a young, female horse.

film (fɪlm) *nc* 1 a thin layer or covering: *a*

film of dust. 2 a roll of thin material used for making photographs. 3 a series of moving photographs shown at the cinema or on television for entertainment, to give information, etc. • *vti* 1 make a cinema or television film. 2 *vi* become covered in a thin layer. **film star** a person who acts in cinema or television films. **film-strip** a long, narrow piece of film with photographs on it. **filmy** *adj* like a thin layer or coating.

filter ('fɪltə*) *nc* a device for removing solid or impure matter from a liquid when the liquid is passed through it. • *vti* 1 pass through a filter. 2 *vi* (of news, ideas, a crowd, etc.) pass, flow, or come through.

filth (fɪlθ) *nu* disgusting dirt. **filthy** *adj*

filtrate ('fɪltreɪt) *nu* the pure matter obtained after being passed through a filter.

fin (fɪn) *nc* one of the parts, like a small wing, that a fish uses in swimming: see picture.

fin

final ('faɪnəl) *adj* 1 coming at the end; last. 2 that settles an argument, etc. • *nc* (often *pl*) the last of a set of matches, examinations, etc. **finalise** ('faɪnəlaɪz) *vt* finish. **finalist** ('faɪnəlɪst) *nc* a person who takes part in a final. **finality** (faɪ'nælɪtɪ) *nu* being completely settled or finished with. **finally** *adv*

finale (fɪ'nɑːlɪ) *nc* the last part of an opera, play, piece of music, etc.; end.

finance (faɪ'næns) *nu* the science of controlling public money. **finances** *n pl* money belonging to a person, a state, or a business. • *vt* provide money for (a business, plan, etc.). **financial** (faɪ'nænʃəl) *adj* to do with money matters. **financier** (faɪ'nænsɪə*) *nc* a person with a special knowledge of money matters; person who controls much money.

finch (fɪntʃ) *nc* a small bird noted for its song.

find (faɪnd) *vt* 1 discover: *They found buried treasure.* 2 get back (something or someone) that was lost, etc. 3 realise or learn. 4 judge: *The court found him guilty.* • *nc* something found, esp. something valuable or useful: *a good find.* **finder** *nc* a person who discovers something that was lost. **finding** *nc* (usually *pl*) the result found after investigation, esp. by a court of law. **find out** learn by asking, etc.; discover: *Did you find out when the film starts?*

fine[1] (faɪn) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of weather) bright and clear; with the sun shining. 2 beautiful; good; pleasing: *fine clothes.* 3 of very small pieces; thin: *Salt is a fine white substance; fine cloth.* **fine arts** painting, drawing, and sculpture. **finely** *adv*

fine[2] *nc* a sum of money to be paid as a punishment for breaking a law or a rule. • *vt* demand a fine from (someone).

finesse (fɪ'nes) *nu* a clever way of dealing with people or a difficult situation so that things go well.

finger ('fɪŋgə*) *nc* one of the long end parts of a hand: *She wore rings on her fingers.* • *vt* touch, feel, or rub with the fingers. **fingernail** *nc* the hard substance at the end of a finger. **fingerprint** *nc* a mark made by the skin of the finger when pressed onto something. **fingertip** *nc*

finish ('fɪnɪʃ) 1 *vti* bring or come to an end: *Work finishes at five o'clock.* 2 *vt* make perfect. • *nu* 1 the last part. 2 being perfect or complete, esp. furniture: *The table has a beautiful finish.* 3 the quality of a surface: *The chair has a rough finish.*

finite ('faɪnaɪt) *adj* having limits; having an end: *Man's knowledge is finite.*

fiord (also **fjord**) (fjɔːd) *nc* a long, narrow piece of sea, between high cliffs.

fir (fɜː*) *nc* a tree that bears cones and has green, needle-like leaves throughout the year: see picture at **trees.**

fire ('faɪə*) 1 *nu* the condition of burning with flames. 2 *nc* a pile of burning coal, wood, etc., to provide heat. 3 a device that uses electricity or gas to heat a room, etc. • *vt* 1 excite: *fire the imagination.* 2 shoot (bullets) at someone or something with (a gun). 3 *infml* take away the job of (someone you employ), as a punishment. **catch fire** begin to burn, esp. after being close to a flame. **on fire** 1 burning. 2 excited. **set fire to** cause (something) to begin burning, esp. by putting a flame close to it. **firearm** ('faɪərɑːm) *nc* a gun, pistol, etc. **fire brigade** a team of people who are paid to put out unwanted fires. **fire engine** a machine, used by the fire brigade, that throws water onto a large fire. **fire escape** special stairs down the side of a building, to be used if the building is on fire. **fire extinguisher** a device, with a chemical substance inside it, held in the hands to put out a fire: see picture. **firefly** *nc, pl* **-flies** an insect that gives out a small

light. **firelight** *nu* the light from a fire, esp. in a fireplace. **fireman** (faɪəmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a member of the fire brigade. **fireplace** *nc* a place in a room where a fire is burning for warmth. **fireproof** *adj* not allowing fire to pass through it. **firework** *nc* a device containing gunpowder that explodes with a loud noise or burns with pretty lights when lit by a match, etc. **firing squad** a small group of soldiers ordered to fire their guns together to shoot someone dead at an execution.

fire extinguisher

firm[1] (fɜːm) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 steady; hard. 2 (of a person's character or mind) not easily changed; showing strength. **firmly** *adv* **firmness** *nu*

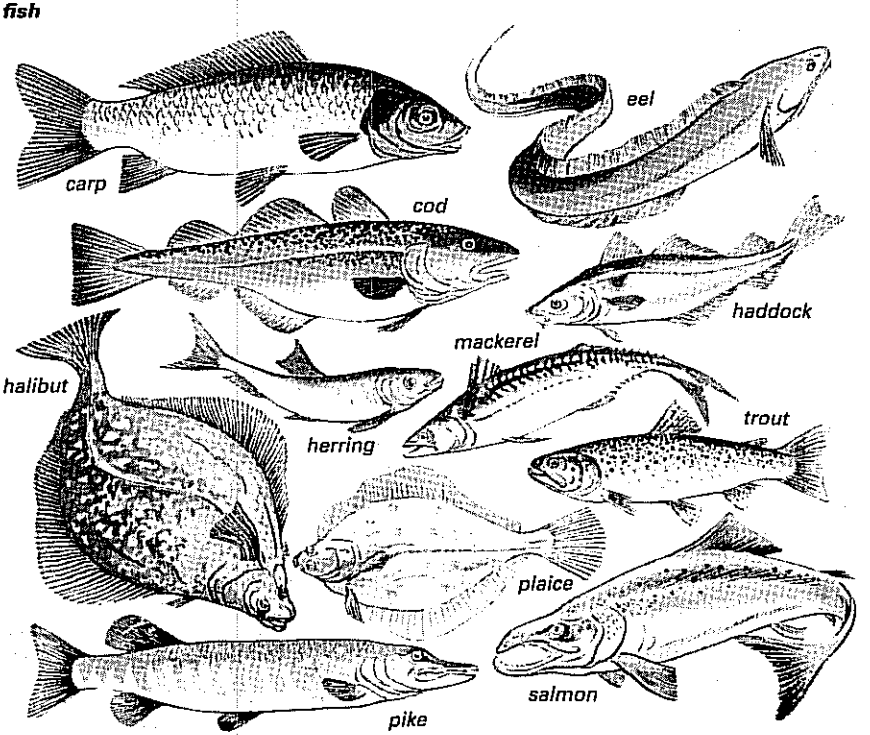
firm[2] *nc* a business company.

first (fɜːst) *adj* 1 coming earlier than or before all others. 2 most important. • *adv* before all others. **at first** at the beginning. **first aid** See **aid. first-born** ('fɜːstbɔɪn) *nc* the eldest (child) in a family. **first-class** (ˌfɜːst'klɑːs) *adj* of the best quality. **first floor** 1 *Brit* the first floor of a building above ground-level. 2 *US* the floor of a building at ground-level. **first-hand** (ˌfɜːst'hænd) *adj* direct. • *adv* directly. **firstly** ('fɜːstlɪ) *adv* **first name** the name given to you, not the family name. **first-rate** (ˌfɜːst'reɪt) *adj* of the best kind; excellent. **First World War** See **World War I** under **world.**

fiscal ('fɪskəl) *adj* of money, esp. the money paid to a government.

fish (fɪʃ) *nc* a cold-blooded animal that lives in water: see picture. • *vi* 1 catch fish. 2 try to get (something) without actually asking: *fish for information.* **fisherman** ('fɪʃəmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man who earns his living by catching fish. **fishery** ('fɪʃərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** part of the sea where fish are caught. **fishing** *nu* the sport or job of catching fish: *the fishing industry.* **fishmonger** ('fɪʃˌmʌŋgə*) *nc* a person whose trade is selling fish. **fishy** *adj* 1 smelling like fish. 2 *infml* of doubtful truth.

fish



fission ('fɪʃən) *nu* a division, esp. of living matter that splits and produces new matter, or of an atom when an atomic bomb is exploded.

fissure ('fɪʃə*) *nc* a deep crack caused by two parts splitting.

fist (fɪst) *nc* the hand with the fingers and thumb closed tightly.

fit¹ (fɪt) *adj* **-ter, -test** 1 healthy. 2 proper; suitable. • *vti* 1 be or make suitable or right, esp. the right size or shape. 2 *vt* provide or put in place: *a car fitted with a sunroof.* **fit for** 1 good enough for: *food fit for a king.* 2 suitable for. **fitness** *nu* **fitting** *adj* proper; suitable. • *nc* 1 the trying on of a garment to see if it fits. 2 (usually *pl*) something fixed in a building: *electric light fittings.*

fit² *nc* 1 a series of sudden, uncontrolled movements of the body, esp. caused by illness. 2 a sudden, strong feeling that does not last long: *a fit of anger; a fit of enthusiasm.* **fitful** ('fɪtful) *adj* not regular; not steady. **fitfully** *adv*

five (faɪv) *determiner, n* the number 5. **fiver** ('faɪvə*) *nc infml* a £5 or $5 note.

fix (fɪks) *vt* 1 make firm; fasten. 2 turn or give (your attention, eyes, mind, etc.) steadily to something: *fix your mind on your work; She fixed her eyes on his face.* 3 decide on: *Let's fix a date for the party.* 4 arrange: *The meeting has been fixed for tomorrow.* 5 repair. • *nc infml* a difficult situation. **fixed** *adj* **fixture** ('fɪkstʃə*) *nc* (often *pl*) something fixed and permanent in a building; fitting: *The house was sold with all its fixtures.*

fizz (fɪz) *vi* make a sound as when water is poured onto fire. • *nu* the sound of (something) fizzing. **fizzy** *adj* (of a drink, etc.) containing bubbles of gas.

fizzle ('fɪzəl) *vi* make a weak, hissing sound. **fizzle out** come to an unsatisfactory end: *Our plans fizzled out.*

fjord (fjɔːd) *n* See **fiord.**

flabbergasted ('flæbəgɑːstɪd) *adj infml* greatly astonished.

flabby ('flæbɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of the flesh) not firm; hanging down. 2 (of the character) weak.

flaccid ('flæksɪd) *adj* flabby; hanging limp.

flag¹ (flæg) *nc* a piece of coloured material attached by one edge to a rope or pole, used as a signal or as the sign of a group or nation. **flagpole** ('flægpəʊl) *nc* the strong stick to which a flag is attached.

flag² *vi* become tired; weaken. **flag down** stop (a vehicle) by waving your arm up and down.

flagellum (flə'dʒeləm) *nc, pl* **-la** (lə) *biology* a long, thin part like a whip that grows on the outside of some tiny animals, such as protozoa, and helps them to move.

flagon ('flægən) *nc* a glass container with a narrow neck and large, broad body, esp. for wine.

flagrant ('fleɪgrənt) *adj* (of wrongdoing or a person who does wrong) open and without shame.

flail (fleɪl) *nc* a wooden tool used for beating the grain out of crops. • *vt* 1 beat with a flail. 2 *vti* move (the arms, legs, etc.) wildly, like a flail: *flailing about in the water.*

flair (fleə*) *nc* a natural power for doing something well.

flake (fleɪk) *nc* a small, light piece of something: *a snowflake.* • *vi* come off in small strips. **flaky** *adj*

flamboyant (flæm'bɔɪənt) *adj* 1 with bright colours and much decoration. 2 (of a person) hoping to be noticed by dressing or behaving in a showy manner. **flamboyance** *nu*

flame (fleɪm) *nc* a piece of burning gas coming up from a fire, candle, match, etc. • *vi* 1 burn with flames. 2 become bright in colour: *His face flamed with anger.*

flamingo (flə'mɪŋgəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a water-bird with a long neck, long legs, and pink feathers.

flammable ('flæməbəl) *adj* easily able to burn.

flan (flæn) *nc* an open pie, containing fruit, etc.

flange (flændʒ) *nc* a round band or outside edge of something, esp. a wheel, to prevent it slipping: see picture.

flange

flank (flæŋk) *nc* 1 the side of a human or animal body. 2 the side of a building, mountain, etc. 3 the right or left side of an army. • *vt* be at the side of.

flannel ('flænəl) 1 *nu* soft, woollen cloth. 2 *nc* a square piece of cloth for washing the face, etc.

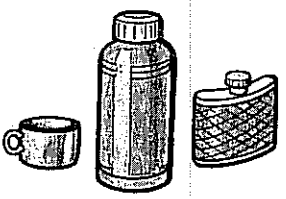
flap (flæp) *nc* a piece of material, paper, wood, etc., that is fixed by one side only and hangs down: *a pocket flap; the flap of a table.* • *vti* move up and down or from side to side.

flare (fleə*) *vi* 1 burn suddenly with a bright flame. 2 *vti* (of a skirt or trousers)

make or become wider at the lower end. **flare up** 1 burst into flames. 2 suddenly become angry or violent. • *nc* 1 a bright light used by a ship, boat, etc., in need of help. 2 the widening of a dress, skirt, or trousers at the lower end.

flash (flæʃ) 1 *vi* burst into light, activity, view, etc., esp. for a short time. *vt* 2 cause (a torch, lamp, or light) to flash. 3 send (a signal). • *nc* a sudden and short bright light or activity: *a flash of lightning; a flash of inspiration.* **flashback** *nc* (of a cinema film) moving back to a scene from an earlier time. **flashbulb** *nc photography* a bulb that gives light for a moment. **flashlight** *nc* 1 a light used as a signal, a warning, etc. 2 *photography* a device that makes a flash of bright light for taking photographs in otherwise weak light. 3 *esp. US* See **torch** (def. 1). **flashy** *adj* attractive, in a showy way.

flask (flɑːsk) *nc* a bottle with a narrow neck: see picture.



flask

flat[1] (flæt) *US* **apartment** *nc* a set of rooms in part of a house or building, used as a home.

flat[2] *adj* **-ter, -test** 1 even; level; smooth. 2 (of a person or animal lying down) at full length: *The boy was lying flat on his back.* 3 having too little energy, air, etc.: *a flat tyre; a flat battery.* 4 without interest; lifeless: *a flat party; a flat voice.* 5 *music* below the natural or true note: *He sang flat.* 6 absolute; plain: *flat nonsense.* • *nc* 1 the flat part of anything: *the flat of my hand.* 2 *music* a note that is one semitone below the natural note. **flatly** *adv* absolutely: *He flatly refused to go.* **flatmate** *nc* a person who shares a flat with another or others, not as a family. **flat out** *infml* 1 using all your strength and the things that can help you: *He was working flat out.* 2 very tired.

flatten ('flætən) 1 *vi* become flat. 2 *vt* cause to become flat; destroy.

flatter ('flætə*) *vt* 1 praise in a way that is not sincere, in order to please. 2 make (a person) feel pleased, honoured, etc. **flatter yourself** be pleased with yourself. **flattering** *adj* **flattery** ('flætərɪ) *nu* praise that is not sincere.

flaunt (flɔːnt) *vt* try to attract notice to (something, or yourself) in a self-satisfied way.

flavour *US* **flavor** ('fleɪvə*) 1 *nu* the quality of taste or smell. *nc* 2 a taste. 3 a special quality of something: *The book had a flavour of adventure.* • *vt* give a flavour to. **flavouring** *ncu* something used to add a taste to food.

flaw (flɔː) *nc* a mark that spoils something: crack. **flawless** ('flɔːlɪs) *adj* perfect.

flax (flæks) *nu* a plant produced for making cloth from its stems. **flaxen** ('flæksən) *adj* (of hair) pale yellow.

flay (fleɪ) *vt* take the skin off an animal.

flea (fliː) *nc* a tiny, jumping insect without wings, that bites humans and animals for blood: see picture at **insects.**

fleck (flek) *nc* 1 a small spot of colour or light. 2 a very small bit: *a fleck of dust.* **flecked** *adj* marked with flecks (**fleck** def. 1).

fled (fled) past tense and past participle of **flee.**

fledgeling ('fledʒlɪŋ) *nc* a young bird. **fledged** (fledʒd) *adj* (of birds) having fully grown feathers. **fully-fledged** having the necessary training, etc.: *a fully-fledged doctor.*

flee (fliː) 1 *vi* run away. 2 *vt* run away from; leave quickly: *flee the country.*

fleece (fliːs) *nc* the woolly covering of a sheep; (sometimes *nu*) the amount of wool cut from a sheep at one time. • *vt* rob (someone) of money, property, etc., by a trick. **fleecy** *adj* like fleece: *fleecy hair.*

fleet (fliːt) *nc* 1 a large number of warships with one commander. 2 a number of ships, buses, taxis, cars, etc., owned by a person or company.

fleeting ('fliːtɪŋ) *adj* lasting only a very short time.

flesh (fleʃ) *nu* (of the body) the soft substance between the skin and the bones. **your own flesh and blood** your own family. **fleshy** ('fleʃɪ) *adj* fat.

flew (fluː) past tense of **fly**[2].

flex (fleks) *ncu* (a piece of) easily bent wire, used for carrying electricity to a lamp, iron, etc. • *vt* bend (esp. the muscles, limbs, etc.).

flexible ('fleksəbəl) *adj* easily bent or changed; (of a person) easy to deal with. **flexibility** (ˌfleksə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

flexor ('fleksə*) *nc anatomy* a muscle that bends part of the body, such as the arm or the leg. See also **extensor.**

flick (flɪk) *nc* a light blow, esp. with the ends of the fingers. • *vt* give a flick.

flicker ('flɪkə*) *vi* burn or shine unsteadily,

esp. of a fire or light about to go out. • *nc* a flickering movement of light or flame.

flies (flaɪz) *n pl* also **fly** a piece of cloth over buttons, a zip, etc., esp. over the opening at the front of a pair of trousers.

flight[1] (flaɪt) 1 *nu* the act of flying or moving through the air: *a flight of birds; the flight of an arrow. nc* 2 a journey by plane; distance flown. 3 a set (of stairs), in a straight line or from one landing to the next: *There are two flights of stairs to my room.* **flightless** ('flaɪtlɪs) *adj* (of a bird) not able to fly. **flight path** the planned line along which a plane or spacecraft moves. **flight recorder** a device in a plane that records what happens to the engine, etc., during the flight.

flight[2] *nu* running away, esp. from danger.

flighty ('flaɪtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person, esp. a woman) unsteady in character, often changing their mind, ideas, etc.

flimsy ('flɪmzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of material or objects) thin and light; easily broken. 2 not solid or real: *a flimsy excuse.*

flinch (flɪntʃ) *vi* make a sudden, small movement back, because of bodily or mental pain: *I flinched at her cruel words; The pain from his injury made him flinch when touched.*

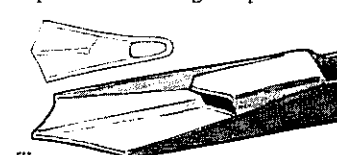
fling (flɪŋ) *vt* 1 throw or push away with force: *She flung the door open.* 2 throw or move in a hurried, angry, violent, etc., way: *She flung her arms around her son.* • *nc* 1 an attempt at doing something. 2 a short, energetic and enjoyable (period of) activity: *have a fling.*

flint (flɪnt) 1 *nu* hard stone in small round lumps, grey inside and covered with white. *nc* 2 a piece of this stone that, if struck, can make fire. 3 a piece of hard metal used in a cigarette lighter to make fire.

flip (flɪp) 1 *vt* move (something) with a quick, short movement of the finger and thumb. 2 *vi* move with a sudden jerk.

flippant ('flɪpənt) *adj* talking of serious things without respect. **flippancy** ('flɪpənsɪ) *nu* **flippantly** *adv*

flipper ('flɪpə*) *nc* 1 the part of sea-animals (not fish) used in swimming. 2 a rubber device worn on the feet to increase the speed in swimming: see picture.



flipper

flirt (flɜɪt) *vi* 1 pretend that you are in love (with someone of the opposite sex). 2 (followed by **with**) think about, but not in a serious way: *flirt with an idea.* • *nc* a person who flirts (**flirt** def. 1).

flit (flɪt) *vt* move from one place to another in a light, quick way.

float (fləut) *vti* 1 (cause to) move or rest on the top of water, etc., without sinking. 2 *vi* be held up in air, gas, etc.: *Clouds floated by.* • *nc* a piece of light material that floats and is used in fishing, supporting a hook or net.

flock (flɒk) *nc* 1 a group of animals of one kind: *a flock of sheep.* 2 a number of birds travelling together. • *vi* go together, in large numbers: *Crowds flocked to see the football match.*

flog (flɒg) *vt* 1 beat, esp. with a whip or cane. 2 *slang* sell. **flog a dead horse** waste your time trying to do something that cannot be done.

flood (flʌd) *nc* 1 a bursting in of water over land that is usually dry. 2 an outburst; a sudden rush of something: *a flood of tears.* • *vt* 1 cover (land) with a great amount of water. 2 *vti* (cause to) come in a large amount or great numbers: *The mail flooded in; The house was flooded with light.* **floodlight** *nc* a lamp with a powerful light that covers a large area. • *vt* light a place with such a lamp or lamps. **floodlit** *adj*

floor (flɔː*) *nc* 1 the flat surface at the bottom of a room: *thick carpets on the floor;* flat surface at the bottom: *the sea floor.* 2 all the rooms, etc., on one level of a building: *The store has three floors.* 3 the lowest level, esp. of prices, wages, etc. **floorboard** *nc* a long, narrow, flat, piece of wood as part of a wooden floor.

flop (flɒp) *vi* 1 move, sit, or fall down suddenly and awkwardly. 2 *infml* fail completely: *The new play flopped.* • *nc infml* a person, book, play, etc., that fails. **floppy** ('flɒpɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** hanging in a loose way: *Some dogs have floppy ears.* **floppy disk** *computers* a small disk that is used to put information into a computer or to copy information from a computer.

flora ('flɔːrə) *nu* all the flowers, plants, etc., of a particular area or country. **floral** ('flɔːrəl) *adj* to do with flowers. **florist** ('flɒrɪst) *nc* a person who grows or sells flowers.

florescence (flɔː'resəns) *ncu botany* the act of flowering; time when a plant has flowers.

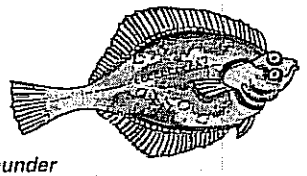
floss *nu* the silky fibres from a cotton plant or from the covering of a silkworm, often made into thread.

flotilla (flə'tɪlə) *nc* a small fleet or group of small ships, usually of the same kind.

flotsam ('flɒtsəm) *nu* 1 the pieces or goods from a wrecked ship found floating at sea. 2 useless things to be thrown away. **flotsam and jetsam** 1 rubbish found floating on water. 2 tramps; criminals; people with ruined lives.

flounce (flaʊns) *vi* walk (in, out, etc.) in an angry way.

flounder ('flaʊndə*) *vi* 1 make violent but often useless movements, as when trying to get out of deep water, mud, etc. 2 make mistakes, esp. when speaking, because you are uncertain, etc. • *nc* a small flat fish: see picture.



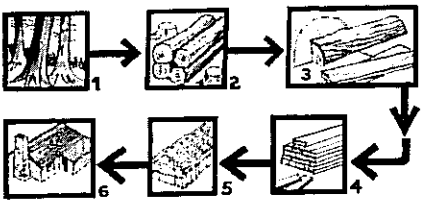
flounder

flour ('flaʊə*) *nu* fine powder made from grain, used for making bread, cakes, etc. • *vt* shake flour onto; cover with flour.

flourish ('flʌrɪʃ) 1 *vi* grow in a strong and healthy way; become successful. 2 *vt* wave (something) about so that it will be noticed. • *nc* 1 a waving of the hand or movement of something to attract notice: *He took off his hat with a flourish.* 2 an exciting burst of music.

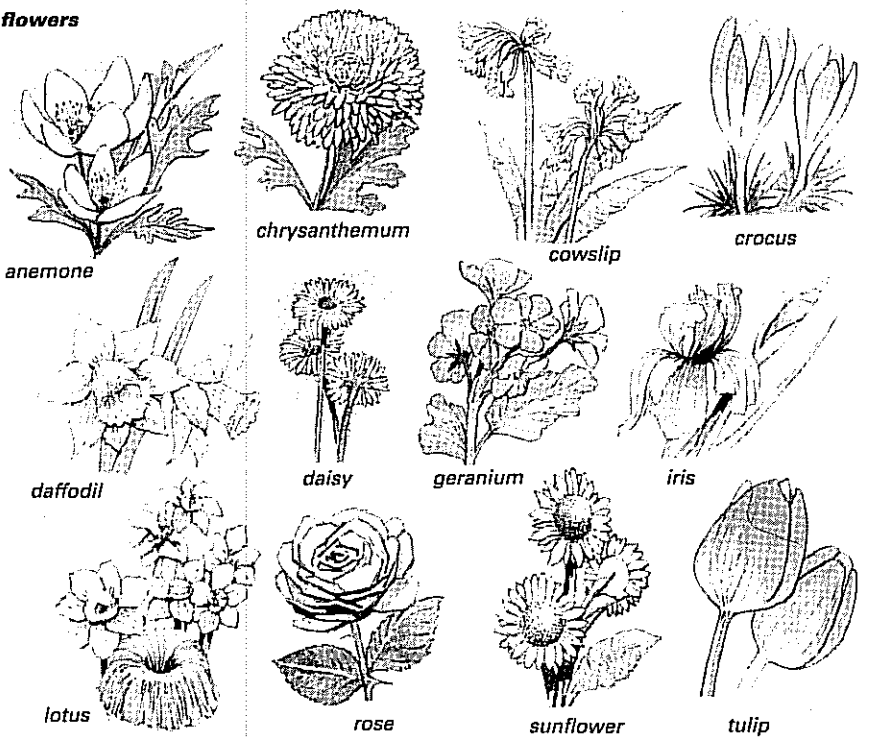
flout (flaʊt) *vt* give no respect to; laugh at and disobey: *He flouted all the rules.*

flow (fləʊ) *vi* 1 move along smoothly: *Rivers flow; Her tears flowed.* 2 (of clothes, hair, etc.) hang down loosely and smoothly; *flowing robes.* 3 come (from), be the effect (of): *Wealth flows from hard work.* • *nu* flowing. **flow chart** a chart explaining how a material has been made or the set of actions needed in doing something complicated: see picture.



flow chart

flowers



flower ('flauə*) *nc* 1 the part of a plant that usually has coloured petals and that produces the seeds: see picture. 2 the best part: *in the flower of life.* • *vi* produce flowers. **flower bed** a piece of garden, etc., kept for growing flowers. **flowerpot** *nc* a pot, of red baked clay or plastic, containing soil in which to grow a plant. **flowery** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having many flowers. 2 (of speech or language) having too much decoration and praise, sometimes insincere.

flown (fləun) past participle of **fly²**.

flu (flu:) *n* See **influenza.**

fluctuate ('flʌkjueɪt) *vi* (esp. of levels, or prices) change frequently; rise and fall. **fluctuation** (,flʌktju'eɪʃən) *ncu*

flue (flu:) *nc* a pipe that carries smoke out from a fire or leads hot air to or gases from a boiler.

fluent ('flu:ənt) *adj* having an easy ability in speaking, esp. a foreign language: *She is fluent in Spanish.* **fluency** ('flu:ənsɪ) *nu* **fluently** *adj*

fluff (flʌf) *nu* 1 loose fibres of wool, cotton, etc., usually in an unwanted place: *She brushed a bit of fluff from her sleeve.* 2 soft fur, hair, feathers, etc., esp. on a young animal or bird. **fluffy** *adj* covered with soft fur, hair, feathers, etc.: *a fluffy toy.*

fluid ('flu:ɪd) *adj* 1 able to flow. 2 able to be changed: *fluid plans.* • *nc* a substance able to flow.

fluke (flu:k) *nc infml* an accidental piece of good luck.

flung (flʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **fling.**

fluorescent (,fluə'resənt) *adj* (of some substances) taking in radiation and sending out a bright light: *fluorescent lighting.*

fluoride ('fluəraɪd) *nu chemistry* one of the two parts that make up the chemical substance fluorine (a pale yellow gas).

flurry ('flʌrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a sudden rush of wind, snow, etc. 2 hurry and excitement: *She was in a flurry.*

flush¹ (flʌʃ) *adj* 1 level with; even. 2 *infml* having plenty of money: *I'm flush this week.*

flush² *nc* 1 a rush of blood to the face making it red. 2 a rush of water, esp. to carry away waste in a lavatory. 3 *nu* freshness; newness: *the first flush of spring.* • *vi* 1 (of the face) become red: *She flushed when she met him.* 2 *vt* make clean by causing a flow of water: *flush the lavatory.* **flushed** *adj* red in the face.

fluster ('flʌstə*) *vt* make nervous. • *nc* the condition of being nervous, confused, etc.: *in a fluster.* **flustered** *adj*

flute (flu:t) *nc* a wooden or metal pipe with holes along it, blown into on the side near one end: see picture at **musical instruments.**

flutter ('flʌtə*) 1 *vti* (of birds) flap (the wings) quickly and fly short distances only, or to the ground. *vi* 2 move about in a restless or nervous way. 3 (of wings, flags, leaves, etc.) flap or wave about: *fluttering in the breeze.* • *nc infml* 1 excitement: *She felt a quick flutter when he spoke.* 2 a gamble: *He had a flutter at the races.*

fluvial ('flu:vɪəl) *adj geography* of or to do with rivers.

flux (flʌks) *nu* 1 flowing. 2 a continuous state of change.

fly¹ (flaɪ) *nc, pl* **flies** 1 a small insect with two wings: see picture at **insects.** 2 a copy of such an insect, put on a fishing line to catch fish.

fly² *vi* 1 move through the air as a bird does or in a plane, etc. 2 move quickly: *We'll be late if we don't fly.* *vt* 3 control (a plane) in the air. 4 raise or make rise: *fly a kite; fly a flag.* 5 run away from, esp. in danger: *fly the country.* • *nc* See **flies. flyer** ('flaɪə*) *nc* a person who flies a plane, esp. the pilot. **flying saucer** an object shaped like a saucer, thought to have been seen in the sky and to have come from another planet. **flyover** ('flaɪ,əuvə*) *nc* a bridge with a road or railway that passes over another large road. **flywheel** *nc* a heavy wheel that keeps a machine going at a regular speed.

foal (fəul) *nc* a young horse.

foam (fəum) *nu* 1 a mass of small white bubbles, formed by a liquid. 2 also **foam rubber** a kind of light, soft rubber with many holes in it, used to make cushions, etc. • *vi* form or give off **foam** (def. 1).

fob (fɒb) *vt* **fob (someone) off with** cheat (someone) into accepting (something of no value).

focus ('fəukəs) *nc, pl* **-es, foci** ('fəukaɪ) 1 the point at which lines of light, etc., meet. 2 the point where the clearest picture, etc., is seen by the eye, camera, etc. 3 the central point of activity: *the focus of attention.* • *vi* 1 (of lines of light, etc.) meet at a point. 2 *vt* get (a camera, etc.) into focus. 3 *vti* give (your attention) to something: *Focus on your work.* **focal** ('fəukəl) *adj* **focal point** 1 the point at which lines of light, etc., meet. 2 the centre of attention.

fodder ('fɒdə*) *nu* food for cattle.

foe (fəu) *nc literary or old-fashioned* an enemy.

foetus also **fetus** ('fi:təs) *nc* the unborn

child inside the mother or the young of an animal inside an egg. **foetal** *adj*

fog (fɒg) *nu* a thick mist held in the air at or near the ground and through which it is difficult to see. **foggy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of air, etc.) not clear because of fog: *a foggy day.* **foghorn** *nc* a horn used for warning ships in fog.

foil[1] (fɔɪl) 1 *nu* metal beaten into very thin, easily bent, sheets: *Silver foil is put round food to protect it.* 2 *nc* someone or something that contrasts with the qualities of another when compared.

foil[2] *nc* a sword without a sharp point, used in fighting practice.

foil[3] *vt* prevent (someone) from doing something.

fold (fəʊld) 1 *vt* bend (something) over itself: *Fold your clothes before putting them away.* 2 *vi* be able to be folded; become folded: *a folding chair.* 3 *vti* cross (your arms) over your chest: *She sat with her arms folded.* • *nc* a line made by folding (paper, cloth, etc.). **folder** ('fəʊldə*) *nc* a stiff cover that is bent in two and used for holding papers, etc.

foliage ('fəʊlɪɪdʒ) *nu* the leaves of a tree.

foliate ('fəʊlɪɪt) *adj botany* of, having, or to do with leaves.

folic acid ('fəʊlɪk) any of a number of vitamins of the B group, obtained from green leaves.

folk (fəʊk) *n pl* 1 people. 2 also **folks** *infml* your relations. **folk dance** a dance of the ordinary people from early times. **folklore** ('fəʊklɔ:*) *nu* knowledge, stories, etc., of the ordinary people from early times. **folk song** a song of the ordinary people from early times.

follicle ('fɒlɪkəl) *nc* 1 a small hole in the skin with the root of a hair. 2 (of a plant) a seed container, opening along one side only.

follow ('fɒləʊ) *vt* 1 go or come after. 2 go along (a road, etc.). 3 accept as a guide, leader, etc.: *Follow my advice.* 4 understand: *Do you follow my meaning?* 5 result from; be certainly true: *Because he's a teacher it doesn't follow that he's always right.* 6 *vi* go or come after someone or something. **as follows** as about to be mentioned, told, etc. **follower** *nc* **following** *adj* these things about to be mentioned. • *nu* a group of people supporting someone. **follow up** do something else in order to continue something done earlier or to find out more about something: *They followed up the trip to the museum with a discussion about what they had seen there.*

folly ('fɒlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** 1 *nu* foolishness. 2 *nc* a foolish act, thing, etc.

fond (fɒnd) *adj* (of hopes, desires, etc.) believed in, but not likely to happen: *He had fond hopes of success.* **fond of** liking (someone or something) very much. **fondly** *adv* 1 lovingly. 2 in a foolishly hopeful way. **fondness** *nu*

fondle ('fɒndəl) *vt* touch (someone or something) in a loving and tender way.

font (fɒnt) *nc* a container for water that is poured over a person's head when making them a member of the Christian Church, and giving them a first name.

food (fu:d) 1 *nu* that which can be eaten. 2 *nc* food of the same class or group: *frozen foods.* **food chain** *biology* a series of animals, etc., in which each is eaten by the next member of the series. **foodstuff** ('fu:dstʌf) *nc* (usually *pl*) a substance used as food.

fool (fu:l) *nc* a person with little good sense. • *vi* 1 (often followed by **around** or **about**) act like a fool: *Stop fooling around!* 2 *vt* cheat; deceive: *You can't fool me!* **foolhardy** ('fu:lhɑ:dɪ) *adj* taking risks when not necessary. **foolish** *adj* with little good sense; silly. **foolishly** *adv* **foolishness** *nu* **foolproof** ('fu:lpru:f) *adj* with no possibility of going wrong, etc.

foolscap ('fu:lskæp) *nu* a size of paper, 340 mm × 200 mm (13½ inches × 8 inches).

foot (fʊt) *nc, pl* **feet** 1 the part of the body at the end of the leg on which you walk. 2 a measure of length: see appendix. 3 the lower end (of a bed, a set of stairs, etc.); lowest part (of anything): *at the foot of the hill.* **foot the bill** *infml* pay the bill. **go on foot** walk. **put your foot down** *infml* be firm (about something); say that something must be stopped. **put your foot in it** *infml* say or do the wrong thing. **foot-and-mouth disease** a very infectious disease of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, etc., that causes sores in the mouth and on the feet. **football** 1 *nu* a game in which a ball is kicked between two teams. 2 *nc* the ball used in this game. **footballer** *nc* **foothill** ('fʊthɪl) *nc* one of several small hills at the bottom of a mountain. **foothold** ('fʊthəʊld) *nc* 1 a place for the foot when on a difficult surface, esp. in climbing on rocks. 2 a firm beginning from which you can go forward. **footing** 1 *nc* a place for standing on. 2 *nu* a person's position with people, relationships, etc.: *He and I are on a friendly footing.* **footnote** *nc* a note at the bottom of a page. **footpath** *nc* a path for people who are walking, esp. one across fields. **footprint** *nc* the mark made by the underneath part of the foot or of a

shoe, such as in sand or snow. **footstep** *nc* the sound of (someone) walking. **footwear** ('fʊtweə*) *nu* shoes, boots, socks, etc.

for (fɔː* unstressed fə*) *prep* 1 being intended to be given to, belong to, or used in: *Here is a present for you; We can deliver the goods for you.* 2 in exchange: *I bought it for £5.* 3 in spite of: *For all her friends, she's still not happy.* 4 because of: *I like it for this reason.* 5 considering the nature of; considering that he (she, it, etc.) is: *It's very hot for this time of year; He's very active for his age.* 6 representing: *The letters 'PM' stand for 'Prime Minister'; red for danger.* 7 (used to show purpose): *We went to the restaurant for a meal; You can use this paper for writing on; What is this machine for?* 8 instead of: *She did the job for me.* 9 in favour of: *Are you for or against an election?* 10 towards: *setting out for school.* 11 during: *I'm going away for August.* 12 (used to show distance): *After this town, there's not another town for fifty kilometres.* 13 (used to show destination): *The train for Glasgow departs from platform four.* 14 (used to show an aim): *We are all hoping for better times.* 15 as a result of: *I felt better for a good night's rest.* **be for it** *slang* be in trouble, punished, etc. • *conj fml or literary* because: *The evenings are getting cooler, for it's nearly winter.*

forage ('fɒrɪdʒ) *nu* food for cattle. • *vi* search for something, esp. food.

foramen (fɒ'reɪmen) *nc, pl* **foramina** (fɒ'ræmɪnə) *anatomy* a hole in a bone or other part of the body through which nerves, blood-vessels, etc., pass.

forbade (also **forbad**) (fə'bæd) past tense of **forbid.**

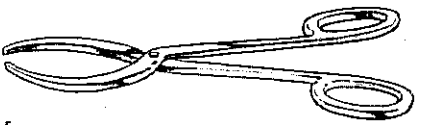
forbear (fɔː'beə*) *vi* hold yourself back from doing something.

forbid (fə'bɪd) *vt* order someone not to do something. **forbidding** (fə'bɪdɪŋ) *adj* threatening; stern.

forbidden (fə'bɪdən) past participle of **forbid.**

force (fɔːs) 1 *nu* strength; power: *The bomb exploded with great force. nc* 2 a body of people trained to work together, etc.: *the police force; a work force; the armed forces.* 3 a person or thing that has much influence: *a force for good in society.* • *vt* 1 make (someone) do something; make (something) happen: *The bad weather forced us to turn back.* 2 do (something difficult) by trying hard: *She forced a smile in spite of her misery.* **forceful** *adj* (of a person's character) strong. **forcible** ('fɔːsəbəl) *adj* done with force of the body. **forcibly** *adv*

forceps ('fɔːseps) *n pl* a tool used by doctors and dentists for gripping hold of things: see picture.



forceps

ford (fɔːd) *nc* a place in a river where it is not too deep to walk across. • *vt* cross a river by walking through the water.

fore (fɔː*) *adj* front. **to the fore** towards the front or a more important position.

forearm ('fɔːrɑːm) *nc* the arm from the elbow to the tips of the fingers.

foreboding (fɔː'bəʊdɪŋ) *nc* a feeling that something unpleasant is about to happen.

forecast ('fɔːkɑːst) *vt* say what will happen in the future. • *nc* an act of forecasting: *the weather forecast.*

forecourt ('fɔːkɔːt) *nc* an enclosed space in front of a building.

forefather ('fɔː,fɑːðə*) *nc* a person in your family line from whom you are descended.

forefinger ('fɔː,fɪŋgə*) *nc* the finger next to the thumb.

forefront ('fɔːfrʌnt) *nu* the extreme front: *in the forefront of battle.*

foregoing (fɔː'gəʊɪŋ) *adj* mentioned earlier. **foregone** (fɔː'gɒn) *adj* already known before it happened: *a foregone conclusion.*

foreground ('fɔːgraʊnd) *nu* 1 the front, esp. of a picture. 2 the most easily seen position.

forehead ('fɒrɪd, 'fɔːhed) *nc* the front part of the head above the eyes.

foreign ('fɒrɪn) *adj* of, from, or belonging to another country. **foreigner** ('fɒrɪnə*) *nc* a person not in their own country. **Foreign Secretary** the title of the person in a government who is in charge of foreign affairs. **foreign to** not natural in; not usual with.

foreman ('fɔːmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man in charge of a group of workers.

foremost ('fɔːməʊst) *adj* first; most important. • *adv* first in position.

forensic (fə'rensɪk) *adj* to do with the law: *forensic medicine.*

forerunner ('fɔː,rʌnə*) *nc* a person or thing that shows what is to follow.

foresee (fɔː'siː) *vt* see (something that is

going to happen) before it does happen.

foreshadow (fɔː'ʃædəʊ) *vt* show or warn what is to come in the future.

foresight ('fɔːsaɪt) *nu* the ability to see and prepare for the future.

forest ('fɒrɪst) 1 *nc* a large piece of land covered with many trees. 2 *nu* land covered in trees. **forested** ('fɒrɪstɪd) *adj* covered in forests. **forester** ('fɒrɪstə*) *nc* a person who is paid to be in charge of a forest; person who works in a forest. **forestry** ('fɒrɪstrɪ) *nu* the science of taking care of a forest.

forestall (fɔː'stɔːl) *vt* stop (someone) from doing (something), esp. by doing it first, because you have guessed that they were going to do it.

foretell (fɔː'tel) *vt* tell about (an event, etc.) before it happens.

forever (fə'revə*) *adv* for always.

foreword ('fɔːwɜːd) *nc* a section at the beginning of a book to introduce it, esp. by someone who is not the writer of the book.

forfeit ('fɔːfɪt) *nc* something that has to be done, lost, paid for, etc., as a result of something done or as a punishment. • *vt* suffer or lose something because of an action or as a punishment.

forgave (fə'geɪv) past tense of **forgive.**

forge[1] (fɔːdʒ) *nc* a workshop with a fire where metals are heated, esp. one used for making horses' shoes, etc. • *vt* 1 shape (metal) by heating it. 2 make a copy of (something written, etc.), in order to deceive: *forge banknotes.* **forger** *nc* **forgery** ('fɔːdʒərɪ) 1 *nu* the copying of something in order to deceive. 2 *nc, pl* **-ries** something copied in order to deceive.

forge[2] *v* **forge ahead** make progress, esp. in spite of difficulties.

forget (fə'get) *vt* 1 be unable or fail to remember: *I've forgotten her name; He forgot to tell me.* 2 fail to remember to take (something) with you: *I went out and forgot my key.* **forgetful** *adj* in the habit of forgetting things. **forgetfulness** *nu*

forgive (fə'gɪv) *vt* 1 stop feeling angry about a wrong (someone) has done. 2 decide not to punish (someone) for a wrong they have done.

forgiven (fə'gɪvən) past participle of **forgive.**

forgiveness (fə'gɪvnɪs) *nu* forgiving or being forgiven.

forgo (fɔː'gəʊ) *vt* do without; give up.

forgot (fə'gɒt) past tense of **forget.**

forgotten (fə'gɒtən) past participle of **forget.**

fork (fɔːk) *nc* 1 a tool with three or more long points used in eating, cooking, serving food, etc. 2 a tool with three or more long points, used in farming or gardening for digging, lifting, etc.: see picture at **tools.** 3 anything that divides into two in a Y-shape, such as a road. • *vi* 1 divide into two branches. 2 *vt* use a fork. **forked** (fɔːkt) *adj* having branches or divisions into a Y-shape. **fork-lift truck** a lorry with a device for lifting and lowering goods. **fork out** *infml* pay (money): *I had to fork out £100 for a new pair of glasses.*

forlorn (fə'lɔːn) *adj* 1 lonely and sad. 2 deserted.

form (fɔːm) 1 *nu* a shape; appearance. *nc* 2 a person's or animal's figure or shape: *I could see two human forms in the mist.* 3 a general type, kind, or sort of something: *What form of society do you prefer?* 4 a class in a school: *the fourth form.* 5 a printed sheet of paper with spaces in which facts or answers can be written: *an application form.* 6 a long wooden seat without a back. • *vt* 1 make or give a shape to (something, habits, thoughts, etc.). 2 organise: *form a theatrical company.* 3 *vi* take shape; start to be.

formal ('fɔːməl) *adj* (of behaviour) according to rules and customs. **formality** (fɔː'mælɪtɪ) 1 *nu* correct attention to rules and customs. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** an act that is correct according to rules and customs. **formally** *adv*

formation (fɔː'meɪʃən) 1 *nu* the putting together (of something); being shaped or formed: *the formation of an army.* 2 *nc* something shaped or formed: *unusual rock formations.*

former ('fɔːmə*) *adj* of an earlier time: *in former years; the former president.* • *pron, adj* the first of two already mentioned: *Of the two, I prefer the former.* **formerly** *adv* in earlier times; before.

formidable ('fɔːmɪdəbəl, fə'mɪdəbəl) *adj* 1 causing fear. 2 likely to be very difficult to deal with: *a formidable task.*

formula ('fɔːmjʊlə) *nc, pl* **-las, -lae** (liː) 1 a fixed form of words for a particular occasion, etc. 2 a rule, facts, etc., written out in signs, numbers, or short form: *'H_2O' is the chemical formula for water.*

formulate ('fɔːmjʊleɪt) *vt* say or show (something) clearly and exactly: *formulate an opinion.* **formulation** (ˌfɔːmjʊ'leɪʃən) *ncu*

forsake (fə'seɪk) *vt fml* give up; abandon, (esp. your friends).

forsaken (fə'seɪkən) past participle of **forsake.**

forsook (fə'sʊk) past tense of **forsake.**

fort (fɔːt) *nc* a strong building used for defence.

forte ('fɔːteɪ) *nc* something a person does very well: *Teaching is her forte.*

forth (fɔːθ) *adv old-fashioned* 1 out: *He set forth on his journey.* 2 onwards: *from this time forth.* **and so forth** and so on. **forthcoming** (ˌfɔːθkʌmɪŋ) *adj* 1 about to come out or appear. 2 (of a person) *infml* answering easily and readily.

forthwith (ˌfɔːθˈwɪθ) *adv* at once.

fortieth ('fɔːtɪɪθ) *determiner, n, adv* of the number 40.

fortify ('fɔːtɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 strengthen (a place) against attack. 2 strengthen (your mind, body, spirits, etc.). **fortification** (ˌfɔːtɪfɪˈkeɪʃən) 1 *nu* strengthening against attack. 2 *nc* (often *pl*) strong buildings, etc., for defence.

fortnight ('fɔːtnaɪt) *nc* a time of two weeks. **fortnightly** *adj, adv*

fortress ('fɔːtrɪs) *nc* a building or town made strong for defence.

fortuitous (fɔːˈtjuːɪtəs) *adj* that happens by chance.

fortunate ('fɔːtʃənət) *adj* lucky; having success, etc., through good luck. **fortunately** *adv*

fortune ('fɔːtʃuːn) 1 *nu* luck; chance. *nc* 2 success; great wealth: *make a fortune.* 3 a person's fate. **fortune teller** a person who can tell what will happen to someone in the future.

forty ('fɔːtɪ) *determiner, n* the number 40.

forum ('fɔːrəm) *nc* 1 in Rome long ago, a market-place or a public place where meetings were held. 2 any place nowadays for a public meeting, discussion, etc.

forward ('fɔːwəd) *adj* 1 near or in the front. 2 too eager, esp. in order to attract attention to yourself. • *nc* a player in some games, such as football, who attacks the other side. • *vt* send; send on: *I'll forward your mail from your old address to your new one.* **forward(s)** ('fɔːwəd(z)) *adv* 1 onward. 2 onward in time. 3 to the front or to attention: *Put forward your opinions on the matter.* **look forward to** See under **look.**

fossil ('fɒsəl) *nc* a plant or animal of long ago, found buried and having become as hard as rock. **fossilised** ('fɒsɪˌlaɪzd) *adj* that has turned into a fossil: *the fossilised remains of an insect.*

foster ('fɒstə*) *vt* 1 care for; nurse or bring up (a child who is not your own). 2 encourage: *foster feelings of goodwill.* **foster child** a child who is fostered. **foster parent** a man or woman who fosters a child.

fought (fɔːt) past tense and past participle of **fight.**

foul (faʊl) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 causing disgust; very dirty. 2 wicked. 3 (of weather) stormy and wet. • *nc* an example of foul play. **fall foul of** quarrel or get into trouble with. **foul play** 1 (in sport) an unfair act that is against the rules, esp. harming another person. 2 a violent crime, esp. murder.

found[1] (faʊnd) past tense and past participle of **find.**

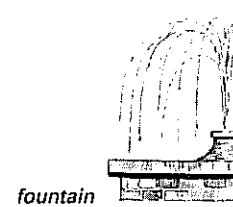
found[2] *vt* 1 start the building of: *found a university.* 2 start (something), esp. by giving money: *found a new club.* 3 base: *proposals founded on new ideas.* **foundation** (faʊnˈdeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the setting up of a new school, city, etc. *nc* 2 something that is founded. 3 (usually *pl*) the strong and lowest part of a building, esp. under the ground. 4 the most necessary part of anything, on which the rest is built up.

founder[1] (faʊndə*) *nc* someone who founds or starts (an organisation, state, movement, etc.).

founder[2] *vi* 1 (of a ship) fill with water and sink. 2 (of a horse) fall or almost fall.

foundry ('faʊndrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where metal or glass is melted and shaped into things.

fountain ('faʊntɪn) *nc* a fast flow of water coming up from a small opening: see picture. **fountain-pen** ('faʊntɪnpen) *nc* a pen able to carry ink inside it.



fountain

four (fɔː*) *determiner, n* the number 4. **on all fours** crawling on hands and knees. **fourth** (fɔːθ) *determiner, n, adv* **fourteen** (ˌfɔːˈtiːn) *determiner, n* 14. **fourteenth** (ˌfɔːˈtiːnθ) *determiner, n, adv*

fowl (faʊl) *nc* 1 a bird, kept by people, to be eaten. 2 a bird of a particular kind: *wildfowl; gamefowl.*

fox (fɒks) *nc* a wild animal of the dog family, with red fur and a thick tail: see picture at **animals.**

foyer ('fɔɪeɪ) *nc* a room at the entrance of a theatre, cinema, or hotel, for the use of the public.

fraction ('frækʃən) *nc* 1 a small part of

something. 2 part of a whole number: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, *and* $\frac{3}{4}$ *are fractions.* **fractional** ('frækʃənəl) *adj*

fracture ('frækʧə*) 1 *nu* being broken or breaking, esp. of a bone. 2 *nc* something that is broken: *She had fractures of both legs.* • *vti* break: *a fractured arm.*

fragile ('frædʒaɪl) *adj* easily broken or injured. **fragility** (frə'dʒɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

fragment ('frægmənt) *nc* a small piece of something that has broken off. **fragmentation** (ˌfrægmen'teɪʃən) *nu* breaking up into small pieces.

fragrance ('freɪgrəns) *nu* a pleasant smell. **fragrant** ('freɪgrənt) *adj*

frail (freɪl) *adj* weak; easily broken or injured. **frailty** ('freɪltɪ) 1 *nu* being frail. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a weakness.

frame (freɪm) *nc* 1 the main form around which something is built up. 2 the human body: *He has a large frame.* 3 the border of wood, etc., put round a picture, painting, etc. **frame of mind** mood. **framework** ('freɪmwɜːk) *nc* the main part on which the rest is built up: *the framework of society.* • *vt* put a border round (a picture, painting, etc.).

franc (fræŋk) *nc* See appendix.

franchise ('frænʧaɪz) *nc* 1 the right to vote at a public election. 2 the right to sell a company's goods or services in a particular area.

frank[1] (fræŋk) *adj* **-er, -est** speaking your thoughts freely and honestly. **frankly** *adv* **frankness** *nu*

frank[2] *vt* 1 put (stamps) on letters, etc., by means of a machine, esp. at a post office. 2 put a mark (on a postage stamp) to show it has been accepted.

frankfurter ('fræŋkfɜːtə*) *nc* a sausage of beef or pork with a strong taste that has been preserved with smoke.

frantic ('fræntɪk) *adj* wildly excited with fear, joy, pain, grief, etc. **frantically** *adv*

fraternal (frə'tɜːnəl) *adj* of or like a brother. **fraternity** (frə'tɜːnɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a group of men with the same interest or purpose.

fraud (frɔːd) 1 *nu* dishonesty that can be punished by law. *nc* 2 a dishonest act of this kind. 3 a person or thing that is not what he, she, or it pretends to be. **fraudulent** ('frɔːdjʊlənt) *adj* acting with or got by fraud. **fraudulently** *adv*

fraught (frɔːt) *adj* 1 (of a person or feeling) nervous, anxious, or tense: *She felt very fraught after the argument.* 2 (of a situation) tense, difficult, or troubled: *The atmosphere was fraught as they started to fight.*

fray (freɪ) 1 *vt* make (a material, rope etc.) become thin and have loose threads at the edge or end, by being used too much; (also *vi*) become like this. 2 make (someone's temper) become worn out; (also *vi*) become like this.

freak (friːk) *nc* person, thing, act, etc., that is very unusual and not normal.

freckle ('frekəl) *nc* (on a person) a small brown spot on the skin. • *vt* 1 mark with such spots. 2 *vi* be covered with such spots.

free (friː) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 not in someone else's power; not a slave. 2 not in prison. 3 (of a state, its people, etc.) not controlled by another or a foreign government. 4 (able) to be obtained without paying. 5 (of a room, telephone, etc.) able to be used; not being used by anyone else. 6 loose; not fixed. 7 relaxed: *Feel free to do what you want.* 8 not having: *free from worry.* **free-and-easy** friendly. **freedom** ('friːdəm) 1 *nu* being free. 2 *nc* a type of freedom. **freehand** ('friːhænd) *adj* (of a drawing) done by hand and without the use of other tools. • *adv* by hand only. **freehold** ('friːhəʊld) *law nc* land that is completely owned. See also **leasehold. freelance** ('friːlɑːns) *nc* a person with no fixed employer, who sells their services to anyone who needs them. • *vi* work as a freelance. **freely** *adv* **free speech** the right to express your opinions in public. **freeway** ('friːweɪ) *nc US* a very wide road for fast traffic. **free-will** (ˌfriː'wɪl) *nu* a person's power to choose or decide what they will think or do. • *vt* cause (people, animals, etc.) to be set loose from someone else's control: *It took an hour to free the people trapped in the lift; The prisoners were freed.*

freeze (friːz) *vi* 1 become hard or be changed into or covered with ice because of cold. 2 be very cold: *I'm freezing!* 3 be unable to move because of fear, etc.: *She froze in horror.* *vt* 4 put (food, etc.) in a special machine to make it very cold and hard and so prevent it going bad. 5 form ice on or in (something). 6 fix (wages and the prices of goods) to stay the same. **freezer** *nc* a machine for freezing food. **freezing-point** *nu* the temperature at which a liquid, esp. water, freezes.

freight (freɪt) *nu* 1 goods carried from one place to another. 2 the money paid for this. • *vt* send or carry (goods) in this way.

frenzy ('frenzɪ) *nu* wild excitement. **frenzied** *adj* wild and excited.

frequency ('friːkwənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 the number of times something is repeated. 2 *nu* happening often. **frequent**

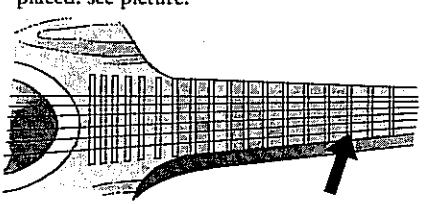
('fri:kwənt) *adj* happening often. • (frɪ'kwent) *vt* go to (a place) often. **frequently** *adv*

fresco ('freskəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a painting done on a wall or ceiling, before the plaster is dry.

fresh (freʃ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 newly grown, made, produced, etc.: *fresh eggs; a fresh pot of tea.* 2 without experience: *fresh from college.* 3 (of water) not containing salt. 4 (of weather) cool and clean: *fresh air.* 5 new; different: *fresh information.* 6 *infml* not showing respect, esp. of a man towards a woman. **freshen** *vt* 1 make fresh, clean, cool, etc. 2 *vi* (of the wind) become cooler and stronger. **freshly** *adv* **freshness** *nu* **freshwater** *adj* not of the sea or saltwater.

fret[1] (fret) 1 *vti* make (yourself) suffer thinking about something that has or has not been done. 2 *vt* wear away by rubbing. **fretful** ('fretfʊl) *adj* irritable.

fret[2] *nc* (on a guitar, banjo, etc.) one of the metal bars across the wood that holds the strings, showing where the fingers are to be placed: see picture.



fret

fretsaw ('fretsɔ:) *nc* a very narrow tool for cutting out patterns in thin wood.

friar ('fraɪə*) *nc* a member of a group of men living together under religious rules. **friary** *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where friars live together.

friction ('frɪkʃən) *nu* 1 the rubbing of one thing on another, esp. with a waste of power. 2 quarrelling.

Friday ('fraɪdɪ) *nc* the sixth day of the week, after Thursday and before Saturday. **Good Friday** the Friday before Easter Day when Christians remember the death of Jesus.

fridge (frɪdʒ) *infml n* short for **refrigerator.**

friend (frend) *nc* 1 a person you know and like, who is not a relation. 2 a helper or a person who has sympathy for someone. **friendliness** ('frendlɪnɪs) *nu* **friendly** *adv* **friendship** ('frendʃɪp) 1 *nu* the feeling between friends. 2 *nc* an example of this feeling or the time it lasts.

frieze (fri:z) *nc* a narrow, patterned band along the top of a wall, esp. in a room.

frigate ('frɪgɪt) *nc* a small, fast warship.

fright (fraɪt) 1 *nc* a shock of fear. 2 *nu* fear. **frighten** *vt* fill with fear. **frightened** *adj* **frightening** *adj* **frightful** *adj* 1 causing fear. 2 *infml* awful: *What a frightful noise!* **frightfully** *infml adv* very.

frigid ('frɪdʒɪd) *adj* 1 (of the weather) cold. 2 not friendly: *a frigid manner.*

frill (frɪl) *nc* a strip of fabric, etc., gathered into folds and sewn along the edge of a dress, curtain, etc., as decoration. **frills** *n pl* adornments of any kind that are not needed. **frilly** *adj*

fringe (frɪndʒ) *nc* 1 a decorative border of loose threads. 2 the outside edge of something: *on the fringes of the forest.* 3 an edge of short hair hanging just above the eyes. • *vt* put a fringe on; act as a fringe to.

frisk (frɪsk) *vi* 1 jump about in a playful way: *lambs frisking in the fields.* 2 *vt infml* search (someone) for hidden weapons, etc., by quickly feeling their body through their clothes. **frisky** *adj* lively.

fritter[1] ('frɪtə*) *v* **fritter away** waste (money, time, etc.) on unimportant things.

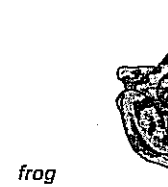
fritter[2] *nc* a mixture of flour, eggs, and milk, that is filled with fruit or meat and fried: *an apple fritter.*

frivolous ('frɪvələs) *adj* 1 not serious; silly: *frivolous behaviour.* 2 (of a person) only interested in pleasures; silly. **frivolity** (frɪ'vɒlɪtɪ) *nu*

fro (frəʊ) *adv* **to and fro** backwards and forwards: *People were hurrying to and fro.*

frock (frɒk) *nc* 1 a woman's dress. 2 a priest's long outer garment.

frog (frɒg) *nc* a small animal without a tail, that lives both on land and in water: see picture. **frogman** ('frɒgmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a person able to swim under water, wearing a rubber suit and carrying a device for breathing.



frog

frolic ('frɒlɪk) *vi* play about in a lively and happy way. • *nc* a time of being joyful and having fun; harmless, merry trick.

from (frɒm unstressed frəm) *prep* 1 (showing the starting point): *He came home from work.* 2 (showing the starting point in time): *I'll be in Paris from 14 August.* 3

(showing the lower point): *From fifteen to twenty cars passed me.* 4 (showing a movement away): *He escaped from prison.* 5 (showing a change or difference): *from hot to cold.* 6 (showing a reason or cause): *weak from lack of food; From what I know of him, I don't think he's suitable for the job.* 7 (showing distance): *The mountain is a long way from the village.* 8 (showing a material used for making something): *Wine is made from grapes.* 9 (showing a position from which something is seen or felt): *We can get a good view of the city from the top of the tower.* 10 (showing prevention, stopping, or taking away): *He was prevented from applying for the job.*

front (frʌnt) *nc* 1 (*usually singular with determiner*) the forward or most important part: *the front of the house.* 2 in war, the place where the actual fighting is. 3 a face; outward appearance: *Though afraid, he put on a brave front.* 4 (of the weather) the leading part of a slowly moving mass of cold or warm air. **in front of** before; further forward than. • *vt* face towards (something): *The hotel fronts the sea.* • *adj* leading; being the forward part or the first one: *He got into the front part of the train.* **frontal** ('frʌntəl) *adj* of or on the front.

frontier ('frʌn,tɪə*) *nc* 1 the part of a country that is next to another. 2 a limit, esp. of a field of knowledge: *the frontiers of science.*

frost (frɒst) 1 *nu* the state of the weather when freezing. 2 *nc* a time of freezing weather: *winter frosts.* 3 *nu* white powder of frozen drops of water that covers the ground, rooftops, etc. • *vi* become covered with frost: *The windows frosted over.* **frostbite** ('frɒstbaɪt) *nu* damage to the skin caused by being very cold. **frosty** *adj* 1 cold with frost: *a frosty morning.* 2 not friendly: *a frosty smile.*

froth (frɒθ) *nu* a large number of small bubbles close together. **frothy** *adj*

frown (fraʊn) *vi* move the eyebrows together making lines on the skin above them, as when you are not pleased, or in deep thought. **frown on** not approve of.

froze (frəʊz) past tense of **freeze.**

frozen ('frəʊzən) past participle of **freeze.**

fructose ('frʌktəʊz) *nu* a type of sugar found in honey and fruit.

frugal ('fruːgəl) *adj* 1 careful not to waste, esp. money or food. 2 small in quantity and costing little: *a frugal meal.*

fruit (fruːt) 1 *nu* the sweet part of a plant that contains the seeds and can be eaten: see picture. *nc* 2 the part of any plant containing the seeds. 3 (*pl*) all that the earth produces that can be eaten. 4 (usually *pl*) a result of hard work, study, etc. • *vi* product fruit. **fruitful** *adj* 1 producing fruit. 2 producing good results. **fruitless** *adj* with no result.

fruition (fruːˈɪʃən) *nu* getting what you hoped for: *Our efforts finally came to fruition.*

frustrate (frʌˈstreɪt) *vt* prevent from doing or being done. **frustration** (frʌˈstreɪʃən) 1 *nu* being frustrated. 2 *nc* a disappointment.

fry (fraɪ) 1 *vt* cook in hot fat: *She is frying some eggs.* 2 *vi* be cooked in hot fat: *The eggs are frying.* **frying-pan** *nc* a shallow pan with a long handle used for cooking food in hot fat.

fudge (fʌdʒ) *nu* a soft, brown sweet made of sugar, butter, etc.

fuel (fjʊəl) *nu* coal, petrol, oil, etc., used to make a fire burn or to produce energy. • *vt* 1 provide with fuel. 2 *vi* get fuel.

fugitive ('fjuːdʒɪtɪv) *nc* a person who is running away, esp. from danger or the police. • *adj* 1 running away. 2 lasting for a short time only.

fugue (fjuːg) *nc* a piece of music in which the main tune is repeated by the other parts or singers in turn.

fulcrum ('fʌlkrəm) *nc, pl* **-crums, -cra** (krə) the point on which a lever moves.

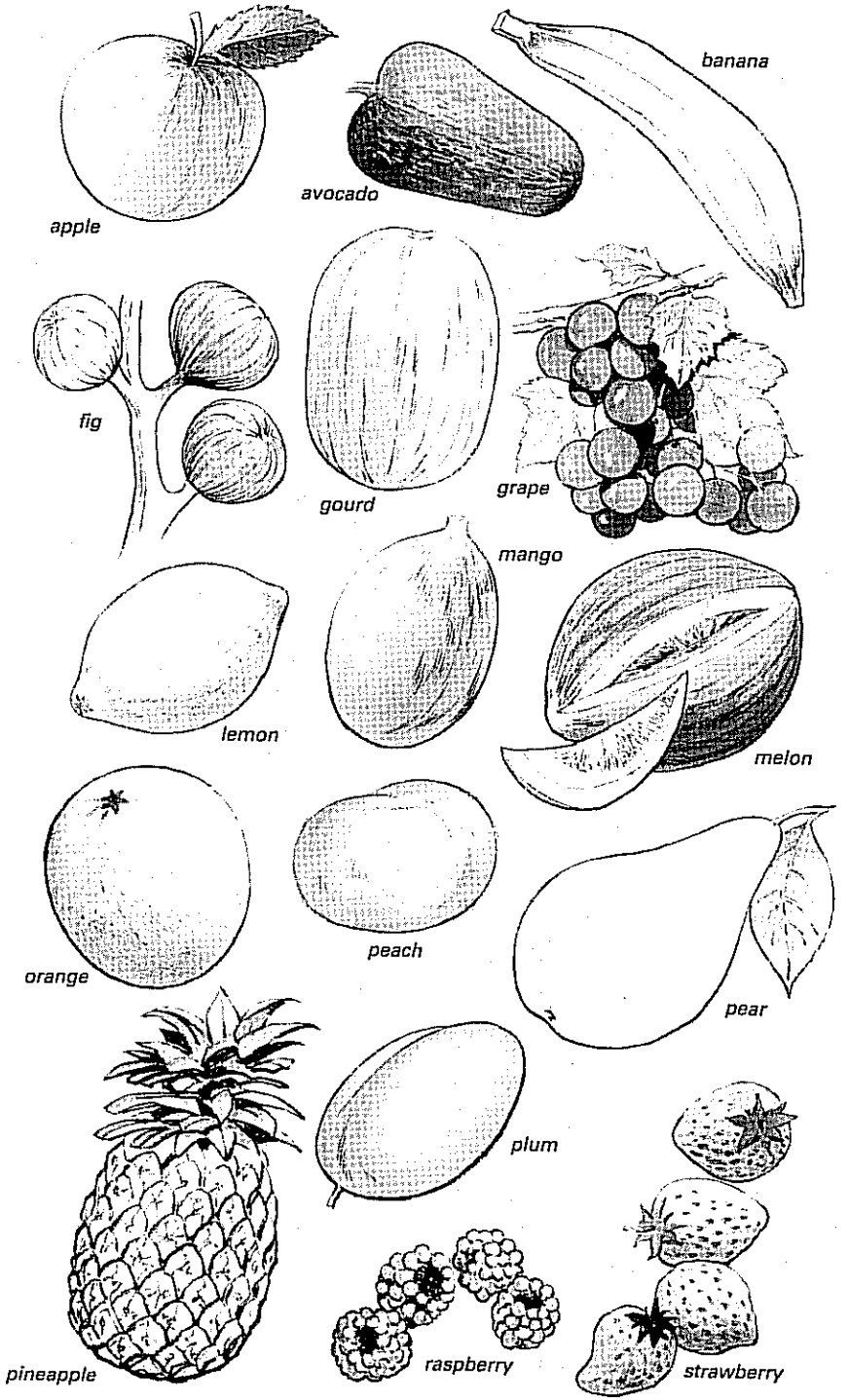
fulfil *US* **fulfill** (fulˈfɪl) *vt* carry out (a promise, duty, etc.); do (what has been asked, ordered, planned, etc.). **fulfilment** *US* **fulfillment** *nu*

full (fʊl) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 having all that it is possible to contain: *The drawer is full; He ate until he was full.* 2 having many or a lot: *The room was full of people; She's full of energy.* 3 having plenty in your mind: *He's full of talk about his new car.* 4 reaching the usual or expected size, amount, wholeness, etc.: *The flowers are in full bloom; I waited a full hour for him.* **fullness** *chiefly US nc* being full. **fully** *adv* **fully-fledged** *adj* See under **fledgeling. full stop** the sign (.) to show the end of a sentence. **full-time** *adj, adv* working the normal number of hours each day.

fumble ('fʌmbəl) 1 *vi* feel about with the hands in an awkward way: *He fumbled along in the dark.* 2 *vt* deal with (something) in an awkward or useless way.

fume (fjuːm) *nc* smoke, gas, etc., with a strong smell: *petrol fumes.* • *vi* 1 give off fumes. 2 show you are controlling anger.

fruits


apple
avocado
banana
fig
gourd
grape
mango
lemon
melon
orange
peach
pear
pineapple
plum
raspberry
strawberry

fun (fʌn) *nu* something that is very pleasant to do to pass the time; amusement: *The party was great fun!; We had fun on the beach.* **make fun of** laugh at unkindly, causing others to laugh too.

function ('fʌŋkʃən) *nc* 1 a social or public event, formal or for pleasure. 2 a special job or use of a person or thing. • *vi* do what (you or it) is intended, planned, etc., to do; operate or work: *The lift was not functioning properly.* **functional** ('fʌŋkʃənəl) *adj*

fund (fʌnd) *nc* 1 an amount of money to be used for a special purpose. 2 a store of something: *a fund of knowledge.* 3 (*pl*) the wealth of a person, company, country, etc. • *vt* supply the money needed for (something): *The project was funded by the government.*

fundamental (ˌfʌndə'mentəl) *adj* most necessary, as a point from which to build up; basic; most important. • *nc* the most important or essential part; rule. **fundamentally** *adv*

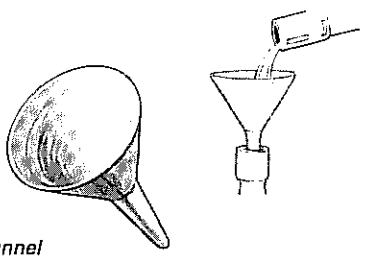
funeral ('fjuːnərəl) *nc* the burial of a dead person.

fungicide ('fʌŋgɪˌsaɪd) *nc* a substance that kills fungi, used to treat diseases, etc., caused by fungi.

fungus ('fʌŋgəs) *nc, pl* **-gi** (gaɪ) a plant that has no leaves or flowers, and grows on other plants or on matter that is going bad. **fungal** ('fʌngəl) *adj* **fungoid** ('fʌŋgɔɪd) *adj* like a fungus or fungi.

funicle ('fjuːnɪkəl) *nc botany* a stalk that joins a seed to the wall of a plant ovary.

funnel ('fʌnəl) *nc* 1 a tube, wide at the top and becoming smaller at the bottom, used for guiding liquids or powders into a small opening: see picture. 2 a metal chimney of a steamship, train, etc. • *vt* 1 put something through a funnel. 2 *vi* go through a funnel.



funnel

funny ('fʌnɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 amusing. 2 strange. **funny bone** the bone at the bend of the arm that tingles if knocked.

fur (fɜː*) 1 *nu* the soft, thick hair that covers some animals. 2 *ncu* the skin and hair of an animal, esp. when made into clothes.

furious ('fjʊərɪəs) *adj* very angry; violent: *He was furious when his money was stolen; a furious storm.* **furiously** *adv*

furlong ('fɜːlɒŋ) *nc* a measure of length; 220 yards.

furnace ('fɜːnɪs) *nc* 1 an enclosed, very hot place for heating metals, etc. 2 an enclosed fire for warming a building with hot water in pipes.

furnish ('fɜːnɪʃ) *vt* supply (a room, house, etc.), with furniture; provide. **furnishings** ('fɜːnɪʃɪŋz) *n pl* furniture, carpets, curtains, etc.

furniture ('fɜːnɪtʃə*) *nu* things needed in a room, house, etc., that can be moved, such as chairs, tables, beds, etc.

furrow ('fʌrəʊ) *nc* a long line made in soil when it is being ploughed.

furry ('fɜːrɪ) *adj* of or like fur; covered in fur.

further ('fɜːðə*) *adv* 1 more forward: *further into the wood.* 2 more: *ask further questions.* 3 moreover: *The ship was hit badly and, further, was beginning to sink.* • *adj* 1 even more: *further trouble.* 2 another: *a further example.* 3 more distant: *on the further side.* • *vt* help the progress of: *further our chances of success.* **furthermore** ('fɜːðə'mɔː*) *adv* and also. **furthest** ('fɜːðɪst) *adj, adv* most distant.

furtive ('fɜːtɪv) *adj* doing things secretly. **furtively** *adv*

fury ('fjʊərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (a fit of) violent anger.

fuse[1] (fjuːz) 1 *vi* melt because of great heat. 2 *vti* join together, esp. by heating. 3 *vi* (of an apparatus using electric current) fail or break, because too much electricity has flowed through. • *nc* (in an apparatus for using electric current) a piece of metal wire that melts if too much electricity flows through.

fuse[2] *nc* a length of material or container having in it matter that burns easily, used to make an explosion at a certain time.

fuselage ('fjuːzɪlɑːʒ) *nc* the body of a plane, without the wings, tail, and engine.

fusion ('fjuːʒən) 1 *nu* mixing; joining. 2 *ncu* the joining of different things to become one thing.

fuss (fʌs) *nu* unnecessary worry or activity. • *vi* get into an unnecessarily nervous state. **fussy** *adj* 1 difficult to satisfy: *She's very fussy about her food.* 2 with too many adornments, details, etc.

futile ('fjuːtaɪl) *adj* useless; not likely to succeed. **futility** (fjuː'tɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

future ('fju:tʃə*) *nn* 1 that which will happen after the present; the time to come. 2 what will happen to a person, country, etc. ● *adj* of or in the time to come. **in future** from now onwards: *Treat her more kindly in future.*

fuzzy ('fʌzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 not very clearly seen. 2 (of hair) very curly.

G

galleon

gabble ('gæbəl) *vti* speak quickly and unclearly. • *nu* quick, unclear speaking.

gable ('geɪbəl) *nc* the wall between two halves of a sloping roof.

gadget ('gædʒɪt) *nc* a small mechanical device or tool.

gag[1] (gæg) *nc* a cloth tied over or put into someone's mouth to stop them speaking. • *vt* 1 put a gag on (someone). 2 *infml* not allow to speak.

gag[2] *infml nc* a joke.

gaiety ('geɪɪtɪ) *nu* being **gay** (defs 1, 2).

gaily ('geɪlɪ) *adv* in a **gay** (defs. 1, 2) manner.

gain (geɪn) *vt* 1 receive; obtain. 2 win (land, a prize, etc.). 3 arrive at; reach. *vti* 4 increase: *I'm gaining (in) experience.* 5 (often followed by **on**) get further forward (compared to someone or something you are following or that is following you). • *ncu* 1 (an example of) gaining. 2 *nc* something gained.

gait (geɪt) *nc* a manner of walking; walk.

gala ('gɑːlə) *nc* a special occasion; festival.

galaxy ('gæləksɪ) *nc, pl* **-xies** 1 a star system in space. 2 a gathering of famous, etc., people. **galactic** (gə'læktɪk) *adj*

gale (geɪl) *nc* a strong wind.

galena (gə'liːnə) *nu science* a grey mineral from which lead is extracted; lead sulphide.

gall[1] (gɔːl) *nu* 1 a bitter liquid produced by the gall bladder; bile. 2 *infml* bad manners; rudeness: *She actually had the gall to come round to my house.* **gall bladder** *biology* a sac attached to the liver which produces bile. **gallstone** *nc* a hard lump of chalky material which forms in the gall bladder and causes severe pain.

gall[2] *nc* a sore on the skin, caused by rubbing. • *vt* annoy.

gallant ('gælənt) *adj* 1 brave and with honour. 2 (gə'lænt, 'gælənt) (of a man) polite, gentle, and protecting towards women. **gallantly** *adv* **gallantry** *nu* 1 bravery. 2 politeness.

galleon ('gælɪən) *nc* a large sailing ship, esp. of the Spanish navy from the 15th to 17th centuries: see picture.

gallery ('gælərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a room or building in which works of art are shown: *a picture gallery* 2 a room or corridor open at one side, built over and looking into a larger room. 3 an underground room, esp. in a mine.

galley ('gælɪ) *nc* 1 a former type of boat with sails and a large number of oars. 2 the kitchen in a boat or plane.

gallium ('gælɪəm) *nc science* a greyish-white element with a low melting-point and high boiling-point, extracted from bauxite; used in thermometers for high temperatures.

gallon ('gælən) *nc* a measure of capacity: see appendix.

gallop ('gæləp) *nc* the fastest step of a horse. • *vi* 1 (of a horse) move with a gallop. 2 *vt* cause (a horse) to move with a gallop.

gallows ('gæləʊz) *n pl* (*usually with singular verb*) a wooden frame used to kill someone, from which a rope is hung round their neck.

galore (gə'lɔɪ*) *adv* in plenty: *He's got money galore.*

galvanise ('gælvənaɪz) *vt* 1 *science* give a covering of zinc to: *galvanised iron.* 2 make (someone) start doing something: *He was galvanised into action.* **galvanisation** (ˌgælvənaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu*

galvanometer (ˌgælvə'nɒmɪtə*) *nc* an instrument for measuring small electric currents.

gamble ('gæmbəl) 1 *vti* risk (money) on a game of chance. 2 *vt* (followed by **away**) lose (money) by gambling: *He gambled away all his money.* 3 *vi* (often followed by **on**) take a risk in the hope of (something happening): *In planning the trip I'm gambling on being allowed to go.* • *nc* 1 an example of gambling. 2 a risky act.

gambol ('gæmbəl) *vi* (esp. of lambs) run or jump about playfully.

game (geɪm) *nc* 1 an activity, often organised and with rules, in which there is competition between those taking part, such as football or chess. 2 a single period of such an activity. 3 *infml* any activity, esp. a trick: *What's your game?* 4 *nu* birds and animals: *a game park.* **give the game away** let out a secret. **gamekeeper** ('geɪmˌkiːpə*) a man who looks after game birds in the country.

gamete ('gæmiːt) *nc biology* a cell that is

produced by an animal, etc., for sexual reproduction.

gamma ('gæmə) *nc* the third letter of the Greek alphabet. **gamma radiation** electromagnetic radiation generally of shorter wavelength than X-rays released in radioactive decay.

gammon ('gæmən) *nu* cured meat from the back part and leg of a pig.

gamut ('gæmət) *nc* a range; scale; list: *Red and blue are only two points on the whole gamut of colour.*

gander ('gændə*) *nc* 1 a male goose. 2 *infml* a look: *Have a gander at this!*

gang (gæŋ) *nc* 1 a group of people formed, esp. for crime. 2 a group of people working outside: *a road gang.*

ganglion ('gæŋgliən) *nc, pl* **-lia** (liə) 1 *biology* a group of nerve cells forming a nerve centre. 2 a tumour or cyst in the sheath of a tendon.

gangplank ('gæŋplæŋk) *nc* a board used for walking onto or off a ship.

gangrene ('gæŋgriːn) *medicine nu* rotting of flesh, caused esp. by a serious injury.

gangster ('gæŋstə*) *nc* a member of a violent gang.

gangway ('gæŋweɪ) *nc* 1 a space between rows of seats, as in a theatre. 2 a bridge from a ship to land.

gaol (dʒeɪl) *n, v* See **jail. gaoler** *nc*

gap (gæp) *nc* 1 a space; break: *a gap in the wall.* 2 a difference: *the generation gap.*

gape (geɪp) *vi* 1 stare (at) in surprise or wonder. 2 open your mouth wide. 3 open or be wide open: *The cave gaped in front of us.* • *nc* a stare.

garage ('gærɑːʒ, 'gærɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a building in which cars, buses, etc., are kept. 2 a building where petrol is sold and often where cars are sold and repaired. • *vt* put (a vehicle) in a garage.

garb (gɑːb) *nc slang* clothes; dress: *You should have seen the garb she was wearing.* • *vt* (*usually passive*) clothe; dress: *He was strangely garbed.*

garbage ('gɑːbɪdʒ) *nu* 1 something worthless or useless. 2 *chiefly US* rubbish; waste.

garble ('gɑːbəl) *vt* mix up (a message, etc.); make difficult to understand.

garden ('gɑːdən) *nc* 1 a piece of land next to a house, used for growing grass, flowers, vegetables, etc. 2 (*pl*) an area of land planted with trees, flowers, etc., and open to the public. • *vi* look after a garden. **gardener** *nc* **gardening** *nu*

gargle ('gɑːgəl) *vti* wash the mouth and throat by breathing out through (a liquid) held in the mouth. • *ncu* a liquid used for gargling.

gargoyle ('gɑːgɔɪl) *nc* a pipe with its end shaped like a face, sticking out from a roof to carry rain away from the building.

garish ('geərɪʃ) *adj* (of a colour or something coloured) unpleasantly bright.

garland ('gɑːlənd) *nc* a ring of flowers, esp. worn round the head or neck.

garlic ('gɑːlɪk) *nu* a plant root used in food for its strong taste.

garment ('gɑːmənt) *nc* a thing worn to cover the body; piece of clothing.

garnet ('gɑːnɪt) *nc* a dark-red semi-precious stone used in jewellery: *a garnet necklace.*

garnish ('gɑːnɪʃ) *vt* add to (something, esp. food) to make it more attractive: *fish garnished with lemon.* • *nc* a thing with which something is garnished.

garret ('gærɪt) *nc* a small room in the top of a building.

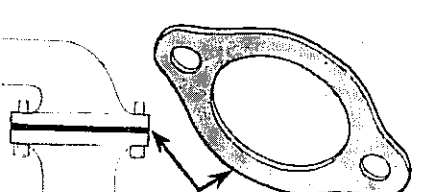
garrison ('gærɪsən) *nc* the soldiers guarding a town, camp, etc. • *vt* appoint (soldiers) as a garrison (in a town, camp, etc.).

garter ('gɑːtə*) *nc* a band of elastic cloth worn round the leg to hold up a sock or stocking.

gas (gæs) 1 *ncu, pl* **gases, gasses** a substance, such as air, when it is neither liquid nor solid. *nu* 2 gas burned for heat or light: *natural gas.* 3 *US, infml* short for **gasoline.** • *vt* 1 use gas on (someone) in order to kill or make unconscious. 2 *infml vi* talk at length. **gas law** *science* a scientific law to do with gases and pressure; e.g., Boyle's law. **gas mask** a device worn to remove poisonous gas from the air you breathe. **gasometer** (gæs'ɒmɪtə*) *nc* a very large container for gas. **gas station** *US* See **filling-station. gaseous** ('geɪsɪəs, 'gæsɪəs) *adj* in the form of or to do with a gas. **gaseous exchange** *biology* the process of taking in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide, esp. during respiration.

gash (gæʃ) *nc* a deep cut. • *vt* make a gash in.

gasket ('gæskɪt) *nc* a thin sheet of paper, rubber, etc., held tightly between two



gasket

metal surfaces, as in an engine, to keep water, oil, etc., in: see picture.

gasoline ('gæsəliːn) (*infml abbrev.* **gas**) *US n* See **petrol.**

gasp (gɑːsp) 1 *vi* breathe fast or with difficulty, because of lack of air or surprise. 2 *vt* speak while gasping. • *nc* an example of gasping.

gastric ('gæstrɪk) *adj* to do with the stomach.

gastroenteritis (ˌgæstrəʊˌentəˈraɪtɪs) *nu medical* inflammation of the membranes of the stomach and intestine.

gastronome ('gæstrənəʊm) *nc* an expert in the art of eating: *Her restaurant was recommended by the top gastronomes.* **gastronomic** *adj*

gastropod ('gæstrəˌpɒd) *nc zoology* a mollusc with one large muscular foot; slugs and snails are gastropods.

gate (geɪt) *nc* 1 a door, either solid or made of bars with spaces in between, used to close a break in a fence, city wall, etc. 2 a way in or out of a large factory, school, etc. 3 a numbered way out of an airport building to a plane. **gatecrash** ('geɪtkræʃ) *vti* get into a party or other social event without having been invited. **gate-post** ('geɪtpəʊst) an upright length of wood, stone, etc., either supporting a gate or to which it is fastened when shut. **gateway** ('geɪtweɪ) an entrance with a gate in it.

gâteau ('gætəʊ) *French nc, pl* **gâteaux** ('gætəʊz) a large rich cake.

gather ('gæðə*) *vti* 1 collect; come or bring together: *to gather flowers; A crowd gathered.* 2 (cause to) increase: *the gathering storm.* 3 *vt* learn; discover: *Did you gather what's happening?* **gathering** *ncu* 1 (an example of) gathering. 2 a meeting of people.

gaudy ('gɔːdɪ) *derogatory adj* **-ier, -iest** very bright, showy, or colourful.

gauge (geɪdʒ) *nc* 1 an instrument used for measuring: *a rain gauge.* 2 a quantity used for measuring the thickness of wire, fineness of cloth, etc. 3 the distance between the two rails of a railway line. 4 a means of judging something, such as public opinion. • *vt* 1 measure. 2 judge.

gaunt (gɔːnt) *adj* 1 (of a person) looking very thin. 2 (of a place) bare; unfriendly.

gauntlet[1] ('gɔːntlɪt) *nc* a long heavy glove that widens above the hand. **take up** or **throw down the gauntlet** accept or make a challenge.

gauntlet[2] *n* **run the gauntlet** 1 suffer a punishment in which someone is made to run between two lines of men who strike him as he passes. 2 face much criticism.

gauze (gɔːz) *nu* a loosely woven cloth used to dress wounds.

gave (geɪv) past tense of **give.**

gay (geɪ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 happy; cheerful. 2 bright; showy: *gay colours.* 3 *infml* homosexual: *the gay community.*

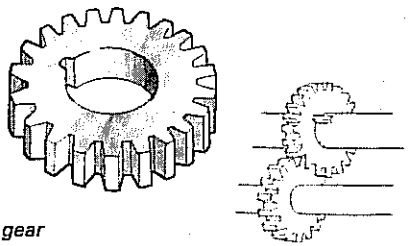
gaze (geɪz) *vi* (often followed by **at**) look long and steadily. • *nu* a long, steady look.

gazelle (gəˈzel) *nc, pl* **gazelles, gazelle** an animal; small type of antelope found in Africa and Asia: see picture at **animals.**

gazette (gəˈzet) *nc* a government newspaper containing public notices.

gazetteer (ˌgæzɪˈtɪə*) *nc* a list of places, with descriptions of them.

gear (gɪə*) *nc* 1 a wheel with teeth round its edge that can turn a similar wheel: see picture. 2 a set of gears built for a purpose: *winding gear.* 3 *ncu* a condition of a set of gears: *low gear; This car has five gears.* 4 *nu* tools, clothes, etc., needed for something: *sports gear.* **gearbox** ('gɪəbɒks) a box containing the gears in a car or other machine. • *vt* (followed by **to**) cause to fit in with or be equal to: *My pay is geared to prices.*



gear

gecko ('gekəʊ) *nc* a small insect-eating lizard with suction pads on its feet for climbing walls and ceilings.

geese (giːs) plural of **goose.**

Geiger counter ('gaɪgə*) *science* a device used to detect and measure radioactivity.

gel (dʒel) *ncu* a jelly-like substance: *hair gel; Frogspawn is protected by gel.* • *vi* also **jell** 1 come together: *Our plans are beginning to gel.* 2 form a gel: *Egg white gels when it is cooked.*

gelatin ('dʒelətɪn) *nu* also **gelatine** ('dʒelətiːn) a substance made from animals' skins and bones and used to make jelly for food, photography, etc.

gelding ('geldɪŋ) *nc* a castrated male horse.

gelignite ('dʒelɪgˌnaɪt) *nu* a powerful explosive made with nitroglycerine.

gem (dʒem) *nc* 1 a precious stone, such as a diamond. 2 a special person or thing: *My secretary's a real gem.*

gender ('dʒendə*) *grammar* 1 *nc* one of the three types of noun in some languages—masculine, feminine, and neuter. 2 *nu* the

existence of genders. 3 *nc* the state of being male, female, or neuter.

gene (dʒiːn) *nc* a small part that is inherited; a tiny part of each living cell that controls part of a plant or animal.

genealogy (ˌdʒiːnɪˈælədʒɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-gies** a list of the people of whom you are a descendant. 2 *nu* the practice of making such lists.

general (ˈdʒenrəl) *adj* 1 to do with everyone in a group or all types of something: *general knowledge; a general strike.* 2 common; frequent: *The rain will be fairly general tonight.* 3 rough; not exact: *I've got the general idea.* • *nc* an army officer. **in general** generally; most commonly. **general election** an election for all the members of a parliament at once. **general knowledge** knowledge about facts about the world, news, famous people, events, etc. **generally** *adv* 1 in a general way. 2 most commonly. **general practitioner** a doctor who deals with all types of illness. **general public** *nu* all the people in a society.

generalise (ˈdʒenərəlaɪz) 1 *vt* (usually followed by **about**) form an idea that may be common to (some but perhaps not all things). 2 *vi* make general statements. **generalisation** (ˌdʒenərəlaɪˈzeɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) generalising.

generate (ˈdʒenəreɪt) *vt* cause or produce (a result, electricity, etc.).

generation (ˌdʒenəˈreɪʃən) *nc* 1 a group of people who are all at the same physical stage in a family or nation. 2 the average time covered by the lives of people in this group, often seen as a single step in a succession of such groups: *three generations ago.* 3 the process of generating.

generator (ˈdʒenəreɪtə*) *nc* 1 a person or thing that generates. 2 a machine that generates electricity.

generic (dʒɪˈnerɪk) *adj* 1 *biology* concerning a genus: *Compositae is the generic name for all sorts of daisies.* 2 to do with a whole group or class; **general** (def. 1).

generous (ˈdʒenərəs) *adj* 1 glad to give: *He's generous with his money.* 2 large: *a generous amount.* **generosity** (ˌdʒenəˈrɒsɪtɪ) *nu* **generously** *adv*

genetics (dʒɪˈnetɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of how plants and animals develop like the ones from which they come. **genetic** *adj* 1 to do with genetics. 2 to do with the origin of something. **genetic code** *biology* the arrangement of genes controlling the development of a living thing. **genetic engineering** the changing of the nature of a creature or plant, its cells, etc., by the changing of its genes.

genial (ˈdʒiːnɪəl) *adj* 1 (of a person) cheerful; pleasant. 2 warm; cheering; healthy: *genial surroundings.*

genie (ˈdʒiːnɪ) *nc* a person supposed to appear by magic to help someone in trouble.

genital (ˈdʒenɪtəl) *adj* to do with the genitals. **genitals** *n pl* the sexual parts on the outside of the body.

genius (ˈdʒiːnɪəs) 1 *nc* a very clever person. 2 *nu* the quality of being a genius.

genocide (ˈdʒenəsaɪd) *nc* the murder of a whole race or nation.

gent (dʒent) *infml n* short for **gentleman.**

gentle (ˈdʒentəl) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 mild; kind. 2 not violent: *Be gentle with those things—they might break.* 3 moderate: *a gentle slope.* **gentleness** *nu* **gently** (ˈdʒentlɪ) *adv*

gentleman (ˈdʒentəlmən) *nc, pl* **-men** 1 *polite* a man. 2 a polite, educated man.

gents (dʒents) *infml, Brit nc, pl* **gents** (*often with singular verb*) a public toilet for men.

genuine (ˈdʒenjuːɪn) *adj* 1 real; original. 2 (of a person) sincere. **genuinely** *adv*

genus (ˈdʒiːnəs) *nc, pl* **genera** (ˈdʒenərə) a group of similar plants or animals.

geography (dʒɪˈɒgrəfɪ) *nu* 1 the study of the surface of the earth. 2 *infml* the arrangement of anything, such as the rooms in a house. **geographer** *nc* a person who studies geography. **geographical** (ˌdʒiːəˈgræfɪkəl) *adj*

geology (dʒɪˈɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of what the earth is made of. **geological** (ˌdʒiːəˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **geologist** *nc* a person who studies geology.

geometry (dʒɪˈɒmətrɪ) *nu* a branch of mathematics which concerns the study of lines, shapes, and angles. **geometrical** (dʒiːəˈmetrɪkəl) *adj*

geranium (dʒəˈreɪnɪəm) *nc* a plant with red, pink, or white flowers: see picture at **flowers.**

geriatrics (ˌdʒerɪˈætrɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) medicine for old people. **geriatric** *adj* 1 to do with geriatrics. 2 to do with old people.

germ (dʒɜːm) *nc* 1 a tiny creature, esp. one that causes a disease. 2 (often *pl*) a beginning: *the germ of an idea.*

German measles (ˈdʒɜːmən) *nu* See **rubella.**

germanium (dʒəˈmeɪnɪəm) *nu science* an element which is brittle and grey; used as a semiconductor in transistors and alloys.

germicide (ˈdʒɜːmɪˌsaɪd) *ncu* a substance

in liquid or powder form which kills germs: *Bleach and antiseptic are germicides.*

germinate ('dʒɜːmɪneɪt) *vti botany* (cause to) grow or start growing. **germination** (ˌdʒɜːmɪ'neɪʃən) *nu*

gerund ('dʒerənd) *nc grammar* a noun formed by adding *-ing* to a verb: *'Climbing', 'jumping', and 'swimming' are all gerunds.*

gestation (dʒes'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* the growth of a young animal inside its mother. 2 *nc* the period that this growth takes: *The gestation period of an elephant is 22 months.*

gesticulate (dʒes'tɪkjuleɪt) *vti* express (a meaning) with movements of the body. **gesticulation** (dʒesˌtɪkju'leɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) gesticulating.

gesture ('dʒestʃə*) *nc* 1 a movement of the body used to express something. 2 an action that shows your intentions. • *vti* use gestures (to indicate): *He gestured me to pass him.*

get (get) *vt* 1 obtain; receive. 2 bring or fetch. 3 take: *I'll get the bus into town.* 4 (followed by an infinitive after the object) cause: *I got him to come.* 5 *infml* hear or understand: *I didn't get what you said.* 6 *infml* annoy (someone): *Her voice really gets me.* 7 *vi* (often followed by **to**) reach; arrive at: *We got home safely: Can you get to Nairobi?* 8 suffer from: *I've got a cold.* 9 *vti* (cause to) become: *I got hot; Get your hair cut.* **have got** have; possess: *I've got plenty of time.* **have got to** must: *I've got to go home.* **get across** 1 (of a road) (cause to) cross. 2 (cause to) be understood. **get along** 1 (often followed by **with**) be on friendly terms: *I get along well with my cook.* 2 manage; succeed: *We get along without him now.* 3 go away. **get at** 1 reach; do something to or with: *I can't get at my car easily when it's in the garage.* 2 mean; intend: *What are you getting at?* 3 annoy; anger: *She always has to get at me whenever she sees me.* **get away** escape. **getaway** ('getəweɪ) *nc* an escape, esp. just after a crime. **get away with** not be punished for: *I stole a watch and got away with it.* **get back** 1 recover (something). 2 return. **get by** 1 go past: *Can I get by, please?* 2 manage to live, etc.: *I get by without her.* **get down** 1 come or go down. 2 bring or take down. 3 write down. 4 eat; swallow. 5 make tired or depressed. **get down to** start (doing). **get in** 1 enter. 2 put or bring in. 3 be elected: *He got in at the last election.* 4 manage to do: *I'll try to get all my trips in.* **get into** 1 enter. 2 put or bring into. 3 be elected to: *He got into power.* 4 (usually in perfect tense) affect; put into a bad mood: *What's got into you?* **get off** 1 leave: *Get off the grass.* 2 come or go down (from). 3 be (or cause to be) punished very little or not at all: *get off lightly.* **get on** 1 come or go on. 2 put on. 3 do (well); manage: *How are you getting on?* 4 make progress: *How's the work getting on?* 5 become late or old: *The time's getting on.* 6 (often followed by **with**) be on (friendly) terms with: *We get on well together; She did not get on with him.* **get onto** 1 come or go onto. 2 put onto. 3 get a message to: *I'll get onto him about it.* 4 find out: *The police will soon get onto him if he goes on cheating people.* **get out** 1 (often followed by **of**) leave. 2 (often followed by **of**) bring or take out. 3 become known: *The news has got out.* 4 (followed by **of**) (cause to) avoid: *I've got out of having to go to school.* **get over** 1 (cause to) cross: *Can you get over the wall?* 2 (often followed by **with**) finish: *I'll soon get this over with.* 3 get used to: *I can't get over winning.* 4 overcome: *get over a difficulty.* 5 (cause to) be understood: *I got my message over.* **get round** 1 go or come round. 2 put round. 3 avoid having to follow, obey, etc.: *Rules are made to get round.* 4 persuade (someone) to let you do what you want. 5 travel: *Wait till the news gets round.* **get round to** have time to deal with: *I'll get round to you soon.* **get through** 1 reach the person you want to speak to by radio or telephone. 2 (often followed by **to**) make (someone) understand. 3 finish; use up: *I can get through money easily.* **get together** 1 collect up. 2 meet to discuss, etc. **get-together** ('getəˌgeðə*) *infml nc* a small, informal meeting or party. **get up** 1 (cause to) rise from bed. 2 stand up. 3 go or come up. 4 increase: *The train got up speed.* 5 *infml* organise; produce: *I'm getting up a group to go to the theatre.* **get up to** *infml* do something which is disapproved of: *What have you been getting up to?*

geyser ('giːzə*) *nc* 1 a hole in the ground from which hot water is thrown up: see picture. 2 *Brit* a water heater that only heats when water is flowing through it.

geyser

ghastly ('gɑːstlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 frightening; terrible. 2 very bad.

gherkin ('gɜːkɪn) *nc* a small cucumber, esp. one put in salt water or vinegar to keep it good.

ghetto ('getəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a poor part of a town where a racial group lives.

ghost (gəʊst) *nc* the spirit of a dead person, esp. if seen by someone alive. **ghostly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 to do with ghosts. 2 frightening.

giant ('dʒaɪənt) *nc* 1 a very large man, esp. in a story. 2 a very powerful, important, etc., person or thing: *Most petrol is sold by one of the oil giants.* • *adj* very large: *a giant box of chocolates.*

gibberish ('dʒɪbərɪʃ) *nu* fast and meaningless talk. **gibber** *vi*

gibbon ('gɪbən) *nc* an animal; type of ape living in Asia.

giddy ('gɪdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 feeling that you are spinning and may fall over. 2 causing to feel this: *a giddy height.* **giddiness** *nu*

gift (gɪft) *nc* 1 a present. 2 a natural ability.

gigantic (dʒaɪ'gæntɪk) *adj* huge.

giggle ('gɪgəl) *vi* laugh in a silly way. • *nc* a silly laugh.

gild (gɪld) *vt* cover with gold.

gill[1] (gɪl) *nc* one of the parts of a fish, etc., through which it breathes in water: see picture.

gill

gill[2] (dʒɪl) *nc* a measure of capacity = 0.148 l or one quarter of a pint.

gilt (gɪlt) past tense of **gild.**

gimlet ('gɪmlɪt) *nc* a small tool for making holes by hand.

gimmick ('gɪmɪk) *infml nc* a device or activity intended to attract attention: *a sales gimmick.*

gin (dʒɪn) *nu* a strong, alcoholic, colourless drink made from grain and juniper berries.

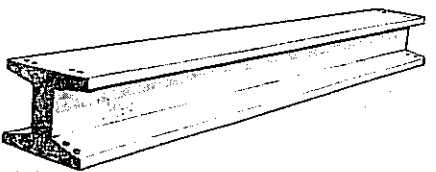
ginger ('dʒɪndʒə*) *nu* 1 the hot-tasting root of a plant, used in food, esp. as a powder. 2 this plant. • *adj* reddish-brown: *ginger hair.* **gingerbread** ('dʒɪndʒəbred) *ncu* (a) cake containing ginger.

gipsy (also **gypsy**) ('dʒɪpsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** a member of a wandering people originally from India, now in Europe and North America.

giraffe (dʒɪ'rɑːf) *nc* a very tall African animal with a long neck: see picture at **animals.**

gird (gɜːd) *literary vt* 1 put a belt on (someone or someone's waist). 2 put (clothes) on with a belt: *gird on your clothes.* 3 surround. **gird up your loins** prepare to do (something).

girder ('gɜːdə*) *nc* a long, strong piece of metal used in buildings and bridges: see picture.



girder

girdle ('gɜːdəl) *nc* 1 a belt, esp. a loose one. 2 a woman's garment, worn under other clothes, from the waist to the upper parts of the legs.

girl (gɜːl) *nc* 1 a female child; young woman. 2 *infml* a woman: *Some old girl told me.* 3 a man's special female friend. 4 a female servant. 5 a young saleswoman. **girlfriend** *nc* a man's special female friend. **girlhood** *nu* the condition or time of being a girl. **girlish** *adj* like a girl: *She flashed me a girlish smile.*

giro ('dʒaɪrəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s** a system used by banks and post offices for moving money from one person's account to another.

girt (gɜːt) past tense and past participle of **gird.**

girth (gɜːθ) *nc* 1 the distance around something round or nearly round. 2 the strip of leather that is fastened round a horse to keep a saddle on.

gist (dʒɪst) *nc* the main point of a message, etc.: *I didn't understand all that he was saying but I got the gist of it.*

give (gɪv) *vt* 1 pass; hand: *I gave him the bread.* 2 make a present of: *I was given a book for my birthday.* 3 sell: *He gave it me for £5.* 4 pay: *I gave him £5 for it.* 5 offer; show: *Give me your hand.* 6 produce; bring about: *He gave a shout.* 7 provide: *I'm giving a party.* 8 *vi* bend or move when pressed. • *nu* the amount by which something bends when pressed: *There's not much give in a hard bed.* **give away** 1 make a present of. 2 let out; reveal: *to give away a secret.* **giveaway** ('gɪvəweɪ) *nc* the act of giving away a secret, etc. **give back** return (something). **give in** 1 deliver (written work, etc.). 2 admit defeat;

surrender. **give off** produce: *A wet fire gives off smoke.* **give out** 1 give (things) to several people: *The teacher gave out our books.* 2 produce: *The man gave out a cry.* 3 stop working; come to an end: *My patience is going to give out soon.* **give over** *infml* stop. **give over to** use or intend to be used for: *Tomorrow is given over to discussion.* **give rise to** cause; bring about. **give up** 1 stop (doing something). 2 admit defeat. 3 lose: *I've given up hope of finding her.* 4 deliver: *The thief gave himself up to the police.* 5 abandon (a belief). **given** past participle of **give. giver** *nc* one who gives.

glacier ('glæsɪə*) *nc* a long mass of ice flowing very slowly down a mountain. **glacial** ('gleɪsɪəl) *adj* to do with ice or extremely cold: *The water in the lake is glacial.*

glad (glæd) *adj* **-der, -dest** 1 happy; pleased. 2 ready; willing: *I'd be glad to help you.* 3 causing joy: *glad news.* **gladly** *adv* **gladness** *nu*

glade (gleɪd) *nc* an open space in a wood or forest.

gladiator ('glædɪeɪtə*) *nc* a man who fought with a sword to entertain people in ancient Rome.

glamour *US* **glamor** ('glæmə*) *nu* attractiveness, esp. in a woman or in a job. **glamorous** *adj* having glamour.

glance (glɑ:ns) *vi* (often followed by **at**) look for short time: *She glanced at her watch.* **glance off** hit (something) and continue in a slightly different direction: *The ball glanced off his arm.* **glance over** or **through** read bits of: *I'll just glance through the newspaper.* • *nc* 1 a short look. 2 the act of glancing off something. **at a glance** immediately; with one look.

gland (glænd) *anatomy, zoology nc* a part that makes a substance for the body to use or get rid of. **glandular** ('glændjʊlə*) *adj* **glandular fever** *medicine* an infectious disease which causes a high temperature, swollen glands, and long-term weakness.

glare (gleə*) *vi* 1 (often followed by **at**) look angrily. 2 be very bright or shiny. 3 (often followed by **at**) be clear for (someone) to see or understand: *Doesn't your mistake glare at you?* • *nu* a bright light or shine.

glass (glɑ:s) 1 *nu* a hard, clear substance that lets through light and is used for windows, bottles, etc. *nc* 2 a glass container for drinking from. 3 the amount of drink held by a glass: *a glass of wine.* 4 **glasses** (*pl*) a pair of lenses in a frame worn in front of the eyes, esp. for improving your sight. **glassware** ('glɑ:sweə*) *nu* objects made of glass, esp. for drinking or eating from. **glassy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 like glass. 2 cold; expressionless: *a glassy stare.*

glaucoma (glɔ:'kəʊmə) *nu medicine* an eye disease which slowly causes blindness.

glaze (gleɪz) *vt* 1 put glass in (windows, etc.). 2 cover (a pot, plate, etc.) with a liquid that turns to glass. 3 give a shiny covering to (food, paper, etc.). • *nu* 1 the liquid used to glaze a pot, plate, etc. 2 a substance used to make something shiny. **glazier** ('gleɪzɪə*) *nc* a person who glazes. **glazing** *nu* glass for a window, etc.: *double glazing.*

gleam (gli:m) *vi* shine as a narrow line of weak light that comes and goes. • *nc* 1 a light that gleams. 2 a short period or small amount: *a gleam of understanding.*

glean ('gli:n) *vt* 1 collect (something, such as information) in small amounts. 2 gather (grain) after corn has been harvested.

glee (gli:) *nu* joy; happiness. **gleeful** *adj*

glen (glen) *nc* a narrow mountain valley.

glib (glɪb) *adj* **-ber, -best** too easy or ready: *a glib answer; a glib speaker.*

glide (glaɪd) *vi* 1 move quietly or smoothly. 2 (of a plane) fly without power. 3 fly a glider. • *nc* an act of gliding. **glider** *nc* a plane without engines.

glimmer ('glɪmə*) *vi* shine weakly. • *nc* 1 a weak light. 2 a small amount: *a glimmer of hope.*

glimpse (glɪmps) *nc* a very short look. • *vt* see for a very short time: *I couldn't see what she was wearing, I only caught a glimpse of her.*

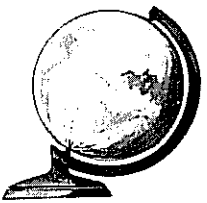
glint (glɪnt) *vi* (of something shiny, esp. metal) shine or flash brightly: *His buttons glinted in the sunlight.* • *nc* a reflected flash of light.

glisten ('glɪsən) *vi* shine or flash repeatedly: *the glistening stars.*

glitter ('glɪtə*) *vi* shine brightly and repeatedly: *The Queen's jewellery glittered.* • *nu* showy brightness. **glittering** *adj*

gloat (gləʊt) *vi* (often followed by **over**) be glad (about someone's bad luck, etc.).

globe (gləʊb) *nc* 1 a model of the world: see picture. 2 any round or nearly round object, such as one made of glass round a lamp. **global** *adj* to do with the whole world. **global warming** an increase in world temperature caused by carbon dioxide collecting round the earth. See also **greenhouse effect.**



globe

globule ('glɒbjuːl) *nc* a small globe, esp. a drop of liquid. **globular** ('glɒbjulə*) *adj*

globulin ('glɒbjəlɪn) *nc biology* a simple protein that dissolves in salt water.

gloom (gluːm) *nu* 1 darkness. 2 sadness. **gloomy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of the sky, etc.) dark. 2 looking sad.

glorify ('glɔːrɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 make glorious. 2 honour; praise. 3 make (something) seem better than it is: *This restaurant is nothing more than a glorified café.*

glorious ('glɔːrɪəs) *adj* 1 having glory. 2 splendid.

glory ('glɔːrɪ) *nu* 1 praise; honour. 2 the quality of being splendid. 3 *nc, pl* **-ries** something glorious. • *vi* (followed by **in**) pride yourself (on).

gloss[1] (glɒs) *nc* a shine on a smooth surface: *gloss paint.* • *vt* give a gloss to. **gloss over** give a falsely attractive appearance to. **glossy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

gloss[2] *nc* a short explanation or translation of a word or expression. • *vt* give a gloss for. **glossary** ('glɒsərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a list of glosses, esp. of special words, at the end of a book.

glottis ('glɒtɪs) *nc biology* the part of the larynx that sounds are made from: *The vocal cords are in the glottis.* See also **epiglottis; larynx.**

glove (glʌv) *nc* a garment for the hand, usually with separate fingers.

glow (gləʊ) *nu* a steady light, esp. from something hot. • *vi* 1 give off a glow, esp. by burning without flames. 2 look or feel well, pleased, etc.: *He glowed with pride.* 3 be warm or red in the face. **glow-worm** *nc* a small animal that gives off light.

glower ('glaʊə*) *vi* stare angrily.

glucose ('gluːkəʊz) *nu chemistry* a type of sugar.

glue (gluː) *ncu* a (type of) substance used to stick things together. • *vt* (often followed by **to**) stick with glue.

glum (glʌm) *adj* **-mer, -mest** looking or feeling unhappy.

glut (glʌt) *nc* too much, for example of something harvested, such as corn.

gluten ('gluːtən) *nu botany* protein found in cereals and flour.

glutinous ('gluːtənəs) *adj* sticky: *The porridge made a glutinous mess in the saucepan.*

glutton ('glʌtən) *nc* a greedy person.

glycerol ('glɪsərɒl) *nu* also **glycerine** ('glɪsəriːn) a thick, sweet, clear liquid used in some medicines or for making explosives, etc.

glycol ('glaɪkɒl) *nu chemistry* a colourless alcohol used as a solvent or as antifreeze.

gnash (næʃ) *vti* strike and rub (the teeth) together in anger, etc.

gnat (næt) *nc* a small fly that bites people: see picture at **insects.**

gnaw (nɔː) *vt* 1 wear away (something hard, esp. wood) by biting repeatedly; (sometimes *vi*, followed by **at**): *A mouse has been gnawing at this rope.* 2 make (a hole, etc.) by gnawing.

gnome (nəʊm) *nc* an imagined creature like a little old man, said to guard treasure under the ground: see picture.

gnome

go (gəʊ) *vi* 1 move; travel. 2 leave; depart: *I must go in ten minutes.* 3 lead; point: *The road goes to Rome.* 4 (of a machine, etc.) work: *Is the clock going?* 5 become: *You've gone red!* 6 be; remain: *He had no food, so he went hungry.* 7 make (a noise): *The gun went bang.* 8 act: *Let me show you: go like this.* 9 run; be written: *How does that song go?* 10 run; progress: *It all went well.* 11 fit in; suit: *That chair doesn't go in this room.* 12 fit: *It won't go—it's too big.* 13 be usually put: *Cups go in the cupboard.* 14 be spent: *My money all went on clothes.* 15 be sold: *This house should go for a lot of money.* 16 stop working; break down: *The elastic has gone in my pyjamas.* 17 (often followed by **by**) (of time) pass: *Another hour went by.* • *nc, pl* **-es** 1 a try: *Have a go at it—you might win!* 2 a turn in a game, etc. **be going to do** be about to do; be on the point of doing. **let yourself go** behave wildly and not mind what other people think. **go about** 1 move from place to place. 2 start working on (a task). 3 be occupied with: *Go about your work!* **go after** follow or chase. **go ahead** 1 start or continue, esp. with permission to do so. 2 travel somewhere before someone else: *I'll go ahead to*

look for a hotel. **go along** (often followed by **with**) *infml* agree (with). **go by** 1 pass. 2 judge by: *To go by your face, I'd say you've been running.* **go down with** *infml* start to suffer from (an illness). **go far** help a lot; buy much; extend (to): *This money will go far towards meeting the cost of the new building.* **go for** 1 go to get. 2 apply to: *That goes for you too!* 3 try to get: *I'm going for a prize.* 4 like, prefer, or choose: *I go for the red one.* 5 attack: *When he was rude about my wife, I really went for him.* 6 be to the advantage of: *He's got a lot going for him.* **go in for** 1 enter (a competition). 2 take part in or be keen on: *I go in for wine.* **go off** 1 leave to go (to somewhere or to someone): *He's gone off to work early today.* 2 stop working or coming: *The electricity has gone off again.* 3 (of food) become bad or rotten: *That fish has definitely gone off.* 4 stop liking. 5 (of a bomb) explode. 6 happen: *The game went off all right.* **go on** 1 continue. 2 happen: *What's going on here?* 3 talk a lot. 4 use as a model or example: *This isn't much to go on.* 5 be lit: *The lights went on.* 6 be spent on: *The money will all go on food.* **go out** 1 leave a room, house, etc. 2 (of a light or fire) stop shining or burning. 3 stop being fashionable: *Shoes like those went out years ago.* 4 (of a television or radio programme, message, etc.) be sent or broadcast. 5 leave home, etc. to attend an entertainment, party, etc. 6 (of the sea) move out and away from the land: *The sea has gone out.* **go over** 1 have an (intended) effect: *His act went over well.* 2 examine; check: *I want to go over our plan again.* **go through** 1 examine; check: *Someone has gone through my things.* 2 be approved: *The law has gone through.* 3 use up: *You go through your money quickly.* 4 wear out: *This sock is going to go through soon.* 5 suffer: *She went through great pain.* **go under** 1 sink below the surface of water, etc. 2 lose; be beaten; (of a business) fail. **go with** 1 travel in the company of. 2 suit; match: *Blue socks don't go with brown shoes.* **go without** not have (something): *I'll go without dinner.*

goad (gəʊd) *vt* (often followed by **into**) cause (someone) to do something, esp. by making them angry: *I was goaded into hitting him.*

goal (gəʊl) *nc* 1 the object or purpose of an action. 2 the end point of a journey. 3 a standing frame through which the ball is to be kicked, etc., in a game such as football. 4 an act of kicking the ball through a goal: *We got five goals.* **goalkeeper** ('gəʊlˌkiːpə*) the football player in each team who guards the goal and may handle the ball.

goat (gəʊt) *nc* an animal with horns, kept for its meat, wool, and milk: see picture at **animals.**

gobble ('gɒbəl) *vt* eat quickly.

goblet ('gɒblɪt) *nc* a metal or glass container for drinking from, without handles and having the drinking bowl connected to the flat bottom by a narrow support.

goblin ('gɒblɪn) *nc* an imaginary little creature supposed to do harm.

god (gɒd) *nc* a being or force honoured as the controller of (part of) nature. **God** (gɒd) *n* the being who created and rules everything. **godchild** ('gɒdtʃaɪld) *nc, pl* **-dren** a child whom an adult promises, at the child's baptism, to see brought up as a Christian. **goddaughter** *nc* a female godchild. **goddess** ('gɒdɪs) *nc* a female god. **godfather** *nc* a male godparent. **godly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person) religious. **godmother** *nc* a female godparent. **godparent** *nc* an adult who promises, at a child's baptism, to see that it is brought up as a Christian. **godson** *nc* a male godchild.

goes (gəʊz) *v* (used with **he, she,** or **it**) a form of **go.** • *n* plural of **go.**

goggle ('gɒgəl) *vi* look with eyes wide open, in surprise, etc. **goggles** *n pl* glasses worn to protect the eyes, usually touching the face all round.

go-kart ('gəʊkɑːt) *nc* a very small, open racing car.

gold (gəʊld) *nu* a chemical element; a shiny yellow metal used as money and in jewellery, etc.: symbol Au. **golden** *adj* 1 made of gold. 2 having the colour of gold. **goldfish** ('gəʊldfɪʃ) *nc, pl* **goldfish, goldfishes** a small orange fish. **gold leaf** very thin gold, stuck onto objects as ornament. **goldsmith** ('gəʊldsmɪθ) *nc* a person who makes things from gold.

golf (gɒlf) *nu* a game in which a small ball is hit across grass towards and into usually eighteen holes in the ground, one after the other. **golf club** also **club** a metal stick with a flat end used to hit the ball in golf.

gonad ('gəʊnæd) *nc zoology* the organ which produces gametes, the testicles in men and the ovary in women.

gondola ('gɒndələ) *nc* 1 a boat used in Venice, Italy, to carry about four people and moved with one oar. 2 a container for passengers, under an airship or balloon or one carried on a cable going up a mountain.

gone (gɒn) past participle of **go.**

good (gʊd) *adj* **better, best** 1 of high quality; satisfying, suited, enjoyable, valuable, etc. 2 (of food) not rotten. 3 (used after **a**) full; complete; at least: *This job will take a good two hours.* 4 (of a debt) likely to be paid. 5 clever; able: *He's very good at persuading people to do things.* 6 newest or of the best quality: *Don't wear your good shoes in this mud!* 7 large: *A good part of the street is shops.* **good for** 1 (of a cheque, etc.) worth (an amount of money). 2 capable of; fit for: *My car's good for another few years.* **have a good time** enjoy yourself. **goodbye** (gʊd'baɪ) *interj* (used when leaving someone.) • *nc* an act of saying 'goodbye'. **good evening** (used when meeting or, sometimes, leaving someone in the evening.) **good-humoured** *adj* cheerful. **good-looking** (gʊd'lʊkɪŋ) *adj* attractive. **goodly** ('gʊdlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 pleasing. 2 large: *a goodly fortune.* **good morning** (used when meeting or, sometimes, leaving someone in the morning.) **good-natured** *adj* kind and friendly: *He is the most good-natured person I know.* **goodness** *nu* **good night** (used at night when either the speaker or the person spoken to is leaving or going to bed). **goods** *n pl* things being traded or transported. **goodwill** (gʊd'wɪl) *nu* 1 kindness. 2 willingness; readiness to do something. 3 the custom of a business that is expected to continue when the business is sold.

goose (guːs) *nc, pl* **geese** a bird that can swim and is larger than a duck.

gooseberry ('gʊzbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a green, hairy fruit, about 2 cm across, of the gooseberry bush.

gore (gɔː*) *vt* stick a horn or tusk into (a person or animal).

gorge (gɔːdʒ) *nc* a deep, narrow river valley. • *vti* 1 eat a lot of (food) quickly. 2 *vt* fill (yourself) with food.

gorgeous ('gɔːdʒəs) *adj* 1 very attractive or beautiful. 2 *infml* very pleasant, tasty, etc.

gorilla (gə'rɪlə) *nc* an animal; the largest ape: see picture at **animals.**

gorse (gɔːs) *nu* a bush with yellow flowers and sharp points.

gory ('gɔːrɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 to do with blood, killings, etc. 2 terrible: *the gory details.*

gosh (gɒʃ) *interj* (used to show surprise.)

gosling ('gɒzlɪŋ) *nc* a young goose.

gospel ('gɒspəl) 1 *nc* the story of the life of Jesus Christ. 2 *nc* a religious message or teaching. 3 *infml nu* complete truth.

gossamer ('gɒsəmə*) *nu* 1 spiders' webs. 2 very fine cloth.

gossip ('gɒsɪp) *vi* talk informally, esp. unkindly about other people. • *ncu* 1 such (a) talk. 2 *nc* a person who gossips.

got (gɒt) past tense and past participle of **get.**

gotten ('gɒtən) *US* past participle of **get.**

gouge (gaʊdʒ) *vt* 1 cut or pull out: *He gouged a piece out of the tree with his knife.* 2 make by gouging: *He gouged a hole in the tree.* • *nc* a tool for gouging with.

gourd (gʊəd) *nc* the fruit of certain plants, which is large and hollow, and may be dried and used as a container: see picture at **fruits.**

gourmet ('gʊəmeɪ) *French nc* a person with a good judgement of the quality of food or drink.

gout (gaʊt) *nu* a disease causing pain and swelling in joints, esp. in the foot.

govern ('gʌvən) *vt* 1 control the affairs of (a country). 2 influence or control: *What governed such a strange choice?* **governess** *old-fashioned nc* a woman employed to educate children in their own home. **government** 1 *nu* the governing of something. 2 *nc* the group of people who govern a country. **governor** *nc* 1 a person in charge of a district, prison, etc. 2 a device that controls the speed of a machine.

gown (gaʊn) *nc* a long garment, such as one worn by a teacher or a woman's evening dress.

Graafian follicle ('grɑːfɪən) *zoology* the part of the ovary which allows the egg to be released at ovulation.

grab (græb) *vt* take hold of quickly or with force. • *nc* 1 an act of grabbing. 2 a device built to pick up things, such as earth.

grace (greɪs) *nu* 1 the beauty of movement, shape, etc. 2 the regard or consideration for others: *She had the grace to go when asked.* 3 *nc* a short prayer said before or after a meal. **graceful** *adj* **gracefully** *adv*

gracious ('greɪʃəs) *adj* 1 showing kindness or courtesy. 2 to do with an easy or comfortable life. **graciously** *adv*

grade (greɪd) *nc* 1 (the people or things in) one of a set of qualities, sizes, abilities, etc.: *These apples are quite big enough for the first grade.* 2 one of a set of marks given for school or university work. • *vt* put into a grade: *Tea is graded into many different qualities.*

gradient ('greɪdɪənt) *nc* a slope on a road, railway, etc.

gradual ('grædjʊəl) *adj* moving, changing, etc., slowly or a small amount at a time. **gradually** *adv*

graduate ('grædjʊeɪt) 1 *vi* receive a university degree. 2 *vt* put marks on (a container, instrument, etc.) for measuring by. ● ('grædjʊət) *nc* a person who has received a university degree: *I am now a graduate of Cambridge University.*

graduation (ˌgrædjʊ'eɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of graduating. 2 *nc* a measuring mark on a container, instrument, etc.

graffiti (grə'fiːtɪ) *n pl* messages, often funny, written on walls, etc., in public places.

graft (grɑːft) *vt* 1 fix (a shoot) from one plant onto another. 2 fix (a part of the body or of someone else's body) onto a part of the body: *He had skin from his leg grafted onto his face.* ● *nc* 1 a grafted shoot. 2 a grafted part of a body. 3 an act of grafting.

grain (greɪn) 1 *ncu* a hard grass seed used as food: *grains of corn;* many such seeds: *the grain harvest.* 2 *nu* a particular grass grown for its seeds, such as wheat; corn. 3 *nc* a very small hard piece of something, such as sand. 4 *nu* the direction in which the tiny pieces making up wood, stone, etc., point.

gram (græm) *nc* a measure of weight: see appendix.

grammar ('græmə*) 1 *nu* the arrangement of the elements of language. 2 *nc* a description of the grammar of a language. **grammar school** *Brit* a school, usually paid for with public money, for children from about eleven to eighteen. **grammatical** (grə'mætɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with grammar. 2 (of language) according to grammar; correct.

gramophone ('græməfəʊn) *old-fashioned n* see **record-player. gramophone record** See **record** (def. 3).

granadilla (ˌgrænə'dɪlə) *nc* 1 a plant that produces an egg-shaped fleshy fruit. 2 also **passion fruit** the fruit of such a plant, having a juicy yellow flesh.

granary ('grænərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a building for storing harvested grain.

grand (grænd) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 large or important: *The grand chief of the district.* 2 splendid: *a grand procession.* 3 final: *The grand total is £40.* 4 *infml* very good: *That's a grand idea.* **grand piano** a piano in which the strings are arranged flat, not upright. **grandstand** ('grændstænd) *nc* a group of seats positioned to give the best view of a game, race, etc.

grandchild ('grændtʃaɪld) *nc, pl* **-ren** a granddaughter or grandson.

granddaughter ('grænd,dɔːtə*) *nc* a daughter of your child.

grandeur ('grændjʊə*) *nu* the quality of being grand or splendid.

grandfather ('grænd,fɑːðə*) *nc* also (*infml*) **grandad, grandpa** the father of your father or mother.

grandiose ('grændɪəʊs) *adj* 1 looking grand or splendid. 2 unnecessarily grand.

grandmother ('grænd,mʌðə*) *nc* also (*infml*) **grandma, granny** the mother of your father or mother.

grandparent ('grænd,peərənt) *nc* a grandfather or grandmother.

grandson ('grændsʌn) *nc* a son of your child.

granite ('grænɪt) *nu* a very hard light-grey rock much used for building.

grant (grɑːnt) *vt* 1 allow; permit: *My request has been granted.* 2 admit that (something) is true: *I grant you it's cold.* **take (something) for granted** 1 suppose (something) to be true. 2 use (something) without knowing its value. ● *nc* an amount of usually public money given for a purpose such as education: *a student grant.*

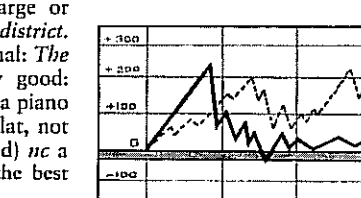
granule ('grænjuːl) *nc* a **grain** (def. 3). **granulate** ('grænjʊleɪt) *vt* make into grains: *granulated sugar.*

granulocyte ('grænjələˌsaɪt) *nc zoology* a white blood cell produced in the bone marrow to fight bacteria.

grape (greɪp) *nc* one of a bunch of green or black fruits of the grapevine, eaten or used for making wine: see picture at **fruits. grapevine** ('greɪpvaɪn) 1 *nc* the plant on which grapes grow. 2 *infml nu* an informal way of hearing news: *I heard about it on the teachers' grapevine.* **sour grapes** a saying that you do not want something because you know that you cannot get it anyway.

grapefruit ('greɪpfruːt) *nc, pl* **grapefruit, grapefruits** a large, sour, yellow citrus fruit.

graph (grɑːf) *nc* a drawing using lines or dots to represent any number of pairs or sets of figures: see picture.



graph

graphic ('græfɪk) *adj* 1 to do with drawing or writing: *graphic arts.* 2 (of a story, description, etc.) good; clear. **graphically** *adv*

graphite ('græfaɪt) *nu* a type of carbon used as the 'lead' in pencils.

grapple ('græpəl) *vt* 1 grasp (someone), as in a fight. 2 get hold of with a hook. 3 *vi* (followed by **with**) deal (with a problem, etc.): *I am just grappling with my accounts.* • *nc* 1 an act of grappling. 2 a kind of hook.

grasp (grɑːsp) *vt* 1 hold or take hold of firmly. 2 understand. 3 *vi* (followed by **at**) try to take hold of. • *nc* 1 a firm hold. *nu* 2 understanding: *a good grasp of the subject.* 3 ability to do or get: *Victory was within my grasp.*

grass (grɑːs) *ncu* a (type of) plant with long narrow leaves, such as wheat, bamboo or one that is kept cut short in a garden. **grasshopper** ('grɑːsˌhɒpə*) *nc* an insect that can jump a long way and make a loud clicking noise: see picture at **insects.** **grassland** ('grɑːslænd) *ncu* land where mainly grass grows naturally. **grass roots** the basic level of something, esp. politics, as it affects ordinary people. **grassy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

grate[1] (greɪt) *nc* a frame of metal bars for holding the burning wood, coal, etc., in a fire.

grate[2] *vt* 1 cut into small pieces by rubbing against a surface with cutting edges sticking out from it: *Can you grate this carrot, please?* 2 make a noise by rubbing (rough surfaces) together. 3 *vi* (of rough surfaces) make a noise by rubbing together.

grateful ('greɪtful) *adj* expressing gratitude or feeling thankful. **gratefully** *adv*

gratify ('grætɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 please. 2 act according to (an urge, desire, etc.). **gratification** *nu*

grating ('greɪtɪŋ) *nc* a set of metal bars crossing each other, used, for example, to let water flow through a wall.

gratitude ('grætɪtjuːd) *nu* appreciation of a kindness received.

gratuity (grə'tjuːɪtɪ) *nc* money freely given for a service, on top of any charge; **tip**[3].

grave[1] (greɪv) *adj* **-r, -st** serious, esp. dangerous: *in grave difficulty.* **gravely** *adv*

grave[2] *nc* a place where a dead person is buried in the ground. **gravestone** ('greɪvstəʊn) a piece of stone over a grave giving the name of the person buried there. **graveyard** ('greɪvjɑːd) a piece of land where graves are dug, esp. around a church.

gravel ('grævəl) *nu* small stones dug out of the ground and used to make roads, etc.

graven ('greɪvən) *adj old-fashioned* carved: *a graven image.*

gravitate ('grævɪteɪt) *vi* (followed by **towards** or **to**) 1 be moved by gravity. 2 *infml* move slowly or be attracted: *All the men gravitated to one end of the room.*

gravity ('grævɪtɪ) *nu* 1 also **gravitation** (ˌgrævɪ'teɪʃən) the force that pulls things towards the centre of the earth or another planet or star. 2 graveness; seriousness: *the gravity of the situation.*

gravy ('greɪvɪ) *nu* a liquid food made from the juice of cooked meat and served with it.

gray (greɪ) *US adj* see **grey.**

graze[1] (greɪz) *vi* (of animals) eat (growing grass, etc.) in a field; (sometimes *vt*) allow (animals) to eat grass, etc.

graze[2] *vti* touch or scratch (something, esp. the skin) lightly: *I grazed my knee on the ground; The bus was so wide it only just grazed past.* • *nc* a place where something has been grazed: *Is that a graze on your knee?*

grease (griːs) *nu* soft fat or soft, solid oil, used esp. to make machines work smoothly. • *vt* put grease on. **greasy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

great[1] (greɪt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 large in size or number. 2 lasting a long time; unusually long: *a great while; He lived to a great age.* 3 important: *a great change.* 4 very clever, able, etc.: *a great writer.* 5 keen: *a great stamp collector.* 6 *infml* good, enjoyable, etc.: *Have a great time!* **Great War** See **World War I** under **world. greatly** *adv* **greatness** *nu*

great[2] *adj* (used as a prefix to indicate a child of a grandchild, a parent of a grandparent, or an aunt or uncle of a father or mother): *great-grandchildren; a great-grandfather.*

greed (griːd) *nu* wanting too much of something, esp. food. **greedy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

green (griːn) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 of the colour of, for example, growing grass. 2 looking ill, esp. seasick. 3 not having had much experience. 4 (of fruit) not yet ripe. 5 (of meat) not smoked or cured: *green ham.* • *ncu* 1 a green colour. *nc* 2 a piece of land covered with grass in the middle of a village. 3 (*pl*) green vegetables. **green belt** a ring of land around a town, on which most building is forbidden. **green fingers** *infml* a great ability to make plants grow: *He's got green fingers.* **greenfly** *n* See **aphid. greengage** ('griːngeɪdʒ) *nc* a fruit; a green variety of plum. **greengrocer** ('griːnˌgrəʊsə*) *nc* a person who sells fruit and vegetables. **greenhouse**

('griːnhaʊs) *nc* a building with glass roof and walls, used for growing plants in. **greenhouse effect** the warming of the atmosphere around the earth caused by pollution preventing heat from escaping through its upper levels. See also **global warming. greenhouse gas** a gas such as carbon dioxide or methane believed to cause the greenhouse effect. **greenish** ('griːnɪʃ) *adj* of a colour that can almost be called green.

greet (griːt) *vt* 1 say something, esp. welcoming, on meeting (someone). 2 meet; receive. **greeting** *nc* 1 an act of greeting. 2 (often *pl*) a friendly message: *Send my greetings to your parents.*

gregarious (grɪ'geərɪəs) *adj* 1 fond of being with other people. 2 (of animals) living in groups.

grenade (grə'neɪd) *nc* a small bomb thrown by hand or fired from a special gun.

grew (gruː) past tense of **grow.**

grey *US* **gray** (greɪ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 having no colour, but darker than white and lighter than black. 2 having grey hair. 3 unclear; doubtful. • *nc* a grey tone. **greyhound** ('greɪhaʊnd) *nc* a tall, thin dog that can run fast. **greyish** ('greɪɪʃ) *adj* almost or partly grey. **grey matter** 1 the grey, active parts of the brain. 2 *infml, humorous* the brain.

grid (grɪd) *nc* 1 a set of crossing lines, drawn, for example, over a map. 2 a system of pipes or wires by which gas, water, or electricity is fed around a country.

griddle ('grɪdəl) *nc* 1 a flat metal plate for cooking on. 2 a type of wire net for separating large stones, etc., from small ones.

grief (griːf) *nu* great sadness, esp. at someone's death. **come to grief** meet with failure, an accident, etc.

grievance ('griːvəns) *nc* a real or imagined cause for complaining.

grieve (griːv) *vti* (cause to) feel grief: *She grieved for her dead husband for the rest of her life.*

grievous ('griːvəs) *adj* 1 very serious: *a grievous crime.* 2 causing grief.

grill (grɪl) *vt* 1 cook (food) by heating from just above or from just below. 2 *infml* question (someone) forcefully. • *nc* 1 a device for grilling food. 2 a set of metal bars on which food is grilled. 3 a dish of grilled food. 4 a restaurant where grills are the main food served.

grille (also **grill**) (grɪl) *nc* 1 a set of metal bars fastened together in a pattern as a screen, etc. 2 also **radiator grille** a set of metal bars on the front of a car, lorry, etc., to let air flow to the engine.

grim (grɪm) *adj* **-mer, -mest** 1 cruel, forbidding, or merciless. 2 *infml* unpleasant or unattractive. 3 determined. **grimly** *adv*

grimace ('grɪməs) *nc* an expression of the face indicating dislike, disgust, etc. • *vi* make a grimace.

grime (graɪm) *nu* dirt, esp. collected on something over a long time. **grimy** *adj*

grin (grɪn) *vi* smile, showing the teeth. • *nc* a broad smile.

grind (graɪnd) *vt* 1 (often followed by **down to** or **down into**) make (corn, etc.) into small pieces by rubbing. 2 rub (a knife, etc.) in order to make sharp, smooth, etc. 3 rub hard (together): *He is grinding his teeth in anger; This dirt has been ground into the carpet.* • *nc* 1 an act of grinding. 2 *infml* a long, hard task. **grinder** *nc* a person or machine that grinds. **grindstone** ('graɪndstəʊn) *nc* a stone for grinding knives, etc., on.

grip (grɪp) *vt* 1 hold tightly. 2 hold (someone's) interest greatly. • *nc* 1 a tight hold. 2 a way of holding something: *use the proper grip.* 3 a soft bag with handles. 4 the part of something by which it is held. 5 *nu* understanding or control of something: *You're losing your grip.* **gripping** *adj* holding (someone's) interest: *a gripping story.*

gripe (graɪp) 1 *vi infml* complain, esp. in an annoying way. 2 *vt* cause (someone) pain just below the stomach. • *nc* 1 *infml* a complaint. 2 a pain just below the stomach.

grisly ('grɪzlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** frightening or unpleasant: *Some children's stories are really very grisly.*

gristle ('grɪsəl) *nu* tough, smooth, white material found in meat, esp. where bones meet.

grit (grɪt) *nu* 1 small hard pieces of stone, earth, etc. 2 courage; toughness of character. • *vt* spread grit on (esp. an icy road). **grit your teeth** hold your teeth firmly together. **gritty** *adj*

grizzly ('grɪzlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (esp. of hair) partly grey. • *nc, pl* **-lies** also **grizzly bear** a large grey-brown North American bear.

groan (grəʊn) *nc* a deep noise made by someone who is disapproving, complaining, in pain, etc. • *vi* 1 give a groan. 2 (usually followed by **with** or **under**) be weighed down (by) or suffer (under): *The chair groaned with his weight.*

grocer ('grəʊsə*) *nc* a person who sells most types of food. **grocery** *nc, pl* **-ries** a shop used by a grocer. **groceries** *n pl* food sold by a grocer.

grog (grɒg) *nu* a drink of spirits, esp. rum, and water. **groggy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** unsteady; not fully in control of your movements.

groin (grɔɪn) *anatomy nc* the line at the front of each leg where it joins the rest of the body.

groom (gruːm) *nc* 1 a person employed to look after horses. 2 short for **bridegroom.** • *vt* make (hair, clothes, etc.) neat and tidy. 2 prepare (someone) for a future job or other activity: *I'm grooming my son to succeed me in the family business.* 3 brush and generally look after (a horse).

groove (gruːv) *nc* a long, narrow cut or hollow, as on a record. • *vt* make a groove in (something).

grope (grəʊp) *vi* (usually followed by **for** or **after**) 1 feel about (for something), esp. in the dark. 2 try with difficulty to find (the right words, etc.). • *nc* an act of groping.

gross[1] (grəʊs) *nc, pl* **gross** a measure of quantity = 144.

gross[2] *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of a person) unpleasantly fat. 2 (of a payment) before tax is taken away: *gross wages.* 3 vulgar: *gross behaviour.* 4 serious: *a gross mistake; gross negligence.*

grotesque (grəʊˈtesk) *adj* very strange or unusual.

grotto (ˈgrɒtəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a small attractive cave.

ground[1] (graʊnd) 1 *nu* land: *He's lying on the ground; Tree roots go into the ground.* 2 *nc* a piece of land used for something: *a football ground; a landing ground.* **gain ground** make progress in a chase, battle, etc. **get off the ground** be started successfully. **ground control** the people who work on the ground at an airport controlling the movement of the planes. **ground floor** the bottom floor of a building. **groundless** *adj* without a cause or reason: *Your fears are groundless.* **ground-nut** (ˈgraʊndnʌt) *nc* 1 part of the root of the ground-nut plant, used for food. 2 See **peanut. grounds** *n pl* 1 land surrounding a building. 2 *fml* reasons: *On what grounds are you refusing to let me in?* 3 ground coffee beans at the bottom of a pot or cup. **groundsheet** (ˈgraʊndʃiːt) *nc* a sheet of material that does not let water through, spread on the ground in a tent, etc. **groundwork** the basic work which is done before you start a job.

ground[2] *vt* 1 run (a ship) onto a part of the sea bottom that is near the surface. 2 not allow (a plane, pilot, etc.) to fly.

ground[3] past tense and past participle of **grind.**

group (gruːp) *nc* 1 several people or things together. 2 a small number of musicians who play music together. • *vti* put into or become a group.

grouse[1] (graʊs) *nc, pl* **grouse** a wild bird that is shot for food.

grouse[2] *vi* complain or grumble: *She's always grousing about something.*

grove (grəʊv) *nc* a small wood.

grovel (ˈgrɒvəl) *vi* 1 lie or creep on the ground, esp. out of fear. 2 say that you are sorry or admit that you are wrong: *I suppose I'll have to grovel before I get my job back.*

grow (grəʊ) 1 *vti* become bigger; develop: *Apples grow on trees; Their friendship grew with time; He's growing a beard.* 2 *vi* become: *It's growing cold.* 3 *vt* plant and help to **grow** (def. 1): *We grow flowers and sell them.* **grower** *nc* a person who grows plants. **grow on** become more liked by: *You may not like this music at once, but it'll grow on you.* **grow up** 1 become adult; become like older creatures of the same kind. 2 come into being: *The town grew up a long time ago.*

growl (graʊl) *vi* (of an animal) make a deep noise, usually indicating anger. • *nc* a deep angry sound, esp. made by an animal.

grown (grəʊn) past participle of **grow. grown-up** (ˈgrəʊnʌp) *nc, adj* (an) adult.

growth (grəʊθ) 1 *nu* the act of growing. 2 *nc* something growing: *a good growth of wool.*

grub (grʌb) *vi* look for something: *He was grubbing around in the box.* • *nc* 1 the young of some insects. 2 *slang nu* food.

grubby (ˈgrʌbɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** dirty.

grudge (grʌdʒ) *nc* a feeling of annoyance at someone who has done something you did not like: *She still bears me a grudge for stealing her boyfriend ten years ago.* • *vt* 1 not want to give or allow (someone something): *I don't grudge you the money I owe you.* 2 not want to (do something).

gruelling *US* **grueling** (ˈgruːəlɪŋ) *adj* very tiring. • *nc* a very tiring experience.

gruesome (ˈgruɪsəm) *adj* horrible; unpleasant: *a gruesome story of murder.*

gruff (grʌf) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 unkind or impolite: *a gruff letter.* 2 (of a voice) deep and rough.

grumble (ˈgrʌmbəl) *vi* complain, esp. for a long time. • *nc* a complaint.

grumpy (ˈgrʌmpɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** unhappy and unfriendly.

grunt (grʌnt) *vi, nc* (esp. of pigs) (make) a deep, short noise.

guava ('gwɑːvə) *nc* (a tropical tree that produces a) fruit with a yellow skin and pink flesh.

guarantee (ˌgærən'tiː) *nc* 1 a promise that an article or service will be as good as is claimed. 2 something that makes something else certain to exist or happen: *A guard is our guarantee of safety.* • *vt* 1 give a **guarantee** (def. 1) for (an article or service). 2 act as a **guarantee** (def. 2) of (something).

guard (gɑːd) *vt* 1 protect from danger. 2 prevent (a prisoner) from escaping. 3 *vi* (followed by **against**) be ready to prevent: *We have to guard against floods.* • *nc* 1 a person or group of people (esp. police, soldiers, etc.) who guard someone or something. 2 a device covering a moving part of a machine, etc., that protects the user. 3 *Brit* the person in charge of a train. **be off (your) guard** be unready while not watching. **be on (your) guard** be watchful or ready to defend. **stand guard** (of a soldier) keep watch, as a sentry.

guarded ('gɑːdɪd) past tense and past participle of **guard.** • *adj* (of a question, etc.) careful; not giving away your opinion, etc.

guardian ('gɑːdɪən) *nc* 1 a person appointed to look after the affairs of someone else, esp. a child whose parents are abroad or dead. 2 a person who guards something.

guerrilla (gə'rɪlə) *nc* a member of a political armed force, usually fighting against a country's regular army: *The guerrillas were living in a hide-out in the mountains.*

guess (ges) *vti* 1 have or express an idea of the quantity or nature of (something) without knowing it. 2 guess correctly: *You've guessed it!* • *nc* a guessed quantity or nature. **guesswork** *nu* guessing.

guest (gest) *nc* 1 a person invited to have a meal, stay at someone's house, etc., without paying. 2 a person staying in a hotel. 3 a person conducting an orchestra, appearing on a television programme, etc., who does not normally do so. **guestroom** a bedroom in a private house that is kept for visitors to stay in.

guidance ('gaɪdəns) *nu* 1 the act of guiding or being guided. 2 advice.

Guide (gaɪd) *nc* a member of the Guides, an international organisation that helps girls to develop skills and responsibility.

guide (gaɪd) *vt* 1 lead; show the way to. 2 steer; direct. 3 advise. • *nc* 1 a person who guides, esp. visitors round a town, building, etc. 2 a book describing a place or explaining a subject. 3 a device that steers a machine part, etc. 4 something used to help you do something correctly.

guild (gɪld) *nc* an organisation, esp. of people with the same job: *the craftsman's guild.*

guile (gaɪl) *nu* deceitful behaviour; trickery.

guillotine ('gɪlətiːn) *nc* 1 a device for cutting off a person's head with a heavy, falling blade. 2 a machine for cutting a large number of sheets of paper at once. • *vt* cut off with a guillotine.

guilt (gɪlt) *nu* the fact or state of having done something wrong, esp. broken the law: *I was full of guilt when I saw how much damage I had done.* **guilty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having guilt. 2 showing or feeling guilt.

guinea ('gɪnɪ) *n* **guinea-fowl** ('gɪnɪfaʊl) *pl* **guinea-fowl** a dark-grey type of hen. **guinea-pig** ('gɪnɪpɪg) 1 an animal about 20 cm long that is related to the rat and much used in experiments. 2 a person or thing used in an experiment.

guise (gaɪz) *nc* an appearance, esp. a pretended one: *The thief got in in the guise of a servant.*

guitar (gɪ'tɑː*) *nc* a stringed musical instrument played by pulling or plucking the strings slightly and letting them go: see picture at **musical instruments.**

gulf (gʌlf) *nc* 1 a large part of the sea that reaches some way into the land: *the Persian Gulf.* 2 something that separates people, such as a great difference of opinion: *A gulf opened up between us when I went to university.*

gull (gʌl) *nc* a mainly white bird that lives on or near the sea.

gullet ('gʌlɪt) *n* See **oesophagus.**

gullible ('gʌlɪbəl) *adj* easy to deceive or cheat.

gully ('gʌlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** 1 a small valley made by water. 2 a channel built to carry water. **gully erosion** soil erosion that is produced by running water.

gulp (gʌlp) 1 *vt* swallow quickly. 2 *vi* breathe with difficulty because you are surprised, etc. • *nc* an act of gulping.

gum[1] (gʌm) *anatomy ncu* the flesh out of which the (upper or lower set of) teeth grow.

gum[2] 1 *nu* a substance used to stick things together. 2 *nc* a type of sweet: *chewing gum.* • *vt* cover or stick with gum. **gumboot** *nc* a waterproof boot made of rubber or plastic. **gum up** 1 (cause to) become blocked. 2 *infml* (cause something) not to work properly.

gun (gʌn) *nc* a weapon that fires a shell or bullet by means of an explosion. **gunboat** ('gʌnbəʊt) *nc* a small navy boat fitted with guns. **gunman** ('gʌnmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man carrying a gun, esp. a criminal. **gunner** *nc* a soldier, sailor, etc., who uses larger guns. **gunpowder** ('gʌnˌpaʊdə*) *nu* an explosive mixture of chemicals. **gunsmith** ('gʌnsmɪθ) *nc* a person who makes small guns.

gurgle ('gɜːgəl) *vi* make the noise of water flowing over rocks or down a pipe. • *nc* this noise.

guru ('gʊruː) *nc* a Hindu or Sikh religious teacher.

gush (gʌʃ) *vi* flow in large quantities. • *nc* a sudden large flow.

gust (gʌst) *nc* a sudden, strong rush of wind. • *vi* (of the wind) blow in gusts. **gusty** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

gut (gʌt) 1 *nc* the lower part of the passage through which food passes in the body; intestine. 2 *nu* a type of string often made from the gut of an animal and used for sewing parts of the body together after they have been cut; also often used for the strings of a musical instrument, etc. **guts** *n pl* 1 the inside parts of the body. 2 *infml* courage; strength of character. • *vt* 1 remove the guts of (a fish, etc.). 2 burn or remove the inside of (a building): *The house was completely gutted by fire.*

gutter ('gʌtə*) *nc* a channel under the edge of a roof or at the side of a road to carry rain away.

guy[1] (gaɪ) *nc* a rope, wire, etc., used to hold up a tent, aerial, etc.

guy[2] *nc* 1 *infml* a man or youth. 2 *Brit* a model of Guy Fawkes, made of old clothes, etc., and burned on 5 November.

gymnasium (dʒɪm'neɪzɪəm) *nc, pl* **-siums, -sia** (zɪə) a large room used for bodily exercise. **gymnast** ('dʒɪmnæst) a person who trains in bodily exercise. **gymnastics** (dʒɪm'næstɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) exercises for the body, esp. using things to climb up, jump over, etc.

gynaecium (dʒaɪ'niːsɪəm) *nc botany* the female part of a flower consisting of one or more pistils.

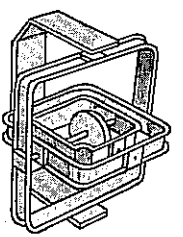
gynaecology (ˌgaɪnɪ'kɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study and practice of medicine to do with diseases that women get. **gynaecologist** *nc* a doctor working in gynaecology.

gypsum ('dʒɪpsəm) *nu* a substance dug out of the ground and used to make plaster, cement, etc.

gypsy ('dʒɪpsɪ) *n* See **gipsy.**

gyrate (dʒaɪ'reɪt) *vi* spin round a fixed central point.

gyroscope ('dʒaɪrəˌskəʊp) *nu science* a device used to keep ships, aeroplanes and guided missiles steady, consisting of a heavy wheel which keeps the axis through its centre whatever way its base is turned: see picture.



gyroscope

H

ha (hɑː) *interj* 1 (used to express surprise, victory, etc.) 2 (used two or more times to represent laughter.)

Haber-Bosch process ('hɑːbəbɒʃ) *science* the industrial method of producing ammonia gas from gaseous hydrogen and nitrogen.

habit ('hæbɪt) *nc* 1 a custom; practice: *Smoking is a bad habit.* 2 a special garment, esp. of a monk or nun. **be in the habit of doing** be used to doing; do frequently.

habitable ('hæbɪtəbəl) *adj* fit for people to live in.

habitat ('hæbɪtæt) *nc* the natural home of a plant or animal.

habitation (ˌhæbɪ'teɪʃən) 1 *nc* a place where someone or something lives; home. 2 *nu* living in a home.

habitual (hə'bɪtjʊəl) *adj* regular or usual: *my habitual journey to work.* **habitually** *adv*

hack[1] (hæk) *vt* 1 chop roughly or violently. 2 make (a path, etc.) by hacking. 3 kick (someone), esp. in sport. 4 *vi* (often followed by **at**) chop roughly or violently at (something). • *nc* an act of hacking. **hacksaw** ('hæksɔː) *nc* a saw for metal, with a thin blade stretched in a frame.

hack[2] 1 a horse in poor condition or kept only for riding or driving. 2 a writer who produces work fast without time to worry about its quality.

hackneyed ('hæknɪd) *adj* (of an expression, idea, etc.) used so much that it has become boring.

had (hæd unstressed həd, əd) past tense and past participle of **have.**

haddock ('hædək) *nc, pl* **haddock** a North Atlantic food fish: see picture at **fish.**

hadj *n* See **hajj.**

hadn't (hædənt) *v* had not.

hadst (hædst) *v old-fashioned* (used with **thou**) a form of **have.**

haematology *US* **hematology** (ˌhiːmə'tɒlədʒɪ) *nu medicine* the study of the diseases and functions of the blood.

haemoglobin *US* **hemoglobin** (ˌhiːmə'gləʊbɪn) *nu* a substance in red blood cells that carries oxygen round the body.

haemophilia *US* **hemophilia** (ˌhiːmə'fɪlɪə) *nu medicine* a blood disorder in which the blood does not clot.

haemorrhage *US* **hemorrhage** ('hemərɪdʒ) 1 *nu* heavy bleeding from broken blood vessels. 2 *nc* an example of this. • *vi* bleed heavily.

hag (hæg) *nc* 1 an ugly old woman. 2 a witch.

haggard ('hægəd) *adj* looking thin and unwell, esp. from lack of food or sleep.

haggis ('hægɪs) *nc* a Scottish dish of a sheep's heart, liver, etc., boiled with oatmeal in a bag made from its stomach.

haggle ('hægəl) *vi* argue about the price of something.

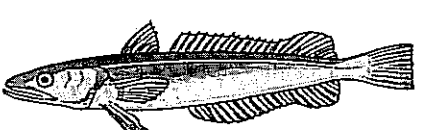
hail[1] (heɪl) 1 *nu* little balls of ice falling from clouds: *Rain turns to hail when it passes through an icy current of air.* 2 *nc* a large number or quantity of something directed somewhere: *A hail of bullets came at us; a hail of abuse.* • *vi* (of hail) fall. **hailstone** ('heɪlstəʊn) *nc* a piece of hail.

hail[2] *vt* 1 greet (someone), esp. in a friendly manner. 2 attract the attention of (a ship) by shouting or (a taxi) by waving. • *ncu* (an example of) hailing.

hair (heə*) 1 *nc* a fine thread growing out of the skin of an animal. 2 *nu* a number of hairs together, esp. on the head: *I've cut my hair.* **hairbrush** ('heəbrʌʃ) *nc* a brush used for tidying the hair. **haircut** ('heəkʌt) *nc* 1 an act of cutting someone's hair. 2 a style in which someone's hair is cut. **hairdresser** ('heəˌdresə*) *nc* a person who cuts and arranges hair. **hairpin** ('heəpɪn) *chiefly Brit nc old-fashioned* a U-shaped pin used to grip a woman's hair and hold it in place. **hairpin bend** a road that curves so as to turn back on itself, esp. on a steep road. **hairy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

hajj (also **hadj**) (hædʒ) *nc* a pilgrimage to Mecca, as a religious duty for Muslims.

hake (heɪk) *nc, pl* **hakes, hake** a fish with a long body and a large head: see picture.



hake

halal (hɑː'lɑːl) *nu* meat from animals that have been killed according to Muslim law.

hale (heɪl) *adj* **-r, -st** strong and healthy: *hale and hearty.*

half (hɑːf) *nc, pl* **halves** 1 one of two equal parts of something. 2 either half of a

pitch on which football, etc., is played. 3 either half of the time taken for a game of football, etc. 4 half an hour: *It's half-past two.* 5 half a pint, esp. of beer. • *determiner* a half of: *half the time.* • *adj* being a half of: *a half pint.* • *adv* up to a half: *You've only half cooked it; half-empty.* **half-breed** ('hɑɪfbriːd) a person with parents of different races. **half-brother** ('hɑːf,brʌðə*) a male with whom you have one parent in common. **half-hearted** *adj* not keen or eager. **half note** *US n* See **minim.** **half-sister** ('hɑːf,sɪstə*) a female with whom you have one parent in common. **halfway** (,hɑːf'weɪ) *adj, adv* at or to half the distance.

halibut ('hælɪbət) *nc, pl* **halibuts, halibut** a dark green North Atlantic food fish; the largest flatfish: see picture at **fish.**

hall (hɔːl) *nc* 1 a large building or room used for meetings, concerts, etc. 2 the room, in a house or other building, into which the main door leads and off which other rooms lead. **hall of residence** a university building in which students live. **hallmark** ('hɔːlmɑːk) *Brit* a group of letters, numbers, and pictures stamped onto a gold, silver, or platinum object to show its quality. • *vt* put a hallmark on.

hallelujah (,hælɪ'luːjə) *interj* (used loudly to praise God or express thanks or relief.)

hallo (hə'ləʊ) *interj* See **hello.**

hallow ('hæləʊ) *vt* make (a place, building, etc.) holy.

hallucinate (hə'luːsə,neɪt) *vi* see things that are not really there: *I had a fever and I was hallucinating madly.* **hallucination** *ncu*

halo ('heɪləʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** 1 a ring of light around the sun, moon, or other shining body. 2 a bright ring around the head of a saint or angel in a painting, etc.

halogen ('hæləʤən) *nc chemistry* a non-metal chemical element; for example, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine, which can combine with a metal to form a salt.

halt (hɔːlt) *nc* a stop or pause. • *vi* 1 pause; come to a stop. 2 *vt* cause to stop. • *interj* stop!

halting ('hɔːltɪŋ) *adj* (esp. of speech) hesitating.

halve (hɑːv) *vt* 1 divide into two equal parts. 2 lessen by a half. **halves** plural of **half.**

ham (hæm) *nu* meat from the cured upper part of a leg of pork; (sometimes *nc*) a whole piece of this meat. **hamburger** ('hæm,bɜːgə*) *nc* also **beefburger** a fried cake of ground beef, often served in a bread roll.

hamlet ('hæmlət) *nc* a very small village.

hammer ('hæmə*) *nc* 1 a hitting tool with a handle and a metal head: see picture at **tools.** 2 a similar part of a device that strikes a bell. 3 one of the parts of a piano that strike the strings. • *vt* hit with a hammer.

hammock ('hæmək) *nc* a piece of material or net hung by both ends for use as a bed: see picture.

hammock

hamper[1] ('hæmpə*) *nc* 1 a covered basket, used esp. for food. 2 *Brit* a hamper and the food in it.

hamper[2] *vt* make it difficult for (someone or something) to move or work.

hamster ('hæmstə*) *nc* a small animal related to the rat and often kept as a pet.

hand (hænd) *nc* 1 the end part of each arm, including the thumb, fingers, and palm. 2 a pointer on a clock or watch. 3 an influence or part in something: *You had a hand in this.* 4 a direction or position: *on the left-hand side.* 5 a worker, esp. on a ship or farm: *a deck hand; a farm hand.* 6 a handwriting: *a clear hand.* 7 *old-fashioned* a promise of marriage: *He asked for her hand in marriage.* 8 *nu* (after **first, second,** etc.) a series of persons through whom something passes: *We heard the news at first hand; The clothes were bought second-hand.* • *vt* pass (someone something) by hand. • *adj* for use by or in the **hand** (def. 1): *a hand tool.* **at hand** near; happening soon. **on the one hand... on the other hand** (used before each of two points of comparison or sides of an argument.) **take in hand** control; organise. **hand down** pass from one generation to the next. **hand in** give (a form, examination paper, etc.) to the correct person or place. **hand on** 1 give to the next person. 2 give to those who succeed or come after you. **hand out** give (several things) to different people. **handout** ('hændaʊt) 1 food, money, etc., given, esp. to someone poor. 2 a handed-out advertisement, sheet of notes, etc. **hand over** deliver; surrender: *Hand over your money.*

handbag ('hændbæg) *nc* a small bag for personal belongings carried by a woman.

handbook ('hændbʊk) *nc* a book describing a place, how a machine works, etc.

handcuff ('hændkʌf) *nc* one of a pair of rings connected by a chain and locked round a prisoner's wrists by a policeman. • *vt* put handcuffs on.

handful ('hændfʊl) *nc* 1 the quantity that a hand can hold. 2 a few: *a handful of soldiers.*

handicap ('hændɪkæp) *nc* 1 something that prevents you from doing something or makes it more difficult. 2 a race or competition in which those taking part are given handicaps so that all have an equal chance of winning. • *vt* be or give a handicap to. **the handicapped** people with handicaps of the mind or body such as blindness.

handicraft ('hændɪkrɑːft) 1 *nc* an activity done with the hands, such as sewing. 2 *nu* objects made in such an activity.

handiwork ('hændɪwɜːk) *nu* 1 objects made with the hands. 2 doing; result of someone's efforts: *The new laws are the president's handiwork.*

handkerchief ('hæŋkətʃiːf) *nc* a square of cloth or soft paper carried about and used to blow your nose on, etc.

handle ('hændəl) *nc* the part of a tool, container, etc., by which it is held or moved. • *vt* 1 use or feel with the hands. 2 deal with (a customer, situation, etc.); do something about. **handlebar** ('hændəlbɑː*) *nc* either of the two handles with which a bicycle is steered.

handmade (ˌhænd'meɪd) *adj* made by hand, not by a machine.

handshake ('hændʃeɪk) *nc* the act of shaking hands.

handsome ('hænsəm) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (esp. of a man) good-looking. 2 generous: *a handsome gift.* **handsomely** *adv*

handwriting ('hændˌraɪtɪŋ) 1 *nu* writing done by hand with a pen or pencil. 2 *nc* a style of writing: *They all have good handwritings.*

handy ('hændɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 close by; easily reached. 2 useful; easy to use. 3 good at doing things with your hands. **come in handy** be useful: *That pair of scissors you gave me certainly comes in handy.* **handyman** ('hændɪmæn) *nc, pl* **-men** a man who does many different jobs with his hands.

hang (hæŋ) *vti* 1 fasten or be fastened, esp. from above: *Hang your coat behind the door; a flag hung from the window.* 2 (past tense and past participle **hanged**) kill or be killed by hanging from a rope round the neck. 3 *vi* be held above something: *Clouds hung in the valley.* 4 *vt* cover or decorate (a wall) with (wallpaper, pictures, etc.). **get the hang of** understand or be able to do: *I can't get the hang of this work.* **hang about** or **around** be present without doing anything useful or important; waste time. **hang back** not want to do something or go somewhere. **hangman** ('hæŋmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man who hangs criminals. **hang on** 1 hold; hold on to: *Hang on or you'll fall off.* 2 *infml* wait: *Can you hang on a minute?* **hangover** ('hæŋˌəʊvə*) *nc* an unpleasant feeling experienced the day after you drink too much alcohol. **hang up** 1 put (something) on a hook, etc. 2 replace a telephone receiver when finishing a call.

hangar ('hæŋə*) *nc* a building in which planes are kept.

hanger-on (ˌhæŋər'ɒn) *nc, pl* **hangers-on** (ˌhæŋəz'ɒn) a follower or companion, esp. one who is not welcome, does not help in any way, etc.

hanker ('hæŋkə*) *vi* (usually followed by **after**) want (something) very much: *He's hankering after a bicycle.*

haphazard (hæp'hæzəd) *adj* careless; not regular or in any order. • *adv* not regularly.

hapless ('hæplɪs) *adj* unlucky.

haploid ('hæplɔɪd) *adj biology* having a single set of chromosomes, not a pair: *haploid gametes.* • *nc* a haploid organism or cell. See also **diploid.**

happen ('hæpən) *vi* 1 (of an event) take place. 2 (followed by **to**) (esp. of death) be experienced by: *I shan't know what to do if anything happens to you. vt* 3 (used with **it** and followed by a clause) be the case: *It happens that I don't know.* 4 (followed by an infinitive) chance: *We happened to meet.* **happen on** find by chance.

happy ('hæpɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 joyful: *You look happy; a happy birthday.* 2 lucky: *a happy result.* **happily** *adv* **happiness** *nu* **happy-go-lucky** (ˌhæpɪgəʊ'lʌkɪ) *adj* not minding what happens.

harangue (hə'ræŋ) *vt* talk to loudly or angrily.

harass ('hærəs) *vt* worry or annoy repeatedly.

harbinger ('hɑːbɪndʒə*) *literary nc* a person or thing indicating an arrival or other event: *a harbinger of bad news.*

harbour *US* **harbor** ('hɑːbə*) *nc* a place where ships can shelter from the open sea. • *vt* give shelter to.

hard (hɑːd) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 firm; not soft. 2 difficult to do, understand, etc. 3 needing much effort: *hard work.* 4 difficult to bear:

a hard life. 5 unkind, demanding, or cruel: *a hard master.* 6 (of water) containing salts that make more soap necessary for washing. 7 (of drugs and alcoholic drink) strong. • *adv* with much force or energy: *work hard; hit it hard.* **hard-boiled** ('hɑːdbɔɪld) *adj* (of an egg) boiled for long enough to make it all hard. **hard disk** a stiff magnetic disk that is used to store large amounts of computer data. **harden** ('hɑːdən) *vti* make or become hard or harder. **hard-headed** (ˌhɑːd'hedɪd) *adj* tough; not letting your business decisions be influenced by likes, dislikes, etc. **hardness** *nu* **hard up** not having much money. **hard-working** (ˌhɑːd'wɜːkɪŋ) *adj* able and willing to work hard.

hardly ('hɑːdlɪ) *adv* 1 only just: *I've hardly had time to sit down.* 2 not; not really: *I can hardly say that!* **hardly ever** very rarely.

hardship ('hɑːdʃɪp) *ncu* (something that causes) suffering, such as lack of food.

hardware ('hɑːdweə*) *nu* 1 metal tools and containers, esp. for gardening or cooking. 2 machines and other devices, esp. making up a computer. See also **software.**

hardwood ('hɑːdwʊd) *nu* the wood of a tree such as oak or elm, as compared with pine or fir.

hardy ('hɑːdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a person) tough. 2 (of a plant) able to live outside in winter.

hare (heə*) *nc, pl* **hares, hare** an animal like a rabbit but slightly larger and with longer ears. • *vi Brit infml* move fast: *He hared off down the road.*

harem ('hɑːriːm) *nc* 1 the part of a Muslim house for wives or other women. 2 the women who live in this.

haricot ('hærɪkəʊ) *nc* also **haricot bean** a white bean used as food and often dried for keeping.

hark (hɑːk) *vi old-fashioned* listen. **hark back** return to a subject or idea.

harlequin ('hɑːlɪkwɪn) *nc* a clown who wears a black mask and clothes made of squares of different coloured materials.

harlot ('hɑːlət) *nc old-fashioned* a prostitute.

harm (hɑːm) *vt, nu* (cause) damage or injury (to). **harmful** ('hɑːmfʊl) *adj* causing harm. **harmless** ('hɑːmlɪs) *adj* not causing harm.

harmattan ('hɑːməˌtæn) *nu* a very dry dusty wind that blows west and south-west from the Sahara to the African coast.

harmony ('hɑːmənɪ) 1 *ncu, pl* **-nies** a group of musical notes played together. 2 *nu* agreement between people. **harmonic** (hɑː'mɒnɪk) *adj* to do with harmony. • *nc* a part of a musical sound, higher than the note you hear, that determines the quality of the sound. **harmonica** (hɑː'mɒnɪkə) *nc* a small musical instrument in which strips of metal are made to sound by the player blowing and sucking air across them. **harmonious** (hɑː'məʊnɪəs) *adj* 1 in agreement. 2 (of music) having a pleasant harmony. **harmonise** 1 *vti* make or become harmonious. 2 *vt* give harmonies to (a tune).

harness ('hɑːnɪs) *nc* 1 the straps tied to a horse by which it pulls a vehicle. 2 the straps used to fasten something to a person: *a parachute harness.* • *vt* 1 put a harness on (a horse). 2 (followed by **to**) connect (a horse) to a vehicle with a harness. 3 get power from: *to harness the wind.*

harp (hɑːp) *nc* a large musical instrument with strings played directly with the fingers: see picture at **musical instruments. harp on** talk or write about in a long, boring way.

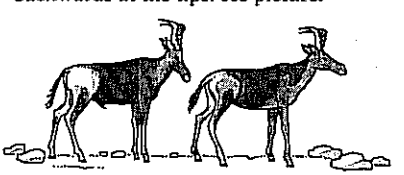
harpoon (hɑː'puːn) *nc* a pointed stick fired or thrown at whales or fish. • *vt* hit with a harpoon.

harpsichord ('hɑːpsɪkɔːd) *nc* a musical instrument like a piano but in which the strings are not hit but pulled and let go.

harrowing *adj* worrying; troubling.

harsh (hɑːʃ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 cruel. 2 rough or unpleasant to the senses: *harsh colours.* **harshly** *adv*

hartebeest ('hɑːtɪˌbiːst) *nc* a large African antelope with ringed curved horns bent backwards at the tips: see picture.



hartebeest

harvest ('hɑːvɪst) *nc* the gathering of something you have grown when it is ripe: *this year's corn harvest.* • *vt* gather (something you have grown).

has (hæz unstressed həz, əz) *v* (used with **he, she,** or **it**) a form of **have.**

hash (hæʃ) *nc* a dish of mixed meat and vegetables cut up small. **make a hash of** *infml* do (something) badly.

hashish ('hæʃiːʃ) *nu* also **cannabis** a drug made from the hemp plant.

hasn't ('hæzənt) *v* has not.

hasp (hɑːsp) *nc* a device for fastening a door, etc.

hast (hæst) *v old-fashioned* (used with **thou**) a form of **have.**

haste (heɪst) *nu* speed in doing something. **hasten** ('heɪsən) *vti* (cause to) hurry. **hasty** ('heɪstɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** fast; hurried. **hastily** *adv*

hat (hæt) *nc* a garment for the head.

hatch¹ (hætʃ) *nc* 1 also **hatchway** a flat opening in the deck of a ship. 2 the covering for a hatchway. 3 an opening in a wall between two rooms.

hatch² *vi* 1 (of a young animal) come out of its egg. 2 (of an egg) break open and let out the young animal. *vt* 3 cause (a young animal or an egg) to hatch. 4 think up (a plan, etc.). • *nc* 1 the act of hatching. 2 a group of animals that have just hatched.

hatchet ('hætʃɪt) *nc* a cutting tool used by hitting; small axe. **bury the hatchet** stop fighting or arguing.

hate (heɪt) *vt* dislike very strongly. • *nu* strong dislike. **hateful** ('heɪtfʊl) *adj* causing hate. **hatred** ('heɪtrɪd) *nu* hate.

hath (hæθ) *v old-fashioned* (used with **he, she,** or **it**) a form of **have.**

haughty ('hɔːtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** unfriendly because you think you are better than other people. **haughtily** *adv*

haul (hɔːl) *vt* 1 pull; drag. 2 move (goods), esp. by road. • *nc* 1 the act of hauling. 2 (the amount of) something caught. 3 a distance travelled.

haunch (hɔːntʃ) *nc* the place where a (back) leg joins the body.

haunt (hɔːnt) 1 (of a ghost) visit (a place or person). 2 be repeatedly in the thoughts of: *haunted by fear.* • *nc* (often *pl*) a place often visited: *one of my favourite haunts.* **haunted** *adj* visited by ghosts: *a haunted house.* **haunting** *adj* of something that stays in your thoughts because it is beautiful: *a haunting melody.*

have (hæv unstressed həv, əv) *v* 1 (used before a past participle to express a completed action): *He has finished; I shall have gone; She would have lived. vt* 2 possess; own. 3 receive (a present). 4 suffer from (an illness). 5 take part in (a conversation). 6 cause to (be done): *I had my car repaired.* 7 force to (do): *I'll have him go away.* 8 eat or drink. 9 bear (children or young animals). 10 (followed by an infinitive) must: *I had to see you again.* **have back** receive (something you had before). **have in** have (someone) do a job for you: *We'll have a painter in.* **have on** 1 wear (clothes). 2 have (an appointment): *What have you got on this evening?* 3 tell (someone) a lie for fun. **have out** 1 settle (an argument, etc.) by fighting or discussion. 2 have (a tooth) taken out. **have round** invite (someone) to your house. **have to do with** See under **do. have up** charge (with an offence): *John was had up for stealing.*

haven ('heɪvən) *nc* 1 a port for ships. 2 a shelter or protection.

haven't ('hævənt) *v* have not.

haversack ('hævəsæk) *nc* a strong cloth bag for carrying on the back or shoulder.

havoc ('hævək) *nu* confusion; disorder.

hawk¹ (hɔːk) *nc* 1 a bird that feeds on small animals: see picture at **birds.** 2 *infml* a person who believes in war.

hawk² *vt* offer for sale in the street. **hawker** *nc*

hawthorn ('hɔːθɔːn) *nc* a bush with sharp points and white or pink flowers.

hay (heɪ) *nu* grass, cut and dried as food for animals. **hay fever** *nu* sneezing and watering of the eyes caused by pollen from plants. **haystack** ('heɪstæk) *nc* a large pile of hay outside.

haywire ('heɪˌwaɪə*) *adj* out of control, confused, or crazy: *The crowd went haywire when the President got up to speak.*

hazard ('hæzəd) 1 *nu* danger. 2 *nc* something dangerous. **hazardous** ('hæzədəs) *adj* dangerous.

haze (heɪz) *nu* dust or tiny drops of water in the air that make it difficult to see through. **hazy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

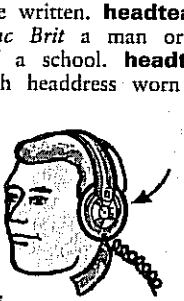
hazel ('heɪzəl) *nc* a shrub producing round nuts that are eaten. **hazelnut** *nc* this nut.

H-bomb ('eɪtʃbɒm) also **hydrogen bomb** *nc* a very powerful atomic exploding device that uses hydrogen.

he (hiː unstressed hɪ, ɪ) *pron* (used of a male person or animal or one that might be male or female): *He is a good boy; Does everyone know what he wants?*

head (hed) *nc* 1 the part of a body containing the brain, mouth, etc. 2 a person in charge. 3 *pl* **head** one single person or animal: *£20 a head; ten head of cattle.* 4 (usually *pl*) the side of a coin showing the head of a king, etc. 5 the large end of a hammer, pin, etc. 6 the large top part of a plant such as a cabbage. 7 the upper end of a river, etc. 8 the top of something: *at the head of the list.* 9 the end of a bed on which your head rests. 10 also **recording head** the part of a tape-recorder that actually records onto the tape. 11 an ability to apply your mind to something: *She's got a good head for figures.* 12 *nu* a layer of bubbles on top of beer. • *vt* 1 be at the top or front of. 2 give a title or heading to

(a letter, article, etc.). 3 hit (a football) with your head. 4 point (a ship) in a particular direction. *vi* 5 be pointed in a particular direction. 6 (followed by **for**) travel towards. **come to a head** (of a situation) come to a crisis or point when a problem must be solved, etc. **keep** or **lose your head** remain or stop being calm. **headache** ('hedeɪk) *nc* 1 a pain in the head. 2 a problem. **headdress** ('hedres) *nc* an ornamental head covering. **headgear** ('hed,gɪə*) *nu* 1 any covering for the head. 2 a device attached to the teeth and worn around the head in order to straighten the teeth. 3 the hoisting mechanism at the pithead in a mine. **headland** ('hedlənd) *nc* a point of land sticking out into the sea. **headlight** *nc* a powerful light shining forward on the front of a car, train, etc. **headline** *nc* a heading for a newspaper or magazine article. **headload** (hed'ləʊd) *nc* 1 a way of carrying loads by balancing them on your head. 2 an amount of goods carried in this way: *We were only paid five rand a headload.* **headman** ('hedmən) *nc, pl* **-men** the chief of a community. **headmaster** (hed'mɑɪstə*) or **headmistress** (hed'mɪstrɪs) *nc* the man or woman in charge of a school. **headphones** ('hedfəʊnz) *n pl* a device held over the ears for listening to a walkman, tape, etc.: see picture. **headquarters** (hed'kwɔːtəz) *n pl* the building from which an army or other organisation is controlled. **headstone** ('hedstəʊn) *nc* a stone at the head of a grave on which the details of the dead person are written. **headteacher** (hed'tiːtʃə*) *nc Brit* a man or woman in charge of a school. **headtie** (hed'taɪ) *nc* a cloth headdress worn by African women.



headphones

heading ('hedɪŋ) *nc* 1 a title for a letter, article, etc. 2 the direction in which a ship is pointing.

headlong ('hedlɒŋ) *adv* head first: *He fell headlong through the window.*

headstrong ('hedstrɒŋ) *adj* not able to be persuaded to change your mind.

headway ('hedweɪ) *nu* (esp. of a ship) progress forward.

heady ('hedɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (esp. of alcoholic drink) likely to make you excited.

heal (hiːl) *vti* (cause to) become healthy again: *to heal the sick; That cut healed quickly.*

health (helθ) *nu* the state of not having any illnesses. **health visitor** a nurse who visits old and sick people in their homes. **healthy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having good health. 2 helpful to good health: *a healthy meal.* 3 showing good health: *She has a healthy appearance.* **healthily** *adv*

heap (hiːp) *nc* 1 an untidy pile. 2 *infml* (often *pl*) a large number or quantity: *heaps of money.* • *vt* (often followed by **up**) put into a heap.

hear (hɪə*) *vt* 1 notice (a sound): *He thought he heard a noise.* 2 listen to: *I heard a play on the radio.* 3 *vi* learn; receive information: *Have you heard about my accident?* **hearing** 1 *nu* the ability to hear. 2 *nc* the examination of a case in law. **hearsay** ('hɪəseɪ) *nu* information that you have only heard and do not know to be true.

heard (hɜːd) past tense and past participle of **hear.**

hearse (hɜːs) *nc* a special car used to carry a dead person to be buried or burnt.

heart (hɑːt) *nc* 1 the part of the body that pumps blood. 2 the part of a person said to experience feelings, esp. love. 3 the central or most important part. 4 a shape like that of the heart. 5 a playing-card with a red shape like this on it. **break someone's heart** cause to be very sad. **by heart** so well that you can speak from memory: *Have you learnt this poem by heart?* **lose heart** stop being enthusiastic. **take something to heart** be upset about something. **heartache** ('hɑːteɪk) *nu* much worry or misery. **heart attack** a sudden failure of the heart to work properly. **heartbeat** ('hɑːtbiːt) the noise of the pumping action of the heart. **heartbreaking** ('hɑːtbreɪkɪŋ) *adj* (of an event) very sad. **heartburn** ('hɑːtbɜːn) *nu* a feeling like burning in the chest. **heartfelt** ('hɑːtfelt) *adj* strongly felt: *my heartfelt thanks.* **heartless** *adj* cruel; unkind.

hearth (hɑːθ) *nc* the floor in front of a fireplace.

hearty ('hɑːtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 friendly; enthusiastic: *a hearty welcome.* 2 (of a meal) large and satisfying. **heartily** *adv*

heat (hiːt) *nu* 1 the form of energy of which the amount is measured as temperature; warmth. 2 very strong feeling: *She regretted what she had said in the heat of the moment.* • *vt* make hot or hotter.

heated *adj* 1 made hot or hotter. 2 (of an argument, etc.) excited: *We got into a heated discussion about politics.* **heater** *nc* a device that heats something. **heat-wave** ('hi:tweɪv) *nc* a long period of unusually hot weather.

heath (hi:θ) *ncu* (a piece of) open, sandy land with few plants growing.

heathen ('hi:ðən) *nc old-fashioned, derogatory* 1 a person who is not, by religion, a Christian, Jew, or Muslim. 2 an uncivilised person. • *adj* to do with heathens: *heathen practices.*

heather ('heðə*) *nc* a plant with small white, pink, or purple flowers that grows esp. on heaths.

heave (hi:v) *vt* 1 move with difficulty. 2 throw with an effort. 3 give (a sigh, etc.). 4 *vi* rise and fall strongly: *His chest heaved after his run.* **heave to** 1 (of a ship) stop. 2 stop (a ship).

heaven ('hevən) 1 *nu* the place or state of being with God after death. *nc* 2 (*pl*) *literary* the sky. 3 a place or state of great happiness: *I was in heaven when he asked me to marry him.* **heavenly** *adj*

heavy ('hevɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 weighing a lot; not light. 2 extreme; strong, serious, or in great quantity: *heavy traffic.* 3 forceful: *a heavy blow.* 4 (of food) difficult to digest. 5 (of music or literature) serious or boring. **heavily** *adv* **heavy metal** 1 *ncu science* a metal with a high density. 2 *nu* loud rock music with a strong beat. **heavyweight** ('hevɪweɪt) *nc* a heavy person or thing, esp. a boxer.

heckle ('hekəl) *vt* shout a question or comment at (a speaker, actor, etc.).

hectare ('hektɑ:*) *nc* a measure of area: see appendix.

hectic ('hektɪk) *adj* very busy or excited.

he'd (hi:d) he had or he would.

hedge (hedʒ) *nc* 1 row of bushes, used esp. for protection or as a border. 2 some other kind of protection. • *vt* provide with a hedge of some kind.

hedgehog ('hedʒhɒg) *nc* a small animal covered with spines, usually seen only at night: see picture at **animals.**

hedgerow ('hedʒrəʊ) *nc* a wild hedge in the country.

heed (hi:d) *nu* attention; notice. • *vt* pay attention to; take notice of. **heedful** ('hi:dfəl) *adj* listening to (advice, etc.): *I was heedful of their warnings and stayed at home that night.* **heedless** *adj*

heel (hi:l) *nc* 1 the back part of the foot. 2 the part of a sock, shoe, etc., round or under the heel. • *vt* put a new heel on (a shoe). **be under the heel of** be cruelly dominated by (someone, an evil government, etc.). **take to your heels** run away.

hefty ('heftɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** heavy, powerful, or solid.

hegemony (hɪ'gemənɪ) *nu* control of one country by another.

Hegira (he'dʒɪrə) *nu* also **Hejira** the journey by Mohammed to Medina from Mecca in AD 622. The Muslim calendar begins on this date: *the Hegira calendar.*

heifer ('hefə*) *nc* a young cow.

height (haɪt) *nc* 1 the distance between the top and bottom of something. 2 the distance that something is above something else, esp. the sea. 3 the highest point of something. **heighten** *vt* 1 make higher. 2 make stronger, more powerful, etc.: *a heightened sense of colour.*

heinous ('heɪnəs, 'hi:nəs) *adj* evil: *a heinous crime.*

heir (eə*) *nc* a person who will receive something from someone when that person dies, esp. money, etc., or a title. **heiress** ('eəres) *nc* a female heir. **heirloom** ('eəlu:m) *nc* an object that has been passed down many times within a family.

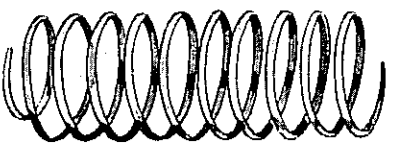
held (held) past tense and past participle of **hold**[1].

helicopter ('helɪkɒptə*) *nc* a plane with large propeller blades on top with which it can travel in any direction, including straight up and down: see picture.

helicopter

helium ('hi:lɪəm) *nu* a chemical element that is normally a gas and is used esp. for filling balloons, because it is light and does not burn.

helix ('hi:lɪks) *nc, pl* **-lixes, -lices** ('helɪsi:z) a spiral; the shape of either a flat or a coiled spring: *A double helix consists of two coiled molecules of DNA:* see picture.



helix

hell (hel) 1 *ncu* the place of punishment to which evil people are said to go when they die. *infml nu* 2 a very unpleasant experience: *That party was hell.* 3 (used to strengthen a following verb): *What the hell are you doing?* **hell of a** 1 very: *a hell of a good party.* 2 very good, bad, etc.: *We had a hell of a time.*

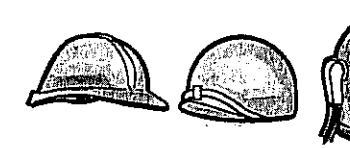
he'll (hi:l) he will.

hellish ('helɪʃ) *adj* 1 to do with hell. 2 *infml* very bad, difficult, etc.: *We had a hellish journey home in the snow.*

hello (also **hallo, hullo**) (hə'ləʊ) *interj* (used when meeting someone or starting a telephone conversation.)

helm (helm) *nu* the device by which a boat is steered, esp. the wheel, etc., actually held in the hand. • *vt* steer (a boat). **helmsman** ('helmzmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a person who steers a boat.

helmet ('helmɪt) *nc* a hat that protects the head, worn by soldiers, motorcyclists, etc.: see picture.



helmet

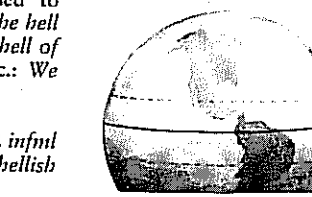
help (help) *vt* 1 assist (someone to do something); do something for (someone) to make their job easier or so that they can buy something, etc. 2 avoid, prevent, or prevent from being worse: *I can't help the weather.* 3 (often followed by **to**) provide (someone, or yourself) with something, esp. food: *Help yourself to bread.* • *nu* 1 the action of helping. *nc* 2 a person employed to help. 3 something that helps. **helper** *nc* **helpful** *adj* **helping** *nc* an amount of something given, esp. food. **helpless** *adj* unable to do something alone; weak. **help out** help (someone), esp. with money.

helter-skelter (ˌheltə'skeltə*) *nc* a tower with a spiral slope built round it down which you can slide on a mat for fun. • *adj* careless; hurried.

hem (hem) *nc* an edge on a piece of cloth, made by sewing it back onto itself. • *vt* put a hem on. **hem in** surround (someone or something) closely. **hemline** ('hemlaɪn) *nc* the lower edge of a skirt or dress.

hematology (ˌhi:mə'tɒlədʒɪ) *US n* See **haematology.**

hemisphere ('hemɪsfɪə*) *nc* 1 half a sphere. 2 a half of the earth: *the Northern Hemisphere:* see picture.



hemisphere

hemoglobin (ˌhi:mə'gləʊbɪn) *US n* See **haemoglobin.**

hemophilia (ˌhi:mə'fɪlɪə) *US n* See **haemophilia.**

hemorrhage ('hemərɪdʒ) *US n* See **haemorrhage.**

hemp (hemp) *nu* 1 a plant used for making rope, etc. 2 also **cannabis, marijuana** a drug that is smoked.

hen (hen) *nc* a female bird, esp. a female chicken, kept for its eggs and meat.

hence (hens) *adv* 1 *old-fashioned* from here. 2 therefore. **henceforth** ('hensfɔ:θ, hens'fɔ:θ) *fml adv* from now on.

henchman ('hentʃmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a follower; supporter.

hepatitis (ˌhepə'taɪtɪs) *nu medicine* a serious disease caught from a virus carried in water and causing inflammation of the liver.

her (hə:* unstressed hə*, ə*) *pron* (used for female persons and animals and sometimes ships and countries either after a preposition or when they are either the direct or indirect object of a verb): *When Mary arrived I met her; Yes, she's a fine ship—have you been on her?* • *determiner* belonging to or to do with her: *Those are her shoes.*

herald ('herəld) *nc* 1 a sign that something is about to happen: *Dawn is the herald of the day.* 2 *history* a messenger. **heraldry** ('herəldrɪ) *nu* the study of coats of arms.

herb (hə:b) *nc* 1 a plant that is not woody and dies down to the ground each year. 2 any plant used to add flavour in cooking or as medicine, such as parsley or rosemary. **herbaceous** (hə:'beɪʃəs) *adj* to do with plants that are not woody: *a herbaceous border.* **herbal** *adj* to do with herbs: *herbal medicine.* **herbivore** ('hə:bɪˌvɔ:*) *nc biology* an animal that eats grass and other plants. **herbivorous** *adj*

herd (hə:d) *nc* a group of animals living together, esp. cattle or sheep. • *vt* move (animals) in a herd. **herdsman** ('hə:dz-

mən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man who looks after a herd of animals.

here (hɪə*) *adv* in, at, or to this place. • *nu* this place. **here and there** in several places. **hereabouts** ('hɪərəbauts) *adv* near here. **hereafter** (hɪər'ɑɪftə*) *adv fml* in future. **here and now** at this exact moment; immediately. **hereby** (hɪə'baɪ) *adv fml* by means of this. **herein** (ˌhɪər'ɪn) *adv fml* in this place, thing, or document. **herewith** *adv fml* with this.

hereditary (hɪ'redɪtərɪ, hɪ'redɪtrɪ) *adj* (esp. of property or physical likeness) passing from parents to their children: *Blue eyes are hereditary.* **heredity** (hɪ'redɪtɪ) *nu* the passing of physical likeness from parents to their children.

here's (hɪəz) here is.

heresy ('herəsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-sies** (the holding of) an opinion opposite to that of a church or religion. **heretic** ('herətɪk) *nc* someone who believes in a heresy.

heritage ('herɪtɪdʒ) *nc* 1 something passed on, either by heredity or given when someone dies. 2 (esp. of a nation) the language, literature, art, music, etc., received from earlier times.

hermaphrodite (hə'mæfrəˌdaɪt) *nc biology* an animal or plant which has both male and female reproductive organs: *Worms are hermaphrodites.*

hermetic (hɜː'metɪk) *adj* not letting air in or out: *a hermetic seal.*

hermit ('hɜːmɪt) *nc* a person who lives alone and away from others. **hermitage** ('hɜːmɪtɪdʒ) a place where a hermit lives.

hernia ('hɜːnjə) *n* See **rupture** (def. 2).

hero ('hɪərəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** 1 a boy or man who is greatly admired, esp. for his bravery. 2 the chief male character in a story. **heroic** (hɪ'rəʊɪk) *adj* to do with a hero. **heroics** *n pl* brave language or behaviour, esp. when unnecessary. **heroism** ('herəʊɪzəm) *nu* bravery.

heroin ('herəʊɪn) *nu* a drug, to which people can become highly addicted, that is used in medicine and taken for its effect on the mind.

heroine ('herəʊɪn) *nc* 1 a girl or woman who is greatly admired, esp. for her bravery. 2 the chief female character in a story.

heron ('herən) *nc* a tall bird that catches fish.

herpes ('hɜːpiːz) *nu medicine* a virus disease causing painful blisters on the skin.

herring ('herɪŋ) *nc* a North Atlantic food fish: see picture at **fish. red herring** something irrelevant that takes away attention from the real issue.

hers (hɜːz) *pron* a person or thing belonging to her: *Hers is over there; This book is hers.*

herself (hə'self) *pron* 1 (used to refer back to a female subject): *Jane dressed herself; She did it herself.* 2 (of a female subject) in her normal state: *She hasn't been herself all day.* **by herself** (of a female) 1 without help. 2 alone.

he's (hiːz) he is or he has.

hesitate ('heɪzɪteɪt) *vi* 1 pause before or while doing something. 2 not want (to do something). **hesitant** ('hezɪtənt) *adj* (often) hesitating. **hesitation** (ˌhezɪ'teɪʃən) *nu* the act of hesitating.

heterogeneous (ˌhetərəʊ'dʒiːnɪəs) *adj* made up of parts that are different from each other. See also **homogeneous.**

heterosexual (ˌhetərəʊ'seksjʊəl) *adj, nc* (a person) attracted to people of the opposite sex.

hew (hjuː) *vt* 1 cut (wood, etc.), esp. with an axe. 2 make (something), esp. out of wood, etc., by hewing.

hewn (hjuːn) past participle of **hew.**

hexagon ('heksəgən) *nc* a shape with six sides: see picture at **shapes.**

hey (heɪ) *interj* (used to express surprise, pleasure, displeasure, etc., or to attract someone's attention.)

heyday ('heɪdeɪ) *nc* the period of greatest popularity, power, etc.

hi (haɪ) *chiefly US, infml interj* (used when meeting someone or to attract someone's attention.)

hibernate ('haɪbəneɪt) *vi* (of an animal) spend the winter in a state like sleep. See also **aestivate.**

hibiscus (haɪ'bɪskəs) *nc, pl* **-uses** a plant with toothed leaves and large brightly coloured flowers.

hiccup ('hɪkʌp) *nc* a sudden short noise made by air being forced out of the lungs. • *vi* make this noise.

hid (hɪd) past tense of **hide¹.**

hidden ('hɪdən) past participle of **hide¹.**

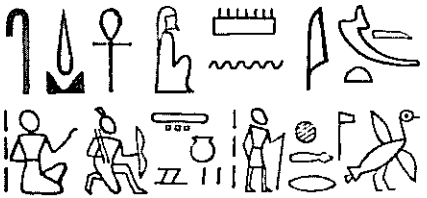
hide¹ (haɪd) 1 *vt* put or keep out of sight. 2 *vi* put or keep yourself out of sight. • *nc* a place in which to hide while looking at wild animals. **hide-out** ('haɪdaʊt) *nc* a hiding place, esp. used by criminals.

hide² *ncu* (a complete) animal skin, esp. made into leather. **hiding** *nc* a beating, esp. as a punishment.

hideous ('hɪdɪəs) *adj* very ugly.

hierarchy ('haɪərɑːkɪ) *nc, pl* **-chies** an organisation of groups of people or things in order of importance, power, etc.

hieroglyphics (ˌhaɪərə'glɪfɪks) *n pl* pictures representing words in a language such as ancient Egyptian: see picture.



hieroglyphics

hi-fi ('haɪfaɪ) *adj, ncu* short for **high fidelity.** See under **high.**

high (haɪ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 at a great distance above something: *high in the air.* 2 being a great distance from top to bottom; tall: *a high mountain.* 3 of a particular distance from top to bottom: *five metres high.* 4 great in quantity: *high prices.* 5 (of a sound) made up of fast repeated movements. 6 important: *the high table.* 7 good: *a high opinion; high spirits; high grade.* 8 (of a gear) giving the most movement for a given engine speed. • *adv* in or to a high position. **high court** a powerful law court that can be asked to change a decision of a lower court. **high fidelity** 1 the fact of sound from a record-player, etc., being very like the real sound. 2 a record-player giving such a sound. **highlands** ('haɪləndz) *n pl* a high piece of land: *the Kenyan highlands.* **highlife** ('haɪlaɪf) *nu* popular West African music. **highlight** ('haɪlaɪt) *nc* the most attractive, popular, etc., part: *the highlights of a football match; the highlights of the minister's speech.* **high-powered** ('haɪpaʊəd) *adj* 1 (of a car, lens, etc.) having great power. 2 having or demanding a clever mind: *high-powered discussion.* **high-pressure** *adj* 1 to do with great pressure: *high-pressure cleaning.* 2 (of selling or a seller) trying very hard to persuade you to buy. **high-rise** *adj* (of a building) tall: *high-rise flats.* **highroad** *nc* a main road. **high spot** *infml* a highlight. **high street** the main street of a town, esp. one with many shops. **high tea** *Brit* an early evening meal. **high technology** also **high tech, hi tech** the use of the most advanced computers: *Our office is now extremely high tech.* **highway** *nc* a main road. **highwayman** ('haɪweɪmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man on a horse who used to stop travellers and rob them.

highly ('haɪlɪ) *adv* very much or well: *highly taxed; highly thought of.*

highness ('haɪnɪs) *Brit nc* (used to refer to members of the Royal Family other than the King or Queen, and to foreign princes): *His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; Your Highnesses.*

hijack ('haɪdʒæk) *vt* seize control of (a plane, ship, lorry, etc.) in order to make the pilot go where you want or to make a government give you what you want. • *nc* the act of hijacking. **hijacker** *nc*

hike (haɪk) *vi, nc* (go for) a long (country) walk. **hiker** *nc*

hilarious (hɪ'leərɪəs) *adj* very funny or amusing. **hilarity** (hɪ'lærɪtɪ) *nu*

hill (hɪl) *nc* a raised piece of land lower and usually less rocky than a mountain. **hillock** ('hɪlək) *nc* a small hill. **hillside** *nc* the sloping surface of a hill. **hilltop** *nc* the top of a hill. **hilly** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

hilt (hɪlt) *nc* the handle of a sword.

hilum ('haɪləm) *nc botany* the place on a seed marking the spot where it was attached to the ovule. See also **funicle.**

him (hɪm unstressed ɪm) *pron* (used for male persons and animals either after a preposition or when they are either the direct or indirect object of a verb): *I saw him; This was done by him.*

himself (hɪm'self) *pron* 1 (used to refer back to a male subject): *John killed himself; He did it himself.* 2 (of a male subject) in his normal state: *He hasn't been himself today.* **by himself** (of a male) 1 without help. 2 alone.

hind[1] (haɪnd) *nc, pl* **hinds, hind** a female deer.

hind[2] *adj* (esp. of a leg of an animal) back. **hindmost** ('haɪndməʊst) *adj* furthest back or behind.

hinder ('hɪndə*) *vt* prevent or make (something) more difficult for (someone): *to hinder progress; You shouldn't hinder the police.* **hindrance** ('hɪndrəns) *nc* a person or thing that hinders.

hindsight ('haɪndsaɪt) *nu* the ability to understand what should have been done, after something has happened.

Hindu ('hɪnduː) *nc* a follower of Hinduism. • *adj* to do with Hindus or Hinduism. **Hinduism** ('hɪnduːɪzəm) *nu* the main religion of India.

hinge (hɪndʒ) *nc* a device that allows one thing to swing on another, such as a door on its frame. • *vt* 1 put a hinge on. 2 *vi* be or swing on a hinge. **hinge on** depend on.

hint (hɪnt) *nc* 1 a slight suggestion; small indication: *I can't guess—give me a hint.* 2 a helpful suggestion. 3 a small amount. • *vi* make a **hint** (def. 1).

hinterland ('hɪntəlænd) *nu* land lying behind or near something, such as land away from the coast or near a large city.

hip[1] (hɪp) *nc* 1 the bony part on each side of

the body at the top of the legs. 2 also **hip joint** the joint between each leg and the body.

hip² *nc* also **rosehip** the fruit of a **rose²** (def. 1).

hip³ *interj* **hip, hip** (called out by one person to encourage others to shout 'hurrah', the whole being repeated twice more.)

hippopotamus (ˌhɪpəˈpɒtəməs) (*infml abbrev.* **hippo**) *nc, pl* **-muses, -mi** (məsɪs, maɪ) a very large grey African animal living in or near water: see picture at **animals.**

hire (haɪə*) *vt* 1 pay for the use of (something) or the work of (someone). 2 (often followed by **out**) be paid for the use of (something) or the work of (someone). • *nu* 1 the act of hiring: *bicycles for hire.* 2 the state of being hired: *This car's only on hire.* **hire purchase** a system of buying something by making a number of payments.

his (hɪz unstressed ɪz) *determiner* belonging to or to do with him: *Those are his shoes.* • *pron* a person or thing belonging to him: *His is better; This one is his.*

hiss (hɪs) *nc* the sound of a long (s). • *vi* 1 make this sound. 2 *vt* make this sound at (someone) of whom you disapprove.

histamine (ˈhɪstəˌmiːn) *nu medicine* a substance produced in the body in allergic reactions.

histogram (ˈhɪstəgræm) *nc* a diagram of different quantities shown by means of bars of different heights.

history (ˈhɪstərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (an account or the study of) past events. **historian** (hɪˈstɔːrɪən) *nc* a person who writes or studies history. **historic** (hɪˈstɒrɪk) *adj* (of an event) famous or important. **historical** (hɪˈstɒrɪkəl) *adj* to do with history. **historically** *adv*

hit (hɪt) *vt* 1 deliver a blow to; strike: *He hit the table with his hand.* 2 come up hard against; strike: *The ball hit the window.* 3 cause to suffer: *We've been hit by bad weather.* 4 experience; find; reach: *to hit a problem.* • *nc* 1 the act of hitting. 2 a person or thing, esp. a song, that becomes very popular.

hitch (hɪtʃ) *vt* 1 (often followed by **up**) move (something) suddenly: *He hitched up his trousers.* 2 fasten: *The horses were hitched to the coach.* • *nc* 1 a sudden pull or push. 2 a knot for tying a line to a post, etc. 3 a ride obtained by hitch-hiking. **hitched** *adj slang* married. **hitch-hike** (ˈhɪtʃhaɪk) (*infml abbrev.* **hitch**) *vi* travel by asking passing drivers for free rides: *I hitched everywhere when I was younger.*

hi tech See **high technology** under **high.**

hither (ˈhɪðə*) *adv old-fashioned* to here. **hitherto** (ˌhɪðəˈtuː) *adv fml* until now.

hive (haɪv) *n* short for **beehive. hive off** separate (something) from a larger thing or group. **hive of industry** a place where people work very hard, often with enthusiasm.

hoard (hɔːd) *nc* a collection of something stored away. • *vt* collect into a hoard.

hoarding (ˈhɔːdɪŋ) *nc* 1 a fence round building works. 2 *US* **billboard** a hoarding used for sticking advertisements on.

hoarse (hɔːs) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of a voice) sounding rough, because of shouting, a cold, etc. 2 having a hoarse voice. **hoarsely** *adv*

hoary (ˈhɔːrɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of hair) grey or white. 2 with hoary hair. 3 old and well-known: *a hoary joke.*

hoax (həʊks) *vt* deceive (someone) as a joke. • *nc* an act of hoaxing.

hobble (ˈhɒbəl) 1 *vi* walk awkwardly, esp. through injury. 2 *vt* tie the legs of (a horse) together so that it cannot walk far. • *nc* an awkward walk.

hobby (ˈhɒbɪ) *nc, pl* **-bies** an activity done mainly for enjoyment.

hockey (ˈhɒkɪ) *nu* a game played on a field with a goal at each end into which the players on each side try to hit a ball with curved sticks. **ice hockey** See under **ice.**

hod (hɒd) *nc* 1 a three-sided box on a stick used for carrying bricks. 2 a container for coal.

hoe (həʊ) *nc* a tool for destroying garden weeds, etc.: see picture at **tools.** • *vt* use a hoe on.

hog (hɒg) *nc* 1 a pig kept on a farm, esp. a male that will be killed for its meat. 2 *infml* a greedy person. • *vt* take more than your share of. **go the whole hog** *slang* do something completely or thoroughly.

hoist (hɔɪst) *vt* raise (something, esp. a flag). • *nc* 1 the act of hoisting. 2 a device for hoisting. **hoist with your own petard** ruined, defeated, etc., by something that you hoped would ruin or defeat someone else.

hold¹ (həʊld) *vt* 1 have or keep (something) with or within the hand or hands: *She stood holding the cut flowers; hold the camera steady.* 2 (be able to) contain: *This bottle holds a litre.* 3 possess; own: *He holds a degree from Leeds University.* 4 carry on; arrange (a meeting, conversation, etc.). 5 believe; consider: *I hold you responsible.* 6 *vi* stay the same, esp. good:

Will the weather hold? *vt* 7 keep under control; restrain: *The dam didn't hold the rising waters for long.* *vt* 8 support: *The branch, unable to hold his weight, suddenly broke.* • *nc* 1 the act of holding. 2 something to hold on to. 3 control or influence: *They have a hold over us.* **holdall** ('həʊldɔːl) *nc* a bag for many different objects: *a sports holdall.* **hold back** 1 hesitate to do (something) or prevent (someone) from doing something. 2 keep; not give (something) up or away. **hold down** 1 keep (someone or something) on something. 2 *infml* manage to keep (a job). **holder** *nc* 1 a person who holds something, such as a bank account. 2 a device that holds; container: *a toothbrush holder.* **hold in** keep (someone or something) inside something: *You're holding your stomach in!* **hold off** 1 keep (someone or something) away from something. 2 not do something: *I know he owes you money, but can't you hold off a bit longer?* **hold on** 1 (often followed by **to**) continue to hold. 2 *infml* wait: *Hold on a minute—I've forgotten my keys.* **hold out** 1 offer or reach out. 2 (often followed by **against**) resist, esp. against an attack. **hold out for** wait for your demands for (something) to be met. **hold out on** delay in telling (someone) something: *I know he's got some information but he's holding out on me.* **hold up** 1 lift; raise; keep lifted or raised. 2 delay; keep waiting. 3 steal from, esp. by threatening force: *They held up a bank.* **hold-up** ('həʊldʌp) *nc* 1 a delay. 2 a robbery.

hold[2] *nc* a space for goods in a ship or aircraft.

holding ('həʊldɪŋ) *nc* a quantity of land, shares, etc. owned.

hole (həʊl) *nc* 1 an empty space or opening in something, sometimes going right through it. 2 the underground home of an animal. 3 the space into which the ball must be hit in a game such as golf. • *vt* make a hole in.

holiday ('hɒlɪdeɪ) *nc* 1 (often *pl*) a period when you take a rest from work or study, often spent away from home. 2 a special day on which most people in a country do not work. • *vi* take or have a holiday. **on holiday** taking a holiday. **holiday-maker** ('hɒlɪdɪˌmeɪkə*) *nc* a person on holiday.

holiness ('həʊlɪnɪs) *nu* the quality of being holy.

holistic (hə'lɪstɪk) *adj* taking in the whole of something, not just looking at its parts: *a holistic approach; holistic medicine.*

hollow ('hɒləʊ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 having a space inside; empty. 2 not real: *hollow laughter; a hollow victory.* • *vt* (often followed by **out**) make hollow. • *nc* a hollow part.

holly ('hɒlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** a tree or bush with red berries and sharp-pointed leaves that are green all year.

holocaust ('hɒləkɔːst) *nc* large scale destruction and loss of life, esp. in war. **the Holocaust** the mass killing of European Jews by the Nazis in World War II.

holster ('həʊlstə*) *nc* a holder for a pistol, esp. worn at the waist or under an arm.

holy ('həʊlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 to do with God. 2 pure and good in thought and behaviour. **Holy Spirit** the being or force through which Christians believe God acts on earth.

homage ('hɒmɪdʒ) *nu* a show of respect: *We paid him homage.*

home (həʊm) *nc* 1 a house or other place where someone lives. 2 a place of origin, such as your native country. 3 a house where a number of old, poor, sick, etc., people live and are looked after: *a children's home.* 4 the place you try to reach in a race or game. • *adj* to do with home. • *adv* at or to your home. • *vti* (often followed by **in on**) travel or point at or to something: *I'll home the radio in on a strong station.* **at home** 1 in your own home. 2 at ease: *I immediately felt at home in his house.* **have an at home** give a party at your home. **home help** a person who cleans, etc., in someone else's house. **homeland** ('həʊmlænd) 1 your native country. 2 a selected area in South Africa where blacks had limited self-government. **homeless** ('həʊmləs) *adj* with nowhere to live: *Homeless people have built a cardboard city in London.* **the homeless** people without homes. **homelessness** *nu* **home-made** ('həʊmmeɪd) *adj* (esp. of food) made at home. **Home Office** *Brit* the government department in charge of law and order, immigration, etc. **Home Secretary** *Brit* the government minister in charge of the Home Office. **homesick** ('həʊmsɪk) *adj* sad at not being at home. **homestead** ('həʊmsted) a house and land or other buildings, esp. a farm. **home truth** a fact that a person finds unpleasant when it is told to them. **homeward** ('həʊmwəd) *adj, adv* (going) towards home: *homeward bound.* **homework** ('həʊmwɜːk) *nu* 1 study to be done, esp. by a child outside normal school time. 2 preparation: *He had really done his homework and knew all about the plan.*

homely ('həʊmlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 ordinary; fitting in with an ordinary home. 2 *US* not good-looking.

homeopathy (also **homoeopathy**) (ˌhəʊmɪ'ɒpəθɪ) *nu* the treatment of an illness with a very small amount of a substance that can cause the same illness in a healthy person.

homeostasis (also **homoeostasis**) (ˌhəʊmɪəʊ'steɪsɪs) *nu* the keeping of a balance in the workings of an animal's body by making up for changes.

homicide ('hɒmɪsaɪd) 1 *ncu* the killing of one person by another: *The judge recorded a verdict of homicide.* 2 *nc* a person who kills another.

homily ('hɒmɪlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** a talk on a point of religion.

homing ('həʊmɪŋ) *adj* able to go home: *a homing pigeon.*

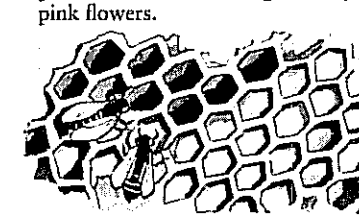
homogeneous (ˌhəʊmə'dʒiːnɪəs, ˌhɒmə'dʒiːnɪəs) *adj* the same right through; made up of parts that are the same as each other. See also **heterogeneous.**

homonym ('hɒmənɪm) *nc* one of two or more words said or written the same but meaning something different, such as 'sail' and 'sale'.

homosexual (ˌhəʊmə'seksjʊəl, ˌhɒmə'seksjʊəl) *adj, nc* (a person) attracted to people of his or her own sex.

honest ('ɒnɪst) *adj* 1 correct and fair. 2 not lying or stealing. **honestly** *adv* **honesty** *nu*

honey ('hʌnɪ) *ncu* (a type of) sweet, dark yellow food made by bees from the nectar of flowers. **honeycomb** ('hʌnɪkəʊm) *nc* a block of wax full of six-sided holes in which bees store honey: see picture. **honeysuckle** ('hʌnɪˌsʌkəl) *nc* a climbing plant with sweet-smelling white, yellow, or pink flowers.



honeycomb

honeymoon ('hʌnɪmuːn) *nc* a holiday taken by two people who have just married. • *vi* take a honeymoon.

honk (hɒŋk) *nc* the noise made by a goose or a car horn. • *vi* make this noise.

honorary ('ɒnərərɪ) *adj* 1 without the work usually needed: *an honorary degree.* 2 without pay: *the honorary treasurer.*

honour *US* **honor** ('ɒnə*) *nu* 1 great respect. 2 fame. 3 a belief in always behaving so that other people respect you. 4 reputation. *nc* 5 a great pleasure: *It is an honour to be here.* 6 (used after **an**) one who brings (someone) great respect: *He is an honour to his school.* • *vt* respect highly: *Honour your father and your mother.* **Honour** (used after **Your, His,** or **Her**; used to refer to someone in high position, esp. a judge): *Yes, Your Honour; His Honour has arrived.* **in honour of** as a mark of respect for. **honourable** *US* **honorable** ('ɒnərəbəl) *adj* 1 having **honour** (def. 3). 2 deserving **honour** (def. 1). **the Honourable** *US* **the Honorable** (used as a title of respect.)

hood (hʊd) *nc* 1 a covering for the head and neck, esp. one fastened to a coat, etc. 2 *Brit* a soft, folding roof on a car. 3 *US* See **bonnet** (def. 2).

hoodlum ('huːdləm) *nc* a person who behaves violently or does small crimes.

hoodwink ('hʊdwɪŋk) *vt* deceive.

hoof (huːf) *nc, pl* **hooves** (huːvz), **hoofs** the hard growth at the end of the leg of a horse or other animal.

hook (hʊk) *nc* a curved piece of metal used for hanging something on, catching hold of something, etc. • *vt* catch or fasten to or with a hook. **hooked on** 1 unable to stop taking (a drug): *hooked on heroin.* 2 very keen on or fond of.

hookworm ('hʊkwɜːm) *nc* a very small worm that enters a person or animal through the skin and causes disease.

hooligan ('huːlɪgən) *nc* a violent street youth.

hoop (huːp) *nc* a ring of wood, metal, etc., used as a toy, to hold a wooden barrel together, etc.

hoopoe ('huːpuː) *nc* a common African bird with a long sharp bill and a fan-like crest on its head.

hooray (hʊ'reɪ) *interj* See **hurrah.**

hoot (huːt) *nc* 1 the noise made by an owl. 2 (the cause of) loud laughter: *He's a hoot; in hoots of laughter.* 3 a loud noise expressing disapproval. 4 the noise of a car horn. • *vi* 1 make a hoot. 2 *vti* (often followed by **at**) attract the attention of or warn off (people or animals) by sounding a horn. **hooter** *chiefly Brit nc* 1 a car horn. 2 *slang* a nose.

Hoover ('huːvə*) *Trademark nc* a kind of vacuum cleaner. • *vti* clean with a vacuum cleaner.

hooves (huːvz) plural of **hoof.**

hop[1] (hɒp) *nc* 1 a climbing plant. 2 (*pl*) the

dried flowers of the hop, used to give beer a bitter taste.

hop² *vi* 1 (of a person) jump on one foot. 2 (of a bird or animal) move with short jumps. 3 jump or move quickly: *Hop into the car.* • *nc* the action of hopping. **hop it** *Brit slang* go away quickly.

hope ('həʊp) 1 *ncu* (often *pl*) a feeling of wanting and often expecting: *I haven't much hope that he'll come.* 2 *nc* a cause of hope: *If the weather stays fine, there's a hope that he'll come.* • *vt* 1 be in hope of: *I hope he comes.* 2 *vi* (followed by **for**) be in hope: *I'm hoping for fine weather.* **raise someone's hopes** encourage someone to hope. **hopeful** *adj* 1 having hope. 2 giving hope: *hopeful news.* **hopefully** *adv* 1 in a hopeful manner. 2 it is hoped that: *Hopefully he'll come.* **hopeless** *adj* 1 having no hope. 2 giving no hope; impossible to solve, etc. 3 *infml* bad at doing something or badly done. **hopelessly** *adv*

horde (hɔːd) *nc* (often *pl*) a very large group of people or animals. • *vi* be or move in a horde.

horizon (hə'raɪzən) *nc* 1 the line that separates the earth and the sky. 2 the limits of your interests, understanding, etc.: *to broaden your horizons.*

horizontal (ˌhɒrɪ'zɒntəl) *adj* level; flat: *The surface of still water is horizontal.* **horizontally** *adv*

hormone ('hɔːməʊn) *nc* a chemical produced in small amounts in one part of an animal or plant which affects a different part or controls growth.

horn (hɔːn) *nc* 1 a hard growth, often pointed, on the head of an animal such as a sheep or rhinoceros; (sometimes *nu*) the material of which horns are made. 2 an object, container, or device made, esp. formerly, of horn: *a drinking horn.* 3 a musical wind instrument made from a horn or from brass tube: *a hunting horn; a French horn:* see picture at **musical instruments.** 4 a device for giving a warning noise, as on a car. **horny** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

hornet ('hɔːnɪt) *nc* an insect with a sting; kind of large wasp: see picture at **insects.**

horoscope ('hɒrəskəʊp) *nc* information that tells someone what will happen to them in the future, based on the positions of the stars at the moment they were born: *I read my horoscope in the paper every day.*

horrible ('hɒrɪbəl) *adj* 1 causing horror. 2 unpleasant. **horribly** *adv* 1 in a horrible manner. 2 very: *It's horribly late.*

horrid ('hɒrɪd) *adj* horrible.

horrific (hə'rɪfɪk) *adj* that causes fear: *a horrific accident.*

horrify ('hɒrɪfaɪ) *vt* cause to feel horror.

horror ('hɒrə*) 1 *nu* a feeling of disgust and fear. 2 *nc* (often *pl*) a person or thing causing horror. **horror film** a film with a frightening story.

hors d'oeuvre (ˌɔː 'dɜːvrə) *French nc, pl* **hors d'oeuvres** (ˌɔː 'dɜːvrə) a dish served before the main dish of a meal.

horse (hɔːs) *nc* 1 a four-legged animal with solid hoofs, used for riding, carrying loads, etc.: see picture at **animals.** 2 a frame, usually with legs, on which something is held, put, etc.: *a clothes-horse.* **on horseback** seated on a horse. **horsehair** *nu* hair from the neck or tail of a horse. **horseman, horsewoman** ('hɔːsmən, 'hɔːswʊmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man or woman riding or able to ride a horse, esp. very well. **horsepower** ('hɔːspaʊə*) *nu* the unit used to measure the power produced by an engine, etc.: *abbrev.* hp **horse-race** *nc* a race between horses with riders. **horse-racing** *nu* **horseshoe** ('hɔːsʃuː) *nc* a U-shaped strip of metal fixed to a horse's foot.

horst (hɔːst) *nc geography* a ridge of land that has been forced upwards between two parallel faults.

horticulture ('hɔːtɪkʌltʃə*) *nu* the art of growing flowers and vegetables; gardening. **horticultural** (ˌhɔːtɪ'kʌltʃərəl) *adj*

hose¹ (həʊz) *nc* a long pipe of rubber, plastic, etc., used for throwing water over a garden, putting out a fire, etc. **hosepipe** *nc* a long piece of hose: see picture. • *vt* wash with a hose.

hosepipe

hose² *n pl* stockings and socks. **hosiery** ('həʊzɪərɪ) *nu* stockings and socks.

hospitable (hɒ'spɪtəbəl, 'hɒspɪtəbəl) *adj* giving comfort, a welcome, etc., to visitors.

hospital ('hɒspɪtəl) *nc* a place where ill people are treated. **hospitalise** ('hɒspɪtəlaɪz) *vt* send or take into hospital for medical care.

hospitality (ˌhɒspɪ'tælɪtɪ) *nu* welcoming guests, etc., in a friendly way.

host¹ (həʊst) *nc* a person who entertains or welcomes guests.

host[2] *nc* a large number of people or things: *a host of jobs to do.*

hostage ('hɒstɪdʒ) *nc* a person kept as a prisoner by someone until what is demanded has been done.

hostel ('hɒstəl) *nc* a building where students, people in training, etc., are provided with rented rooms and meals. **youth hostel** a hostel where people, usually young, can stay for one or a few nights while on walking, cycling, etc., holidays.

hostess ('həʊstɪs) *nc* a woman who entertains or welcomes guests.

hostile ('hɒstaɪl) *adj* 1 of an enemy. 2 unfriendly. **hostility** (hɒ'stɪlɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 *nu* hatred; strong dislike. 2 (*pl*) acts of war.

hot (hɒt) *adj* **-ter, -test** 1 having great heat; very warm: *hot weather.* 2 having a sharp taste that causes a burning feeling: *a hot curry.* 3 (of feelings, etc.) intense: *a hot temper.* 4 *slang* (of stolen goods) not easy to get rid of. **hot air** *infml* words or promises that mean nothing: *He talks a lot of hot air!* **hot dog** *infml* a hot sausage in a bread roll. **hot-headed** (,hɒt'hedɪd) *adj* (of feelings) hasty to act without much thought. **hot line** a direct link for information, news, etc., esp. between heads of governments, etc. **hot water** *infml* trouble: *He's always getting into hot water.*

hotel (həʊ'tel, əʊ'tel) *nc* a building where travellers are provided with rooms and food.

hound (haʊnd) *nc* a kind of dog used for hunting, racing, etc.: *bloodhound; greyhound.* • *vt* 1 chase or hunt with such a dog. 2 annoy or trouble (a person) to do something, or with something.

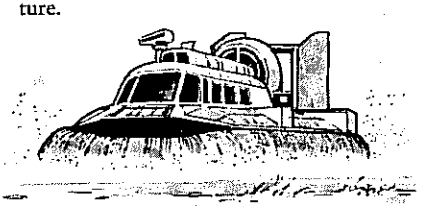
hour ('aʊə*) *nc* one of the twenty-four periods of time into which a day is divided; sixty minutes. **hourly** ('aʊəlɪ) *adj* done or happening at every hour. • *adv* at any hour; every hour. **hours** ('aʊəz) *n pl* a fixed time for work during the day: *school hours; office hours.*

house (haʊs) *nc* 1 a building in which people, often one family, live. 2 a building in which animals, goods, etc., are kept. 3 a building in which people meet, esp. law-makers; the law-makers themselves: *the House of Commons.* 4 the audience in a theatre. • (haʊz) *vt* provide a house for; give room or space for. **bring the house down** cause great laughter: *His comedy act brought the house down.* **houseboat** *nc* a boat built for people to live in. **housefly** *nc, pl* **-flies** a common insect with two wings that lives in houses. **household** *nc* all the people living in a house; family. **householder** *nc* a person who rents or owns, and lives in a house. **housekeeper** *nc* a person paid to be in charge of the running of a house. **housekeeping** *nu* 1 looking after the everyday running of a house. 2 money provided for this. **housemaid** *nc* a female servant in a house. **housemaster** *nc* a male teacher in a school where children live as well as being taught. **housemistress** *nc* a female teacher in a school where children live. **housewife** *nc, pl* **-wives** a married woman who does not have a job outside her house: *Being a housewife with four children is a full-time job.* **housework** *nu* work done in a house, such as cleaning, cooking, etc.

housing ('haʊzɪŋ) *nu* houses for living in.

hovel ('hɒvəl) *nc* a house that is not fit to live in.

hover ('hɒvə*) *vi* 1 (of a bird or plane) remain in the air over a certain place. 2 (of a person) wait in an uncertain manner. **hovercraft** ('hɒvəkrɑ:ft) *nc* a vehicle supported by air sent out from underneath to the surface of the land or sea: see picture.



hovercraft

how (haʊ) *adv* 1 in what way: *How did you do it?* 2 to what extent: *How much did it cost?; How nice of you!* **how about...?** See under **about. how do you do?** See under **do.**

however (haʊ'evə*) *adv* whatever happens; in whatever way: *I shall travel tomorrow, however bad the weather is.* • *conj* but; nevertheless: *I must go now. However, I'll see you tomorrow.*

howl (haʊl) *nc* a long, loud cry or sound, esp. of a dog or wolf; loud cry of pain, scornful laughter, amusement, etc., of a person. • *vi* 1 make such cries or sounds. 2 *vt* make (such cries, etc.): *The crowd howled insults at the speaker.*

how's (haʊz) how is or how has?

hub (hʌb) *nc* 1 the central part of a wheel from which bars go to the outer edge. 2 the central part of interest, importance, etc., of anything. **hub cap** a cover for the hub of a wheel.

hubbub ('hʌbʌb) *nu* a loud, confused noise.

huddle ('hʌdəl) 1 *vi* press up to someone or something for warmth, comfort, etc. 2 *vt* put into a confused pile. • *nc* things or people close together without any order.

hue (hjuː) *nc* a colour, esp. how dark or how light it is.

huff (hʌf) *nc* a fit of bad temper: *in a huff.*

hug (hʌg) *vt* hold (someone) with the arms held tightly round, esp. in a loving way. • *nc* a tight hold with the arms.

huge (hjuːdʒ) *adj* very large.

hulk (hʌlk) *nc* 1 the body of an old ship no longer in use, except perhaps as a storehouse. 2 a large, awkward body of a person or thing.

hull[1] (hʌl) *nc* the outer covering of some seeds, esp. peas and beans. • *vt* remove this outer covering.

hull[2] *nc* the body or frame of a ship, plane, etc.

hullabaloo (ˌhʌləbəˈluː) *nc* a loud, confused noise; disturbance.

hullo (hʌˈləʊ) *interj* See **hello.**

hum (hʌm) 1 *vi* make a continuous noise like the sound made by a bee, usually with closed lips: *She hummed as she worked.* 2 *vt* sing (a tune, etc.) with the lips closed. *vi* 3 *infml* be in an active condition: *make things start to hum.* 4 *infml* smell nasty: *This meat's beginning to hum.* • *nc* the sound of humming: *the hum of voices.*

human ('hjuːmən) *adj* 1 of or having to do with a person or people. 2 having or showing the qualities of a person or people, esp. the better ones. • *nc* also **human being** a person; man, woman, or child. **human rights** those things which any person has a right to expect, have, etc.: *a human rights demonstration.*

humane (hjuːˈmeɪn) *adj* caring about the sufferings of other people; kind.

humanism ('hjuːmənɪzəm) *nu* a system that is interested in the study of man and morals, but not in God or spiritual matters. **humanist** ('hjuːmənɪst) *nc* a person who believes in and supports humanism.

humanitarian (hjuːˌmænɪˈteərɪən) *nc* a person who works to make the pain, suffering, etc., of human beings less, or easier to bear. • *adj* of, or having, qualities of kindness and mercy.

humanity (hjuːˈmænɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the human race. 2 the quality of caring about the sufferings of other people; kindness. **the humanities** subjects such as literature, history, and philosophy studied, esp. at university.

humble ('hʌmbəl) *adj* 1 having not too high an opinion of yourself; modest. 2 not important; having or holding a low position in society, etc. 3 (of a thing such as a home) poor in appearance. **humbly** *adv* • *vt* make humble.

humbug ('hʌmbʌg) 1 *nc* a person or thing that deceives. 2 *nu* talk or behaviour that intends to deceive.

humdrum ('hʌmdrʌm) *adj* not very interesting; without much change.

humerus ('hjuːmərəs) *anatomy nc, pl* **-ri** (raɪ) the bone in the upper part of the arm.

humid ('hjuːmɪd) *adj* (of the air) damp. **humidity** (hjuːˈmɪdɪtɪ) *nu* the amount of dampness in the air.

humiliate (hjuːˈmɪlɪeɪt) *vt* cause to feel ashamed. **humiliation** (hjuːˌmɪlɪˈeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the making or being made to feel ashamed. 2 *nc* an example of this shame.

humility (hjuːˈmɪlɪtɪ) *nu* the state of not having too high an opinion of yourself; modesty.

humorist ('hjuːmərɪst) *nc* a person who speaks or writes in an amusing way.

humorous ('hjuːmərəs) *adj* having a sense of fun.

humour *US* **humor** ('hjuːmə*) *nu* 1 a state of mind. 2 the quality of being amusing or funny. **sense of humour** the ability to enjoy what is funny. • *vt* try to please (a person) by doing what they wish, etc.

hump (hʌmp) *nc* 1 a round lump, esp. on the back of a camel; such a lump (but not natural) on the back of a person. 2 *infml* a difficult time. • *vt* make into the shape of a hump.

humus ('hjuːməs) *nu* the rich earth formed by dead leaves, plants, etc., rotting away.

hunch (hʌntʃ) *nc* a feeling that something might happen: *He had a hunch that the car would crash.* • *vt* push up to form a hump. **hunchback** ('hʌntʃbæk) *nc* an offensive word for a person whose back is curved to form a hump.

hundred ('hʌndrəd) *determiner, n* the number 100. **hundredth** ('hʌndrədθ) *determiner, n, adv* **hundredweight** ('hʌndrədweɪt) *nc* a measure of weight: see appendix.

hung (hʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **hang** (defs. 1, 3, 4).

hunger ('hʌŋgə*) *nu* 1 the need or wish for food. 2 any strong wish: *a hunger for affection.* • *vi* 1 feel the need or wish for food. 2 have any strong wish. **hunger strike** refusing to eat in order to be set free from prison or to show that you are not in favour of something, etc.

hungry ('hʌŋgrɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** feeling, showing, or causing hunger. **hungrily** *adv*

hunk (hʌŋk) *nc* a thick, solid piece of something: *a hunk of bread.*

hunt (hʌnt) 1 *vti* chase (wild animals, esp. foxes) for food or for sport. 2 *vt* search or look for (something or someone). • *nu* 1 the act of hunting. 2 *chiefly Brit* a group of people who chase foxes, etc., for sport with horses and dogs. **hunt down** chase and find (the animal or person being hunted). **hunt for** make a search for. **hunter** *nc* a person who hunts animals. **hunting** *nu* chasing of wild animals for food or sport: *Many people think fox hunting is cruel.* **huntsman** ('hʌntsmən) *nc, pl* **-men** 1 a hunter. 2 the man in charge of the dogs when hunting.

hurdle ('hɜːdəl) *nc* 1 a frame with wooden bars for jumping over in a race. 2 *Brit* a movable frame used for a short time as a fence. 3 a difficulty that has to be overcome before progress can be made.

hurl (hɜːl) *vt* throw with force. • *nc* a violent throw.

hurly-burly ('hɜːlɪˌbɜːlɪ) *nu* noisy activity.

hurrah (hʊ'rɑː) also **hooray** *interj* (used to show gladness, welcome, approval, etc.)

hurricane ('hʌrɪkən) *nc* a violent wind, esp. one moving in circles round a calm place. **hurricane lamp** a lamp that will not be blown out by a strong wind.

hurry ('hʌrɪ) 1 *vi* move or do something quickly or too quickly. 2 *vt* cause to move or do (something) quickly or too quickly. • *nu* great haste. **hurry up!** *infml* be quick!

hurt (hɜːt) 1 *vt* cause pain to (a person's body or mind). *vi* 2 feel pain of the body or mind. 3 cause pain or sorrow: *It won't hurt to wait till tomorrow before we go.* • *nu* injury; harm. **hurtful** ('hɜːtfəl) *adj* which makes a person unhappy: *a very hurtful remark.*

hurtle ('hɜːtəl) *vi* rush violently and suddenly: *The rocks hurtled down the mountain.*

husband ('hʌzbənd) *nc* the man to whom a woman is married. **husbandry** ('hʌzbəndrɪ) *nu* farming.

hush (hʌʃ) 1 *vt* make quiet. 2 *vi* be quiet. • *nc* 1 silence. 2 calm; stillness: *the hush of night.* **hush up** prevent (something) from being made known and talked about in public.

husk (hʌsk) *nc* 1 the dry outer covering of some seeds. 2 the worthless outer part of anything. • *vt* take off the husks from.

husky ('hʌskɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a voice) low and rough. 2 (of a person's body) big and tough. • *nc, pl* **-kies** a dog used by Eskimos to pull sledges.

hustle ('hʌsəl) 1 *vt* push in a rough way; make (someone) hurry or act quickly. 2 *vi* push your way: *He hustled through the crowd.* • *nu* much activity.

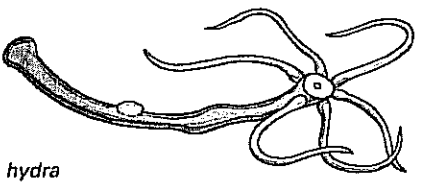
hut (hʌt) *nc* a small, usually wooden, roughly made shelter or house.

hutch (hʌtʃ) *nc* a box for pets, such as rabbits, with the front made of crossed wire bars.

hyacinth ('haɪəsɪnθ) *nc* a sweet-smelling plant with blue, white, or pink flowers, that grows from a bulb.

hybrid ('haɪbrɪd) *nc* the young of two different kinds of animals or plants; anything with very different parts, such as a word formed from different languages. • *adj* from parents of different kinds.

hydra ('haɪdrə) *nc, biology* a very small freshwater organism with a hollow tubular body and a mouth surrounded by tentacles: see picture.



hydra

hydrant ('haɪdrənt) *nc* a large pipe, esp. in the street, with a metal end for attaching a hose, used for putting out fires, etc.

hydrate ('haɪdreɪt) *nc* a chemical formed of two parts, one of which is water.

hydraulic (haɪ'drɔːlɪk, haɪ'drɒlɪk) *adj* of water, etc., moving through pipes; worked by the power of a fluid, esp. water.

hydroelectricity (ˌhaɪdrəʊɪlek'trɪsɪtɪ) *nu* electricity that is produced by water power. **hydroelectric** (ˌhaɪdrəʊɪ'lektrɪk) *adj*

hydrofoil ('haɪdrəfɔɪl) *nc* a fast boat built so that it is able to lift its hull out of the water when moving.

hydrogen ('haɪdrədʒən) *nu* a gas without colour, taste, or smell, and which is the lightest substance known: symbol H. **hydrogen bomb** *nc* a bomb that uses the fusion of hydrogen nuclei to cause an extremely forceful explosion.

hydrology (haɪ'drɒlədʒɪ) *nu geography* the science that deals with water, its use, distribution and conservation.

hydrolysis (haɪ'drɒlɪsɪs) *nu chemistry* a chemical reaction in which a compound is broken down and changed into another compound by taking in water.

hydrometer (haɪ'drɒmɪtə*) *nc science* an instrument used to find the specific gravity of liquids.

hydroponics ('haɪdrəˌpɒnɪks) *nu botany*

the growing of plants without soil, using water containing the necessary nutrients.

hydroxide (haɪ'drɒksaɪd) *nc* a chemical formed of an element with hydrogen and oxygen.

hyena (haɪ'iːnə) *nc* a meat-eating wild animal, like a large dog, that makes a laughing sound: see picture at **animals.**

hygiene ('haɪdʒiːn) *nu* rules for keeping healthy; cleanliness. **hygienic** (haɪ'dʒiːnɪk) *adj*

hymn (hɪm) *nc* a song praising God, esp. one used in a religious service.

hyperbola (haɪ'pɜːbələ) *nc mathematics* the curve produced when a flat surface cuts through a cone.

hyperbole (haɪ'pɜːbəlɪ) 1 *nu* an expression in words that makes something seem much bigger, better, etc., than it really is. 2 *nc* an example of this, such as 'I died laughing'.

hypermarket ('haɪpə,mɑːkɪt) *nc* a very large store, outside a town, at which customers serve themselves and pay as they leave.

hyphen ('haɪfən) *nc* the sign (-) used to join two words together, to divide a word into parts, etc. **hyphenate** ('haɪfənɛɪt) *vt* join (words or parts of a word) with a hyphen.

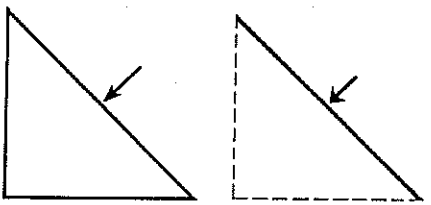
hypnotise ('hɪpnətaɪz) *vt* make (someone) seem deeply asleep and then control their actions by the power of your mind. **hypnotism** ('hɪpnətɪzəm) *nu* a state where someone is hypnotised; the act of causing this state. **hypnotist** *nc*

hypochondria (,haɪpə'kɒndrɪə) *nu* being very anxious about your health, when this is not necessary.

hypocrisy (hɪ'pɒkrəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** 1 *nu* false behaviour; pretending to be good, nice, etc. 2 *nc* an example of this. **hypocrite** ('hɪpəkrɪt) *nc* a person who behaves in this way.

hypodermic (,haɪpə'dɜːmɪk) *adj* (of medical substances, etc.) forced under the skin. • *n* See **syringe.**

hypotenuse (haɪ'pɒtənjuːz) *nc* the side opposite the right angle (90°) in a right-angled triangle: see picture.



hypotenuse

hypothesis (haɪ'pɒθəsɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (siːz) an idea, etc., that is thought but not yet proved to be true. **hypothetical** (,haɪpə'θetɪkəl) *adj*

hyssop ('hɪsəp) *nc* a small, sweet-smelling plant, used as medicine.

hysterectomy (,hɪstərektəmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** *medicine* the surgical removal of the uterus.

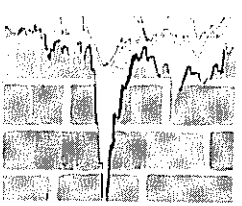
hysteria (hɪ'stɪərɪə) *nu* 1 disturbance of the mind causing the feelings to become uncontrolled. 2 excitement that is uncontrolled. **hysterical** (hɪ'sterɪkəl) *adj* **hysterics** (hɪ'sterɪks) *n pl* fits of hysteria.

I

I (aɪ) *pron* (used by a speaker or writer when referring to himself or herself).

ice (aɪs) 1 *nu* water that has frozen; a layer of this on top of water. 2 *nc* frozen, sweet cream, etc. • *vi* 1 become very cold. 2 *vt* put icing on (a cake). *vi* 3 (followed by **over**) be or become covered with **ice** (def. 1). 4 (followed by **up**) freeze solid. **Ice Age** the time when much of the northern half of the earth was covered with ice. **iceberg** ('aɪsbɜɪg) *nc* a large quantity of ice floating in the sea. **ice cream** 1 frozen, sweet cream, etc. 2 a piece of this. **ice hockey** a game played on ice by two teams of six players wearing skates and using sticks and a flat, round, piece of rubber. **ice lolly** frozen fruit juice on a stick. **ice skating** the act of sliding on ice, using boots with metal blades.

icicle ('aɪsɪkəl) *nc* a thin pointed piece of ice, produced by water falling off a surface in drops and freezing: see picture.



icicle

icing ('aɪsɪŋ) *nu* fine sugar mixed with the white of an egg, etc., for covering a cake.

icy ('aɪsɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 very cold. 2 covered with ice.

I'd (aɪd) I had or I would.

idea (aɪ'dɪə) *nc* 1 a thought. 2 an opinion; person's thoughts on a subject. 3 a plan: *Whose bright idea was it?*

ideal (aɪ'dɪəl) *adj* 1 perfect; very good. 2 (of a thought) only hopeful, not likely to become real: *an ideal world.* • *nu* 1 something perfect, to be aimed at rather than reached. 2 *nc* an example of this. **ideal gas** *chemistry* an imaginary gas used in calculations to work out what a real gas would do in a similar situation. **idealise** (aɪ'dɪəlaɪz) *vt* think of (a person, thing, etc.) as being perfect. **idealism** (aɪ'dɪəlɪzəm) *nu* the act of living or trying to live in a way that is equal to what you consider perfect. **idealist** *nc* a person who believes in idealism. **ideally** *adv*

identical (aɪ'dentɪkəl) *adj* exactly the same.

identify (aɪ'dentɪfaɪ) *vt* discover or say who or what (a person or thing) is exactly. **identification** (aɪˌdentɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu* saying what somebody or something is.

identity (aɪ'dentɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** the state of being at all times someone or something in particular: *Have you proof of your identity?*

ideology (ˌaɪdɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** the way a person, class of people, group, etc., thinks; body or system of ideas, esp. in economics or politics. **ideological** (ˌaɪdɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* of or to do with ideology.

idiocy ('ɪdɪəsɪ) 1 *nu* great stupidity. 2 *nc, pl* **-cies** very stupid acts, words, etc.

idiom ('ɪdɪəm) 1 *grammar nc* a set of words, the special meaning of which can only be understood if learnt together and not separately: for example, 'bring the house down' means 'cause great laughter'. 2 the way a certain group of people speak a language: *the Scots idiom.* **idiomatic** (ˌɪdɪə'mætɪk) *adj* (of a set of words, used) in the manner of an **idiom** (def. 1).

idiosyncrasy (ˌɪdɪə'sɪnkrəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** an idea, way of behaving, etc., that belongs to a particular person's character: *I still love him in spite of his idiosyncrasies.*

idiot ('ɪdɪət) *nc* 1 a person whose mind is so weak that they are not able to understand, have opinions, etc. 2 *infml* a stupid person; fool. **idiotic** (ˌɪdɪ'ɒtɪk) *adj* stupid.

idle ('aɪdəl) *adj* 1 lazy; not wanting to work. 2 not being used; not working. 3 of no use or worth. • *vi* be idle. **idle away** use (time) in an idle way. **idleness** *nu* the state of being idle. **idly** ('aɪdlɪ) *adv*

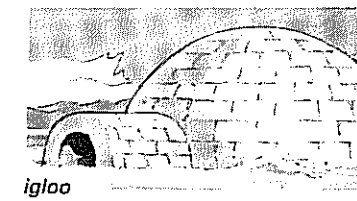
idol ('aɪdəl) *nc* 1 something of wood, stone, etc., that is worshipped because it is believed to have great power; false god. 2 someone or something greatly respected, loved, etc., sometimes unwisely. **idolatry** (aɪ'dɒlətrɪ) *ncu, pl* **-tries** the worship of idols; an example of this. **idolise** ('aɪdəlaɪz) *vt* love or respect (someone or something) too much.

idyll ('ɪdɪl) *nc* a perfect situation: *a rural idyll.* **idyllic** (ɪ'dɪlɪk, aɪ'dɪlɪk) *adj* very pleasant.

if (ɪf) *conj* 1 on the condition that; supposing that: *I'll go for a walk if it stops raining.* 2 when: *If you don't understand, tell me.* 3 whether: *Ask if you may borrow his car.* **if only** 1 (in a sudden, short cry showing surprise, a wish, etc.): *If only I*

were rich! 2 even though there may be no other reason (than): *I shall come to the dance, if only to see who else is there.*

igloo ('ɪglu:) *nc* a rounded shelter of hard snow built in very cold regions of the world: see picture.



igloo

igneous ('ɪgnɪəs) *adj geography* (of rocks) produced by the fire, ashes, etc., from a volcano. See also **lava.**

ignite (ɪg'naɪt) 1 *vt* set fire to. 2 *vi* become on fire. **ignition** (ɪg'nɪʃən) *nc* 1 the act of setting fire to or being set on fire. 2 an electrical device in the engine of a car, etc., for igniting the gases to make it go.

ignoble (ɪg'nəʊbəl) *adj* shameful; without honour.

ignominy ('ɪgnəmɪnɪ) *ncu, pl* **-nies** shame or dishonour; a shameful act. **ignominious** (,ɪgnə'mɪnɪəs) *adj* causing or deserving shame: *Our team suffered an ignominious defeat.*

ignorance ('ɪgnərəns) *nu* being without much or any knowledge. **ignorant** *adj* 1 having little knowledge. 2 behaving in a rough, awkward manner.

ignore (ɪg'nɔ:*) *vt* take no notice of.

ileum ('ɪlɪəm) *nc zoology* 1 the lowest part of the small intestine in mammals. 2 part of the alimentary canal of an insect.

ilium ('ɪlɪəm) *nc anatomy* the broad upper portion of the hip bone.

I'll (aɪl) I will or I shall.

ill (ɪl) *adj* 1 in bad health. 2 unkind. 3 bad. • *nu* 1 evil. 2 *nc* trouble. • *adv* badly; wrongly. **ill-advised** (,ɪləd'vaɪzd) *adj* unwise. **ill-fated** (,ɪl'feɪtɪd) *adj* bringing or fated to bring bad luck. **ill-feeling** (,ɪl'fi:lɪŋ) 1 *nu* strong dislike. 2 *nc* an example of this. **ill-treatment** (,ɪl'tri:tmənt) *nu* being treated or treating (someone) in a cruel or bad way.

illegal (ɪ'li:gəl) *adj* against the law.

illegible (ɪ'ledʒəbəl) *adj* (of writing) not able to be read easily or not at all: *His writing is an illegible scrawl.*

illegitimate (,ɪlɪ'dʒɪtɪmət) *adj* 1 not lawful. 2 born of a man and woman who are not married.

illicit (ɪ'lɪsɪt) *adj* not lawful; forbidden; not proper: *the illicit trade in marijuana.*

illiterate (ɪ'lɪtərət) *adj* 1 not able to read or write. 2 having little education. **illiteracy** (ɪ'lɪtərəsɪ) *nu* not being able to read or write.

illness ('ɪlnɪs) 1 *nu* being in bad health. 2 *nc* a disease.

illogical (ɪ'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* against reason.

illuminate (ɪ'lju:mɪneɪt) *vt* 1 give light to. 2 make clear or easier to understand. 3 decorate (streets, buildings, etc.) with bright lights. 4 decorate (a book, etc.) with gold, silver, and bright colours. **illumination** (ɪ,lju:mɪ'neɪʃən) 1 *nu* the state of giving or being given light to. 2 (*pl*) decorations in the streets, etc.

illumine (ɪ'lju:mɪn) *vt* 1 make bright. 2 give knowledge of God to.

illusion (ɪ'lu:ʒən) 1 *nc* the seeing of something that is not really there; something that does not really exist. 2 *nu* the state of having a mistaken idea or belief. **be under an illusion** be deceived by illusion. **illusory** (ɪ'lu:sərɪ) *adj* deceiving.

illustrate ('ɪləstreɪt) *vt* 1 explain (something) by giving an example. 2 provide (a book, etc.) with pictures. **illustration** (,ɪlə'streɪʃən) 1 *nu* adding or being supplied with pictures. 2 *nc* a picture, drawing, etc. **illustrative** ('ɪləstrətɪv) *adj* explaining or being an example of. **illustrator** ('ɪləstreɪtə*) *nc* a person who does pictures, drawings, etc., for a book.

illustrious (ɪ'lʌstrɪəs) *adj* famous; well known.

I'm (aɪm) I am.

image ('ɪmɪdʒ) *nc* 1 something in wood or stone made to the likeness of a person or thing. 2 a great likeness. 3 a picture in the mind. 4 what a person or thing is like, as seen by the public. 5 a picture of yourself, etc., seen in a mirror, or through the lens of a camera.

imagery ('ɪmədʒərɪ) *nu* using words that bring pictures to the mind.

imagine (ɪ'mædʒɪn) *vt* 1 make a picture of (something) in the mind: *Imagine you were a millionaire!* 2 believe; guess: *I imagine he's very busy.* **imaginable** (ɪ'mædʒɪnəbəl) *adj* that can be thought of or pictured; able to be imagined. **imaginary** (ɪ'mædʒɪnərɪ) *adj* not real; only in the mind. **imagination** (ɪ,mædʒɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu* 1 the power of imagining. 2 a thing that is imagined. **imaginative** (ɪ'mædʒɪnətɪv) *adj* 1 having much power to imagine. 2 showing imagination.

imago (ɪ'meɪgəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** *zoology* the winged stage in the metamorphosis of an insect.

imam (ɪ'mɑːm) *nc* 1 the person who leads prayers in a mosque. 2 a title of various Muslim leaders.

imbecile ('ɪmbəsiːl) *nc* a person with very little power of the mind to understand, etc. • *adj* stupid.

imbibe (ɪm'baɪb) *vt fml* 1 drink (esp. alcohol). 2 take into the mind: *imbibe ideas.*

imbue (ɪm'bjuː) *v* **imbue with** *fml* fill with (thoughts, feelings, etc.): *imbued with confidence.*

imitate ('ɪmɪteɪt) *vt* copy the behaviour of (someone or something); take as an example. **imitation** (ˌɪmɪ'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of copying; taking as an example. 2 *nc* something done or made in imitation. • *adj* not real. **imitator** *nc* a person or thing that copies.

immaculate (ɪ'mækjulət) *adj* pure; without fault.

immaterial (ˌɪmə'tɪərɪəl) *adj* 1 (often followed by **to**) not important; not connected with. 2 not having real substance.

immature (ˌɪmə'tjuə*) *adj* not fully grown or developed.

immeasurable (ɪ'meʒərəbəl) *adj* not able to be measured; huge.

immediate (ɪ'miːdɪət) *adj* 1 most near. 2 happening at once. **immediately** *adv* at once.

immense (ɪ'mens) *adj* huge. **immensely** *adj* very; very much; to a very great degree: *I liked him immensely.* **immensity** (ɪ'mensɪtɪ) *nu*

immerse (ɪ'mɜːs) *vt* (followed by **in**) 1 put into water, etc., until entirely covered. 2 occupy: *He's immersed in his work.* **immersion** (ɪ'mɜːʃən) *ncu* immersing or being immersed. **immersion heater** an electric device that is put into water to heat it, esp. one that is fixed in a hot-water tank.

immigrant ('ɪmɪgrənt) *nc* a person who has left their own country to live permanently in another. **immigrate** ('ɪmɪgreɪt) *vi* go to live permanently in another country. **immigration** (ɪmɪ'greɪʃən) *ncu* the act of immigrating; an example of this.

imminent ('ɪmɪnənt) *adj* likely to happen very soon: *imminent danger.*

immiscible (ɪ'mɪsɪbəl) *adj chemistry* (of liquids) unable to mix together: *Oil and water are immiscible.*

immobilise (ɪ'məʊbɪlaɪz) *vt* fix or make so as to prevent movement.

immoral (ɪ'mɒrəl) *adj* morally wrong; wicked: *an immoral act.*

immortal (ɪ'mɔːtəl) *adj* never dying. **immortalise** (ɪ'mɔːtəlaɪz) *vt* make (someone) live or be remembered for ever. **immortality** (ˌɪmɔː'tælɪtɪ) *nu* fame that lasts beyond your life: *achieve immortality.*

immovable (ɪ'muːvəbəl) *adj* not able to be moved.

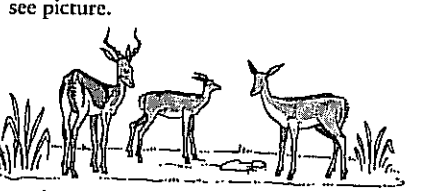
immune (ɪ'mjuːn) *adj* (followed by **from, to,** or **against**) free (from); able to resist. **immune system** the parts of the human body that resist disease. **immunisation** (ˌɪmjʊnaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu* the act of making immune, esp. from a disease by injecting tiny, harmless organisms into a person or animal. **immunise** ('ɪmjʊnaɪz) *vt* make able to resist infection, etc. **immunity** (ɪ'mjuːnɪtɪ) *nu* 1 *medicine* the state of being able to resist disease. 2 the freedom, or being excused, from a duty or responsibility: *They were granted immunity from paying tax.*

imp (ɪmp) *nc* a little devil; rather naughty child.

impact ('ɪmpækt) (followed by **on**) 1 *nc* an act of striking together; collision. *nu* 2 the force used by one thing striking against another. 3 an effect. • (ɪm'pækt) *vt* press or fix firmly into.

impair (ɪm'peə*) *vt* damage; make less strong.

impala (ɪm'pɑːlə) *nc* a very fast and graceful antelope from east and southern Africa: see picture.



impala

impale (ɪm'peɪl) *vt* push into or through (something) with force, using an object with a sharp point.

impart (ɪm'pɑːt) *vt fml* pass on (news, feelings, a message, etc.).

impartial (ɪm'pɑːʃəl) *adj* fair, not supporting one more than another: *an impartial judge.*

impassable (ɪm'pɑːsəbəl) *adj* (of a country, road, etc.) not able to be travelled through or on.

impasse ('æmpɑːs) *nc* 1 a narrow passage or street closed at one end. 2 a place or position from which there is no escape. 3 a failure to agree.

impassioned (ɪm'pæʃənd) *adj* full of feeling: *an impassioned speech.*

impassive (ɪm'pæsɪv) *adj* showing no sign of feeling: *an impassive face.*

impatience (ɪm'peɪʃəns) *nu* the state of being unable to stay calm if someone or

something is slow or late; wanting things done or to happen quickly. **impatient** (ɪm'peɪʃənt) *adj* **impatiently** *adv*

impeach (ɪm'piːtʃ) *law vt* accuse (a person) of doing great wrong, esp. against the State.

impeccable (ɪm'pekəbəl) *adj fml* without a fault; very unlikely to do wrong.

impede (ɪm'piːd) *vt* delay; get in the way of.

impediment (ɪm'pedɪmənt) *nc* something that causes a delay or that causes something not to happen properly.

impel (ɪm'pel) *vt* force; urge on.

impending (ɪm'pendɪŋ) *adj* about to happen.

impenetrable (ɪm'penɪtrəbəl) *adj* 1 not able to have a way found through: *an impenetrable forest.* 2 not able to be understood or known.

imperative (ɪm'perətɪv) *adj* 1 urgent; greatly needed. 2 expecting to be obeyed: *an imperative manner.* • *adj, nc grammar* (the form of the verb used when) giving a command: for example, 'do' in 'Do it quickly'.

imperceptible (ˌɪmpə'septəbəl) *adj* not to be known by just looking; almost not seen, heard, etc.

imperfect (ɪm'pɜːfɪkt) *adj* 1 with a fault or faults. 2 not finished or complete. • *adj, nc grammar* (the form of a verb used when) showing action still going on: *'She was dancing' is an example of the imperfect form of the verb 'to dance'.* **imperfection** (ˌɪmpə'fekʃən) *ncu* the state of being imperfect; a fault.

imperial (ɪm'pɪərɪəl) *adj* of an empire or its ruler. **imperialism** (ɪm'pɪərɪəlɪzəm) *nu* the system of making a country or empire larger and more powerful by controlling other countries. **imperialist** (ɪm'pɪərɪəlɪst) *nc* a person who believes in or practises imperialism. • *adj* of or concerning imperialism: *imperialist expansion.* **imperious** (ɪm'pɪərɪəs) *adj fml* having too much pride in yourself; liking to use power.

imperil (ɪm'perɪl) *literary vt* put into danger.

impersonal (ɪm'pɜːsənəl) *adj* 1 not affected by any feelings: *impersonal behaviour.* 2 not having to do with any particular person: *an impersonal remark.*

impersonate (ɪm'pɜːsəneɪt) *vt* pretend to be (another person) in a play, etc., or in order to deceive. **impersonation** (ɪmˌpɜːsə'neɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of pretending to be another person. 2 *nc* an example of this.

impertinent (ɪm'pɜːtɪnənt) *adj* without proper respect; rude. **impertinence** (ɪm'pɜːtɪnəns) *ncu* the act of being impertinent; a rude act or remark.

imperturbable (ˌɪmpə'tɜːbəbəl) *adj fml* not easily made excited; calm: *I was trying to annoy her but she was imperturbable.*

impervious (ɪm'pɜːvɪəs) *adj* 1 (of some materials) not allowing water, etc., to pass through. 2 (of a person) not affected by.

impetigo (ˌɪmpə'taɪgəʊ) *nu medicine* an infectious skin disease with itchy weeping spots.

impetuous (ɪm'petjʊəs) *adj* acting quickly with little thought or care.

impetus ('ɪmpɪtəs) 1 *nc* the force that drives someone or something. 2 *nu* the force with which a body moves.

impinge (ɪm'pɪndʒ) *vi* (often followed by **on**) have an effect (on) or strike (against).

impious (ɪm'pɪəs) *adj fml* not showing respect, esp. for God or spiritual matters.

impish ('ɪmpɪʃ) *adj* of or like an imp; naughty in a playful way.

implacable (ɪm'plækəbəl) *adj fml* (of anger, an enemy, etc.) not able to be calmed or satisfied.

implant (ɪm'plɑːnt) *vt* fix (ideas, thoughts, etc.) deeply into.

implausible (ɪm'plɔːzəbəl) *adj* not likely to be true: *an implausible story.*

implement ('ɪmplɪmənt) *nc* a tool: *garden implements; implements for cooking with.* • ('ɪmplɪment) *vt* put (a plan, promise, agreement, etc.) into action.

implicate ('ɪmplɪkeɪt) *vt fml* show that (a person) has taken part in a crime, etc. **implication** (ˌɪmplɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *nu* the state of being implicated in something. 2 *nc* something that is suggested but not said directly.

implicit (ɪm'plɪsɪt) *adj fml* 1 suggested but not said directly. 2 accepted without questions; complete.

implode (ɪm'pləʊd) *vti science* burst or collapse inwards.

implore (ɪm'plɔː*) *vt* ask very seriously for, esp. when in great need.

imply (ɪm'plaɪ) *vt* 1 suggest or mean (something) without saying it directly: *Are you implying that I am a liar?* 2 have as a result or consequence.

impolite (ˌɪmpə'laɪt) *adj* not polite; rude.

import (ɪm'pɔːt) *vt* bring (goods) into a country from a foreign country; bring (something) into use from another place. • ('ɪmpɔːt) *nc* 1 something brought into a country, esp. for sale. *nu* 2 importing goods. 3 meaning: *The import of his speech was very clear.* **importation**

(ˌɪmpɔːˈteɪʃən) 1 *nu* importing. 2 *nc* a thing that is imported. **importer** (ɪmˈpɔːtə*) *nc* someone whose business is to import goods.

important (ɪmˈpɔːtənt) *adj* 1 (regarded as) special; particularly useful. 2 having the power to affect people or things; to be thought of in a serious way. 3 (of a person) having a high position with power. **importance** *nu* the state of being important. **importantly** *adv*

importunity (ˌɪmpɔːˈtjuːnɪtɪ) *nu fml* the act of continuing to ask for things even when this causes annoyance, anger, etc.

impose (ɪmˈpəʊz) *vt* 1 put (a tax, etc.), on something. 2 force (a task, etc.) on (a person). **imposing** (ɪmˈpəʊzɪŋ) *adj* making a deep effect on someone because of appearance, size, etc.

imposition (ɪmpəˈzɪʃən) 1 *nu* the putting on of a tax, etc.; the forcing of a task, etc., on. 2 *nc* a thing imposed.

impossible (ɪmˈpɒsəbəl) *adj* 1 not able to be done; not able to happen or be. 2 *infml* that cannot be put up with: *He's impossible!* **impossibility** (ɪmˌpɒsəˈbɪlɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 *nu* the state of being impossible. 2 *nc* something that is impossible.

impostor (ɪmˈpɒstə*) *nc* a person pretending to be someone they are not in order to deceive someone else.

impotent (ˈɪmpətənt) *adj* 1 not able to act or have any effect. 2 (of a man) not having any sexual power. **impotence** *nu* the state of being impotent.

impoverish (ɪmˈpɒvərɪʃ) *vt* 1 make poor. 2 use up the strength and good qualities of (a person, the soil, etc.).

impracticable (ɪmˈpræktɪkəbəl) *adj* not possible or able to be done.

impractical (ɪmˈpræktɪkəl) *adj* not possible to be put into action.

impregnable (ɪmˈpregnəbəl) *adj* that can resist any attack.

impregnate (ˈɪmpregneɪt) *vt* 1 make (a female person or animal) pregnant. 2 (followed by **with**) make a substance spread through another substance: *Her writing paper was impregnated with perfume.*

impress (ɪmˈpres) *vt* (followed by **on, upon,** or **with**) 1 make a mark by pressing (one thing) on another. 2 have a strong effect on (a person, the mind, etc.). **impression** (ɪmˈpreʃən) *nc* 1 a mark made by pressing. 2 the effect of someone or something on a person, the mind, feelings, etc. 3 a thought, perhaps not clear or wrong, coming into the mind. 4 a quantity of books printed at one time. 5 a picture, etc., made by printing. **impressionable** (ɪmˈpreʃənəbəl) *adj* easily affected by other people, their opinions, etc.

impressionism (ɪmˈpreʃənɪzəm) *nu* a way of painting pictures that gives an effect rather than all the details of a scene. **impressionist** (ɪmˈpreʃənɪst) *nc* a person who paints in this way.

impressive (ɪmˈpresɪv) *adj* causing feelings of admiration, etc.

imprint (ˈɪmprɪnt) *nc* a mark made by pressing or stamping. ● (ɪmˈprɪnt) *vt* (followed by **with** or **on**) press; print; stamp.

imprison (ɪmˈprɪzən) *vt* put into prison. **imprisonment** (ɪmˈprɪzənmənt) *nu* the act of putting or being put into prison.

improbable (ɪmˈprɒbəbəl) *adj* not likely to happen; not likely to be true.

impromptu (ɪmˈprɒmptjuː) *adj, adv* done without earlier thought or preparation.

improper (ɪmˈprɒpə*) *adj* 1 not fitting or suitable. 2 not decent. **improperly** *adv*

improve (ɪmˈpruːv) *vti* make or become better. **improvement** 1 *nu* improving or being improved. *nc* 2 an act of improving or being improved. 3 something that improves or makes something else improve.

improvise (ˈɪmprəvaɪz) 1 *vti* do or make (something) or play or write (music, etc.) without earlier thought or preparation. 2 *vt* do or make quickly, when not prepared, by using whatever you have: *When ten people turned up I had to improvise a dinner out of potatoes and eggs.* **improvisation** (ˌɪmprəvaɪˈzeɪʃən) *nc* something done without earlier preparation.

impudent (ˈɪmpjʊdənt) *adj* very rude; lacking any respect. **impudence** *nu* being impudent.

impulse (ˈɪmpʌls) 1 *nc* a sudden desire to act without thinking about the results. 2 *nu* the state of mind in which this desire is a habit: *He's a man of impulse.*

impulsive (ɪmˈpʌlsɪv) *adj* acting suddenly and without a plan. **impulsively** *adv*

impunity (ɪmˈpjuːnɪtɪ) *n* **with impunity** having the ability to do something wrong without being punished: *Until the law was changed, smugglers could bring drugs across the border with impunity.*

impure (ɪmˈpjʊə*) *adj* not pure; dirty. **impurity** (ɪmˈpjʊərɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** being not pure; a thing that is not pure.

impute (ɪmˈpjuːt) *vt* (often followed by **to**) consider as belonging to, being the cause of, or the act of. **imputation** (ˌɪmpjuːˈteɪʃən) 1 *nu* imputing. 2 *nc* an accusation.

in (ɪn) *prep* 1 (showing a position where something is): *He's working in London.* 2

(showing when something happens): *in winter.* 3 inside; contained by: *with his hands in his pockets; twelve months in a year.* 4 during; within a space of time: *I'll return in a few days' time.* 5 at the task of: *He's done well in English.* 6 (working) for or within: *He's in the police.* • *adv* 1 at home: *I'm staying in today.* 2 arrive: *Is the train in yet?* 3 able to be used or be present: *I will be in next week.* 4 fashionable; popular: *Hats are in this season.* 5 to, or having, a position of power: *Which party was in then?* **in all** as a total: *In all, there were ten of us.* **be in for** 1 be expecting to undergo something, esp. trouble: *We're in for a hard winter.* 2 be taking part in (a competition, race, etc.). **be in with** be very friendly with. **have it in for (someone)** be waiting for the chance to punish someone. **ins and outs** all the details, both good and bad: *the ins and outs of the problem.* **day in, day out; week in, week out; year in, year out** day after day, week after week, year after year, never changing and not interesting because of this.

inability (ɪnə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu* the state of being unable.

inaccessible (ˌɪnək'sesəbəl) *adj* not able to be reached, used, etc.

inaccurate (ɪn'ækjʊrət) *adj* with mistakes.

inactive (ɪn'æktɪv) *adj* not acting; lazy; slow-moving.

inadequate (ɪn'ædɪkwət) *adj* not satisfactory; not enough; not having the power, etc., to do something.

inadmissible (ˌɪnəd'mɪsəbəl) *adj* not (to be) allowed: *inadmissible evidence.*

inadvertent (ˌɪnəd'vɜɪtənt) *adj* done without care or attention; not intended. **inadvertently** *adv*

inadvisable (ˌɪnəd'vaɪzəbəl) *adj* not wise or sensible: *It would be inadvisable to stay up late tonight since you have an exam tomorrow.*

inalienable (ɪn'eɪlɪənəbəl) *adj fml* (of a person's rights, etc.) that cannot be taken away or separated from.

inane (ɪn'eɪn) *adj* silly; meaningless: *an inane grin.*

inanimate (ɪn'ænɪmət) *adj* 1 without life: *inanimate stones.* 2 without the life of a man or animal: *inanimate nature.* 3 dull; not lively: *an inanimate conversation.*

inappropriate (ˌɪnə'prəʊprɪət) *adj* not fitting or suitable: *She wore a very inappropriate outfit for her interview.*

inarticulate (ˌɪnɑɪ'tɪkjʊlət) *adj* not able to speak clearly; not able to express your thoughts, feelings, etc., clearly and smoothly.

inasmuch (ˌɪnəz'mʌtʃ) *adv* **inasmuch as** since; because.

inaudible (ɪn'ɔɪdɪbəl) *adj* not able to be heard.

inaugural (ɪn'ɔɪgjʊrəl) *adj* to do with a special occasion marking the formal beginning of a course of action or of someone's job: *an inaugural speech.*

inaugurate (ɪn'ɔɪgjʊreɪt) *vt* 1 introduce (a person), at a formal event, to a new job in a public position. 2 begin (a special task) or open (a new building, etc.) with a formal and public event. 3 be the beginning of. **inauguration** (ɪˌnɔɪgjʊ'reɪʃən) *ncu* the act of being begun, or introduced, with a public and formal event.

inauspicious (ˌɪnɔɪ'spɪʃəs) *adj* unlikely to succeed: *an inauspicious start.*

inborn ('ɪnbɔɪn) *adj* (of a person or animal) having a quality or ability from birth; natural.

inbred (ɪn'bred) *adj* 1 inborn. 2 bred within the same family for several hundred years past.

inbreeding (ˌɪn'briːdɪŋ) *nu* (of people or farm animals) having parents who are closely related to each other.

incalculable (ɪn'kælkjʊləbəl) *adj* 1 too great to be measured or counted. 2 (of a person's character, feelings, etc.) often altering.

incandescent (ˌɪnkæn'desənt) *adj* (of light) glowing with heat: *An incandescent light was pouring through the window.*

incantation (ˌɪnkæn'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* the singing or speaking of a set of words, supposed to have magic power. 2 *nc* an example of this.

incapable (ɪn'keɪpəbəl) *adj* not able to do something because of lack of ability, power, desire to, etc.

incapacitate (ˌɪnkə'pæsɪteɪt) *vt* make unable or unfit: *I was completely incapacitated by flu last week.*

incarcerate (ɪn'kɑɪsəreɪt) *vt fml* put in prison.

incarnate (ɪn'kɑɪnɪt) *adj* 1 (of a person or spirit) having a body, esp. a human one. 2 (of an idea, quality, etc.) appearing in human, or some other, form: *Beauty incarnate.* • (ɪn'kɑɪneɪt) *vt* give bodily form to. **incarnation** (ˌɪnkɑɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu* (esp. of a divine being) the act of taking on a bodily form.

incendiary (ɪn'sendjərɪ) *adj* 1 that is used to cause a fire: *an incendiary device.* 2 stirring up violence or rebellion: *an incendiary speech.*

incense[1] ('ɪnsens) *nu* 1 a substance that

smells sweet when burning. 2 smoke from this substance.

incense[2] (ɪn'sens) *vt* make angry.

incentive (ɪn'sentɪv) *ncu* that which urges on or encourages a person to act, etc.

inception (ɪn'sepʃən) *nc fml* a beginning.

incessant (ɪn'sesənt) *adj* going on all the time without stopping.

incest ('ɪnsest) *nu* sexual relations between two people of the same family, such as a mother and her son.

inch (ɪntʃ) *nc* a measure of length: see appendix. • *vti* (often followed by **towards, nearer,** or **along**) move very gradually, almost by inches.

incidence ('ɪnsɪdəns) *nu* the way in which something affects things or the way it falls: *The incidence of a disease shows us the number of people who catch it.*

incident ('ɪnsɪdənt) *nc* an event, esp. one that is part of a larger happening. **incidental** (ˌɪnsɪ'dentəl) *adj* 1 done, or happening, at the same time, but not forming an essential part. 2 small and unimportant. **incidentally** *adv* 1 in an incidental way. 2 (used to introduce an unconnected remark); by the way: *Incidentally, I borrowed your coat last night and left it at the cinema.*

incinerator (ɪn'sɪnəreɪtə*) *nc* a large, enclosed fire for burning rubbish, etc.

incipient (ɪn'sɪpɪənt) *adj fml* just at the beginning or at an early stage.

incise (ɪn'saɪz) *vt* cut into something with a sharp instrument: *The doctor incised my snake bite; We incised our names in the tree.*

incision (ɪn'sɪʒən) 1 *nu* the act of cutting into something. 2 *nc* a cut, esp. one made by a surgeon on a part of the body. **incisive** (ɪn'saɪsɪv) *adj* 1 cutting; sharp: *incisive wit.* 2 (of a person's mind or words) sharp and quick.

incisor (ɪn'saɪzə*) *nc* any one of the eight sharp cutting teeth in the front of the mouth, four in the upper jaw and four in the lower.

incite (ɪn'saɪt) *vt* urge on; stir up. **incitement** 1 *nu* inciting. 2 *nc* something that incites; example of inciting.

inclement (ɪn'klemənt) *adj fml* (of the weather or climate) bad, esp. cold or stormy.

inclination (ˌɪnklɪ'neɪʃən) *nc* 1 a slope; leaning or bending. 2 (often followed by **to, towards,** or **for**) a liking or desire; tendency.

incline (ɪn'klaɪn) *vt* (often followed by **to** or **towards**) 1 slope; lean; bend (your head, body, etc.) forward or downward. 2 lean (the mind) in a particular direction; give (someone) the wish (to do something). 3 *vi* be willing or ready to; tend to. • ('ɪnklaɪn) *nc* a slope.

include (ɪn'kluːd) *vt* consider as part of or belonging to. **including** (ɪn'kluːdɪŋ) *prep* that includes (someone or something): *The room is twenty dollars a day including breakfast.* **inclusion** (ɪn'kluːʒən) *nu* including or being included. **inclusive** (ɪn'kluːsɪv) *adj* including; (of the first and last, or beginning and end) being included: *I have a week's holiday from 7 June to 13 June, inclusive.*

incognito (ˌɪnkɒg'niːtəʊ) *adj, adv* with your name, identity, etc., kept secret: *travelling incognito.* • *nc* a person who is incognito.

incoherent (ˌɪnkəʊ'hɪərənt) *adj* (esp. of speech) not clearly heard, or easily understood, because of some difficulty.

income ('ɪnkʌm) *nc* money received, esp. your total salary for the year. **income tax** a personal tax placed on income when it gets higher than a certain level.

incomparable (ɪn'kɒmpərəbəl) *adj* not to be compared with anything else because so much better, greater, etc.

incompatible (ˌɪnkəm'pætəbəl) *adj* (usually followed by **with**) (of two or more ideas, people, or things) not able to be, agree, or work together.

incompetent (ɪn'kɒmpɪtənt) *adj* not able to do what is needed because of lack of ability, training, etc. **incompetence** (ɪn'kɒmpɪtəns) *nu* the state of being incompetent.

incomplete (ˌɪnkəm'pliːt) *adj* not whole or finished.

incomprehensible (ɪnˌkɒmprɪ'hensəbəl) *adj* not able to be understood: *She was speaking an incomprehensible language.*

inconceivable (ˌɪnkən'siːvəbəl) *adj* 1 that cannot be imagined. 2 *infml* impossible; difficult to believe.

inconclusive (ˌɪnkən'kluːsɪv) *adj* (of evidence, an argument, or action) not being definite or certain.

incongruous (ɪn'kɒŋgrʊəs) *adj* not in agreement; not suitable. **incongruity** (ˌɪnkɒŋ'gruːɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** being incongruous; someone or something that is incongruous.

inconsequential (ˌɪnkɒnsə'kwənʃəl) *adj* not important: *The number of people killed by the virus is inconsequential compared with the children who die of malaria.*

inconsiderable (ˌɪnkən'sɪdrəbəl) *adj* small; not worth considering, insignificant.

inconsiderate (ˌɪnkənˈsɪdərət) *adj* not thinking about, or caring for, the needs, feelings, etc., of others.

inconsistent (ˌɪnkənˈsɪstənt) *adj* 1 having parts that are not in agreement. 2 acting in a way that is not in agreement with your usual way of behaviour, etc. **inconsistency** (ˌɪnkənˈsɪstənsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies** (an example of) being inconsistent.

inconspicuous (ˌɪnkənˈspɪkjʊəs) *adj* not easily seen or noticed.

inconstant (ɪnˈkɒnstənt) *adj* changeable; variable: *She was so inconstant that you never knew what she was going to do next.*

incontinent (ɪnˈkɒntɪnənt) *adj* 1 lacking self-control. 2 *medicine* unable to control the passing out of waste matter from the body. **incontinence** (ɪnˈkɒntɪnəns) *nu* being **incontinent** (def. 2).

inconvenient (ˌɪnkənˈviːnɪənt) *adj* causing difficulty, trouble, or discomfort. **inconvenience** (ˌɪnkənˈviːnɪəns) 1 *nu* being inconvenient. 2 *nc* a cause or example of difficulty, trouble, or discomfort. • *vt* cause trouble or annoyance to.

incorporate (ɪnˈkɔːpəreɪt) *vti* 1 make or become united in one group or body. 2 *law* form a business company.

incorrect (ˌɪnkəˈrekt) *adj* 1 not true; wrong. 2 (of behaviour, the way you dress, etc.) not suitable; not in agreement with good taste. **incorrectly** *adv*

incorrigible (ɪnˈkɒrɪdʒəbəl) *adj* (of a person, their faults, habits, etc.) that cannot be improved.

incorruptible (ˌɪnkəˈrʌptəbəl) *adj* not able to be corrupted; honest: *The incorruptible policeman would not take a bribe.*

increase (ɪnˈkriːs) *vti* make or become greater in (size, number, value, etc.). • (ˈɪnkriːs) 1 *nu* increasing. 2 *nc* an amount by which something has grown. **increasingly** (ɪnˈkriːsɪŋlɪ) *adv* more and more.

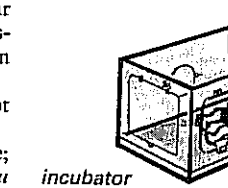
incredible (ɪnˈkredəbəl) *adj* 1 that cannot be believed. 2 *infml* that cannot be easily believed. **incredibly** (ɪnˈkredəblɪ) *adv*

incredulous (ɪnˈkredjʊləs) *adj* not willing to believe; disbelieving. **incredulity** (ˌɪnkrəˈdjuːlɪtɪ) *nu* disbelief.

increment (ˈɪnkrəmənt) *nc* an example of an act of increasing; the amount of an increase. **incremental** (ˌɪnkrɪˈmentəl) *adj* to do with an increment.

incriminate (ɪnˈkrɪmɪneɪt) *vt* show or cause (someone) to be accused of doing wrong.

incubate (ˈɪnkjʊbeɪt) 1 *vt* (of birds) cause (eggs) to be kept warm by sitting on them, so as to bring forth young birds, etc. 2 *vi* sit on eggs. **incubation** (ˌɪnkjʊˈbeɪʃən) *ncu* the act of incubating eggs. **incubator** (ˈɪnkjʊbeɪtə*) *nc* a mechanical device for incubating eggs, or for nursing and keeping warm very small babies who are born too early: see picture.



incubator

incumbent (ɪnˈkʌmbənt) *adj* **be incumbent on** or **upon** *fml* be a duty resting on or left to (someone). • *nc* 1 a person who holds a particular job. 2 a priest, etc., who lives on a property that produces an income and which is owned by the Church.

incur (ɪnˈkɜː*) *vt* 1 meet with (something), usually unpleasant: *incur someone's anger.* 2 cause (something) to be brought onto yourself: *incur great debts.*

incurable (ɪnˈkjʊərəbəl) *adj* that cannot be cured.

incursion (ɪnˈkɜːʃən) *nc* 1 a sudden attack. 2 entering, visiting, etc., esp. for a short time and without being invited.

indebted (ɪnˈdetɪd) *adj* (followed by **to**) owing money or gratitude: *I'm indebted to you for saving my life.*

indecent (ɪnˈdiːsənt) *adj* 1 (of behaviour, esp. sexual) likely to shock or embarrass other people. 2 *infml* not proper.

indecision (ˌɪndɪˈsɪʒən) *nu* the state of not being able to decide. **indecisive** (ˌɪndɪˈsaɪsɪv) *adj* not able to make decisions; hesitating.

indeed (ɪnˈdiːd) *adv* 1 really; in fact; truly: *I was indeed sorry to hear of his illness.* 2 (used to give more force to your remarks): *Thank you very much indeed.* 3 (used to show surprise, disbelief, etc.): *He wants to become President.—Oh, does he indeed?*

indefatigable (ˌɪndɪˈfætɪgəbəl) *adj* that cannot be tired out.

indefensible (ˌɪndɪˈfensəbəl) *adj* that cannot be defended, or that no excuse can be given for.

indefinite (ɪnˈdefɪnɪt) *adj* not certain; not clearly stated. **indefinite article** See under **article. indefinitely** *adv*

indelible (ɪnˈdeləbəl) *adj* (of a mark or effect on something) that cannot be removed or rubbed out: *an indelible pencil; indelible memories.*

indelicate (ɪnˈdelɪkət) *adj* (of behaviour, talk, etc.) in bad taste; vulgar.

indemnify (ɪnˈdemnɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 *law* protect

or make (a person) safe from harm or loss. 2 make good or pay back to (someone) any loss, esp. of money.

indemnity (ɪn'demnɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** 1 being made safe against harm or loss; something that does this. 2 something given or received to make up for a loss, esp. money or goods paid to a country that has won in a war.

indent (ɪn'dent) *vt* 1 make or form deep cuts in. 2 (in printing or writing) begin (a line of words) farther in than other lines from the edge, to show a new paragraph, etc. 3 order (goods) with an indent. 4 *vi* (of goods) to be ordered by an indent. ● ('ɪndent) *nc* an official order made for goods. **indentation** (ˌɪnden'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* the state of being indented. *nc* 2 a deep cut in the outline of a coast. 3 the space left at the beginning of a line of words.

indenture (ɪn'dentʃə*) *nc* a written agreement, esp. one in which a learner of a trade agrees to work for a certain number of years, while being taught. ● *vi* agree by contract to serve someone else: *indentured labour.*

independent (ˌɪndɪ'pendənt) *adj* 1 not relying on or needing the support, help, etc., of other people or things. 2 free from the influence of others. 3 self-governing. **independence** (ˌɪndɪ'pendəns) *nu* being independent. **Independence Day** 4 July, when the USA remembers and celebrates the event which, on this day in 1776, made it independent of Great Britain. **independently** *adv*

in-depth ('ɪndepθ) *adj* detailed; thorough.

indescribable (ˌɪndɪs'kraɪbəbəl) *adj* too beautiful, great, etc., to be described: *indescribable joy.*

indestructible (ˌɪndɪ'strʌktəbəl) *adj* that cannot be destroyed.

indeterminate (ˌɪndɪ'tɜːmɪnət) *adj* not fixed.

index ('ɪndeks) *nc, pl* **-dexes** or **-dices** (dɪsiːz) 1 a list of words, arranged in the order of the alphabet, at the end of a book, that tells where certain information can be found in it. 2 such a list on cards in a library. ● *vt* 1 put an index in (a book, etc.). 2 put (a word, etc.) in an index. **index finger** the first finger, next to the thumb: see picture.

index finger

indicate ('ɪndɪkeɪt) *vt* 1 point to or out. 2 make known: *He indicated that he wanted me to go.* 3 be a sign of; show: *The dark skies indicate rain.* **indication** (ˌɪndɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of indicating. *nc* 2 an example of this: *She gave no indication of what she was about to do.* 3 a sign that indicates. **indicative** (ɪn'dɪkətɪv) *adj* being a sign or indication of. ● *adj, nc grammar* (to do with) the form of a verb that is used to show facts or questions, for example 'is' in 'He is here'. **indicator** *nc* (on a vehicle) a device, such as a flashing light, for showing a change of direction.

indict (ɪn'daɪt) *law vt* formally accuse (a person) of a crime. **indictable** (ɪn'daɪtəbəl) *adj* 1 (of a person) likely to be accused of a crime. 2 (of a crime) for which someone may be accused. **indictment** (ɪn'daɪtmənt) 1 *nu* being indicted or indicting. 2 *nc* a written statement in which someone is accused of breaking the law.

indifferent (ɪn'dɪfrənt) *adj* 1 having no interest in; neither against something nor in favour of it. 2 not very good; ordinary. **indifference** (ɪn'dɪfrəns) *nu* being indifferent. **indifferently** *adv*

indigenise (ɪn'dɪdʒɪnaɪz) *vt* bring something under the control of the people or government of a country: *As soon as they gained independence Ghana indigenised the goldfields.*

indigenous (ɪn'dɪdʒɪnəs) *adj* belonging naturally to a certain district, country, etc.

indigestion (ˌɪndɪ'dʒestʃən) *nu* difficulty that the body has in dealing with food when it reaches the stomach; a pain caused by this difficulty. **indigestible** (ˌɪndɪ'dʒestəbəl) *adj* difficult or impossible to digest.

indignant (ɪn'dɪgnənt) *adj* showing feelings of anger and scorn, esp. at something unjust. **indignantly** *adv* **indignation** (ˌɪndɪg'neɪʃən) *nu* anger and scorn caused by lack of justice, etc.

indignity (ɪn'dɪgnɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** rude behaviour that causes shame; something said or done that causes a person to lose their self-respect.

indigo ('ɪndɪgəʊ) *nu* a deep blue substance obtained from plants, used for dyeing cloth.

indirect (ˌɪndɪ'rekt) *adj* not going straight to a point, place, etc. **indirect object** *grammar* the person or thing that is affected by the verb, but is not the main object of it. **indirect speech** *grammar* the words of a speaker when reported to someone else, with any necessary changes of pronouns, tenses, etc. **indirectly** *adv*

indiscreet (ˌɪndɪˈskriːt) *adj* acting without careful thought; tactless.

indiscretion (ˌɪndɪˈskreʃən) 1 *nu* carelessness in what you say or do. 2 *nc* a careless remark or action.

indiscriminate (ˌɪndɪˈskrɪmɪnət) *adj* showing no care, thought, or taste: *I am very indiscriminate in my reading habits.* **indiscriminately** *adv*

indispensable (ˌɪndɪˈspensəbəl) *adj* that cannot be done without; greatly needed: *I made myself indispensable to the company.*

indisposed (ˌɪndɪˈspəʊzd) *adj* slightly ill; not well.

indisputable (ˌɪndɪˈspjuːtəbəl) *adj* that cannot be argued about because it is absolutely certain.

indistinct (ˌɪndɪˈstɪŋkt) *adj* not easily or clearly heard, seen, remembered, etc.

indistinguishable (ˌɪndɪˈstɪŋgwɪʃəbəl) *adj* not seen, heard, understood, etc., to be different from something else.

individual (ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒʊəl) *adj* 1 specially of or for any one person, thing, etc. 2 having a quality that makes a person or thing different from others. • *nc* 1 one particular person rather than a society, family, etc. 2 *infml* a person: *He's a miserable individual!* **individualism** (ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒʊəlɪzəm) *nu* the idea that every person in society should have complete freedom of thought and action. **individuality** (ˌɪndɪvɪdʒʊˈælɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 *nu* a quality that makes a person or thing different from others. 2 *nc* a particular thing that a person likes, etc. **individually** *adv* separately.

indivisible (ˌɪndɪˈvɪzəbəl) *adj* that cannot be divided, separated, or split up.

indoctrinate (ɪnˈdɒktrɪneɪt) *vt* fill (a person's mind) with certain ideas, opinions, etc. **indoctrination** (ɪnˌdɒktrɪˈneɪʃən) *nu* being indoctrinated.

indolent (ˈɪndələnt) *adj* lazy.

indomitable (ɪnˈdɒmɪtəbəl) *adj* (of a quality of a person) that does not give in.

indoor (ˈɪndɔː*) *adj* (done, used, etc.) inside. **indoors** (ɪnˈdɔɪz) *adv* inside a building.

induce (ɪnˈdjuːs) *vt* 1 persuade or cause. 2 cause to happen. 3 *science* produce an electric current by induction. 4 *medicine* cause a baby to be born using drugs. **inducement** (ɪnˈdjuːsmənt) 1 *nu* inducing. 2 *nc* something that encourages or attracts a person.

induction (ɪnˈdʌkʃən) *nc* the causing of a piece of iron, etc., to be in an electric or magnetic state by being brought near something that is in an electric or magnetic state.

indulge (ɪnˈdʌldʒ) 1 *vt* please by giving what is wanted. 2 *vi* give yourself pleasure in something. **indulgence** (ɪnˈdʌldʒəns) 1 *nu* indulging. 2 *nc* something in which a person indulges. **indulgent** *adj*

industrial (ɪnˈdʌstrɪəl) *adj* to do with industry. **industrial action** action, such as a strike, taken by workers in industry or in other trades. **industrial estate** a piece of land on which factories, etc., and not houses, are built. **industrialisation** (ɪnˌdʌstrɪəlaɪˈzeɪʃən) *nu* being made or becoming industrial. **industrialise** (ɪnˈdʌstrɪəlaɪz) 1 *vt* make industrial. 2 *vi* become industrial. **industrialist** *nc* 1 a person who owns an industry. 2 a person who strongly believes in the importance of large industries.

industrious (ɪnˈdʌstrɪəs) *adj* hard-working.

industry (ˈɪndəstrɪ) 1 *nu* being hard-working. 2 *ncu, pl* **-ries** trade; production of goods, materials, etc.

inebriated (ɪˈniːbrɪeɪtəd) *adj* drunk: *The policeman could tell the man was inebriated by the way he was walking.*

inedible (ɪnˈedɪbəl) *adj* that is not fit to be eaten.

ineffective (ˌɪnɪˈfektɪv) *adj* having little or no effect.

ineffectual (ˌɪnɪˈfektjʊəl) *adj* without effect; not having the ability or confidence to do things well.

inefficient (ˌɪnɪˈfɪʃənt) *adj* 1 (of a machine, etc.) not working well or properly. 2 (of a person) not able to do things well because of lack of confidence, training, etc. **inefficiency** (ɪnɪˈfɪʃənsɪ) *nu* being inefficient.

ineligible (ɪnˈelɪdʒəbəl) *adj* not suitable to be chosen because of lack of training, etc.

inept (ɪˈnept) *adj* silly; said or done at the wrong time: *inept remarks.*

inequality (ɪnɪˈkwɒlɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** not being equal in size, conditions, etc.; an example of this.

inert (ɪˈnɜːt) *adj* 1 not able to move or act. 2 slow-moving. 3 *chemistry* without active chemical properties: *inert gas.*

inertia (ɪˈnɜːʃə) *nu* the condition of being slow-moving; laziness; being at rest.

inescapable (ˌɪnɪˈskeɪpəbəl) *adj* that cannot be avoided or got away from.

inestimable (ɪnˈestɪməbəl) *adj* too great, valuable, etc., to be counted, judged, etc.

inevitable (ɪnˈevɪtəbəl) *adj* that is sure to happen or appear. **inevitably** (ɪnˈevɪtəblɪ) *adv*

inexcusable (ˌɪnɪkˈskjuːzəbəl) *adj* that cannot be forgiven or excused.

inexhaustible (ˌɪnɪgˈzɔːstəbəl) *adj* that cannot be used up: *inexhaustible patience.*

inexorable (ɪnˈeksərəbəl) *adj* that cannot be made to change or yield, in spite of being urgently asked, etc.

inexpensive (ˌɪnɪkˈspensɪv) *adj* not expensive; cheap.

inexperienced (ˌɪnɪkˈspɪərɪənst) *adj* lacking knowledge or skill, because of lack of practice.

inexplicable (ˌɪnɪkˈsplɪkəbəl) *adj* that cannot be explained.

infallible (ɪnˈfæləbəl) *adj* not able to make mistakes, do wrong, or be unsuccessful. **infallibility** (ɪnˌfæləˈbɪlɪtɪ) *nu* being unable to be wrong.

infamous (ˈɪnfəməs) *adj* known to be wicked or shameful. **infamy** (ˈɪnfəmɪ) *nu* 1 being infamous. 2 shameful behaviour. 3 *nc, pl* **-mies** a shameful act.

infancy (ˈɪnfənsɪ) *nu* 1 being a baby; time when you are a baby. 2 being at the start of development or growth.

infant (ˈɪnfənt) *nc* a child during the earliest years of its life. **infantile** (ˈɪnfəntaɪl) *adj* like or to do with infants.

infantry (ˈɪnfəntrɪ) *nu* soldiers who fight on foot.

infatuated (ɪnˈfætjʊeɪtɪd) *adj* liking someone or something too much or in a foolish way. **infatuation** (ɪnˌfætjʊˈeɪʃən) 1 *nu* being infatuated. 2 *nc* an example of this.

infect (ɪnˈfekt) *vt* (often followed by **with** or **by**) 1 make diseased or dirty by touching or adding something impure. 2 pass on feelings, ideas, etc., to (a person). **infection** (ɪnˈfekʃən) 1 *nu* being infected; spread of disease. 2 *nc* a disease that spreads. **infectious** (ɪnˈfekʃəs) *adj* 1 (of a disease) that can be spread to others. 2 infecting with a disease. 3 (of feelings, etc.) likely to affect or spread to others.

infer (ɪnˈfɜː*) *vt* 1 form an opinion (from something heard, seen, etc.): *From what he said, we inferred that he had been in the army.* 2 suggest or mean. **inference** (ˈɪnfərəns) 1 *nu* inferring. 2 *nc* the thing that is inferred.

inferior (ɪnˈfɪərɪə*) *adj* lower in importance, quality, social position, etc. ● *nc* a person who is inferior in social or work position, etc. **inferiority** (ɪnˌfɪərɪˈɒrɪtɪ) *nu* being inferior.

infernal (ɪnˈfɜːnəl) *adj* 1 *infml* (used to express annoyance): *What an infernal noise!* 2 of hell.

inferno (ɪnˈfɜːnəʊ) *nc* hell; a very hot place, esp. a great, destructive fire.

infertile (ɪnˈfɜɪtaɪl) *adj* 1 (of land or plants) not producing much. 2 (of women or animals) not able to produce young.

infest (ɪnˈfest) *vt* (of insects, diseases, etc.) move, or be, in large numbers in (a house, etc.).

infidelity (ˌɪnfɪˈdelɪtɪ) *nu* 1 being disloyal or unfaithful. 2 (of a husband or wife) being sexually unfaithful. 3 *nc, pl* **-ties** an act of infidelity.

infiltrate (ˈɪnfɪltreɪt) *vti* secretly join an organisation to spy or obtain information: *Secret police infiltrated the guerrilla army and thwarted their plans.* **infiltration** (ˌɪnfɪlˈtreɪʃən) *nc* an act of infiltrating or being infiltrated.

infinite (ˈɪnfɪnɪt) *adj* 1 without end or limits. 2 too great, large, wonderful, etc., to be measured, counted, or imagined: *infinite wisdom.* **infinitely** *adv*

infinitesimal (ˌɪnfɪnɪˈtesɪməl) *adj* too small to be able to be measured; very small.

infinitive (ɪnˈfɪnɪtɪv) *grammar adj, nc* (in the English language) (to do with) the form of a verb, sometimes used after **to**, that shows its action but says nothing about time or about the subject: for example, 'see' in 'Let her see', 'Allow her to see'.

infinity (ɪnˈfɪnɪtɪ) *nu* being without end or limits.

infirm (ɪnˈfɜːm) *adj* weak in the body or mind, esp. because of old age. **infirmity** (ɪnˈfɜːmɪtɪ) 1 *nu* weakness of the body or mind. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a weakness; disease.

infirmary (ɪnˈfɜːmərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a hospital; room in a building for people who are taken ill or injured, such as in a school, etc.

inflame (ɪnˈfleɪm) *vti* 1 make or become angry. 2 make or become red and sore.

inflammable (ɪnˈflæməbəl) *adj* likely to catch fire.

inflammation (ˌɪnfləˈmeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the condition of some part of the body in which there is redness, swelling, and pain. 2 *nc* a place on or in the body which is red, swollen, and painful.

inflammatory (ɪnˈflæmətərɪ) *adj* likely to cause strong feelings, esp. of anger.

inflate (ɪnˈfleɪt) *vt* 1 fill with air, gas, etc.: *inflate a balloon.* 2 cause to become swollen: *inflated with pride.* 3 cause (prices) to become higher and the value of money to become lower.

inflation (ɪnˈfleɪʃən) *nu* inflating or being inflated; general increase in prices. **inflationary** (ɪnˈfleɪʃənərɪ) *adj* to do with inflation.

inflect (ɪnˈflekt) *vt* 1 change (the quality of highness or lowness) of the voice. 2 *grammar* change the end or form of (a word) to

show how it connects with other words in a sentence. **inflection** 1 *nu* inflecting. 2 *ncu* the change in the quality of the highness or lowness of the voice. 3 *nc* the changed form of a word; ending added to a word, for example *-s* in *writes*.

inflexible (ɪn'fleksəbəl) *adj* 1 that cannot be bent. 2 (of a quality of a person) that cannot be made to change or yield.

inflict (ɪn'flɪkt) *vt* 1 cause to suffer. 2 force (your company) onto others. **infliction** 1 *nu* inflicting or being inflicted. 2 *nc* someone or something inflicted.

inflorescence (ˌɪnflɔː'resəns) *nc botany* 1 the way flowers are arranged on a stem. 2 the time when flowers come into bloom.

inflow ('ɪnfləʊ) 1 *nu* flowing in. 2 *ncu* something that flows in.

influence ('ɪnfluəns) *vt* have an effect on. • *nu* 1 the power in someone or something to affect another person or thing. *nc* 2 an effect of this. 3 the person or thing that has such power. **influential** (ˌɪnflu'enʃəl) *adj* having influence.

influenza (ˌɪnflu'enzə) (*infml abbrev.* **flu**) *nu* an infectious disease with fever, aching of the body, and a flow of liquid from the nose.

influx ('ɪnflʌks) *nc* (followed by **of**) 1 *nu* the act of flowing in. 2 *nc* a flow of people or things going on all the time.

inform (ɪn'fɔːm) 1 *vt* give information to; tell. 2 *vi* (followed by **against** or **on**) tell or show the police that someone has broken the law. **informant** *nc* a person who gives information. **informer** *nc* a person who gives the police information about someone.

informal (ɪn'fɔːməl) *adj* not giving too much attention to the rules of behaviour; casual; without ceremony. **informally** *adv*

information (ˌɪnfə'meɪʃən) *nu* 1 informing; telling. 2 knowledge given; news.

informative (ɪn'fɔːmətɪv) *adj* giving information.

infra-red (ˌɪnfrə'red) *adj* of the line of light that is below the red band of colour in the spectrum, and that cannot be seen; used for cooking food.

infrastructure ('ɪnfrəˌstrʌktʃə*) *nu* a framework or the less important but necessary parts of an organisation or system, esp. fixed military equipment such as places for training, etc.

infrequent (ɪn'friːkwənt) *adj* not happening very often.

infringe (ɪn'frɪndʒ) *vt* break (a law, rule, agreement, etc.). **infringement** 1 *nu* infringing. 2 *nc* an example of this.

infuriate (ɪn'fjʊərɪeɪt) *vt* fill (someone) with great anger.

infuse (ɪn'fjuːz) *vt* 1 pour or put a quality into: *He infused her with hope.* 2 pour hot liquid on (tea leaves, herbs, etc.), in order to obtain their juices or to add flavour. 3 *vi* (of tea, etc.) be infused. **infusion** (ɪn'fjuːʒən) 1 *nu* infusing or being infused. 2 *nc* the liquid made by infusing.

ingenious (ɪn'dʒiːnɪəs) *adj* 1 clever at making things, esp. in a new way. 2 (of things) cleverly made. **ingenuity** (ˌɪndʒɪ'njuːɪtɪ) *nu* cleverness in making or doing things in a new way.

ingenuous (ɪn'dʒenjʊəs) *adj* showing clearly your thoughts or feelings; innocent.

ingot ('ɪŋgət) *nc* a short, thick bar of metal, esp. of gold, silver, or steel.

ingrained (ɪn'greɪnd) *adj* fixed firmly in and difficult to remove: *ingrained habits; ingrained dirt.*

ingratiate (ɪn'greɪʃɪeɪt) *vt* try to get (yourself) into someone's favour by praising them too much.

ingratitude (ɪn'grætɪtjuːd) *nu* not feeling or showing thanks.

ingredient (ɪn'griːdɪənt) *nc* one of the parts of a mixture: *What ingredients do we use for a sponge cake?*

inhabit (ɪn'hæbɪt) *vt* live in (a house, country, etc.). **inhabitant** (ɪn'hæbɪtənt) *nc* a person living in a place.

inhale (ɪn'heɪl) *vt* take (air, etc.) into the lungs. **inhaler** *nc* a device that produces a chemical substance, used when breathing is difficult.

inherent (ɪn'hɪərənt) *adj* being a necessary part or quality of.

inherit (ɪn'herɪt) *vt* 1 receive (money, a title, etc.) as a legal right when the owner dies. 2 be born with (the qualities, etc.) of the people from whom you are descended. **inheritance** (ɪn'herɪtəns) 1 *nu* inheriting. 2 *nc* what is inherited.

inhibit (ɪn'hɪbɪt) *vt* hold back or prevent (someone) from something or from doing something. **inhibition** (ˌɪnhɪ'bɪʃən) 1 *nu* inhibiting or being inhibited. 2 *nc* an example of this. **inhibitor** (ɪn'hɪbɪtə*) *nc* a substance which stops or hinders a chemical reaction. See also **catalyst.**

inhuman (ɪn'hjuːmən) *adj* cruel; without feelings.

inimical (ɪ'nɪmɪkəl) *fml adj* not friendly; harmful.

inimitable (ɪ'nɪmɪtəbəl) *adj* that cannot be imitated because it is too good, great, etc.

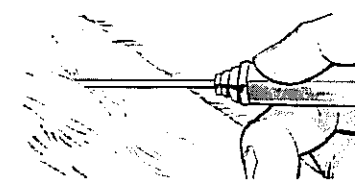
iniquity (ɪ'nɪkwɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being very wicked or unjust. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a very wicked or unjust action.

initial (ɪˈnɪʃəl) *adj* first; at the beginning. • *nc* the first letter of a word, esp. the first letters of the words of a person's name. • *vt* sign (a note, letter, etc.) with your initials. **initially** *adv* at the beginning.

initiate (ɪˈnɪʃɪeɪt) *vt* 1 set going; begin. 2 bring (someone) into a society, group, etc., as a member. 3 give (someone) secret knowledge of or basic teaching (in something difficult). **initiation** (ˌɪnɪʃɪˈeɪʃən) *nu* the act of initiating or being initiated.

initiative (ɪˈnɪʃətɪv) *nu* the ability to see what needs to be done and to start doing it. **take the initiative** make the first move in doing something.

inject (ɪnˈdʒekt) *vt* 1 force (a liquid, medicine, etc.) into the body, using a hollow needle: see picture. 2 *infml* put some (quality, etc.) in where it is needed. **injection** 1 *nu* injecting. 2 *nc* an example of this.



inject

injunction (ɪnˈdʒʌŋkʃən) *nc* 1 a command or order. 2 an official order from a law court: *She got an injunction prohibiting her husband from seeing the children.*

injure (ˈɪndʒə*) *vt* cause harm to. **injurious** (ɪnˈdʒʊərɪəs) *adj fml* harmful. **injury** (ˈɪndʒərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a wound in the body. 2 an insult; something said or done that hurts; damage to reputation. 3 *nu* harm.

injustice (ɪnˈdʒʌstɪs) 1 *nu* not being fair or just. 2 *nc* an example of this; unfair act.

ink (ɪŋk) *nu* a black, red, blue, etc., liquid for writing and printing. • *vt* mark with ink. **inky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** marked or stained with ink.

inkling (ˈɪŋklɪŋ) *nc* a suggestion; clue: *He gave me no inkling of his plans for the future.*

inlaid (ˌɪnˈleɪd) past tense and past participle of **inlay.**

inland (ˈɪnlənd) *adj* 1 placed inside a country away from the coast. 2 happening inside a country: *inland trade.* • (ɪnˈlænd) *adv* in or towards the inside of a country. **Inland Revenue** (*US* **Internal Revenue**) *Brit* 1 money obtained from direct taxes inside a country. 2 the government department that deals with this.

in-laws (ˈɪnlɔːz) *infml n pl* relatives by marriage.

inlay (ˌɪnˈleɪ) *vt* fix (one thing) firmly into another so that the surface is smooth: *silver inlaid with gold.* • (ˈɪnˌleɪ) *nu* 1 work of this kind. 2 *nc* the pattern of the inlay.

inlet (ˈɪnlet) *nc* a narrow strip of water going into the land from the sea, a lake, etc.

inmate (ˈɪnmeɪt) *nc* one of a number of people living together, esp. in a prison or hospital.

inmost (ˈɪnməʊst) *adj* also **innermost** 1 farthest, deepest, etc., from the outside or the surface. 2 (of a person's feelings, etc.) most secret: *my inmost thoughts.*

inn (ɪn) *nc old-fashioned* a place where a room and food is supplied, for payment, to travellers; public house. **inn-keeper** (ˈɪnkiːpə*) *nc* a person who owns or manages an inn.

innards (ˈɪnədz) *infml n pl* 1 the stomach and bowels. 2 the inside parts of anything.

innate (ɪˈneɪt) *adj* (of a quality) born in a person: *She has an innate kindness.*

inner (ˈɪnə*) *adj* on the inside; to do with the inside: *an inner room.*

innermost (ˈɪnəməʊst) *adj* See **inmost.**

innings (ˈɪnɪŋz) *n pl* (*with singular verb*) 1 (in cricket) the time during which a team or a player is in to bat. 2 *infml* a person's lifetime: *He had a good innings.*

innocent (ˈɪnəsənt) *adj* 1 not knowing of evil or sin: *as innocent as a baby.* 2 not guilty. 3 causing no harm: *innocent pleasures.* **innocence** (ˈɪnəsəns) *nu* being innocent. **innocently** *adv*

innocuous (ɪˈnɒkjʊəs) *adj* harmless.

innovate (ˈɪnəveɪt) *vi* make changes; start something new. **innovation** (ˌɪnəˈveɪʃən) 1 *nu* innovating. 2 *nc* a change; something new that is started: *The new manager made several innovations.* **innovator** *nc* a person who innovates.

innuendo (ˌɪnjuːˈendəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** a remark that also suggests something else, often unpleasant.

innumerable (ɪˈnjuːmərəbəl) *adj* too many to count.

inoculate (ɪˈnɒkjʊleɪt) *vt* inject tiny amounts of a disease into (a person or animal) to make them immune from that disease. **inoculation** (ɪˌnɒkjʊˈleɪʃən) 1 *nu* inoculating or being inoculated. 2 *nc* an example of this.

inorganic (ˌɪnɔːˈgænɪk) *adj* 1 not living; without the characteristics of living organisms. 2 (of a substance or matter) that is of mineral origin, not containing carbon.

input (ˈɪnpʊt) *ncu* the amount of something

put in, such as information supplied to a computer.

inquest ('ɪnkwest) *nc* 1 an inquiry in a law court to find out certain facts, esp. to discover the reason for a person's death when this did not happen normally. 2 *infml* any inquiry.

inquire (also **enquire**) (ɪn'kwaɪə*) 1 *vt* ask to be told: *I inquired what he wanted.* 2 *vi* ask for information: *inquire into the cause of the train accident.* **inquiring** *adj* wanting to find out or learn: *an inquiring mind.* **inquiry** (also **enquiry**) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a question asking for information about something: *directory inquiries.* 2 an investigation (often legal): *The inquiry gave a verdict of accidental death.*

inquisition (ˌɪnkwɪ'zɪʃən) 1 *nu* a very careful examination and questioning. 2 *nc* an example of this.

inquisitive (ɪn'kwɪzɪtɪv) *adj* too interested in other people's affairs.

inroads ('ɪnrəʊdz) *n* **make inroads into** use up or consume a large amount of something: *The children have made inroads into the food I bought this morning.*

insane (ɪn'seɪn) *adj* mad. **insanity** (ɪn'sænɪtɪ) *nu* madness.

insatiable (ɪn'seɪʃəbəl) *adj* not able to be satisfied: *an insatiable appetite.*

inscribe (ɪn'skraɪb) *vt* write (words) on metal, stone, paper, etc., or in a book. **inscription** (ɪn'skrɪpʃən) *nc* something inscribed.

inscrutable (ɪn'skru:təbəl) *adj* of which the meaning is unknown or cannot be understood: *The Mona Lisa has an inscrutable smile.*

insect ('ɪnsekt) *nc* any small animal with three pairs of legs, three separate body parts, and, usually, wings: see picture. **insecticide** (ɪn'sektɪsaɪd) *nc* a substance used for killing insects.

insectivore (ɪn'sektɪˌvɔ:*) *nc biology* an animal or plant that feeds mainly on insects. **insectivorous** *adj* See also **carnivore; herbivore; omnivore.**

insecure (ˌɪnsɪ'kjʊə*) *adj* 1 not firmly fixed or fastened; not safe. 2 (of a person) feeling unsafe; not confident. **insecurity** (ˌɪnsɪ'kjʊərɪtɪ) *nu* being insecure.

insemination (ɪnˌsemɪ'neɪʃən) *nu* putting male semen into a female body to make her pregnant. **artificial insemination** putting the semen of a male person or animal into a female person or animal, by means of medical instruments, to make her pregnant.

insensible (ɪn'sensəbəl) *adj* 1 not awake because of being struck on the head, etc. 2 (followed by **to**) not caring about the feelings of others. 3 (followed by **of**) not knowing about: *He seemed insensible of any danger.*

inseparable (ɪn'sepərəbəl) *adj* not able to be separated.

insert (ɪn'sɜ:t) *vt* put or fit (something) in or into something. • ('ɪnsɜ:t) *nc* something inserted. **insertion** (ɪn'sɜ:ʃən) 1 *nu* inserting or being inserted. 2 *nc* something inserted.

inset ('ɪnset) *nc* something, such as a small picture or map, that is put within the edges of a printed page or of a larger map, etc. • (ɪn'set) *vt* insert.

inshore (ˌɪn'ʃɔ:*) *adj, adv* in the sea but close to the land.

inside (ɪn'saɪd) *nc* the inner part or surface. • *adj* placed on or in the inside. • *adv* on, in, or to the inside: *Let's look inside.* • *prep* within; on the inner side of. **inside out** with the inside surface on the outside. **insider** (ˌɪn'saɪdə*) *nc* a person who works for an organisation and can get information about it: *An insider told me to invest in diamonds.*

insidious (ɪn'sɪdɪəs) *adj* doing harm without being seen.

insight ('ɪnsaɪt) 1 *nu* the ability of the mind to see the real meaning of something; understanding. 2 *nc* an example of this.

insignia (ɪn'sɪgnɪə) *n pl* signs of honour, power, etc.

insignificant (ˌɪnsɪg'nɪfɪkənt) *adj* having little or no meaning; not important.

insincere (ˌɪnsɪn'sɪə*) *adj* (of feelings or behaviour) not truthful; not meaning what is said. **insincerity** (ˌɪnsɪn'serɪtɪ) *nu* being insincere.

insinuate (ɪn'sɪnjʊeɪt) *vt* suggest (something unpleasant) in an indirect way. **insinuation** (ˌɪnsɪnjʊ'eɪʃən) 1 *nu* insinuating. 2 *nc* a hinting at something unpleasant.

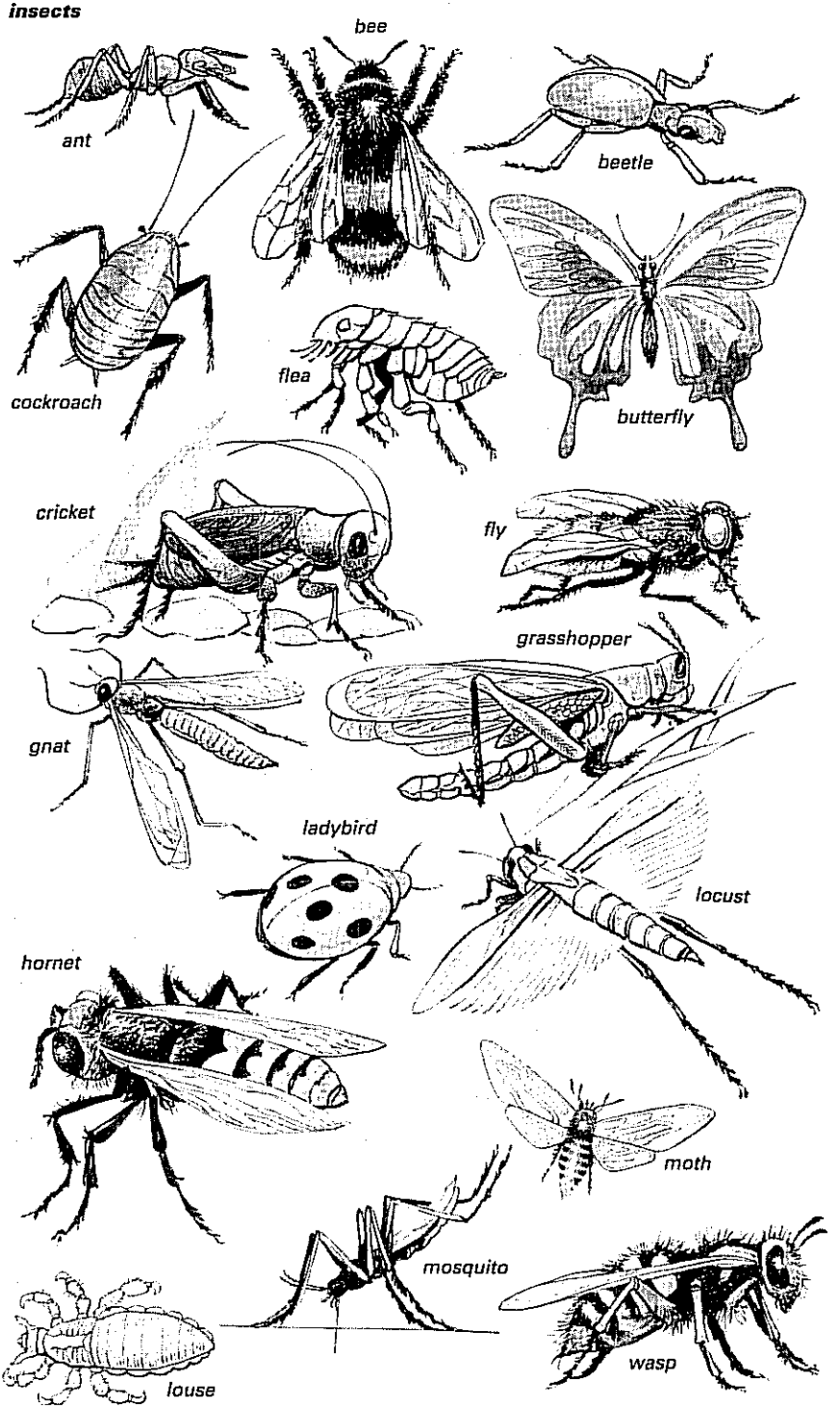
insipid (ɪn'sɪpɪd) *adj* (of food) without taste; (of a person) dull and boring.

insist (ɪn'sɪst) *vti* 1 urge in a forceful way: *I insist that you come.* 2 forcefully and repeatedly declare (something) to be true, etc., esp. to someone who has disbelief. **insistence** (ɪn'sɪstəns) *nu* insisting: *Her insistence that I should go made me want to even less.* **insistent** *adj*

insofar (ˌɪnsə'fɑ:*) *adv* also **in so far** to the extent that: *She's very kind insofar as she's always helping others, but she doesn't give enough care to her own children.*

insolent ('ɪnsələnt) *adj* very rude, showing no respect; insulting. **insolence** *nu* being insolent.

insects


bee
ant
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fly
grasshopper
gnat
ladybird
locust
hornet
moth
mosquito
wasp
louse

insoluble (ɪn'sɒljʊbəl) *adj* 1 impossible to solve: *an insoluble problem.* 2 *chemistry* (of a substance) that cannot be dissolved.

insolvency (ɪn'sɒlvənsɪ) *nu* being unable to pay your debts. **insolvent** *adj*

insomnia (ɪn'sɒmnɪə) *nu* being not able to sleep.

inspect (ɪn'spekt) *vt* examine carefully. **inspection** 1 *nu* inspecting or being inspected. 2 *nc* an example of this. **inspector** *nc* a person in a public position whose work is to inspect something: *a school inspector.*

inspire (ɪn'spaɪə*) *vt* fill (someone) with enthusiasm, high thoughts, etc., or with the urge to do something. **inspired** *adj* filled with high thoughts or feelings. **inspiration** (ˌɪnspɪ'reɪʃən) 1 *nu* the desire to create new music, literature, art, etc. *nc* 2 a person or thing that inspires. 3 a good idea: *I've had an inspiration!*

instability (ɪnstə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu* the lack of steadiness, usually of character.

install (ɪn'stɔːl) (also **instal**) *vt* 1 put (a person) in a new position, esp. one of authority: *He was installed (as) President.* 2 fix (machines, etc.) in place for use. 3 make (a person or yourself) comfortable in a place: *The dog installed itself in front of the fire.* **installation** (ˌɪnstə'leɪʃən) 1 *nu* installing or being installed. 2 *nc* something that is installed.

instalment (ɪn'stɔːlmənt) *nc* 1 any one of the parts of a payment, paid over a certain length of time. 2 any one of several parts of a story, etc., appearing over a certain length of time.

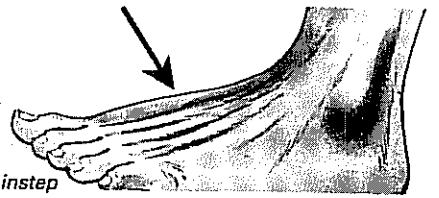
instance ('ɪnstəns) *nc* an example. **for instance** as an example; for example.

instant ('ɪnstənt) *adj* 1 happening at once: *instant defeat.* 2 (of food) that can be prepared very quickly: *instant coffee.* 3 urgent. • *nc* 1 a certain moment: *Come here this instant!* 2 as soon as: *The instant I saw him I knew he was angry.* 3 a very short length of time: *He came in an instant.* **instantaneous** (ˌɪnstən'teɪnɪəs) *adj* happening immediately: *Death was instantaneous.* **instantly** *adv*

instead (ɪn'sted) *adv* in place of a person or of something: *Don't stay at home—come and play instead.* **instead of** in place of: *Will you go to the play instead of me?*

instep ('ɪnstep) *nc* the curved, upper part of the foot between the toes and the ankle: see picture.

instigate ('ɪnstɪgeɪt) *vt* cause (something) to happen: *The strike was instigated by a young union activist.*


instep

instil (ɪn'stɪl) *US* **instill** *vt* gradually fill (a person's mind) with (ideas, etc.).

instinct ('ɪnstɪŋkt) 1 *nu* a natural desire to behave in a certain way without thinking about it. 2 *nc* an understanding or desire, that is in a person from birth; example of this. **instinctive** (ɪn'stɪŋktɪv) *adj* formed on instinct, not on reason or experience. **instinctively** *adv*

institute ('ɪnstɪtjuːt) *vt* set up (an inquiry, new rules, etc.). • *nc* 1 an organisation set up for a public need. 2 a building used for this.

institution (ˌɪnstɪ'tjuːʃən) 1 *nu* instituting or being instituted. 2 *nc* a habit, custom, etc., that has been going on for a long time. 3 an institute.

instruct (ɪn'strʌkt) *vt* 1 (often followed by **in**) teach. 2 tell; inform; give (someone) orders. **instruction** 1 *nu* instructing or being instructed. 2 *nc* an order; information. **instructive** *adj* giving useful information: *an instructive lecture.* **instructor** *nc* a person who instructs.

instrument ('ɪnstrʊmənt) *nc* 1 a tool or anything used for doing something, esp. delicate work. 2 a person used by another person for their own purpose. 3 a device on which you make musical sounds: *a musical instrument.* **instrumental** (ˌɪnstrʊ'mentəl) *adj* 1 of use as an instrument or something to be used. 2 (of music) played on instruments, not sung.

insubordinate (ˌɪnsəb'ɔːdɪnət) *adj* refusing to obey. **insubordination** ('ɪnsəˌbɔːdɪ'neɪʃən) 1 *nu* being insubordinate. 2 *nc* an example of this.

insubstantial (ˌɪnsəb'stænʃəl) *adj* not solid or strong: *insubstantial evidence.*

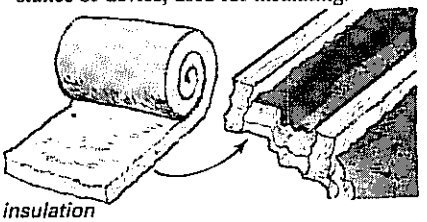
insufferable (ɪn'sʌfərəbəl) *adj* having too good an opinion of yourself; unbearable: *an insufferable bore.*

insufficient (ˌɪnsə'fɪʃənt) *adj* not enough: *We had insufficient funds to continue our travels.*

insular ('ɪnsjʊlə*) *adj* 1 not understanding or caring about the ideas of other people: *insular attitudes.* 2 of an island.

insulate ('ɪnsjʊleɪt) *vt* 1 cover (a wire, etc.) with a material that will prevent the loss of heat or electricity. 2 keep (someone or

something) apart from. **insulation** (ˌɪnsjʊˈleɪʃən) 1 *nu* insulating or being insulated. 2 *nc* a material that insulates: see picture. **insulator** (ˈɪnsjʊleɪtə*) *nc* a substance or device, used for insulating.



insulation

insulin (ˈɪnsjʊlɪn) a hormone produced naturally by the pancreas; lack of it causes diabetes.

insult (ɪnˈsʌlt) *vt* speak or act in a way that will hurt the feelings or undermine the self-respect of (a person). • (ˈɪnsʌlt) *nc* an insulting remark or action.

insuperable (ɪnˈsjuːpərəbəl) *adj* that is too difficult, etc., to be overcome: *insuperable problems.*

insupportable (ˌɪnsəˈpɔːtəbəl) *adj* that cannot be suffered; that there is no good reason for suffering.

insurance (ɪnˈʃʊərəns) *nu* 1 (the safety given by) an agreement with a company, society, etc., to pay out an agreed sum in the event of sickness, death, etc., in return for regular payments. 2 the insurance payment made to, or by, a company, etc.

insure (ɪnˈʃʊə*) *vt* obtain or give insurance on (your life, house, etc.).

insurgent (ɪnˈsəːdʒənt) *adj* violently opposing the government in power. • *nc* a person who rises against the government.

insurmountable (ˌɪnsəˈmaʊntəbəl) *adj* that cannot be overcome: *insurmountable difficulties.*

insurrection (ˌɪnsəˈrekʃən) 1 *nu* the violent rising of a people against the government. 2 *nc* an example of this.

intact (ɪnˈtækt) *adj* unbroken; undamaged; whole.

intake (ˈɪnteɪk) 1 *nu* the act of taking in. *nc* 2 an amount, number, etc., taken in during a certain period of time. 3 (of a pipe, etc.) the opening through which air, gas, water, etc. is taken in.

intangible (ɪnˈtændʒəbəl) *adj* that cannot be touched; that is beyond the power of the mind to understand.

integer (ˈɪntɪdʒə*) *nc* a whole number: *2 and 4 are integers, 1½ is not.*

integral (ˈɪntɪgrəl) *adj* 1 being an essential part of something: *Games are an integral part of the school syllabus.* 2 *mathematics* of a whole number; made up of whole numbers.

integrate (ˈɪntɪgreɪt) *vt* 1 bring all (parts) together to form a whole. 2 bring (people) of all social classes, races, religions, etc., together as equals in society. 3 *vi* become integrated. **integration** (ˌɪntɪˈgreɪʃən) *nu* integrating or being integrated.

integrity (ɪnˈtegrɪtɪ) *nu* 1 complete honesty. 2 being complete: *the integrity of the community.*

intellect (ˈɪntəlekt) *nu* the power of the mind to know and reason. **intellectual** (ˌɪntəˈlektjʊəl) *adj* 1 of the intellect. 2 showing or using good intellect. • *nc* someone who is well-informed and intelligent with an interest in activities involving the mind.

intelligence (ɪnˈtelɪdʒəns) *nu* 1 the ability to learn, understand, and know. 2 information, esp. on important matters. 3 secret information. **intelligent** *adj* having or showing intelligence.

intelligible (ɪnˈtelɪdʒəbəl) *adj* that can be understood.

intend (ɪnˈtend) *vt* have as a purpose or a plan: *He intends to go home at five.*

intense (ɪnˈtens) *adj* 1 (of a quality or force) very great, strong, etc. 2 (of a person) having strong, deep, and serious feelings; (of feelings) very strong. **intensely** *adv*

intensify (ɪnˈtensɪfaɪ) *vti* make or become more intense.

intensity (ɪnˈtensɪtɪ) *nu* the quality or state of being intense.

intensive (ɪnˈtensɪv) *adj* thorough; deep: *intensive study.*

intent (ɪnˈtent) *nu* purpose; intention. **to all intents and purposes** in almost every way: *To all intents and purposes she was his mother.* **intently** *adv* with great concentration.

intention (ɪnˈtenʃən) 1 *nu* intending. 2 *nc* a purpose; plan; aim. **with the intention of** with the aim or purpose of. **intentional** *adj* done on purpose.

inter (ɪnˈtəː*) *fml vt* put (a body) in a grave; bury.

interact (ˌɪntərˈækt) *vi* act on or have an effect on each other. **interaction** (ˌɪntərˈækʃən) *nc* the act of having an effect on each other. **interactive** (ˌɪntərˈæktɪv) *adj* 1 (of a computer or television programme) allowing communication between the user and the machine: *New technology has created a new generation of interactive video games.* 2 (of people) causing people to communicate with each other or their habitat.

intercede (ˌɪntəˈsiːd) *vi* ask someone earnestly for a favour, etc., for someone else: *She asked me to intercede with her father to stop their quarrel.*

intercept (ˌɪntəˈsept) *vt* stop and catch (someone or something) on the way from one place to another.

intercession (ˌɪntəˈseʃən) 1 *nu* interceding. 2 *nc* a request or prayer, esp. for someone else.

interchange (ˌɪntəˈtʃeɪndʒ) *vt* 1 give and receive. 2 (of two things) put (each thing) in the place of the other. • (ˈɪntətʃeɪndʒ) *nc* an act of interchanging: *an interchange of ideas.* **interchangeable** (ˌɪntəˈtʃeɪndʒəbəl) *adj* that can be interchanged.

intercom (ˈɪntəkɒm) *nu* a device connected to a speaker in another room used to communicate through, esp. inside a plane, or in offices.

intercontinental (ˌɪntəˌkɒntɪˈnentəl) *adj* happening, etc., between the great land masses of the world.

intercostal (ˌɪntəˈkɒstəl) *adj zoology* between the ribs: *intercostal muscles.*

intercourse (ˈɪntəkɔːs) *nu* the sharing of ideas, news, information, etc., between people, countries, etc. **sexual intercourse** sexual union.

interest (ˈɪntrest) 1 *nc* something that keeps your attention. *nu* 2 the quality that keeps your attention. 3 the money paid by a person for the use of money they have borrowed. *nc* 4 a share in a business, etc., with a legal right to a share in the profits. • *vt* cause (a person) to give their attention to something. **interested** *adj* 1 showing that you would like to know, learn, see, etc., more. 2 showing more favour to yourself, one person, group, etc., than to another. **interesting** *adj* keeping your attention.

interface (ˈɪntəˌfeɪs) *nc* 1 the place at which two separate things meet and have an effect on each other: *at the interface between design and technology.* 2 *chemistry* a surface or point that forms a boundary between chemical phases or liquids. 3 the way that computer software is presented on screen and the ease of its operation.

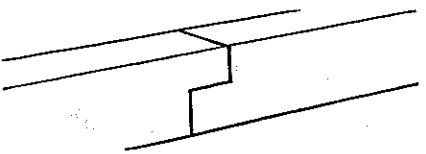
interfere (ˌɪntəˈfɪə*) *vi* 1 busy yourself with things or other people's affairs, without being asked to. 2 prevent; get in the way of. **interference** *nu* 1 the act of interfering. 2 an unwanted radio signal.

interim (ˈɪntərɪm) *n* **in the interim** in the time between two happenings. • *adj* lasting for a short time only.

interior (ɪnˈtɪərɪə*) *adj* 1 placed inside; of the inside. 2 to do with the inside of a building. 3 inland. • *nc* 1 the inside. 2 the inland part of a country.

interject (ˌɪntəˈdʒekt) *vt* put in (a word, remark, etc.) when someone else is speaking. **interjection** *nc* a word or group of words, put in to show surprise, pain, etc.

interlock (ˌɪntəˈlɒk) *vti* join firmly together: see picture.



interlock

interloper (ˈɪntələʊpə*) *nc* a person who pushes in without a right to be there.

interlude (ˈɪntəluːd) *nc* the time between two events, or two parts of a play, concert, etc.

intermarriage (ˌɪntəˈmærɪdʒ) *nu* the marriage between two people of different races, religions, etc.

intermediary (ˌɪntəˈmiːdɪərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** someone who carries messages, etc., between two people, or groups, who do not, or cannot, meet.

intermediate (ˌɪntəˈmiːdɪət) *adj* coming between two things in position, level, etc. **intermediate host** an animal which plays host to a parasite in an early stage of its development. **intermediate technology** the use of a device or machine which is easily made and mended and not technologically advanced.

interminable (ɪnˈtɜːmɪnəbəl) *adj* seeming to last for too long a time.

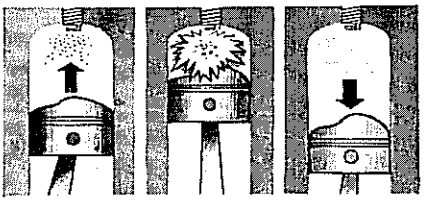
intermingle (ˌɪntəˈmɪŋgəl) 1 *vt* mix two things together. 2 *vi* go among.

intermission (ˌɪntəˈmɪʃən) 1 *nu* a short stop. 2 *nc* the time between two parts of a play, film, etc.

intermittent (ˌɪntəˈmɪtənt) *adj* stopping, starting, stopping again, and so on. **intermittently** *adv*

intern (ɪnˈtɜːn) *vt* force (a person) to live within a country, or keep them prisoner, to prevent them from doing harm. • (ˈɪntɜːn) *US nc* a young doctor living and assisting in a hospital.

internal (ɪnˈtɜːnəl) *adj* 1 of or placed in the inside. 2 of your own country: *internal affairs.* **internal combustion** the way in which power is produced by the explosion of a mixture of gas and air, as in an engine: see picture.



internal combustion

international (ˌɪntəˈnæʃənəl) *adj* to do with two or more countries: *an international agreement.*

interplanetary (ˌɪntəˈplænətərɪ) *adj* between bodies in the heavens: *interplanetary travel.*

interplay (ˈɪntəpleɪ) *nu* the action of two things on each other.

interpolate (ɪnˈtɜːpəleɪt) *vt* add (words, etc.) to a book or conversation.

interpose (ˌɪntəˈpəʊz) 1 *vi* put or come between others. 2 *vt* interfere or interrupt, by putting forward (an objection, etc.).

interpret (ɪnˈtɜːprɪt) *vt* 1 explain or show the meaning of. 2 understand (something said or done) to mean: *I interpreted his silence as disapproval.* 3 *vi* explain the meaning of words of a different language. **interpretation** (ɪnˌtɜːprɪˈteɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of interpreting. 2 *nc* an explanation. **interpreter** *nc* a person who explains the meaning of words in a different language.

interrelation (ˌɪntərɪˈleɪʃən) *nc* the connection or relation between people or things.

interrogate (ɪnˈterəgeɪt) *vt* question (someone) in a thorough or formal way. **interrogation** (ɪnˌterəˈgeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of interrogating. 2 *nc* an example of this. **interrogative** (ˌɪntəˈrɒgətɪv) *adj* 1 of or to do with a question. 2 *grammar* (of a word or group of words) used in asking a question. • *nc* an interrogative word or group of words.

interrupt (ˌɪntəˈrʌpt) *vt* 1 break in on (someone) while they are doing something, speaking, etc. 2 cause to stop. 3 *vi* be stopped from continuing. **interruption** (ˌɪntəˈrʌpʃən) 1 *nu* the act of interrupting, or being interrupted. 2 *nc* something that interrupts.

intersect (ˌɪntəˈsekt) 1 *vt* divide (something) by cutting or crossing. 2 *vi* (of lines) cut or cross each other. **intersection** (ˌɪntəˈsekʃən) 1 *nu* the act of intersecting or being intersected. 2 *nc* a place of crossing.

intersperse (ˌɪntəˈspɜɪs) *vt* put (things) in various places among or between other things: *flowers interspersed with weeds.*

interstate (ˈɪntəˌsteɪt) *US adj* to do with two or more states.

intertwine (ˌɪntəˈtwaɪn) 1 *vt* twist or wind together. 2 *vi* become twisted or wound together.

interval (ˈɪntəvəl) *nc* 1 the time between two happenings, esp. between two parts of a play, film, etc. 2 the space between two things.

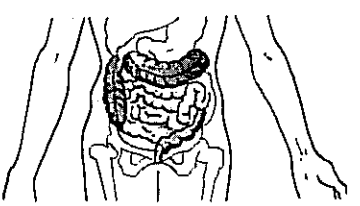
intervene (ˌɪntəˈviːn) *vi* (often followed by **in** or **between**) 1 come between others or interfere to try to change things. 2 (between events or points in time) happen or come about. **intervention** (ˌɪntəˈvenʃən) 1 *nu* the act of intervening. 2 *nc* an example of this.

interview (ˈɪntəvjuː) *nc* a meeting with someone to discuss something, for example between an employer and a person applying for a job. • *vt* (of an employer, reporter, etc.) have an interview with. **interviewer** *nc* a person, such as a reporter or employer, who interviews someone.

interweave (ˌɪntəˈwiːv) *vt* twist together, one with another.

intestate (ɪnˈtesteɪt) *adj* dying without having made a will.

intestine (ɪnˈtestɪn) *nc* (usually *pl*) the lower part of the alimentary canal between the stomach and the anus: see picture. **intestinal** (ˌɪnˈtestɪnəl) *adj* of or to do with the intestines.



intestine

intimate[1] (ˈɪntɪmət) *adj* 1 very close in friendship. 2 private. 3 having a deep knowledge of. **intimacy** (ˈɪntɪməsɪ) 1 *nu* being very close in friendship. 2 *nc, pl* **-cies** a familiar action, such as a kiss. **intimately** *adv*

intimate[2] (ˈɪntɪmeɪt) *vt* make known (an indirect suggestion or clear hint). **intimation** (ˌɪntɪˈmeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of intimating. 2 *nc* a suggestion; hint.

intimidate (ɪnˈtɪmɪdeɪt) *vt* frighten (someone), esp. to make them obey you. **intimidation** (ɪnˌtɪmɪˈdeɪʃən) *nu* the act of intimidating or being intimidated.

into (ˈɪntʊ unstressed ˈɪntə) *prep* 1 (showing movement or direction towards); within:

Throw it into the fire; Come into the house. 2 (showing a change or result): *Her fear turned into relief; A tadpole changes into a frog; He swept the leaves into a large pile.*

intolerable (ɪn'tɒlərəbəl) *adj* that cannot be put up with: *Her rudeness is intolerable!*

intolerant (ɪn'tɒlərənt) *adj* not having patience with, or being willing to allow, other people's views, etc. **intolerance** (ɪn'tɒlərəns) *nu* the act of being intolerant.

intonation (ˌɪntə'neɪʃən) *nu* the changes in the highness and lowness of the voice in speaking. **intone** (ɪn'təʊn) *vt* say (a prayer, etc.) in a singing voice.

intoxicate (ɪn'tɒksɪkeɪt) *vt* 1 cause to lose self-control because of drinking too much alcohol. 2 make too excited. **intoxicant** (ɪn'tɒksɪkənt) *nc* beer, wine, etc., or any drink containing alcohol. • *adj* that makes you drunk. **intoxication** (ɪnˌtɒksɪ'keɪʃən) *nu* being intoxicated.

intractable (ɪn'trɛktəbəl) *adj* not easily controlled: *an intractable temper.*

intransitive (ɪn'trænsɪtɪv) *adj grammar* (of a verb) that does not take a direct object: *'Come' is an intransitive verb.* See also **transitive.**

intrauterine (ˌɪntrə'juːtəˌraɪn) *adj medicine* within the uterus. **intrauterine device** a ring or coil fitted in a woman's uterus to prevent pregnancy.

intrepid (ɪn'trɛpɪd) *adj* without fear.

intricate ('ɪntrɪkət) *adj* made up of closely connected parts and difficult to understand: *an intricate machine.* **intricacy** ('ɪntrɪkəsɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-cies** an intricate thing. 2 *nu* being intricate.

intrigue (ɪn'triːg) 1 *vi* make and carry out a secret plan. 2 *vt* cause (someone) to feel interested. • ('ɪntriːg) *nu* secrecy; secret planning. **intriguing** *adj*

intrinsic (ɪn'trɪnsɪk) *adj* (of value, worth, etc.) to do with its real nature: *a man of intrinsic courage.*

introduce (ˌɪntrə'djuːs) *vt* 1 bring into use. 2 make (yourself or someone else) known to another person by name. 3 make (something) known to someone for the first time. 4 bring in: *A new law was introduced.* **introduction** (ˌɪntrə'dʌkʃən) 1 *nu* the act of introducing or being introduced. *nc* 2 the act of making people known to one another by name. 3 information at the beginning of a book, speech, etc., to explain what follows. **introductory** (ˌɪntrə'dʌktərɪ) *adj* with the purpose of introducing.

introspective (ˌɪntrə'spektɪv) *adj* having the habit of examining your own thoughts and feelings.

introvert ('ɪntrəvɜːt) *nc* someone whose thoughts are always turned inward on themselves. See also **extrovert.** • *vt* be always having (thoughts and feelings) about yourself.

intrude (ɪn'truːd) 1 *vt* force (yourself or something) upon someone or something. 2 *vi* force yourself on a person, place, etc., without being invited. **intruder** *nc* someone or something that intrudes. **intrusion** (ɪn'truːʒən) 1 *nu* the act of intruding. 2 *nc* an example of this.

intuition (ˌɪntjuː'ɪʃən) 1 *nu* an immediate understanding of something without thought: *feminine intuition.* 2 *nc* an understanding or knowledge obtained in this way. **intuitive** (ɪn'tjuːɪtɪv) *adj* of intuition.

inundate ('ɪnʌndeɪt) *vt* 1 cover (the land, etc.) with water; flood. 2 overwhelm with a large number, amount etc.: *inundated with work.* **inundation** (ˌɪnʌn'deɪʃən) 1 *nu* inundating or being inundated. 2 *nc* a flooding. 3 *nu* being overwhelmed by a large number, amount, etc.

inure (ɪ'njʊə*) *vt* make used to: *They had become inured to hunger.*

invade (ɪn'veɪd) *vt* 1 enter (a country) in order to attack it. 2 enter, usually in a large number or amount. 3 act towards without proper respect: *invade someone's privacy.* **invader** *nc* a person or thing that invades.

invalid¹ ('ɪnvəlɪd) *nc* a person in poor health, esp. one who is unable to walk through illness or injury. • *adj* used for, or to do with, an invalid: *an invalid chair.*

invalid² (ɪn'vælɪd) *adj* 1 having no force; not resting on truth: *an invalid argument.* 2 not legal: *The marriage was invalid; My bus ticket was invalid because it was out of date.*

invaluable (ɪn'væljʊəbəl) *adj* of too great a value or worth to be measured. **invaluably** *adv*

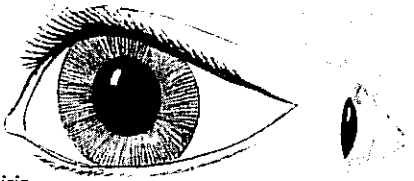
invariable (ɪn'vɛərɪəbəl) *adj* never changing. **invariably** *adv*

invasion (ɪn'veɪʒən) 1 *nu* the act of invading or being invaded. 2 *nc* an example of this.

invective (ɪn'vektɪv) *nu* violent or insulting language.

invent (ɪn'vent) *vt* 1 design and make (something) that has never been made before. 2 make up (a story, excuse, etc.), esp. to deceive. **invention** (ɪn'venʃən) 1 *nu* the act of inventing. 2 *nc* something invented. **inventive** *adj* able to invent. **inventor** *nc* a person who invents things.

inventory (ˈɪnvəntrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a list of things, such as goods, furniture, etc.
inverse (ˌɪnˈvɜɪs) *adj* opposite; upside-down. **inversely** *adv*
invert (ɪnˈvɜɪt) *vt* turn upside down; put in the opposite position. **inversion** (ɪnˈvɜɪ-ʃən) 1 *nu* inverting or being inverted. 2 *nc* something inverted. **inverted commas** the signs (' ' or " ") put around spoken words.
invertebrate (ɪnˈvɜɪtɪbrət) *adj* not having a backbone. • *nc* an animal without a backbone.
invest (ɪnˈvest) 1 *vt* use (money) to make more money by buying a part of a business and sharing the profits. 2 *infml vi* spend on something you consider to be necessary: *invest in new winter boots.* *vt* 3 clothe (someone) in robes, etc., to show high rank or office. 4 spread through, etc. (with a special quality): *a city invested with an atmosphere of learning.* **investment** 1 *nu* the act of investing money. 2 *nc* an amount of money that is invested. **investor** *nc* someone who invests money.
investigate (ɪnˈvestɪgeɪt) *vt* examine carefully. **investigation** (ɪnˌvestɪˈgeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of carefully examining or looking into a matter. 2 *nc* an example of this. **investigator** *nc* a person who investigates.
investiture (ɪnˈvestɪtʃə*) *nc* the ceremony of placing on someone a high rank, power, or office.
inveterate (ɪnˈvetərət) *adj* firmly fixed as a habit or feeling: *He's an inveterate liar.*
invidious (ɪnˈvɪdɪəs) *adj* likely to cause ill-feeling because of what seems to be or is unfair treatment.
invigilate (ɪnˈvɪdʒɪleɪt) *vi* keep a watch on (schoolchildren, students, etc.), while they are writing examination papers.
invigorate (ɪnˈvɪgəreɪt) *vt* make lively, strong, full of energy, etc.
invincible (ɪnˈvɪnsɪbəl) *adj* that cannot be defeated or overcome.
inviolable (ɪnˈvaɪələbəl) *adj* that is to be treated with great reverence and great respect.
inviolate (ɪnˈvaɪələt) *adj* that is to be kept holy and treated with great respect.
invisible (ɪnˈvɪzɪbəl) *adj* that cannot be seen. **invisibility** (ɪnˌvɪzɪˈbɪlɪtɪ) *nu* the state of being unseen.
invite (ɪnˈvaɪt) *vt* 1 ask (someone) politely to dinner, a party, to do something, etc. 2 ask for; encourage: *He invited questions.* **invitation** (ˌɪnvɪˈteɪʃən) 1 *nu* inviting or being invited. 2 *nc* a polite request. **inviting** *adj* encouraging; attractive.
invocation (ˌɪnvəˈkeɪʃən) 1 the act of calling upon God, the law, etc., for help. 2 *nc* a prayer.
invoice (ˈɪnvɔɪs) *nc* a list of goods sent, with the price, to be paid. • *vt* make such a list.
invoke (ɪnˈvəʊk) *vt* 1 call upon (God, the law, etc.) for help. 2 send for (evil spirits) by using magic powers.
involuntary (ɪnˈvɒləntərɪ) *adj* done without using your own will, choosing to, etc. **involuntarily** (ɪnˈvɒləntərəlɪ) *adv*
involve (ɪnˈvɒlv) *vt* 1 cause (someone or something) to become mixed up in difficulties, a situation, certain conditions, etc. 2 have as a necessary result: *Going to that place would involve travelling overnight.* **involved** (ɪnˈvɒlvd) *adj* complicated. **involvement** *ncu*
invulnerable (ɪnˈvʌlnərəbəl) *adj* that cannot be harmed or damaged.
inward (ˈɪnwəd) *adj* placed or turned towards the inside; inner. • *adv* also **inwards** towards the inside. **inwardly** *adv* in the mind or spirit.
iodide (ˈaɪəˌdaɪd) *nu* a chemical compound of iodine with another element or radical.
iodine (ˈaɪədɪn) *nu* a chemical substance obtained from seawater, used in medicine to destroy germs; and in photography.
iodise (ˈaɪəˌdaɪz) *vt chemistry* treat or impregnate with iodine, as in photography and medicine.
ion (ˈaɪən) *nc* an electrically charged atom or group of atoms. **ionic** (aɪˈɒnɪk) *adj* having to do with ions. **ionisation** (ˌaɪənaɪˈzeɪʃən) *ncu* the changing or being changed into ions. **ionise** (ˈaɪənaɪz) *vti* change or be changed into ions.
ionosphere (aɪˈɒnəˌsfɪə*) *nu geography* the region of the atmosphere that reflects short radio waves over long distances.
iota (aɪˈəʊtə) *nc* a very small part: *There's not an iota of truth in what he told you!*
irate (aɪˈreɪt) *fml adj* angry.
ire (ˈaɪə*) *poetry or fml nu* anger.
iridescent (ˌɪrɪˈdesənt) *adj* showing colours that change as light falls on them from different directions.
iris (ˈaɪrɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (sɪz) 1 the round, coloured part of the eye, with a circular opening in its centre that controls the amount of light passing through: see picture. 2 a plant with brightly coloured flowers and sword-shaped leaves: see picture at **flowers.**
irksome (ˈɜɪksəm) *adj* boring; tiresome.
iroko (ɪˈrəʊkəʊ) *ncu* a tropical African hardwood tree whose tough fine-grained wood is often used as a substitute for teak.



iris

iron ('aɪən) 1 *nu* a very common, strong metal, grey in colour; symbol Fe. 2 *nc* a flat-based, iron tool that is heated and used for pressing clothes, etc.: see picture. • *adj* made of iron. • *vt* 1 press (clothes, material, etc.) flat with an iron. 2 *vi* (of clothes, etc.) be pressed flat with an iron. **Iron Age** a certain time before recorded history when iron tools and weapons first came into use. **Iron Curtain** in the past the border preventing the free passage of people, information, and trade into and out of the USSR and countries united with it. **ironmonger** ('aɪənmʌŋgə*) *nc* a person who sells metal goods, esp. for use in the home. **iron ore** a kind of rock from which iron may be obtained. **iron out** 1 make (clothes, etc.) smooth by pressing with an iron. 2 remove (difficulties, etc.). **ironing board** *nc* a flat board, with legs that can be changed in height, on which clothes are placed for ironing.

iron

irony ('aɪərənɪ) 1 *nu* the saying of something opposite in meaning to your thoughts, so as to add force to your words. 2 *nc, pl* **-nies** an event, etc., that is good, or wanted, but is wasted because it happens at the wrong time, or in the wrong place or circumstances. **ironic** (aɪ'rɒnɪk), **ironical** (aɪ'rɒnɪkəl) *adj* using or showing irony.

irradiate (ɪ'reɪdɪeɪt) *vt* 1 send or cause rays of light, sunlight, X-rays, etc., to fall upon. 2 cause (a person's face or expression) to become bright: *A smile of joy irradiated her face.*

irrational (ɪ'ræʃənəl) *adj* 1 without reason. 2 silly; senseless.

irregular (ɪ'regjʊlə*) *adj* 1 not behaving or being in agreement with the usual rules, customs, etc. 2 not even: *His teeth are very irregular.* 3 *grammar* (of a word) not given the usual ending: *The plural of 'leaf' is not 'leafs' but the irregular form 'leaves'.* **irregularity** (ɪˌregjʊ'lærətɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that is irregular. 2 *nu* being irregular.

irrelevant (ɪ'reləvənt) *adj* having no connection with.

irreparable (ɪ'repərəbəl) *adj* not able to be put right again or repaired: *irreparable damage.*

irreplaceable (ˌɪrɪ'pleɪsəbəl) *adj* not able to be replaced.

irreproachable (ˌɪrɪ'prəʊtʃəbəl) *adj* that cannot be blamed or found fault with: *irreproachable behaviour.*

irresistible (ˌɪrɪ'zɪstəbəl) *adj* too tempting, strong, etc., not to prevent or give way to.

irrespective (ˌɪrɪ'spektɪv) *adj* **irrespective of** without considering or paying attention to; in spite of: *He decided to buy a new car, irrespective of the cost.*

irresponsible (ˌɪrɪ'spɒnsəbəl) *adj* not trustworthy; not caring about the results of your actions. **irresponsibility** (ˌɪrɪˌspɒnsə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu* being irresponsible.

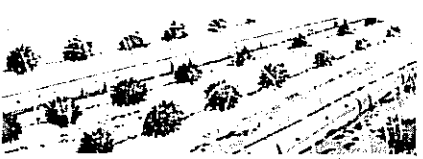
irretrievable (ˌɪrɪ'trɪːvəbəl) *adj* that can never be as it once was.

irreverent (ɪ'revərənt) *adj* not showing respect for sacred or holy things.

irreversible (ˌɪrɪ'vɜɪsəbəl) *adj* that cannot be changed, withdrawn, or be as it once was.

irrevocable (ɪ'revəkəbəl) *adj* that can never be changed. **irrevocably** *adv*

irrigate ('ɪrɪgeɪt) *vt* take water to (land and crops) by means of rivers, water-pipes, etc. **irrigation** (ˌɪrɪ'geɪʃən) *nu* irrigating: see picture.



irrigation

irritable ('ɪrɪtəbəl) *adj* easily annoyed. **irritability** (ˌɪrɪtə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu* being irritable.

irritate ('ɪrɪteɪt) *vt* 1 cause to become annoyed. 2 cause an unpleasant feeling or discomfort to the body: *Wool irritates her skin.* **irritation** (ˌɪrɪ'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* irritating or being irritated. 2 *nc* an example of this.

is (ɪz unstressed z, s) *v* (used with **he, she,** or **it**) a form of **be.**

Islam ('ɪzlɑːm) *nu* 1 the religion of Muslims, followers of the Prophet Mohammed. 2 all the Muslim world. **Islamic** (ɪz'læmɪk) *adj* of Islam.

island ('aɪlənd) *nc* 1 a piece of land that has water all round it. 2 anything that is entirely separated like an island: *a traffic island.*

isle (aɪl) *nc* (used in poetry or with proper names) island: *the British Isles.*

isn't ('ɪzənt) *v* is not.

isobar ('aɪsəbɑː*) *nc* a line on a map joining places with the same air pressure at a certain time.

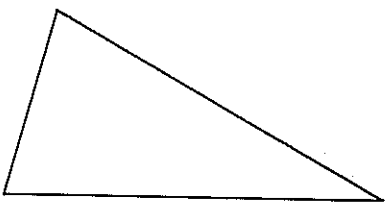
isohyet (ˌaɪsə'haɪət) *nc geography* a line on a map joining places with the same monthly rainfall.

isolate ('aɪsəleɪt) *vt* put (a person or thing) apart, away from others. **isolation** (ˌaɪsə'leɪʃən) *nu* isolating or being isolated.

isomer ('aɪsəmə*) *nc chemistry* one of two compounds with the same number of atoms of each element in the molecule, but with different physical or chemical properties.

isometric (ˌaɪsə'metrɪk) *adj* of equal size, quantity, etc.

isosceles (aɪ'sɒsɪliːz) *adj* (of a triangle) that has two sides equal in length: see picture.



isosceles

isotherm ('aɪsəθɜːm) *nc* a line on a map that joins places with the same temperature at a certain time.

isotope ('aɪsətəʊp) *nc science* one form of an element that is chemically the same as other forms of that element, but different in atomic mass.

issue ('ɪsjuː) 1 *vi* come or go out from. 2 *vt* give or send out: *The soldiers were issued with new uniforms.* 3 print and sell (books, stamps, newspapers, etc.). • *nu* 1 a flowing out. 2 *nc* that which flows out. 3 *nu* the act of giving or sending out; publishing: *the issue of a new magazine. nc* 4 that which is given out or published. 5 an important matter; subject being talked about. 6 a result. 7 *nu law* children: *He died leaving no male issue.*

isthmus ('ɪsməs) *nc* a narrow piece of land joining two larger bodies of land.

it (ɪt) *pron* 1 (used of things or animals and young children when the sex is not known): *She's just had her baby—it's beautiful.* 2 (speaking of someone or something just mentioned or just about to be): *Who is it standing at the gate?* 3 (used to supply a subject, but not meaning anything): *It's been raining all day; Is it time to go home yet?*

italics (ɪ'tælɪks) *printing n pl* letters that slope, like this: *italics.*

itch (ɪtʃ) *vi* have an unpleasant feeling on the skin that makes you want to scratch it. • *nc* a place of discomfort on the skin, causing a need to scratch it. **itchy** *adj* of an itch.

item ('aɪtəm) *nc* 1 one of the things in a list. 2 a short piece of news in a newspaper, etc. **itemise** ('aɪtəmaɪz) *vt* give or write down every item of (a number or set of things).

itinerant (aɪ'tɪnərənt) *adj* travelling from place to place as a way of life.

itinerary (aɪ'tɪnərərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a plan made for a journey.

it'll ('ɪtəl) it will.

its (ɪts) *determiner, pron* belonging to or to do with it: *She has a baby but I've forgotten its name.* **itself** (ɪt'self) *pron* done by or concerning it. **by itself** 1 without help. 2 alone.

it's (ɪts) it is or it has.

I've (aɪv) I have.

ivory ('aɪvərɪ) *nu* a hard, white, bone-like substance obtained from the tusks of elephants. • *adj* the colour of ivory.

ivy ('aɪvɪ) *nu* an evergreen plant with shiny, green, five-pointed leaves, that grows and climbs on walls, etc.

J

jab (dʒæb) *vti* hit out sharply at, with something pointed: *She jabbed at me with her finger.* • *nc* 1 an act of jabbing. 2 *medicine, infml* an injection of a substance into the body, esp. to prevent a disease.

jabber ('dʒæbə*) *vti* speak fast and excitedly.

jacaranda (ˌdʒækəˈrændə) *ncu* (the wood of) a tree with fern-like leaves and showy blue flowers.

jack (dʒæk) *nc* 1 a device for raising something heavy, esp. a car, lorry, etc. 2 also **knave** the playing-card in each suit which carries a picture of a prince. **jack up** raise with a jack.

jackal ('dʒækəl) *nc* an African and South Asian dog-like animal that hunts: see picture.

jackal

jackass ('dʒækæs) *nc* 1 a male donkey. 2 a stupid person.

jackdaw ('dʒækdɔː) *nc* a black bird that takes shiny objects to its nest.

jacket ('dʒækɪt) *nc* 1 a garment for the arms and upper body that fastens at the front. 2 a covering or wrapping, such as one used to keep water hot in a tank. 3 also **dust jacket** a sheet of paper wrapped round the cover of a new book. 4 the skin of a potato.

jack-knife ('dʒæknaɪf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) 1 a knife of which the blade folds into the handle. 2 a dive in which the diver bends at the waist and then straightens before entering the water. • *vi* (of an articulated lorry) accidentally fold into a V-shape while moving.

jackpot ('dʒækpɒt) *nc* a large prize, esp. of money won in a game of chance: *hit the jackpot.*

jade (dʒeɪd) *nu* a white or green semi-precious stone used for jewellery.

jaded ('dʒeɪdɪd) *adj* worn out or weary: *By the end of the week I feel really jaded.*

jagged ('dʒægɪd) *adj* having a rough edge or surface; rough with sharp points: *jagged rocks.*

jaguar ('dʒægjʊə*) *nc* a large Central and South American animal of the cat family.

jail (also **gaol**) (dʒeɪl) *vt* put (someone) in prison. • *nc* a prison. **jailer** (also **jailor, gaoler**) *nc* a person in charge of prisoners.

jam[1] (dʒæm) *ncu* a (type of) sweet food made by boiling fruit with sugar until it thickens.

jam[2] *vti* 1 (cause to) be pushed in tightly: *I jammed the cork into the bottle.* 2 (cause to) be filled or blocked: *The streets were jammed with traffic.* 3 (cause to) become stuck: *The drawer's jammed because it's too full.* 4 send signals that prevent (a radio station, etc.) from being received clearly. • *nc* 1 a blockage: *a traffic jam.* 2 the state of being jammed. 3 *infml* a difficulty; awkward situation.

jamboree (ˌdʒæmbəˈriː) *nc* 1 a large gathering of Scouts or Guides. 2 a noisy party or lively entertainment.

jangle ('dʒæŋgəl) *vti* (of keys, a bell, etc.) (cause to) ring unmusically. • *nu* this sound.

janitor ('dʒænɪtə*) *chiefly US nc* a person who cleans a school, the public parts of a block of flats, etc.

January ('dʒænjʊərɪ) *n* the first month of the year, before February.

jar[1] (dʒɑː*) *nc* a glass or pottery container, esp. with a wide mouth, a lid, and no handles.

jar[2] *vti* 1 (cause to) make a rough sound. 2 hit (something) and rub roughly. 3 (sometimes followed by **on**) have an unpleasant or painful effect (on) (the nerves, etc.). • *nc* 1 a rough rubbing sound. 2 a shock.

jargon ('dʒɑːgən) *nu* special words and expressions, used in a subject of study, profession, etc., that are hard for others to understand: *scientific jargon.*

jasmine ('dʒæzmɪn) *nu* a bush with pleasant-smelling red, yellow, or white flowers used in perfume and tea.

jaundice ('dʒɔːndɪs) *nu* yellowness of the skin and the whites of the eyes, caused esp. by liver diseases. See also **hepatitis.** • *vt* affect (a person, their judgement, etc.) esp. so as to be unfair: *a jaundiced view.*

jaunt (dʒɔːnt) *nc* a trip made for pleasure. • *vi* go on a jaunt.

jaunty ('dʒɔːntɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** quick, gay, carefree, or with such an air: *a jaunty walk.* **jauntily** *adv*

javelin ('dʒævəlɪn) *nc* a pointed stick for

throwing as a weapon or, esp. made of metal, in a sports competition.

jaw (dʒɔː) *nc* 1 also **jawbone** the upper or lower bone holding the teeth. 2 the lowest part of the face, around and including the chin. • *vi slang* talk a lot.

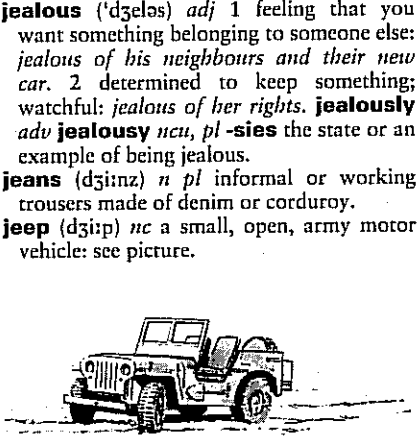
jay (dʒeɪ) *nc* a noisy bird with feathers of many colours including blue in the wings.

jazz (dʒæz) *nu* a type of music with characteristic rhythms and harmonies played esp. by small groups and originally by black Americans. **jazz up** *infml* 1 give to (music) some of the qualities of jazz. 2 make more lively, etc. **jazzy** *infml adj* **-ier, -iest** lively or showy.

jealous ('dʒeləs) *adj* 1 feeling that you want something belonging to someone else: *jealous of his neighbours and their new car.* 2 determined to keep something; watchful: *jealous of her rights.* **jealously** *adv* **jealousy** *ncu, pl* **-sies** the state or an example of being jealous.

jeans (dʒiːnz) *n pl* informal or working trousers made of denim or corduroy.

jeep (dʒiːp) *nc* a small, open, army motor vehicle: see picture.



jeep

jeer (dʒɪə*) *vti* (often followed by **at**) laugh unkindly (at); make fun (of). • *nc* a jeering laugh or shout.

Jehovah (dʒɪ'həʊvə) *n* the name given to God in the Old Testament of the Bible. **Jehovah's Witness** a member of a Christian group started in America, that believes that it is the only true Church or religion and that governments should have no control over its religion.

jell (dʒel) *v* See **gel.**

jelly ('dʒelɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** *ncu* 1 a soft elastic substance, esp. a (type of) food made with gelatin obtained from the bones and skin of animals. 2 (a type or quantity of) such a food with fruit juice added. 3 a (type of) sweet food made by boiling fruit juice and sugar until they set when cooled. 4 **like jelly** wobbly and weak from fear, etc.: *My legs were like jelly when the headmaster called for me.* **jellyfish** ('dʒelɪfɪʃ) *nc, pl* **-fish, -fishes** a sea-animal with a jelly-like body and long tentacles: see picture.

jellyfish

jeopardise ('dʒepədaɪz) *vt* put in jeopardy. **jeopardy** ('dʒepədɪ) *nu* danger; risk: *It was so cold that their lives were in jeopardy.*

jerboa (dʒɜː'bəʊə) *nc* a small mouse-like animal from North African desert areas.

jerk (dʒɜːk) *nc* 1 a sudden sharp pull or movement. 2 *slang* a stupid person. • *vti* (cause to) move with a jerk. **jerky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** moving in jerks.

jerry-built ('dʒerɪbɪlt) *adj* (of a building) badly built with cheap materials.

jersey ('dʒɜːzɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-s** a woollen or similar garment for the arms and upper body; pullover. 2 *nu* closely knitted woollen material.

jest (dʒest) 1 *fml nc* a joke. 2 *nu* fun: *I only said it in jest.* • *vi fml or humorous* make a jest; speak in jest.

Jesus Christ ('dʒiːzəz) *n* the Jew, believed by Christians to be the Son of God, who started Christianity. • *interj slang* also **Jesus, Christ** (used to express surprise, disgust, etc.)

jet (dʒet) *nc* 1 a stream of liquid or gas being forced out of a hole. 2 a spout or nozzle made to produce such a stream. 3 a plane with a jet engine. • *vti* (cause to) travel in a **jet** (defs. 1, 3). **jet engine** also **jet** an engine, used esp. in planes, that works by sending a powerful jet of gas out backwards. **jet lag** mental confusion caused by flying across time zones.

jetsam ('dʒetsəm) *n* See **flotsam.**

jettison ('dʒetɪsən) *vt* throw out (goods) of or let go from.

jetty ('dʒetɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a wall or landing-stage built out into water from the land.

Jew (dʒuː) 1 a descendant of the Hebrews of ancient Palestine. 2 a follower of Judaism. **Jewish** *adj*

jewel ('dʒuːəl) *nc* 1 a precious stone; ornament made of such stones. 2 a hard precious stone used in a watch. 3 a valued person or thing. **jeweller** *US* **jeweler** *nc* a person who makes or sells jewellery. **jewellery** *US* **jewelry** ('dʒuːəlrɪ) *nu* rings, necklaces, etc., esp. of jewels or precious metals, worn as ornaments.

jiffy ('dʒɪfɪ) *infml nc, pl* **-fies** also **jiff** a very short time: *I'll be with you in a jiffy.*

jig (dʒɪg) *nc* 1 a lively dance; tune for this. 2

a device used to hold and control a tool. • *vi* 1 dance a jig. 2 *vti* (cause to) move rapidly up and down.

jigger ('dʒɪgə*) See **chigger.**

jigsaw ('dʒɪgsɔ:) *nc* also **jigsaw puzzle** a picture stuck to wood or cardboard and cut into irregularly shaped pieces to be put together again for fun.

jihad (dʒɪ'hɑ:d) *nc* a religious war waged by Muslims against unbelievers.

jilt (dʒɪlt) *vt* leave (a lover), esp. just before a planned marriage.

jingle ('dʒɪŋgəl) *nc* 1 a light, repeated ringing sound. 2 a short tune or song, used esp. in advertisements on radio or television. • *vti* (cause to) make a **jingle** (def. 1).

jinx (dʒɪŋks) *nc* a supposed force that brings bad luck: *So much has gone wrong with this plane that there must be a jinx on it!* • *vt* bring bad luck to; cause to bring bad luck: *Our holiday isn't jinxed – you are!*

jive (dʒaɪv) *nu* a lively dance popular in the 1940s and 1950s. • *vi* do a jive.

job (dʒɒb) *nc* 1 a paid occupation; employment. 2 a piece of work; task. 3 *nu infml* difficulty: *I had a job getting home.* **a good job** lucky: *It was a good job I came home.*

jockey ('dʒɒkɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 a person who rides a horse in a race. 2 See **disc jockey** under **disc.** • *vi* try to get a good position or obtain other advantage: *to jockey for position.*

jocular ('dʒɒkjʊlə*) *adj* said or done as a joke; funny: *jocular remarks.*

jog (dʒɒg) 1 *vi* run at a gentle speed, esp. for exercise. 2 *vt* knock lightly. **jog someone's memory** make someone remember. • *nc* the act of jogging. **jog along** move on or continue, esp. with difficulty or without enthusiasm. **jogging** *nu* the activity of jogging for exercise.

join (dʒɔɪn) 1 *vti* put or come together; unite; connect. *vt* 2 become a member of (a society, etc.). 3 come together with: *May I join you at your table?* • *nc* a place where two things are joined: *I mended the cup—can you see the join?* **join in** take part (in) as well: *We've started, but you can still join in (the game).* **join up** become a member of (something, esp. an army, etc.).

joiner ('dʒɔɪnə*) *nc* a person who makes things in wood, esp. doors, windows, etc., for houses. **joinery** *nu* the work of or things made by a joiner.

joint (dʒɔɪnt) *nc* 1 a place where two things are joined. 2 *anatomy* a place where two bones meet. 3 one of the parts of an animal cut up for meat. 4 *slang* a bar, club, or café. • *adj* 1 produced or owned by more than one person: *a joint effort.* 2 sharing: *the joint owner(s).* • *vt* 1 provide with a joint. 2 cut (meat) into joints.

joist (dʒɔɪst) *nc* a long, thick piece of wood, steel, etc., used for building.

joke (dʒəʊk) *nc* 1 an amusing story or saying. 2 something done for fun; trick. 3 *infml* a situation that is thought to be funny: *A railway strike is no joke.* • *vi* 1 tell a joke. 2 do something for fun. **joker** *nc* 1 someone who jokes. 2 *derogatory* a person you do not like or trust. 3 a playing-card that in many card games can be used as any other card. **jokingly** ('dʒəʊkɪŋlɪ) *adv* in fun; as a joke.

jolly ('dʒɒlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** joyful; cheerful. • *adv Brit* very: *Jolly well done!* • *vt* (often followed by **along**) keep or make (someone) jolly.

jolt (dʒəʊlt) *vi* (cause to) shake violently and suddenly: *The train jolted to a stop.* • *nc* a sudden shake or shock.

jostle ('dʒɒsəl) *vti* knock or push against (someone): *The crowd jostled round.*

jot (dʒɒt) *vt* (often followed by **down**) write quickly. **jotter** *nc* a book or pad for notes.

joule (dʒu:l) *physics nc* a measure of work or energy: symbol J.

journal ('dʒɜ:nəl) *nc* 1 a magazine or newspaper, esp. one for a profession or subject of study. 2 a diary. **journalese** (,dʒɜ:nə'li:z) *nu* a style of writing used in newspapers and magazines. **journalism** ('dʒɜ:nəlɪzəm) *nu* the work of reporting news in a newspaper or magazine or on radio or television. **journalist** *nc* a person whose work is journalism.

journey ('dʒɜ:nɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a trip or voyage. • *vi* travel; make a journey.

jovial ('dʒəʊvɪəl) *adj* cheerful; laughing: *She always has a jovial expression on her face.*

jowl (dʒaʊl) *nc* flesh hanging down from the neck or lower jaw of a person or animal.

joy (dʒɔɪ) *nu* 1 great happiness or gladness. 2 *infml* luck or success: *Have you had any joy in your search?* **joyful** *adj* full of, expressing, or producing joy: *joyful news.* **joyfully** *adv* **joyous** ('dʒɔɪəs) *adj* feeling, expressing, or producing joy: *in a joyous mood.*

jubilant ('dʒu:bɪlənt) *adj* feeling or expressing great joy. **jubilation** (,dʒu:bɪ'leɪʃən) *nu* (the act of feeling or expressing) great joy, esp. at a victory.

jubilee ('dʒu:bɪli:, ,dʒu:bɪ'li:) *nc* the time marking a particular number of years after an event such as the coronation of a king

or queen, the starting of a society, etc.: (sixty or seventy-five years for a **diamond jubilee**, fifty years for a **golden jubilee**, and twenty-five years for a **silver jubilee**).

Judaism ('dʒuːdeɪˌɪzəm) *n* the Jewish religion.

judge (dʒʌdʒ) *nc* 1 a person who governs in a court of law and decides punishments for people found guilty. 2 a person who decides the result of a game or competition and whether the rules are being kept. 3 a person who decides on the quality, etc., of something: *a good judge of wine.* • *vti* 1 act as a judge; make a decision (as): *He judged the best-behaved dog competition; They judged him guilty of murder.* 2 *vt* form an opinion of: *I can't judge his courage. I've never seen him in battle.*

judgement (also **judgment**) ('dʒʌdʒmənt) 1 *nc* a decision reached by a judge. 2 *nu* the ability to judge (well): *This eye disease affects judgement of distance; You always show good judgement.*

judicial (dʒuːˈdɪʃəl) *adj* to do with judging in a court of law.

judiciary (dʒuːˈdɪʃərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a group of judges (**judge** def. 1).

judicious (dʒuːˈdɪʃəs) *adj* sensible; showing good judgement. **judiciously** *adv*

judo ('dʒuːdəʊ) *nu* a sport, developed from the Japanese art of self-defence without weapons, in which two people try to throw each other to the ground.

jug (dʒʌg) *nc* 1 an open container with a handle, used esp. for pouring liquid. 2 *Australian* a kettle.

juggernaut ('dʒʌgənɔːt) *nc* 1 a powerful destructive force. 2 *infml, Brit* a large lorry.

juggle ('dʒʌgəl) *vti* 1 repeatedly throw up and catch (several objects) in turn as an entertainment. 2 arrange (figures, facts, or events) cleverly for your own purposes. **juggler** *nc*

jugular ('dʒʌgjʊlə*) *nc zoology* one of four large veins in the head and neck through which blood flows back to the heart.

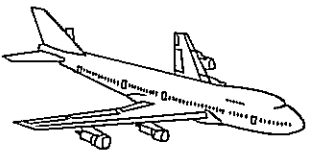
juice (dʒuːs) *ncu* 1 the liquid of a (type of) animal or plant, esp. a fruit: *tomato juice.* 2 (usually *pl*) the liquid produced by parts of the body: *stomach juices.* 3 *infml nu* electricity, petrol, etc.: *Turn on the juice and see if it goes.* **juicy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** full of juice.

jukebox ('dʒuːkbɒks) *nc* a machine that plays a chosen record when you put a coin in.

July (dʒʊˈlaɪ) *n* the seventh month of the year, after June and before August.

jumble ('dʒʌmbəl) *vt* (often followed by **up**) mix up; get out of order. • *nc* 1 a mixed-up pile or state. 2 *Brit nu* things given for a jumble sale. **jumble sale** *Brit* a sale of given articles, esp. unwanted clothes, etc., to help a church, society, etc.

jumbo jet ('dʒʌmbəʊ) *nc* a type of large jet-powered plane with two passenger levels: see picture.



jumbo jet

jump (dʒʌmp) 1 *vti* push yourself off the ground or other surface or over (an object) with your legs: *jump the fence; jump two metres.* *vi* 2 rise suddenly: *Prices jumped last month.* 3 make a sudden movement, esp. from fright; start. 4 move about quickly and violently: *The children are jumping about on the chairs again.* *vt* 5 pass over; miss out: *Because he was so clever at school he jumped a year.* 6 *infml* attack suddenly, esp. in order to rob. • *nc* 1 the act of jumping. 2 a space or object jumped.

jumper ('dʒʌmpə*) *nc* 1 a person or animal that jumps. 2 a woollen or similar garment for the arms and upper body; pullover.

jumpy ('dʒʌmpɪ) *infml adj* **-ier, -iest** likely to make sudden movements, esp. because nervous.

junction ('dʒʌŋkʃən) *nc* a place where roads, railways, etc., or electric wires meet.

juncture ('dʒʌŋktʃə*) *nu* a point or moment in time.

June (dʒuːn) *n* the sixth month of the year, after May and before July.

jungle ('dʒʌŋgəl) *nc* 1 a thick, mixed forest in hot, wet places near the equator. 2 a thick tangle (of plants, etc.). 3 a dangerous place.

junior ('dʒuːnɪə*) *adj* of lower age, importance, or length of time in a place: *Junior workers should listen to those with more experience.* • *nc* a junior person: *The office junior makes the tea.*

juniper ('dʒuːnɪpə*) *nc* a bush or small tree producing cones and berries used for making the drink of gin.

junk[1] (dʒʌŋk) *nu* 1 old, unwanted, or unused belongings. 2 *infml* rubbish.

junk[2] *nc* a Chinese flat-bottomed sailing boat.

junkie ('dʒʌŋkɪ) *slang nc* a person who depends on taking drugs.

junta ('dʒʌntə, 'hʊntə) *nc* a group of military officers ruling a country, esp. after taking power by force.

jurisdiction (ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃən) *nu* power, esp. to judge according to laws: *Murders are outside the jurisdiction of a local court.*

jurisprudence (ˌdʒʊərɪs'pruːdəns) *nu* the science or philosophy of law or a particular branch of law: *medical jurisprudence.*

juror ('dʒʊərə*) *nc* a member of a jury.

jury ('dʒʊərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a group of people who decide the verdict in a court of law or who judge a competition, etc.

just (dʒʌst unstressed dʒəst) *adj* 1 fair: *a just decision.* 2 rightful; proper: *his just reward.* • *adv* 1 also **only just** (only) a short time ago: *I have (only) just arrived.* 2 also **only just** (very) nearly not; barely: *We were (only) just in time.* 3 at this moment: *I'm just finishing.* 4 only; no more than: *He's just a friend.* **just as** 1 at the moment when: *You called just as I was going out.* 2 in the same way that; while: *Just as he spends his time reading, I spend mine writing.* **just then** at that exact moment. **just the same** See under **same.**

justice ('dʒʌstɪs) *nu* 1 the quality of being just. 2 the working of the law: *He was brought to justice.* 3 *nc* a judge. **Justice of the Peace** an unpaid, part-time judge dealing with small crimes, licences, etc.

justify ('dʒʌstɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 show to be just, correct, necessary, etc.: *Her worst fears were justified; Can you justify spending so much money?* 2 *printing* make (a line of type) exactly the right width. **justifiable** ('dʒʌstɪfaɪəbəl) *adj* able to be justified. **justifiably** *adv* **justification** (ˌdʒʌstɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) justifying something; a reason: *What is your justification for acting in this way?*

jut (dʒʌt) *vi* (often followed by **out**) stick out beyond something: *A shelf jutted out from the wall.*

jute (dʒuːt) *nu* material obtained from the jute plant and used to make ropes, sacks, mats, etc.

juvenile ('dʒuːvənaɪl) *adj* young; childish, immature: *juvenile behaviour.* • *nc fml* a young person, animal, or plant. **juvenile delinquency** *nu* crimes committed by juveniles.

juxtaposition (ˌdʒʌkstəpə'zɪʃən) *nu* the placing of two things next to each other to show their differences: *The juxtaposition of the white walls with the red carpet was startling.*

K

Kaaba ('kɑːbə) *n* the most sacred shrine of the Muslims at Mecca, into which the Black Stone is built.

kaftan ('kæf,tæn) *nc* also **caftan** a long-sleeved ankle-length garment.

kaleidoscope (kə'laɪdəskəʊp) *nc* 1 a toy using mirrors and small coloured objects to produce ever-changing patterns. 2 a great variety. **kaleidoscopic** (kə,laɪdə'skɒpɪk) *adj*

kanga ('kæŋgə) *nc* a piece of bright-coloured cloth worn by East African women.

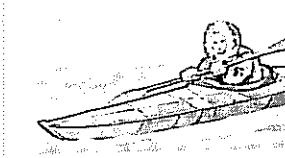
kangaroo (,kæŋgə'ruː) *nc* a large Australian animal that travels fast by jumping and of which the young grow up in a bag on the mother's front: see picture at **animals. kangaroo court** an unofficial trial called by prisoners in a jail or strikers.

kanzu ('kænzʊ) *nc* a long, usually white, robe worn by men in East Africa.

kaolin ('keɪəlɪn) *nu* a fine white earth used for making high-quality pottery and taken as a medicine for upset stomachs.

karate (kə'rɑtɪ) *nu* a Japanese method of fighting without using weapons.

kayak ('kaɪæk) *nc* a small Inuit boat made with animal skins: see picture.



kayak

keel (kiːl) *nc* 1 the lowest part of a boat or ship, running down its length. 2 a deep, narrow part of a boat, sticking down below it. **keel over** 1 fall over or down. 2 turn over.

keen (kiːn) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 enthusiastic; eager: *He's keen to go.* 2 highly developed: *a keen sense of smell.* 3 (of a wind) very cold. 4 (of pain, a desire, etc.) great. 5 (of a knife) sharp. **keen on** fond of. **keenly** *adv* **keenness** *nu*

keep (kiːp) 1 *vti* (cause to) remain, esp. in good condition: *Keep the camera still; How long does meat keep?* *vt* 2 continue to have or possess: *I sold one but kept the other.* 3 store; manage; look after: *I'll keep your watch in case it gets wet.* 4 have (something, esp. animals) for your use. 5 provide what (someone) needs to live: *Her wages keep the whole family.* 6 do something on the occasion of (a regular event, such as a holiday). 7 act according to (a promise, the law, etc.). 8 guard (a town, football goal, etc.). 9 cause to stay: *His work kept him late at the office.* 10 not tell (esp. a secret). • *nu* 1 (the cost of) keeping someone: *earn your keep.* 2 *nc* the strong, inner tower of a castle. **keep an eye on** *infml* look after; watch; guard. **keep yourself to yourself** avoid meeting or becoming friendly with other people. **keep at** (cause to) continue doing (something). **keep away** (often followed by **from**) not go near. **keep back** 1 (cause to) stay away (from something). 2 prevent (information, water, etc.) from flowing; keep for yourself. **keep down** 1 (cause to) remain low or below something. 2 control (anger, etc.). 3 cause (food) not to be forced back up out of the stomach. **keep in** 1 make (a child) stay behind (at school) or indoors as a punishment. 2 cause (a fire) to stay lit all night. **keep off** 1 not (allow to) go on (grass, etc.). 2 not eat (something). 3 (of rain) not start. 4 (cause to) avoid (a subject of discussion). **keep on** 1 continue (doing something). 2 continue to wear or employ. 3 *infml* (often followed by **about**) continue talking or mentioning. **keep up** 1 prevent from falling, sinking, or lessening. 2 cause (a house, etc.) to stay in good condition. 3 prevent (someone) from going to bed. **keep up with** travel at the same speed as; remain equal to.

keeper ('kiːpə*) *nc* a person who looks after something, esp. a shop, animals, or a museum.

keepsake ('kiːpseɪk) *nc* a present intended to remind someone of its giver or an occasion.

keg (keg) *nc* 1 a small barrel. 2 *Brit* a metal container for beer.

kelvin ('kelvɪn) *nc* a measure of temperature = 1 degree C, but with 0 at absolute zero (−273°C). Symbol K.

kennel ('kenəl) *nc* 1 a shelter for a dog. 2 (*pl*) a place where you can pay to have a dog kept and looked after. • *vt* put (a dog) in kennels.

kept (kept) past tense and past participle of **keep.**

keratin ('kerətɪn) *nu zoology* a protein

which forms nails, hair, hooves, feathers, skin, etc.

kerb (kɜːb) *US* **curb** *nc* the edge of a raised pavement.

kernel ('kɜːnəl) *nc* the softer part that is the seed in a nut or fruit-stone.

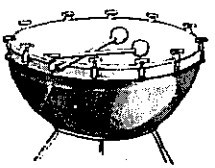
kerosene ('kerəsiːn) *US, Australian n* See **paraffin.**

kestrel ('kestrəl) *nc* a bird that hunts small animals and can stay in one place in the air to look for them.

ketchup ('ketʃʌp) *nu* a strong sauce added to food: *tomato ketchup.*

kettle ('ketəl) *nc* a metal container with a handle and a spout, used for boiling water.

kettledrum ('ketəldrʌm) *nc* a drum made of a metal bowl with a skin across that can be stretched more or less to alter the note it produces: see picture.



kettledrum

key (kiː) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 a metal device made to fit into and undo a lock. 2 a device used to wind a clock, work a switch, etc. 3 any of the parts of a typewriter, musical instrument, etc., pressed with the fingers. 4 a system of musical notes, based on one particular note, on which a piece of music is built up: *a piece in the key of C.* 5 the most important thing for obtaining, reaching, or understanding something: *Ambition is the key to success.* 6 a list of explanations of the signs on a map, etc. **keyboard** ('kiːbɔːd) *nc* a set of keys (**key** def. 3) esp. on a musical instrument or a computer. **keyhole** ('kiːhəʊl) *nc* the hole in a door, etc., through which a key is put into its lock. **keynote** ('kiːnəʊt) *nc* 1 the note on which a **key** (def. 4) is based. 2 the central idea or subject of a meeting, etc. **keystone** ('kiːstəʊn) *nc* 1 a central idea on which everything else depends. 2 the stone at the top of an arch.

khaki ('kɑːkɪ) *nu* a yellowish-brown colour used esp. for soldiers' clothes.

kick (kɪk) *vt* 1 hit and esp. move with the foot. 2 get (a goal) by kicking a football. 3 *infml* stop or give up (a habit). 4 *vi* (of a gun, etc.) move sharply back when fired, etc. • *nc* 1 the act of kicking. 2 the sharp movement of a gun, etc., when fired. 3 *infml* a feeling of enjoyment: *I did it for kicks.* **kick the bucket** *slang* die. **kick off** 1 remove (a shoe, etc.) by kicking. 2 start (a game of football). 3 *infml* start: *Who'll kick off with the first question?* **kick-off** ('kɪkɒf) 1 *nc* the start of a game of football. 2 *infml nu* a start: *You weren't there, for a kick-off.*

kid[1] (kɪd) *nc* 1 a young goat. 2 *infml* a child. 3 *nu* leather made from the skin of a kid: *kid gloves.*

kid[2] *infml vti* deceive; pretend.

kidnap ('kɪdnæp) *vt* carry off and hold (someone), esp. threatening to kill unless you are paid. • *nc* an instance of kidnapping. **kidnapper** *nc*

kidney ('kɪdnɪ) *nc anatomy* either of the two parts of the body that clean the blood and make urine.

kill (kɪl) *vt* 1 cause to die. 2 cause to end; destroy. 3 *infml* cause great pain to: *My new shoes are killing me.* 4 *infml* make very tired: *That walk killed me.* • *nc* 1 an act of killing, esp. at the end of a hunt. 2 the animal or animals killed in a hunt or shoot. 3 the destruction in war of a plane, ship, etc. **killer** *nc*

kiln (kɪln) *nc* a large heated container for burning or drying something or for firing pots, etc.

kilogram ('kɪləgræm) (often shortened to **kilo**) *nc* a measure of weight: see appendix.

kilohertz ('kɪlə,hɜːts) *nc* 1000 hertz; used in measuring radio frequency.

kilometre *US* **kilometer** ('kɪlə,miːtə*, kɪ'lɒmɪtə*) *nc* a measure of length: see appendix.

kilowatt ('kɪləwɒt) *nc* a measure of electrical energy = 1000 W.

kilt (kɪlt) *nc* a knee-length skirt worn by men from the Scottish Highlands.

kimberlite ('kɪmbə,laɪt) *nu* a rock formation in South Africa containing peridotite in which diamonds are formed.

kimono (kɪ'məʊnəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s** a long Japanese garment with short, wide sleeves: see picture.

kimono

kin (kɪn) *nu* your family or relations. **kith and kin** See **kith. next of kin** See under **next.**

kind[1] (kaɪnd) *nc* a sort; type: *I like this kind of food.* **a kind of** a sort (esp. not good) of: *We were given a kind of a breakfast.* **in kind** 1 in goods, not money: *payment in kind.* 2 in a similar way or with something similar to what has been given, received, etc.: *repay an insult in kind.*

kind[2] *adj* **-er, -est** friendly; generous; helpful. **kindly** *adv* in a kind way. • *adj* **-ier, -iest** also **kind-hearted** (of a person) kind. **kindness** *nu*

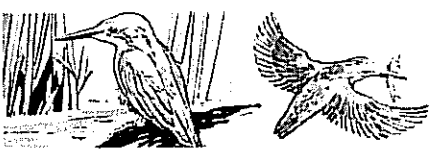
kindergarten ('kɪndəˌgɑːtən) *nc* a school for children who are younger than the normal school age.

kindle ('kɪndəl) *vti* 1 (cause to) start to burn. 2 (cause to) start: *His anger was easily kindled.* **kindling** *nu* material such as small pieces of dry wood used for starting a fire.

kindred ('kɪndrɪd) *adj* 1 (of people) related. 2 similar; alike: *My neighbour proved to be a kindred spirit.* • *nu* your family.

kinetic (kaɪ'netɪk, kɪ'netɪk) *adj fml* to do with movement: *kinetic energy.*

king (kɪŋ) *nc* 1 a male ruler of a country who is normally the son of the king or queen before him. 2 the best or most important person, animal, or thing: *the king of oranges.* 3 the playing-card in each suit carrying a picture of a king. 4 the chess piece whose inability to escape from an attacked square loses the game. **kingfisher** ('kɪŋfɪʃə*) *nc* a bird with mainly shiny blue feathers that catches fish: see picture. **kingpin** ('kɪŋpɪn) *nc* the most important person in an organisation, point in an argument, etc. **king-size** ('kɪŋsaɪz) *adj* extra large.



kingfisher

kingdom ('kɪŋdəm) *nc* 1 a country ruled by a king or queen. 2 all of something: *the animal kingdom.*

kink (kɪŋk) *nc* a small bend or twist in a pipe, wire, etc. • *vti* get or put a kink in.

kinship ('kɪnʃɪp) *fml nu* a family relationship.

kinsman ('kɪnzmən) *old-fashioned nc, pl* **-men** a family relation.

kiosk ('kiːɒsk) *nc* a small building used for selling cigarettes, newspapers, and food.

kipper ('kɪpə*) *nc* a salted and smoked herring.

Kismet ('kɪzmet) *nu* 1 fate; destiny. 2 (in Islam) the will of Allah.

kiss (kɪs) 1 *vt* touch with the lips. 2 *vti* touch or hit gently against. 3 *vi* (of two people) kiss each other's lips or cheeks. • *nc* an instance of kissing. **kiss of life** a way of keeping someone alive who has stopped breathing by blowing into their mouth.

kit (kɪt) 1 *nc* a set of tools, parts, etc., for doing a job, building something, etc.: *a tool kit; I made my boat from a kit.* 2 *nu* clothes and other necessary things: *sports kit; a bag for a soldier's kit.* • *vt* provide with kit. **kit out** or **up** obtain or provide (someone) with kit.

kitchen ('kɪtʃɪn) *nc* a room used for preparing and cooking food.

kite (kaɪt) *nc* 1 a toy made of a light frame covered with thin paper or cloth, tied to a long piece of string and allowed to rise in the wind. 2 a type of bird that feeds on small animals.

kith (kɪθ) *n* **kith and kin** your friends and relations.

kitten ('kɪtən) *nc* a young cat.

kitty ('kɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a pool of money provided by two or more people, esp. in a gambling game.

kiwi ('kiːwiː) *nc* a New Zealand bird that cannot fly.

kleptomaniac (ˌkleptəʊ'meɪnɪæk) *nc* someone who cannot stop stealing things.

klipspringer ('klɪpˌsprɪŋə*) *nc* a small African antelope with large ears.

knack (næk) *nc* 1 a method that enables you to do something more easily: *The knack is to hold your needle like this.* 2 an ability to do something: *He'll never do very well—he just hasn't the knack.*

knapsack ('næpsæk) *nc* a bag carried on the back by soldiers, etc.

knave (neɪv) *nc* 1 *old-fashioned* a dishonest man. 2 See **jack** (def. 2).

knead (niːd) *vt* repeatedly press and fold (dough).

knee (niː) *nc* the joint halfway up each leg. • *vt* push or knock with a knee. **kneecap** ('niːkæp) *n* See **patella.** **knee-deep** (ˌniː'diːp) *adj* 1 (of water, etc.) reaching up to the knees. 2 standing in or filled with something that reaches up to the knees: *The room was knee-deep in papers.*

kneel (niːl) *vi* fall or rest on your knees or one knee only.

knell (nel) *nu* the sound of a bell, esp. rung to tell of someone's death. • *vi* (of a bell) ring a knell.

knelt (nelt) past tense and past participle of **kneel.**

knew (nju:) past tense of **know.**

knickerbockers ('nɪkə,bɒkəz) *n pl old-fashioned* trousers reaching to and gathered tight just below the knees.

knickers ('nɪkəz) *Brit n pl infml* a woman's garment worn next to the body from the waist to the tops of the legs.

knick-knack ('nɪknæk) *nc* a useless ornament.

knife (naɪf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) a metal blade with a sharp edge and a handle, used chiefly for cutting or as a weapon. • *vt* stick a knife into (someone).

knight (naɪt) *nc* 1 (in the Middle Ages) an important man serving as a horse-soldier in heavy armour. 2 (in Britain and the Commonwealth) a man given a high position and the title 'Sir' before his name by a king or queen as a reward. 3 a chess piece that can move two squares in one direction and then one square at right angles. • *vt* make (someone) a **knight** (defs. 1, 2). **knighthood** ('naɪthʊd) *ncu* the state or title of being a **knight** (defs. 1, 2).

knit (nɪt) *vt* 1 make (a garment, etc.) by repeatedly looping a yarn, esp. of wool, over itself, esp. using knitting-needles. 2 connect; join closely. • *nc* any type or pattern of knitting. **knitting** *nu* 1 partly knitted garments. 2 the activity of knitting. **knitting-needle** ('nɪtɪŋ,ni:dəl) *nc* a long, thick needle with no hole in it, used for knitting.

knob (nɒb) *nc* 1 a rounded part on the end or side of something, esp. as a handle. 2 a rounded piece of something, such as butter. **knobbly** *adj* lumpy. **knobby** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered in knobs (**knob** def. 1). 2 sticking out.

knock (nɒk) *vt* 1 hit sharply. 2 hit several times: *knock a nail into a wall.* 3 *infml* criticise (esp. a play, etc.) as bad. 4 *vi* (often followed by **at** or **on**) knock (esp. a door) with the hand to ask to go in. • *nc* 1 a sound of knocking. 2 a blow. **knock down** 1 hit (someone) to the ground. 2 take down (a building). 3 sell at an auction. **knocker** (nɒkə*) *nc* an object on a door used for knocking. **knock out** 1 make (someone) unconscious, esp. with a blow. 2 destroy or damage. 3 defeat (someone) in a competition. **knockout** ('nɒkaʊt) *nc* 1 a blow that knocks someone out. 2 a competition in which the winner of each game plays another winner. **knock together** make quickly and esp. not very well: *knock together a table.*

knoll (nɒl) *nc* a small hill.

knot (nɒt) *nc* 1 a fastening or ornament made by tying string, rope, etc. 2 a hard lump in part of a plant or animal, esp. in wood where a branch grew out. 3 a measure of the speed of a ship or plane = 1 nautical mile per hour. 4 a group, esp. of people. • *vt* make a **knot** (def. 1) in. **knotty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of rope, etc.) full of knots. 2 difficult: *a knotty problem.*

know (nəʊ) *vt* 1 have (a fact, etc.) in your mind: *I knew that he would come; I know nothing about cars.* 2 have met or had experience of; be familiar with: *I know most of her friends as well.* 3 recognise: *They all knew me in spite of my disguise.* 4 be able to use (a language). **know-how** ('nəʊhaʊ) *nu* knowledge, esp. practical or technical. **know how to** know the way in which to (do something): *Help! I don't know how to swim!*

knowing ('nəʊɪŋ) *adj* suggesting that you know more than you have said, etc.: *a knowing look.* **knowingly** *adv*

knowledge ('nɒlɪdʒ) *nu* 1 the state of knowing or understanding. 2 all the things that are known (by one person, on a subject, etc.): *My knowledge of botany is very useful.* **knowledgeable** ('nɒlɪdʒəbəl) *adj* having or showing much knowledge.

known (nəʊn) past participle of **know.**

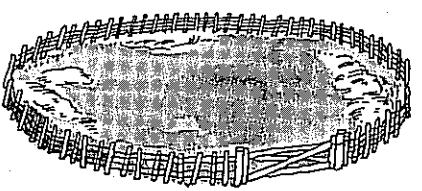
knuckle ('nʌkəl) *nc* 1 *anatomy* a finger joint, esp. joining the finger to the hand. 2 a joint of meat from the leg below the knee of an ox, pig, etc. **knuckle down to** *infml* set about (work) seriously.

kola nut ('kəʊlə ,nʌt) *nu* a large West African nut; chewed as a stimulant or made into a drink.

kop (kɒp) *nc Afrikaans* a small hill.

Koran (kɔ:'rɑ:n) *n* the holy book of Islam, believed by Muslims to be the words of God to Mohammed.

kraal (krɑ:l) *nc* 1 a southern African village, often enclosed by a fence. 2 an enclosure for domestic animals in southern Africa: see picture.



kraal

Krishna ('krɪʃnə) *n* a popular Hindu god.

krypton ('krɪptɒn) *nu chemistry* a rare

gaseous element used in lasers and fluorescent tubes. Symbol Kr.

kudu (ˈkuːduː) *nc* a large antelope with spiral horns from southern and eastern Africa.

kung fu (ˌkʌŋ ˈfuː) *nu* a Chinese method of fighting without using weapons.

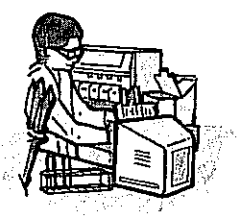
kwashiorkor (ˌkwæʃɪˈɔːkəʳ) *nc* a serious disease in children caused by lack of protein.

kwela (ˈkwelə) *nu* a type of South African township music started in the 1940s.

L

label ('leɪbəl) *nc* 1 a piece of paper, metal, etc., fixed to and giving information about an object. 2 a word or name applied to something or someone. • *vt* fix a label to.

laboratory (lə'bɒrətrɪ) (*infml abbrev.* **lab**) (læb) *nc, pl* **-ries** a room used for scientific experiments: see picture.



laboratory

laborious (lə'bɔːrɪəs) *adj* that needs a lot of hard work: *I do all the laborious jobs such as weeding the garden.*

labour *US* **labor** ('leɪbə*) *nu* 1 work. 2 workers as a class. 3 the process of childbirth: *labour pains.* 4 *nc* a task. • *vi* 1 work, esp. hard or with difficulty. 2 *vt* talk or write about (something) a great deal: *Don't labour the point—I've understood.* **labourer** *US* **laborer** *nc* a person doing physical work as a job. **labour saving** helping with work: *a house full of labour-saving devices.* **hard labour** the punishment of being forced to work while in prison.

labyrinth ('læbərɪnθ) *nc* 1 a number of connecting tunnels, paths, etc.; maze. 2 a confusing place, state of affairs, etc.

lace (leɪs) 1 *nc* a type of string used to tie a shoe, boot, etc. 2 *nu* a fine material made with a pattern of holes in it. • *vt* 1 (often followed by **up**) tie (a shoe, boot, etc.) with a lace. 2 add some alcohol to (a drink).

lacerate ('læsəreɪt) *vt* tear (esp. flesh) roughly: *She lacerated her foot on a piece of glass.*

lachrymal ('lækrɪməl) *adj* **lachrymal gland** the gland in the corner of the eye which produces tears.

lack (læk) *nu* an absence or shortage: *a lack of interest.* • *vt* be without: *This picture lacks colour.* **for lack of** because of not having.

lackey ('lækɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 a male servant, esp. in characteristic clothes. 2 an unthinking political follower.

laconic (lə'kɒnɪk) *adj* using few words.

lacquer ('lækə*) *nu* 1 a liquid that dries to a hard shiny coat on objects it is used to protect. 2 also **hair lacquer** a substance sprayed onto hair to hold it in place. • *vt* coat with lacquer.

lacrosse (lə'krɒs) *nu* a game played by two teams using a ball and small nets on sticks.

lactose ('læktəʊz) *nu biology* a soluble carbohydrate found in milk.

lacy ('leɪsɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** to do with or having the appearance of **lace** (def. 2).

lad (læd) *nc* 1 a boy or young man. 2 *infml* a boy or man, esp. a mischievous one.

ladder ('lædə*) *nc* 1 a set of steps held between two wooden or metal posts or two ropes and used for climbing up and down. 2 a row of stitches that have come undone in knitted material, esp. stockings. • *vti* (cause to) develop a **ladder** (def. 2).

laden ('leɪdən) *adj* loaded: *a heavily laden lorry.*

ladle ('leɪdəl) *nc* a deep spoon with a long handle for serving soup, etc.

lady ('leɪdɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** 1 *polite* a woman. 2 a woman with a high position in society. **ladies** *infml, Brit nc, pl* **ladies** (*often with singular verb*) a public toilet for women. **Lady** (a title for a woman of the aristocracy or the wife of a knight): *Lady Churchill.* **Ladyship** ('leɪdɪʃɪp) *nc* (used to refer to Ladies): *Her Ladyship; Your Ladyships.*

ladybird ('leɪdɪbɜːd) *nc* a flying insect with wing-cases that are usually red with black spots: see picture at **insects.**

lag[1] (læg) *vi* (sometimes followed by **behind**) go more slowly than someone or something else; fall (behind). • *nc* a delay.

lag[2] *vt* wrap (a pipe, boiler, etc.) to prevent it losing heat.

lager ('lɑːgə*) *ncu* (a type or drink of) pale beer.

lagoon (lə'guːn) *nc* an area of seawater (partly) cut off from the sea by sand or coral.

laid (leɪd) past tense and past participle of **lay**[2].

lain (leɪn) past participle of **lie**[2].

lair (leə*) *nc* the place where a wild animal rests.

laissez faire (ˌleɪseɪ 'feə*) *nu* the fact or attitude of not interfering, esp. by a government.

laity ('leɪɪtɪ) *nu* laymen (see **layman** under **lay**[3]).

lake (leɪk) *nc* a body of water surrounded by land and usually fed and emptied by a river.

lamb (læm) 1 *nc* a young sheep. 2 *nu* meat from a sheep or lamb. • *vi* (of a female sheep) give birth.

lame (leɪm) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 unable to walk normally because of disease, injury, etc. 2 not satisfactory or effective: *a lame argument.* • *vt* make lame. **lame duck** 1 a weak person or thing. 2 *Brit* a firm not making enough money to stay in business. **lamely** *adv*

lament (lə'ment) *vt* feel or express grief about. • *nc* an expression, esp. in song, of grief. **lamentable** ('læməntəbəl) *adj* regrettable; very bad: *Your work in the examination was lamentable.* **lamentation** (ˌlæmən'teɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) lamenting.

laminated ('læmɪneɪtɪd) *adj* (of glass, metal, etc.) made of two or more sheets stuck together.

lamp (læmp) *nc* a device for producing light from electricity, oil, etc. **lamppost** ('læmppəʊst) a post supporting a lamp lighting a street. **lampshade** ('læmpʃeɪd) a frame covered with cloth, paper, etc., surrounding a lamp to spread the light and prevent it being too bright to look at.

lance (lɑːns) *nc history* a weapon made of a metal point on a long stick. • *vt medicine* cut into (a boil, etc.) to remove poisonous matter.

land (lænd) *nu* 1 those parts of the earth's surface not covered with water. 2 land used for farming, etc., not building towns: *working on the land. nc* 3 a country; nation. 4 a piece of land belonging to someone. • *vti* 1 go or put onto land: *The soldiers were landed from small boats; We're landing in Riyadh soon. vt* 2 *infml* obtain or win: *You've landed a good job.* 3 *infml* put (someone) in (a difficult position): *His temper landed us all in trouble.* **landlady** ('lænd,leɪdɪ) *nc, pl* **-ladies** or **landlord** ('lænd,lɔːd) *nc* 1 a woman or man who runs a pub, boarding-house, etc. 2 a woman or man who rents out property for others to use. **landlocked** ('lændlɒkt) *adj* surrounded by land: *Zimbabwe is a landlocked country.* **landmark** ('lændmɑːk) *nc* 1 a building, hill, etc., that is well known and easy to recognise. 2 an important event: *a landmark in the history of medicine.* **landscape** ('lændskeɪp) *nc* 1 (a picture of) a view of the countryside. 2 a wide view of anything: *the literary landscape.* **landslide** ('lændslaɪd) *nc* 1 the sliding of a lot of earth or rock down the side of a mountain or cliff. 2 a win by a large majority in an election: *a landslide victory.*

landing ('lændɪŋ) *nc* 1 the action of landing: *The pilot was forced to make an emergency landing.* 2 a platform at the top of or between sets of stairs. **landing-stage** ('lændɪŋsteɪdʒ) *nc* a platform used for landing passengers and goods from a ship.

lane (leɪn) *nc* 1 a narrow road between rows of buildings, trees, etc. 2 a strip of road, sea, air, etc., to which traffic, ships, or planes must keep.

language ('læŋgwɪdʒ) 1 *ncu* (a particular system of) spoken sounds and usually also written signs used to pass information, express feelings, etc. 2 *nu* words and expressions used by a particular person or group or in particular situations: *polite language; religious language.* 3 *nc* also **computer language** a system of letters and numbers used to make a computer work. 4 *nu* impolite words: *Such terrible language!* **language laboratory** a room containing tape-recorders, etc., used for learning foreign languages.

languid ('læŋgwɪd) *adj literary* slow-moving, weak, or unenthusiastic.

languish ('læŋgwɪʃ) *vi literary* suffer an unpleasant situation: *She hated the host so she languished in a corner all evening; languishing in poverty.*

lanky ('læŋkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person or legs) tall or long and thin and often awkward.

lantern ('læntən) *nc* a lamp with a glass case to keep the wind out.

lap[1] (læp) *nc* the flat surface of the upper parts of the legs of a person who is seated: *The baby lay on her lap.*

lap[2] *nc* the act of going once round a continuous track: *a race of twenty laps.* • *vt* overtake (another slower racer), getting one whole lap ahead: *I lapped her in the twelfth round.*

lap[3] 1 *vt* (often followed by **up**) (of an animal) drink (water, etc.) by picking it up with the tongue. 2 *vti* (of waves) strike softly: *We heard the waves lapping on the shore.*

lapel (lə'pel) *nc* the part folded back on either side of the front of a coat or jacket.

lapse (læps) *vi* 1 (often followed by **into**) fail to keep up a standard: *He was too slow at French so lapsed into his own language.* 2 come to an end, because of failure to do something: *If you don't pay, your membership will lapse.* • *nc* 1 an instance of lapsing. 2 a delay; break: *After a lapse of two years he wrote to me again.*

larceny ('lɑːsənɪ) *law nou, pl* **-nies** (a) theft; robbery.

larch (lɑːtʃ) *nc* a deciduous fir tree that produces cones and loses its needles each year.

lard (lɑːd) *nu* grease obtained from pig fat. • *vt* 1 add lard to (food). 2 add extra words or phrases to (your normal speech, etc.): *His talk was larded with difficult expressions.*

larder ('lɑːdə*) *nc* a room or cupboard in which food is kept.

large (lɑːdʒ) *adj* **-r, -st** big, esp. broad; great. **at large** 1 (of a criminal or wild animal) free; escaped or not captured. 2 in general; as a whole: *The public at large know nothing about politics.* **largely** *adv* chiefly; on the whole. **large-scale** ('lɑːdʒskeɪl) 1 (of a map or model) larger than most maps or models of this same place or thing. 2 in large amounts: *The plant was built for large-scale car production.*

lark¹ (lɑːk) *nc* also **skylark** a small brown bird that is noted for its song and can stay in one place in the air.

lark² *nc* 1 a piece of fun or little adventure. 2 *infml, Brit* an activity of a particular kind: *This is a stupid lark—I'm stopping.* • *vi* (often followed by **about** or **around**) have a **lark²** (def. 1).

larva ('lɑːvə) *nc, pl* **-vae** (viː) an insect in its first form after hatching from an egg.

larynx ('lærɪŋks) *anatomy nc, pl* **-nges** (ndʒiːz) also **voice-box** a part of the throat containing the mechanism used for speaking.

lascivious (lə'sɪvɪəs) *adj* having strong sexual desire.

laser ('leɪzə*) *nc* a device producing a powerful beam of invisible light used for cutting hard materials and surgery, etc.

lash (læʃ) *vt* 1 move (an arm, tail, etc.) forcefully. 2 hit hard, esp. with a whip as a punishment. 3 fasten by tying with rope, etc.: *The prisoner was lashed to a chair.* • *nc* 1 a blow with a whip, etc. 2 the end of a whip. **lashing** *nc* 1 a whipping. 2 (*pl*) *infml, Brit* a lot: *lashings of butter.* 3 *nu* rope, etc., used for lashing (**lash** def. 3).

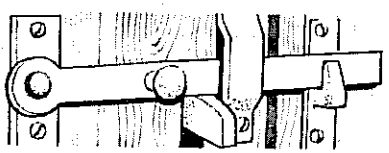
lass (læs) *nc poetry or chiefly Northern Brit* a girl.

Lassa fever ('læsə) *medicine* a very infectious usually fatal virus disease, with a high fever and aching muscles, discovered in Lassa, Nigeria.

lasso (læ'suː) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a rope with a loop in the end, used for catching horses and cattle, esp. in America. • *vt* catch with a lasso.

last (lɑːst) *adj, adv* 1 at the end; after all others: *He came last in the race.* 2 most recent(ly): *last week.* • *vti* remain; be enough (for someone or something); continue to exist, work etc. (for a period): *This food will last us a month; How long can you last under the water?* **at last** in the end; finally. **lastly** *adv* at the end; finally. **last-minute** ('lɑːst,mɪnɪt) *adj* done at the last possible moment: *a last-minute change of clothes.*

latch (lætʃ) *nc* 1 a small bar worked by a handle on a door, serving to keep it shut: see picture. 2 a door lock on a spring, worked by a key. • *vt* fasten with a latch.



latch

late (leɪt) *adj* **-r, -st,** *adv* 1 (happening, arriving, etc.) after the proper or usual time: *The train is ten minutes late already.* 2 (happening, etc.) far on in a period of time: *She worked late into the night.* • *adj* (used before a noun) 1 having died recently: *the late Mr Smith.* 2 being no longer as described: *The late president is living abroad.* **lately** *adv* also **of late** recently.

latent ('leɪtənt) *adj* hidden; capable of developing: *a latent musical ability.*

lateral ('lætərəl) *adj* to do with the side. **lateral thinking** a method of solving problems by looking at them from different aspects.

laterite ('lætə,raɪt) *nu geography* a reddish soil rich in iron and aluminium found in tropical regions and often used to make roads.

latex ('leɪteks) *nu botany* the sap or milky fluid from a plant which transports nutrients through the phloem; latex from the rubber tree is used to make rubber.

lath (lɑːθ) *nc* a strip of wood, esp. used to make a wall on which plaster is spread.

lathe (leɪð) *nc* a machine for shaping wood, metal, etc., by turning it round and round against a movable cutter.

lather ('lɑːðə*) *nu* bubbles produced by rubbing soap in water. • *vt* make a lather (on).

latitude ('lætɪtjuːd) 1 *nc* the distance from a point on the earth to the equator, expressed as an angle: *Peking lies at about latitude forty degrees North.* 2 *nu* variety of expected behaviour, results, etc.: *I ought to be at work by half-past nine, but luckily*

there's some latitude.

latrine (lə'triːn) *nc* a lavatory, as in a camp or barracks.

latter ('lætə*) *pron, adj* the second of two already mentioned: *Of Mary and Alison, I prefer the latter.* • *adj* later; nearer the end: *the latter part of last year.*

lattice ('lætɪs) *nc* an arrangement of crossing or joined strips of metal or wood serving as an ornamental fence, etc.

laud (lɔːd) *literary vt* praise highly. **laudable** *adj* deserving praise.

laugh (lɑːf) *vi* make a sound expressing amusement, usually while smiling. • *nc* 1 an instance of laughing. 2 a manner of laughing. **laughable** *adj* (of an offer, demand, etc.) deserving laughter, not serious consideration. **laugh at** 1 laugh because of (a joke, etc.). 2 make fun of. **laugh off** laugh to cover shame or embarrassment: *She laughed off her attempts to pass the driving test.* **laughter** ('lɑːftə*) *nu* (the sound of) laughing.

launch (lɔːnʃ) *vt* 1 put (a boat or ship) into the water, esp. for the first time. 2 start (yourself, a spacecraft, etc.) moving through the air. 3 start (a company, collection, etc.). • *nc* 1 an instance of launching. 2 a motorboat usually used for taking people short distances. **launching-pad** ('lɔːntʃɪŋˌpæd) *nc* a place from which rockets are launched.

launder ('lɔːndə*) *vt* wash and often iron (clothes, etc.). **laundry** ('lɔːndrɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-dries** a place where clothes, etc., are laundered. 2 *nu* clothes, etc., that are to be, are being, or have just been laundered. **launderette** (lɔːn'dret) *nc* a place where you can wash and dry clothes in machines worked by coins.

laurel ('lɒrəl) *nc* also **bay** a tree with shiny dark green leaves. **rest on your laurels** be satisfied with your past efforts or successes.

lava ('lɑːvə) *nu* rock in a hot liquid form that flows from a volcano and then cools.

lavatory ('lævətrɪ) *nc, pl* **-tories** also **toilet** (a room containing) a bowl, connected to a drain, where you get rid of solid and liquid waste from the body.

lavender ('lævɪndə*) *nu* a plant of which the mauve flowers are used for their pleasant smell.

lavish ('lævɪʃ) *adj* in great quantity; generous: *a lavish meal.*

law (lɔː) 1 *ncu* (one of) a set of rules governing behaviour in a country or other society, with punishments laid down for breaking them. *nc* 2 a rule of an activity, such as a game. 3 a statement of the way something behaves in nature: *the laws of science. nu* 4 laws as a social system: *He studied law at university.* 5 knowledge of law. 6 the social state produced by people not breaking laws: *law and order.* **law-abiding** ('lɔː*əˌbaɪdɪŋ) *adj* not breaking the law. **lawful** *adj* not forbidden by law. **lawfully** *adv* **law-giver** ('lɔːˌgɪvə*) *nc* a person who makes laws. **lawless** *adj* 1 without laws. 2 breaking the law: *lawless behaviour.* **lawsuit** ('lɔːsjuːt, 'lɔɪsuːt) *nc* a claim or complaint by one person, company, etc., against another in a court of law.

lawn[1] (lɔːn) *ncu* (a piece of land covered with) grass that is kept cut short. **lawn-mower** ('lɔːnˌməʊə*) *nc* a device, esp. powered by a motor, for cutting a lawn.

lawn[2] *nu* a fine cotton or linen cloth.

lawyer ('lɔɪjə*) *nc* a person in a job to do with the law, esp. a solicitor or barrister.

lax (læks) *adj* not firm or strict: *He's very lax about getting to work on time.*

laxative ('læksətɪv) *nc, adj* (a medicine) causing you to get rid of solid waste from the body more easily.

lay[1] (leɪ) past tense of **lie**[2].

lay[2] *vt* 1 put, esp. carefully and in a flat or level position: *Lay the dress on the bed.* 2 put things for a meal on (a table). 3 (of a bird, etc.) produce (an egg). 4 make (a bet). 5 *not standard vi* **lie**[2]. • *nc* the way or position in which something lies. **lay aside** 1 stop doing, using, etc.; give up. 2 keep; store up. **lay by** store up. **lay off** 1 *infml* stop annoying (someone). 2 *infml* stop using, doing, etc.: *to lay off cigarettes.* 3 stop employing (someone) for a time. **lay up** 1 store up or keep (esp. a ship) for the future. 2 *infml* (of an illness) prevent (someone) from leading a normal life: *He was laid up with a cold.*

lay[3] *adj* 1 to do with people who are not priests. 2 to do with people without special knowledge of a subject. **layman** ('leɪmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a lay person.

lay-by ('leɪbaɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a piece of ground, at the side of a road, on which traffic can stop.

layer ('leɪə*) *nc* a thickness or coat of a substance, such as paint spread over a surface. • *vt* arrange in layers.

layette (leɪ'et) *nc* a set of clothes and bedding for a new-born baby.

layout ('leɪaʊt) *nc* an arrangement of things, such as the type and photographs in a newspaper.

lazy ('leɪzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 not wanting to work or take exercise. 2 causing or to do with laziness: *a lazy day on holiday.* **lazily** *adv* **laziness** *nu*

lea (liː) *nc poetry* a field of grass; meadow.

leach (liːtʃ) *vt agriculture* dissolve soluble material from a substance by running water through it: *All the goodness was leached out of the soil by constant rain.*

lead[1] (liːd) *vt* 1 show the way to (someone) by going in front; guide. 2 direct or control (a meeting, etc.). 3 pass; spend: *He led a life of evil.* 4 (followed by an infinitive) cause (to do something): *I was led to believe the story was true.* 5 *vti* be at the top or front (of): *He's leading the race.* 6 *vi* (of a road, etc.) be a way: *The path led up the hill to the castle.* • *nu* 1 the first or leading place in a race, etc. 2 guidance or example: *Follow my lead.* 3 a distance by which someone is leading a race, etc.: *He has a lead of ten metres.* *nc* 4 also **leash** a chain, strip of leather, etc. with one end fastened round the neck of a dog or other animal to control it. 5 the main part in a play or film. 6 the set of wires leading to an electrical device. 7 a piece of information that could help solve a crime, etc. **lead to** be the cause of: *Doing two things at once could lead to confusion.* **lead up to** 1 be an introduction to; come before. 2 be about to mention or discuss: *I could tell he was leading up to a request for money.*

lead[2] (led) 1 *nu* a chemical element; a soft, heavy, grey metal used for roofs, batteries, paints, etc. 2 *ncu* (a piece of) graphite used in pencils. **leaden** ('ledən) *adj* 1 made of **lead** (def. 1). 2 grey: *a leaden sky.* 3 slow or lifeless.

leader ('liːdə*) *nc* 1 a person or animal who leads, rules, or guides. 2 *US* **concert-master** the chief violinist of an orchestra. 3 *US* **leading article** an article in a newspaper giving the opinion of the editor. **leadership** ('liːdəʃɪp) *nu* the condition of being or ability to be a leader.

leading ('liːdɪŋ) *adj* 1 most important or best known. 2 in front. **leading question** a question that suggests an expected answer, such as 'Don't you think it's expensive?'

leaf (liːf) *nc, pl* **-ves** 1 a usually broad, thin, green part of a plant. 2 a sheet of paper in a book. 3 part of a table that can be put in the top to make it bigger. **leaf through** look quickly (at a book), etc., by turning the pages rapidly. **turn over a new leaf** improve your behaviour, give up a habit, etc. **leafless** *adj* having no leaves. **leafy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** having many leaves; full of plants: *a leafy garden.*

leaflet ('liːflɪt) *nc* a folded sheet of paper printed with advertising or information, usually given free.

league (liːg) *nc* 1 an organisation of countries, towns, etc., that join to help or protect each other. 2 a group of sports teams that play each other.

leak (liːk) *nc* 1 an unwanted hole in a container, boat, etc., through which a gas or liquid passes. 2 a piece of secret information published esp. by a newspaper. • *vti* (allow to) pass through a leak: *Water is leaking from the pipe; He leaked the news of the battle to the press.* **leakage** *nc* 1 an instance of leaking. 2 something leaked. **leaky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** having a leak or leaks.

lean[1] (liːn) *vti* 1 (cause to) rest on or against something. 2 (cause to) slope or be not upright. • *nu* the state or amount of leaning. **leaning** *nc* the quality of being likely to do or be something: *strong political leanings.* **lean on** or **upon** depend on (someone), esp. for advice or help.

lean[2] *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not fat. 2 not producing profits; marked by shortages: *a lean year in business.* • *nu* meat containing little fat.

leant (lent) past tense and past participle of **lean**[1].

leap (liːp) *vti* jump (over). • *nc* a jump. **leap year** a year with 366 days in, 29 February being added every fourth year.

leapt (lept) past tense and past participle of **leap.**

learn (lɜːn) *vt* 1 obtain knowledge of or become able (to do): *I learn French; He learned to drive.* 2 store in your memory: *to learn a poem.* 3 *vi* (often followed by **about** or **of**) come to know (about or of). **learned** ('lɜːnɪd) *adj* having or showing great knowledge. **learning** *nu* knowledge obtained by study.

learnt (lɜːnt) past tense and past participle of **learn.**

lease (liːs) *nc* an arrangement by which property belonging to someone is held by someone else for a limited period: *a ninety-nine-year lease.* • *vt* give or receive (property) under a lease. **leasehold** ('liːshəuld) *nu* the way in which leased property is held. See also **freehold.**

leash (liːʃ) *n* See **lead**[1] (def. 4). • *vt* control or fasten with a leash.

least (liːst) *adj* smallest, slightest, smallest amount of, or fewest: *He's got the least money of us all.* • *nu* the least amount: *The least you could do is be polite.* • *adv* also **the least** the least amount; in the least quantity: *I talk Russian least.* **at least** 1 also **at the least** as the smallest quantity or amount: *It will cost at least £1000.* 2 if nothing else: *At least the weather was fine.*

leather ('leðə*) *nu* skin from an animal, prepared for use in jackets, bags, shoes, etc.; (sometimes *nc*) a type or piece of leather. **leathery** *adj* like, esp. as tough as, leather.

leave¹ (li:v) 1 *vti* go away (from): *I left London yesterday. vt* 2 cause to remain: *I left the book on the table.* 3 give (to someone) to deal with: *Leave that job to me.* 4 stop belonging to (a club), attending (a school), etc. 5 have (belongings) given (to someone) after your death: *He left all his money to his wife.* 6 cause to be or remain: *He was left very poor.* **leave alone** 1 allow to be alone. 2 not annoy or disturb. **leave off** 1 stop: *Leave off asking questions!* 2 fail to put on or wear: *You left off the last word.* **leave out** 1 fail to include. 2 allow to remain outside.

leave² *nu* 1 permission to be away or on holiday, esp. from army service, etc.: *He's on leave.* 2 *fml* permission (to do something): *by your leave.* **take your leave** *fml* say goodbye.

leaves (li:vz) plural of **leaf.**

lecture ('lektʃə*) *nc* 1 a formal talk to university students, etc. 2 a long talk, esp. giving a warning or telling someone off. • *vti* give a lecture (to). **lecturer** ('lektʃərə*) *nc* 1 a person who gives a lecture. 2 a university teacher: *Senior Lecturer in English.*

led (led) past tense and past participle of **lead¹.**

ledge (ledʒ) *nc* a narrow flat surface like a shelf sticking out from a wall, rock face, etc.

ledger ('ledʒə*) *nc* a book in which the accounts of a business are kept.

lee (li:) *nu, adj* (on) the side of a boat, island, etc., away from the wind.

leech (li:tʃ) *nc* 1 a worm that feeds on the blood of animals. 2 *old-fashioned* a doctor.

leek (li:k) *nc* a kind of vegetable like a large onion but with a long white stem: see picture at **vegetables.**

leer (liə*) *vi* look or smile unpleasantly (at). • *nc* an unpleasant look.

left¹ (left) past tense and past participle of **leave¹. leftover** ('left,əuvə*) *nc, adj* (something left) unused, uneaten, etc.

left² *adj, nu* (to do with) the side of something facing west when its front faces north. • *nu* the left side: *on your left.* **the left** also **the Left** supporters of socialism. **left-hand** ('lefthænd) *adj* (used before a noun) to do with the left side: *left-hand drive.* **left-handed** (,left'hændɪd) *adj* 1 able to use your left hand for writing, etc., more easily than your right. 2 to do with the left hand. • *adj, adv* (done) with the left hand. **left-hand rule** *science* the rule by which you can find the direction of a force when you know the directions of the field and the current. See also **right-hand rule. left-wing** ('leftwɪŋ) *adj* to do with socialism: *left-wing politics.*

leg (leg) *nc* 1 *anatomy, zoology* a longer lower body part used for standing and walking. 2 the part of a garment covering a leg. 3 an upright supporting part of a chair, table, etc. 4 a stage of a journey. **pull someone's leg** tell someone a lie as a joke.

legacy ('legəsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** something, esp. money, given to others after someone's death, according to their will.

legal ('li:gəl) *adj* to do with, esp. allowed by, the law. **legalise** ('li:gəlaɪz) *vt* make legal. **legality** (li:'gælɪtɪ) *nu* **legally** *adv*

legation (lɪ'geɪʃən) *nc* (the building used by) a group of people representing one country in another.

legend ('ledʒənd) *nc* 1 a popular old story supposed to be true. 2 an explanation or other note on a map, coin, etc. **legendary** ('ledʒəndərɪ) *adj* 1 described in a legend. 2 remarkable; famous.

leggings ('legɪŋz) *n pl* a tight pair of trousers, often made of Lycra.

legible ('ledʒɪbəl) *adj* (of writing, printing, etc.) able to be read.

legion ('li:dʒən) *nc* 1 a group of 3000 to 6000 men in the ancient Roman army. 2 another military or former military group: *the French Foreign Legion.* • *adv fml* great in number: *His followers are legion.*

legislate ('ledʒɪsleɪt) *vi* make laws. **legislation** (,ledʒɪs'leɪʃən) *nu* (the making of) laws. **legislative** ('ledʒɪslətɪv) *adj* to do with legislation. **legislator** *nc* a person who has a part in legislating. **legislature** ('ledʒɪsleɪtʃə*) *nc* a body of people with the power to legislate.

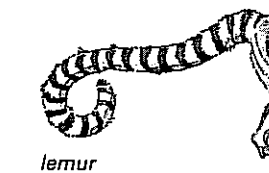
legitimate (lɪ'dʒɪtɪmət) *adj* 1 reasonable; having the right to be considered; correct: *a legitimate claim to the money.* 2 born of married parents. **legitimacy** (lɪ'dʒɪtɪməsɪ) *nu* **legitimately** *adv*

legume ('legju:m) *nc* (a plant that produces) a fruit in a pod, eaten as a vegetable, esp. a pea or bean. **leguminous** (lɪ'gju:mɪnəs) *adj*

leisure ('leʒə*) *nu* free time used for hobbies, games, etc. **leisurely** *adj, adv* (done or acting) without hurry.

lemon ('lemən) *nc* the yellow, oval, citrus fruit of the lemon tree: see picture at **fruits. lemonade** (,lemə'neɪd) *nu* a drink made either from lemon juice, sugar, and water, or from fizzy water and a bitter liquid.

lemur ('li:mə*) *nc* a small mammal from Madagascar with large round eyes and a fox-like face; mainly nocturnal: see picture.



lemur

lend (lend) *vt* 1 allow someone to use (something): *The bank lent me the money; Will you lend me your car tonight?* 2 provide; add: *The good news lent joy to the occasion.* **lend itself to** be useful or suitable for: *His poetry lends itself to being read aloud.*

length (leŋθ) *nc* 1 the distance between the two ends of something, esp. the longest side of an object; this distance used as a measurement: *The horse won by two lengths.* 2 the time taken for something: *The length of each lesson is the same.* 3 the distance a garment reaches down the body. 4 a piece of something long and thin, such as cloth. **at length** 1 in great detail: *He talked at length about his holiday.* 2 finally; after a long time. **lengthen** *vt* make longer. **lengthways** ('leŋθweɪz) *US* **lengthwise** ('leŋθwaɪz) *adv* alone or to do with the longest side: *Turn the bed lengthways so that it will go through the door.* **lengthy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (too) long.

lenient ('li:nɪənt) *adj* showing mercy, esp. in being or giving a light punishment.

lens (lenz) *nc* 1 a piece of glass with one or more curved surfaces, used to focus rays of light in cameras, glasses, etc. 2 the jelly-like substance at the front of the eye that acts like this. 3 a number of lenses set in a tube and used on a camera.

Lent (lent) *n* the period of the Christian year in the weeks before Easter, when many Christians give up some luxuries.

lent (lent) past tense and past participle of **lend.**

lentil ('lentɪl) *nc* a small, flat, round, seed cooked and eaten as a vegetable, in soup, etc.: see picture at **vegetables.**

Lenz's law ('lenzɪz) *physics* the law that an induced electric current creates a magnetic field that opposes the original magnetic field.

leopard ('lepəd) *nc* also **panther** a large African and South Asian animal of the cat family, with a dark yellow coat with black spots: see picture at **animals.**

leprosy ('leprəsɪ) *nu* a disease of the skin and nerve tissue, in which affected parts of the body waste away. **leper** ('lepə*) *nc* 1 a person with leprosy. 2 a person who others keep away from.

lesbian ('lezbɪən) *nc, adj* (of) a woman who is homosexual. **lesbianism** *nu*

lesion ('li:ʒən) *nc* an injury or wound.

less (les) *determiner, pron* a smaller amount (of): *I have less (money) than you.* • *adv* 1 in a smaller amount: *You should talk less.* 2 minus: *4 less 3 equals 1.*

lessen ('lesən) *vti* make or become less. **lessening** *nu* the act of becoming less.

lesser ('lesə*) *adj* 1 not as famous, important, good, etc.: *A lesser man would have run away.* 2 not as large as (one other thing): *the lesser of the two evils.*

lesson ('lesən) *nc* 1 a teaching period, esp. at school. 2 an example, event, etc., that serves to teach: *Let that be a lesson to you not to talk in class.* 3 (*pl*) school work.

lest (lest) *conj old-fashioned* so that . . . not; for fear that: *I've written it down lest I forget it.*

let (let) *vt* 1 allow (someone) to (do something): *I let him go.* 2 (used in front of a verb to indicate a suggestion, order, etc.): *Let's go now.* 3 charge rent for the use of (a shop, house, etc.). 4 allow to move: *Shut the door or you'll let the heat out.* 5 (as a command) allow (something to happen): *Let them attack—they'll soon wish they hadn't!* **let alone** 1 See under **alone.** 2 stop annoying: *Let me alone or I'll call the police!* **let down** 1 lower. 2 disappoint; fail to keep a promise to (someone). **let go** stop holding (onto). **let in** allow to enter. **let off** 1 fail to punish. 2 allow (someone) not to do: *I was let off having to go.* 3 fire or explode (a gun, firework, etc.). **let on** allow to be known: *Don't let on that I'm here!* **let out** 1 allow to go out (of prison, etc.). 2 allow (a secret) to be known. 3 give (a cry, etc.). **let (someone) know** give information to (someone): *I'll let you know if you win.* **let through** allow to go through. **let up** become less or stop: *Has the rain let up at all?*

lethal ('li:θəl) *adj* that can kill: *lethal weapons.*

lethargy ('leθədʒɪ) *nu* lack of interest or energy. **lethargic** (lɪ'θɑ:dʒɪk) *adj*

let's (lets) let us.

letter ('letə*) *nc* 1 a single written or printed character, such as *d* or *W.* 2 a written message from one person, business, etc., to another, usually sent by post. **the letter of the law** what the actual words of a law, agreement, etc., say, rather than the general meaning it was intended to have.

letterbox ('letəbɒks) a box or a hole in a door, wall, etc., for letters being posted or delivered. **lettering** *nu* the letters written on something such as a sign.

lettuce ('letɪs) *nc* a plant with broad, light green leaves: see picture at **vegetables;** (also *nu*) these leaves, usually eaten raw as a salad.

leukaemia (lu:'ki:mɪə) *nu* a serious disease in which the body makes too many white blood cells.

level ('levəl) *adj* **-ler, -lest** 1 flat; not sloping. 2 (of a surface) smooth. 3 as high, far forward, etc., as something else: *Put the shelf level with the window.* • *vt* 1 make level. 2 (often followed by **at**) aim (a gun, criticism, a remark, etc.). • *nc* 1 a height. 2 a value or amount: *a high level of government support.* 3 an instrument used to test whether something is level. 4 a flat piece of land. **level crossing** a place where a road and a railway cross at the same level, usually with gates with which to close the road when a train comes. **level-headed** (ˌlevəl'hedɪd) *adj* sensible; reliable: *a level-headed judgement.*

lever ('li:və*) *nc* a bar held or resting somewhere along its length so that when one end is moved, the other moves in the opposite direction and can be made to lift an object, etc. • *vt* move with a lever.

levy ('levɪ) *vt* demand and collect (a tax, etc.). • *nc, pl* **-vies** 1 something levied. 2 *ncu* (an example of) levying.

lewd (lu:d) *adj* **-er, -est** indecent; rude; obscene: *lewd comments.*

lexicon ('leksɪkən) *nc* a dictionary, esp. of Latin or ancient Greek.

liability (ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the state of being liable. *nc, pl* **-ties** 2 an amount of money owed, esp. by a business. 3 a person or thing for which you are responsible and that gets in your way.

liable ('laɪəbəl) *adj* 1 likely: *He's liable to change his mind.* 2 *law* responsible; answerable: *If someone is hurt at work, their employer is liable.* 3 (often followed by **for**) to be considered with respect to: *What you earn is liable for tax.*

liaison (li'eɪzən) *nu* the passing of messages and information between groups, parts of an army, etc.

liar ('laɪə*) *nc* a person who lies (**lie¹**).

libation (laɪ'beɪʃən) *ncu* (an act or example of) pouring out wine or spirits as an offering to the gods.

libel ('laɪbəl) *ncu* (the printing of) untrue statements that harm a person's reputation. • *vt* make such statements about (someone).

liberal ('lɪbərəl) *adj* 1 to do with the political opinion that people should have more freedom. 2 generous. 3 not minding much what other people do. • *nc* a person with **liberal** (def. 1) opinions. **liberalism** *nu* **liberal** (def. 1) opinions. **liberally** *adv*

liberate ('lɪbəreɪt) *vt* make free, esp. from occupation by a foreign army. **liberation** (ˌlɪbə'reɪʃən) *nu*

liberty ('lɪbətɪ) 1 *nu* freedom. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** an action that is not proper or allowed: *Asking to be invited is taking a liberty.*

library ('laɪbrərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a building, esp. public, containing books, newspapers, etc., to be read there or borrowed. 2 a room for books in a house. **librarian** (laɪ'breərɪən) *nc* a person who organises or runs a library.

lice (laɪs) plural of **louse.**

licence *US* **license** ('laɪsəns) 1 *nc* a piece of paper acting as proof that you may do something, have paid a tax, etc.: *a driving licence.* 2 *nu* freedom of thought or action, esp. when used to do something other people dislike.

license ('laɪsəns) *vt* give a licence to or for: *a licensed car.*

lichee ('laɪˌtʃi:) *n* See **lychee.**

lichen ('laɪkən) *ncu botany* a plant without roots, stems, leaves, or flowers; a fungus and algae growing together on rocks, etc.

lick (lɪk) *vt* 1 rub with the tongue, esp. in eating or to make wet. 2 (of waves or flames) move lightly over or round. 3 *infml* beat, esp. in competition. • *nc* an instance of licking.

licorice ('lɪkərɪs) *US n* See **liquorice.**

lid (lɪd) *nc* 1 a movable cover, either loose or fixed at one side, for something such as a tin or suitcase. 2 short for **eyelid.**

lie¹ (laɪ) *vi* knowingly say something that is untrue. • *nc* something untrue, said knowingly.

lie² *vi* 1 be or put yourself in a flat position, as on a bed. 2 be placed or situated; be found: *London lies on the Thames.* 3 (of a dead person) be buried: *Here lies John Smith.* • *nc* the manner or place in which something lies. **lie down** put yourself in a lying position, esp. to sleep. **lie in** stay late in bed in the morning.

Liebig condenser ('li:bɪg) a condenser used in distilling liquids.

lieu (lju:, lu:) *n* **in lieu of** instead of: *I get extra pay in lieu of some of my holiday.*

lieutenant (lef'tenənt *US* lu:'tenənt) *nc* an officer in a navy or an army.

life (laɪf) *nu* 1 the quality that plants and animals have but objects do not. 2 liveliness; energy. 3 living things. 4 a style or

way of living: *Village life is slow. nc, pl* **-ves** 5 the period between birth and death or that part of it up to or after a certain time. 6 the period for which something lasts: *the life of this government.* 7 a human being: *loss of lives in battle.* 8 a book describing someone's **life** (def. 5). **true to life** (of a story, etc.) correct; like the real thing. **take someone's life** kill someone. **lifebelt** ('laɪfbelt) *nc* a ring that floats in water, used to save someone from drowning. **lifeboat** ('laɪfbəʊt) *nc* 1 a boat sent from land to rescue people from wrecked ships, etc. 2 a boat carried by a ship in case it sinks. **lifeguard** ('laɪfgɑɪd) *nc* a person ready to rescue people from drowning in the sea or a swimming pool. **lifeless** *adj* 1 without life; dead. 2 lacking energy or interest. **lifelike** ('laɪflaɪk) *adj* very like life or something living. **lifelong** ('laɪflɒŋ) *adj* lasting for your life. **lifesaving** ('laɪf,seɪvɪŋ) *nu* methods of rescuing someone in danger of drowning. **lifestyle** ('laɪfstaɪl) *nc* the way a person or a group of people lives. **lifetime** ('laɪftaɪm) *nc* the period for which someone or something is alive or lasts.

lift (lɪft) 1 *vti* (cause to) move upwards. 2 *slang vt* steal. • *nu* 1 upward force. *nc* 2 a free ride in a car or other vehicle, esp. someone else's. 3 *US* **elevator** a box that moves up and down inside a building to carry people and things from floor to floor. **lift off** 1 take (something) off (something else). 2 (of a rocket) leave the ground. **lift-off** ('lɪftɒf) *nc* the act of lifting off by a rocket.

ligament ('lɪgəmənt) *anatomy nc* a piece of tough tissue holding bones in position at a joint while still allowing them to move.

light[1] (laɪt) 1 *nu* brightness. *nc* 2 a device that gives off light; lamp. 3 something that can be used to set fire to something, esp. a cigarette. • *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of a room, etc.) full of light. 2 (of a colour) reflecting a lot of light; pale. • *vt* 1 set fire to. 2 shine light on. **come to light** be discovered; become known. **in the light of** in view of; considering: *In the light of this information he should be expelled.* **shed** or **throw light on** make clearer; help to explain. **lighthouse** ('laɪthaʊs) *nc* a tower with a flashing light on top to help people in ships know where they are. **lightship** ('laɪtʃɪp) *nc* a ship that stays in one place and has a light like that of a lighthouse. **light-year** ('laɪtjɪə*) *nc* a measure of distance = 9.46 million million km (the distance that light travels in a year).

light[2] *adj* **-er, -est** 1 weighing little; not heavy. 2 for small loads: *a light railway.* 3 (of work) easily done. 4 (of a punishment) easy to put up with. 5 small in force, quantity, number, etc.: *light rain.* 6 not containing much alcohol: *a light beer.* 7 intended only for entertainment; not serious: *light music.* • *adv* with not much luggage: *to travel light.* **make light of** not treat as important or take seriously. **light-hearted** (,laɪt'hɑɪtɪd) *adj* cheerful; not serious. **lightly** *adv* **lightweight** ('laɪtweɪt) *adj* 1 (of a person or animal) weighing little. 2 not important or serious. • *nc* a light person or animal.

lighten[1] ('laɪtən) *vti* make or become **light**[1] or lighter.

lighten[2] *vti* make or become **light**[2] or lighter.

lighter ('laɪtə*) *nc* a device that produces a flame for lighting a cigarette, etc.

lightning ('laɪtnɪŋ) *nu* a flash of light in the sky, caused by a discharge of electricity held in the clouds.

lignin ('lɪgnɪn) *nu botany* a substance in plant cells that makes them woody; wood is made mostly of lignin.

lignite ('lɪgnaɪt) *nu* brown coal in which the texture of wood can still be seen.

likable ('laɪkəbəl) *adj* liked; pleasant.

like[1] (laɪk) *adj* (used before a noun) similar; alike. • *prep* 1 similar to; in a like manner to: *Your writing is like mine; The child was like its mother; The animal roared like a bull.* 2 such as; for example: *I sell lots of things, like furniture.* • *adv* in the same way as: *You walk like he does.* • *n* **the like** such a thing or such things: *I never heard the like!* **feel like** 1 feel as though you were. 2 want: *I feel like a cup of tea; Do you feel like going out?* **look like** 1 have a similar appearance to. 2 appear likely that... will come or happen: *It looks like rain; He looks like giving up.* **what is... like?** what sort of (a person or thing) is...? **likeness** 1 *ncu* (a) similarity. 2 *nc* a copy or picture.

like[2] *vt* be attracted by or fond of. • *nc* (usually *pl*) what you like; a fondness. **would like** want; wish.

likelihood ('laɪklɪhʊd) *nu* 1 the quality of being likely. 2 something likely.

likely ('laɪklɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 probable: *the likely result.* 2 to be expected: *He is likely to win.* 3 likely to succeed: *a likely candidate.* • *adv* probably.

liken ('laɪkən) *vt* compare: *He likened me to a thief!*

likewise ('laɪkwaɪz) *adv* in a similar way.

liking ('laɪkɪŋ) *nc* a fondness.

lilac ('laɪlək) *nc* a tree with large numbers of white or pale purple flowers. • *adj* pale purple.

lilt (lɪlt) *nc* an attractive, flowing rhythm, esp. in music. • *vi* (of music) have or move with a lilt.

lily ('lɪlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** (a flower of) a plant that grows from a bulb and has large flowers on long stems.

limb (lɪm) *nc* 1 an arm, leg, or wing. 2 a branch of a tree.

limber ('lɪmbə*) *v* **limber up** loosen your body with gentle exercise before a race, etc.

limbo ('lɪmbəʊ) *n* **in limbo** left alone; not being dealt with.

lime[1] (laɪm) *nu* a chemical; a calcium compound, esp. calcium hydroxide, used as fertiliser, in cement, etc. • *vt* put lime on. **limelight** ('laɪmlaɪt) *n* **the limelight** the position to which most attention is given: *The news of his discovery has really put him in the limelight.* **limestone** ('laɪmstəʊn) *nu* a rock of mainly calcium carbonate, much used for building with.

lime[2] *nc* the small, oval, green citrus fruit of the lime tree.

limerick ('lɪmərɪk) *nc* a type of humorous poem with five lines, esp. with a joke in the last line.

limit ('lɪmɪt) *nc* the furthest point, greatest value, etc. of something: *Unfortunately the price is over my limit.* • *vt* fix a limit for. **limitation** (ˌlɪmɪ'teɪʃən) 1 *nc* something, esp. a weakness, that limits an attempt, opinion, result, etc. 2 *nu* the act of limiting. **limited** ('lɪmɪtɪd) *adj* 1 small in amount or degree: *of limited interest.* 2 (of a company) of which the owners are liable only to the amount of money they invested. **limitless** *adj*

limousine (ˌlɪmə'zɪn) *nc* a large, powerful car used by a king, president, etc.

limp[1] (lɪmp) *adj* **-er, -est** not stiff or strong: *a book in limp covers.*

limp[2] *vi* walk, stepping more heavily with one foot than with the other because of injury. • *nc* such a walk.

limpet (lɪmpɪt) *nc* a shellfish that sticks to rocks: see picture.

limpet

limpid ('lɪmpɪd) *adj* (of water, air, or writing) clear; transparent.

line[1] (laɪn) *nc* 1 a long narrow mark, either occurring naturally or made with a pen, etc. 2 the edge of a shape, esp. in a picture. 3 a rope, wire, etc.: *fishing line; a power line.* 4 a row of people or objects, esp. in war: *soldiers in the front line.* 5 a row of written or printed words. 6 a telephone connection: *Is there an outside line free?* 7 one of the narrow parts of a television picture running across it. 8 a travel or transport company; part of this: *a bus line.* 9 a railway track. 10 a course of action: *This line of questioning won't tell us anything.* 11 an occupation or field of knowledge: *Is this job in your line?* • *vt* 1 mark with lines. 2 cause to be positioned along the sides of: *The streets were lined with happy people.* **draw the line** set a limit: *I draw the line at your spending so much money.* **in** or **out of line** doing or not doing what is expected of you. **line up** 1 put or come into a line. 2 prepare; plan: *I'm lining up a holiday for us all.* **line-up** ('laɪnʌp) *nc* a row or choice of people for a football team, etc.

line[2] *vt* put a coating or layer inside (something): *a jacket lined with fur.*

lineage ('lɪnɪɪdʒ) *nu* your descent from other people; your ancestors.

linear ('lɪnɪə*) *adj* to do with lines: *linear measurement.*

linen ('lɪnɪn) *nu* 1 a cloth made from flax. 2 sheets, tablecloths, and other things that are or could be made of linen.

liner ('laɪnə*) *nc* 1 a large passenger ship. 2 something that forms a layer inside something else, esp. to protect it.

linesman ('laɪnzmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a person who decides whether the ball has gone out of the playing area, etc., in a game such as football.

linger ('lɪŋgə*) *vi* stay; not go away.

lingerie ('læn3ərɪ) *nu fml* women's underclothes.

lingo ('lɪŋgəʊ) *often derogatory or humorous ncu, pl* **-es** (a) foreign or unfamiliar language: *She came back speaking some strange lingo.*

lingua franca ('lɪŋgwə 'fræŋkə) *nc* a language used between people with different native languages: *English is the lingua franca of Uganda.*

linguist ('lɪŋgwɪst) *nc* 1 a person good at learning or using foreign languages. 2 a person who studies linguistics. **linguistic** (lɪŋ'gwɪstɪk) *adj* to do with language or linguistics. **linguistics** *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of the development, nature, learning, etc., of language.

liniment ('lɪnɪment) *nu* a liquid made of

alcohol, oil, etc., rubbed into the skin to relieve pain in a joint or muscle.

lining ('laɪnɪŋ) *ncu* (a piece of) material used to line something, such as a coat.

link (lɪŋk) *nc* 1 a single part of a chain. 2 a connection between roads, facts, etc. • *vti* (often followed by **up**) connect.

linoleum (lɪ'nəʊlɪəm) (often shortened to **lino**) ('laɪnəʊ) *nu* a floor covering made of tough cloth covered with a hardened mixture of tiny pieces of cork, linseed oil, etc.

linseed ('lɪnsi:d) *nu* seeds of the flax plant, used to make linseed oil, which is used in paint, ink, etc.

lint (lɪnt) *nu* a soft cotton material, smoother on one side, used for dressing wounds.

lion ('laɪən) *nc* 1 a large, dark yellow, African and Asian animal of the cat family, the male of which has long hair on its neck: see picture at **animals.** 2 someone who is admired by others. **lioness** ('laɪənes) a female lion. **lion's share** the greatest part: *You have the lion's share—I'm not hungry.*

lip (lɪp) *nc* 1 *anatomy* either of the two fleshy parts forming the entrance to the mouth. 2 something like a lip, such as the turned-over top edge of a glass. **lip service** insincere promises: *The government was only paying lip service to improvements for women.* **lipstick** ('lɪpstɪk) *ncu* a (stick of) coloured substance used for ornamenting the lips.

liquefy ('lɪkwɪfaɪ) *vti* make or become liquid.

liqueur (lɪ'kjʊə*) *nc* a strong, sweet, alcoholic drink, esp. made from fruit.

liquid ('lɪkwɪd) *nc* a substance that flows and cannot be made to take up more or less space, such as water. • *adj* 1 able to flow. 2 flowing smoothly.

liquidate ('lɪkwɪdeɪt) *vt* 1 end the existence of (a company or business) by selling things owned, paying people owed money to, etc. 2 sell to get money. **liquidation** (,lɪkwɪ'deɪʃən) *nu*

liquidise ('lɪkwɪ,daɪz) *vt* 1 cause (something) to become liquid. 2 change solid food into liquid: *She liquidised some vegetables for the baby.* **liquidiser** *nc*

liquidity (lɪ'kwɪdɪtɪ) *nu* the state of having money to be able to pay all your debts.

liquor ('lɪkə*) *chiefly US nu* alcoholic drink. **liquor store** *US* a shop selling liquor.

liquorice *US* **licorice** ('lɪkərɪs) *nu* a black, sweet food made from the root of the liquorice plant.

lisp (lɪsp) *ncu* (a manner of speaking marked by) the saying of (θ) instead of (s), and (ð) instead of (z). • *vi* speak with a lisp.

list[1] (lɪst) *nc* a number of written names of people or things. • *vt* make a list of.

list[2] *vi* (of a ship) lean to one side. • *nc* a state or amount of listing.

listen ('lɪsən) *vi* (often followed by **to**) pay attention to hearing (something): *to listen to the radio.* **listener** *nc*

listless ('lɪstlɪs) *adj* lacking interest or energy. **listlessly** *adv*

lit (lɪt) past tense and past participle of **light**[1].

litany ('lɪtənɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** a number of short, similar, Christian prayers said one after the other.

litchi ('laɪ,tʃi:) *n* See **lychee.**

liter ('li:tə*) *US n* See **litre.**

literacy ('lɪtərəsɪ) *nu* the ability to read and write.

literal ('lɪtərəl) *adj* to do with the exact or simplest meaning of a word or expression: *a literal translation.* **literally** *adv* in a literal sense: *We literally laughed at his jokes till it hurt.*

literary ('lɪtərərɪ) *adj* to do with literature.

literate ('lɪtərət) *adj* 1 able to read and write. 2 educated.

literature ('lɪtrətʃə*) 1 *ncu* (a type or period of) writing, esp. plays, poetry, and novels: *English literature. nu* 2 the study of this. 3 writing on a particular subject, esp. giving information.

lithe (laɪð) *adj* **-r, -st** (esp. of a person or animal) able to bend easily.

lithium ('lɪθɪəm) *nu chemistry* a soft, silver-white element found in small quantities in various metals.

lithosphere ('lɪθə,sfɪə*) *nu geography* the solid part of the earth.

litigation (,lɪtɪ'geɪʃən) *nu* the act of bringing or contesting a claim in a court of law.

litmus ('lɪtməs) *nu* a substance that is turned red by acid and blue by an alkali.

litre *US* **liter** ('li:tə*) *nc* a measure for liquids: see appendix.

litter ('lɪtə*) *nu* 1 rubbish dropped by people in the street, etc. 2 an untidy collection of objects. 3 a material, such as straw, given to animals to lie on. *nc* 4 the young animals produced at one birth. 5 a bed or seat with handles for carrying a person. • *vt* 1 put (objects) all over (a place): *The room was littered with papers.* 2 (of objects) be all over (a place).

little ('lɪtəl) *adj* **-r, -st** small; short. • *adv* 1 not very: *little used.* 2 scarcely. • *determiner* not much: *We have little money; I drive very little.* **a little** a small amount; some. **little by little** a bit at a time. **make little of** act as though (something is) unimportant. **little-known** ('lɪtəl-nəʊn) *adj* not well-known.

littoral ('lɪtərəl) *adj* 1 of the seashore. 2 on or near the seashore: *littoral plant and animal life.*

live[1] (lɪv) 1 *vi* be alive; spend your life (in a particular manner or place): *They lived happily ever after.* *vt* 2 spend (your life, etc.). 3 be alive for (a certain length of time). **live down** be able not to mind the reputation brought to you by a mistake, etc. **live off** have the food, etc., of (someone else). **live on** 1 continue to live or exist: *His name lived on after his death.* 2 manage to live by eating or spending (something): *I live on very little.* **live through** experience: *My father lived through two wars.* **live up to** be as good as or do as well as (someone, an expectation, etc.): *You have your reputation to live up to.*

live[2] (laɪv) *adj* 1 alive: *Live chickens for sale.* 2 (of a wire, etc.) connected to an electricity supply. 3 (of a bomb) able to explode. 4 able to be seen or heard on television or radio at the time of the event: *a live discussion on recent events.*

livelihood ('laɪvlɪhʊd) *nc* an occupation by which you live.

lively ('laɪvlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 fast-moving; energetic; busy. 2 interesting. 3 (of a colour) bright. **liveliness** *nu*

liver ('lɪvə*) *nc* the largest gland in the body, the liver makes bile and cleans the blood.

livery ('lɪvərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a characteristic suit of clothes worn by male servants of a noble family, etc.

lives (laɪvz) plural of **life.**

livestock ('laɪvstɒk) *nu* animals kept or raised on a farm.

livid ('lɪvɪd) *adj* 1 (esp. of skin over a bruise) bluish-grey. 2 *infml* very angry: *I was livid about missing the plane.*

living ('lɪvɪŋ) *adj* alive. • *nu* 1 the state of being alive. 2 *nc* an occupation by which you earn what you need: *This work is my living; How do you make a living?* **living-room** ('lɪvɪŋrʊm) *nc* a room in a house for general use during the day.

lizard ('lɪzəd) *nc* an animal with four short legs and a long tail; a reptile: see picture at **reptiles.**

llama ('lɑːmə) *nc* a South American animal kept for its wool: see picture.

llama

lo (ləʊ) *interj old-fashioned* look! **lo and behold** (expression of surprise): *I was just beginning to think I'd lost him when lo and behold—he suddenly appeared!*

load (ləʊd) *nc* 1 something carried or supported by someone, a vehicle, etc. 2 a force borne by part of a building, bridge, etc., or resisted by a machine, etc. 3 an electric current being delivered. • *vt* 1 put (goods) on a lorry, ship, train, etc. 2 put a charge into (a gun). 3 put (a film) into (a camera). 4 apply force to. **a loaded question** a question suggesting a particular answer. **loads** *n pl, adv infml* a lot: *loads of money; loads better.*

loadstone ('ləʊdstəʊn) *n* See **lodestone.**

loaf[1] (ləʊf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) 1 a quantity of bread baked in one piece. 2 a shaped quantity of sugar or cooked meat. 3 *nu slang* brain; ability to think: *If you used your loaf, you'd know it was wrong.*

loaf[2] *vi* spend time doing nothing useful or interesting. **loafer** *nc*

loam (ləʊm) *nu* good earth for growing plants in, because it contains clay, sand, and rotting plant matter.

loan (ləʊn) *vt* lend (esp. money). • *nc* 1 something loaned. 2 *ncu* (an instance of) loaning.

loathe (ləʊð) *vt* hate strongly. **loathsome** ('ləʊðsəm) *adj* causing hatred or disgust.

lob (lɒb) *vt* throw in a high curve. • *nc* a high, curving throw.

lobate ('ləʊbeɪt) *adj biology* having lobes.

lobby ('lɒbɪ) *nc, pl* **-bies** 1 a small room leading to a larger one. 2 *chiefly Brit* a room in a parliament where the public can speak to members. 3 a group of people who lobby on a particular subject: *the fishing lobby.* • *vti* try to influence (people making laws).

lobe (ləʊb) *nc anatomy* a rounded part of something larger, esp. of a part of the body such as the ear or brain.

lobola (lɔːˈbɔːlə) *nu* the payment of money, cattle, etc., for a bride in southern Africa.

lobster ('lɒbstə*) *nc, pl* **lobsters, lobster** a large shellfish that has two double claws and is caught for food: see picture.

lobster

local ('ləʊkəl) *adj* 1 to do with a particular place: *a local newspaper.* 2 affecting only one part: *local pain.* • *nc* 1 a person living locally. 2 *infml, Brit* a nearby pub. **local authority** *Brit* the group of people dealing with the affairs of a part of the country. **local government** the governing of a part of a country by locally elected people. **locally** *adv*

localise ('ləʊkəlaɪz) *vt* make local, esp. by keeping within a particular place.

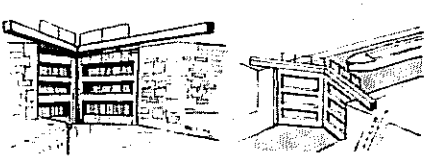
locality (ləʊ'kælɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a neighbourhood; the area around a place. 2 the scene of an event.

locate (ləʊ'keɪt) *vt* 1 find. 2 place; position: *Where is the house located?* **location** (ləʊ'keɪʃən) *ncu* 1 (an example of) locating. 2 the place where something is. 3 a place used for making a film, other than a studio built for the purpose: *filmed on location in Spain.*

loch (lɒk) *nc Scottish* a lake or a part of the sea nearly surrounded by land.

loci ('ləʊsaɪ) plural of **locus.**

lock[1] (lɒk) *nc* 1 a device fixed to a door, drawer, etc., that prevents it being opened except with a correct key. 2 a part of a canal or river, shut in by gates, by means of which boats can be moved between parts at different levels: see picture. 3 a device which prevents something moving: *a steering lock.* • *vt* 1 fasten (a lock); fasten with a lock. 2 *vti* (cause to) become fixed or stuck: *My jaws have locked.* **lock in** shut (a person or thing) in (a place) by means of a lock: *We'll lock ourselves in the room so we're not disturbed.* **lock out** 1 shut (someone or something) out of a place by means of a lock. 2 prevent (employees) from going to work by locking up a factory, etc. **lock-out** ('lɒkaʊt) *nc* an instance of locking employees out. **lock up** 1 shut (a person or thing) in a place, esp. a prison, by means of a lock. 2 lock the doors of (a building). 3 put out of reach; make unable to be used, spent, etc.: *Money locked up in property.*



lock

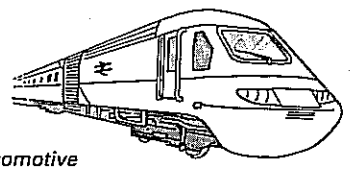
lock[2] *nc* a curl or small bunch of hair.

locker ('lɒkə*) *nc* a cupboard, usually one of many, for luggage left at a railway station, your belongings at work, etc.

locket ('lɒkɪt) *nc* a small container for a picture, etc., worn on a chain round the neck.

locomotion (ˌləʊkə'məʊʃən) *nu* (the power of) movement from one place to another.

locomotive (ˌləʊkə'məʊtɪv) *nc* a powered railway vehicle for pulling a train: see picture. • *adj* to do with locomotion.



locomotive

locule ('lɒkjuːl) *nc botany* the place inside a plant ovary.

locus ('ləʊkəs) *nc, pl* **loci** 1 *science* an exact place or point. 2 *mathematics* a curve, surface, or other figure containing the points that satisfy given conditions.

locust ('ləʊkəst) *nc* an African and Asian flying insect that travels in large numbers and eats great quantities of plants: see picture at **insects.**

lodestone (also **loadstone**) ('ləʊdstəʊn) *nc* a piece of stone containing iron that, being magnetic, can be used to find direction.

lodge (lɒdʒ) *nc* 1 a house in the country used for some activity: *a hunting lodge.* 2 *chiefly Brit* a house at the entrance to the grounds of a larger one. 3 the home built by beavers in a river or lake. • *vti* 1 (cause to) be provided with somewhere to live, esp. in an already partly occupied private house. 2 *vt* bring (a complaint, etc.) against someone. 3 *vi* become stuck. **lodger** *nc* a person who lodges in someone else's house. **lodging** *nc* 1 somewhere to live. 2 (*pl*) a room or rooms to live in in someone else's house.

loess ('ləʊɪs) *nu* a layer of fine light-coloured soil that is left by the wind.

loft (lɒft) *nc* the space inside a roof.

lofty ('lɒftɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 high; towering. 2 grand; noble.

log (lɒg) *nc* 1 a piece of a cut-up branch or trunk of a tree. 2 also **logbook** a book used to enter movements and events, esp. on a ship. 3 a device used to measure the speed of a ship. • *vt* 1 enter (a journey or event) in a logbook. 2 *vi* cut down trees for their wood.

logarithm ('lɒgərɪðəm) (often shortened to **log**) *nc* the number of times a number (the base) must be multiplied by itself to give

another number: *The logarithm of 100 to the base 10 is 2; log_{10} 100 = 2.*

loggerheads ('lɒgəhedz) *n* **at loggerheads** in strong disagreement.

logic ('lɒdʒɪk) *nu* 1 the study of how you use reason to arrive at a proof, conclusion, etc. 2 the reasoning used to support an argument, etc.: *I don't see the logic of what you are saying.* 3 correct reasoning. 4 the arrangement of the parts of a computer that lets it do its job. **logical** *adj* 1 correctly reasoned. 2 to do with logic. **logically** *adv*

loin (lɔɪn) *n* 1 *ncu* (meat from) the back, below or behind the ribs. 2 (*pl*) the part of the body from the waist to just below the hips. **loincloth** ('lɔɪnklɒθ) *nc* a simple garment wrapped round the loins.

loiter ('lɔɪtə*) *vi* stand around doing nothing useful.

loll (lɒl) *vi* lie or lean lazily.

lollipop ('lɒlɪpɒp) *nc* a boiled sweet on a small stick.

lone (ləʊn) *adj* (used before a noun) alone; single: *There were no buildings except a lone house.*

lonely ('ləʊnlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (unhappy because) alone. 2 causing a feeling of loneliness. **loneliness** *nu*

lonesome ('ləʊnsəm) *chiefly US adj* lonely.

long[1] (lɒŋ) *adj* **-er** ('lɒŋgə*), **-est** ('lɒŋgɪst) 1 measuring much in distance or time: *a long road; a long life.* 2 (used after a noun) reaching or lasting...: *a lesson two hours long.* 3 unlikely: *a long chance.* 4 (of a drink) containing a spirit and a large amount of a non-alcoholic drink. • *adv* (for) a long time: *long ago; Have you been here long?* **as** or **so long as** 1 for the time that. 2 provided that. **before long** soon. **in the long run** in the end; after some time. **long-distance** (lɒŋ'dɪstəns) *adj* travelling or reaching a long way: *a long-distance telephone call.* **long-range** (lɒŋ'reɪndʒ) *adj* 1 able to travel far: *a long-range plane.* 2 dealing with the future: *a long-range weather forecast.* **long-sighted** (ˌlɒŋ'saɪtɪd) *adj* unable to see close things clearly. **long-standing** (lɒŋ'stændɪŋ) *adj* existing for a long time. **long-suffering** (lɒŋ'sʌfərɪŋ) *adj* not complaining at unhappiness, annoyance, etc. **long-term** (ˌlɒŋ'tɜːm) *adj* lasting until or to do with the distant future: *a long-term plan.*

long[2] *v* **long for** want very much. **longing** *adj* • *nu* 1 the state of wanting something. 2 *nc* an urge. **longingly** *adv*

longitude ('lɒndʒɪtjuːd, 'lɒŋgɪtjuːd) *nc* the distance from a point on the earth to the line between the North and South Poles that passes through Greenwich, England, expressed as an angle: *Peking lies at about longitude 116 degrees East.* **longitudinal** (ˌlɒndʒɪ'tjuːdɪnəl, ˌlɒŋgɪ'tjuːdɪnəl) *adj* 1 to do with longitude. 2 to do with length.

loo (luː) *nc infml* a lavatory.

look (lʊk) *vi* 1 (often followed by **at**) position your eyes so as to see: *Look at this view!* 2 (often followed by **for**) search. 3 (of a thing) face; allow you to look: *My room looks onto the garden.* 4 (sometimes followed by an infinitive) seem or appear (to be): *You look tired.* 5 *infml* (followed by an infinitive) hope; expect: *He's looking to finish today.* 6 *vt* look at in a particular way: *He looked me in the eye.* • *nc* 1 an instance of looking: *I'll have a look.* 2 (often *pl*) an appearance: *The painting has a strange look to it; The beard spoils his looks.* **look after** take care of. **look at** watch; see or examine (in order to give an opinion, judgement, etc.). **look down on** act towards or consider as worse than yourself. **look forward to** be glad or hope that you are going to be, experience (doing something): *I'm looking forward to going on holiday.* **look in** (often followed by **on**) visit for a short time. **looking-glass** ('lʊkɪŋglɑːs) *nc old-fashioned* a mirror. **look into** find out about. **look on** 1 watch an event. 2 consider: *I look on this as a waste of time.* **look out** 1 be careful. 2 (usually followed by **for**) watch: *Look out for our turning.* 3 find by looking: *He looked out a book I wanted.* **look-out** ('lʊkaʊt) *nu* 1 the act of looking out (**look out** def. 2). 2 *infml* worry; business: *You must buy your own food—that's your look-out.* 3 chance of success or a happy result: *In this bad weather there's a poor look-out for the missing men. nc* 4 a person who keeps watch. 5 a place where a **look-out** (def. 4) is positioned. **look over** examine (a house, patient, etc.). **look through** 1 examine (a book, etc.) quickly. 2 search among. **look up** 1 look for (information about something) in a book such as a dictionary or encyclopedia. 2 visit (someone you have not seen before or for some time): *Look me up if you come to Australia.* 3 (appear to) improve: *The market for cars is looking up.* **look up to** respect.

loom[1] (luːm) *nc* a machine for weaving cloth.

loom[2] *vi* 1 appear unclearly, esp. also large or threatening: *dark clouds looming in the sky.* 2 (of an unwelcome event) be about to happen.

loop (luːp) *nc* 1 (the shape of) the part of a line, rope, etc., between two points where it crosses or (nearly) touches itself. 2 also **loop line** a railway line that leaves a main line and rejoins it further along. 3 a strip of cloth tape, etc., sewn at each end to a garment, towel, etc., to hang it by. 4 a circle of tape or film that can be played or shown continuously. • *vt* 1 make a loop in (rope, etc.). 2 contain or fasten with a loop. 3 *vi* move in loops.

loophole ('luːphəʊl) *nc* something not thought of in the making of a law, etc., that allows you to avoid obeying it: *a tax loophole.*

loose (luːs) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 not tight: *loose clothes.* 2 not fixed or contained: *a loose cover; The cattle have got loose.* 3 not pressed together: *loose earth.* 4 not exact: *a loose expression.* 5 considered bad by society: *a loose woman.* • *vt* also **let loose** cause to be **loose** (def. 2). **at a loose end** with nothing useful or interesting to do. **loosely** *adv* **loosen** *vti* make or become **loose** (defs. 1, 3) or looser.

loot (luːt) *nu* 1 goods that are stolen, esp. during fighting. 2 *slang or humorous* money. • *vti* take (goods) from (a place) as loot.

lop (lɒp) *vt* (usually followed by **off**) cut (esp. a branch of a tree).

lop-sided (ˌlɒp'saɪdɪd) *adj* with one side higher or bigger than the other.

loquacious (lə'kweɪʃəs) *fml adj* able or keen to talk a lot.

lord (lɔːd) *nc* 1 *Brit* a man given the title 'Lord': *Lord Wilmington.* 2 a master, ruler. **the Lord** the Christian God. **lordship** ('lɔːdʃɪp) *nu* the state of being a lord. **Lordship** *Brit nc* (used to refer to a judge, bishop, or lord): *Your Lordship: Their Lordships.*

Lords (lɔːdz) *n* **the** (**House of**) **Lords** the upper house in the British parliament in which lords sit. See also **the House of Commons** under **Commons.**

lore (lɔː*) *nu* stories and history (of a country or culture) collected over a long time: *weather lore.*

lorry ('lɒrɪ) *chiefly Brit nc, pl* **-ries** a large road vehicle for goods.

lose (luːz) *vt* 1 fail to continue to possess or have: *to lose your advantage.* 2 become unable to find: *I've lost my umbrella—will you help me find it?* 3 fail to win (a game, etc.). 4 (of a clock) run slow (by): *My watch loses a minute a day.* **be lost** 1 die or be killed. 2 (often followed by **in**) be totally interested: *He's lost in the newspaper.* **loser** *nc*

loss (lɒs) 1 *ncu* (an example of) losing. 2 *nc* something or someone lost. **at a loss** unable to decide what to do, through surprise, anger, etc.

lost (lɒst) past tense and past participle of **lose.**

lot (lɒt) *nu* 1 *infml* a group or collection: *His family are a pleasant lot.* 2 what will happen to you in your life: *His is a humble lot. nc* 3 one of a number of objects, the choice of which decides who does something: *Let's draw lots to see who goes first.* 4 a thing or group of things together, offered for sale at an auction. 5 *chiefly US* a piece of land with a particular use: *a parking lot.* **a lot** also **lots** 1 a large quantity: *lots of food; A lot of the cars are new.* 2 very much or often: *I eat a lot.* **the lot** everything.

lotion ('ləʊʃən) *nc* a liquid put on the skin or hair to heal, clean, etc.

lottery ('lɒtərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a game of chance in which some of those who pay to enter are chosen to win prizes.

lotus ('ləʊtəs) *nc* a lily with large pink flowers: see picture at **flowers.**

loud (laʊd) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of sound) strong; easy to hear. 2 making a lot of noise. 3 (of a colour) too bright; ugly. 4 (of clothes, a person, etc.) unpleasantly noticeable. **loudly** *adv* **loudness** *nu* **loudspeaker** (ˌlaʊd'spiːkə*) *nc* a device that turns electrical signals from a record-player, etc., into sound. **out loud** See under **out.**

lounge (laʊndʒ) *nc* 1 a living-room in a house. 2 a room for reading, conversation, etc., in a hotel. • *vi* (often followed by **about** or **around**) spend time lazily, esp. sitting or lying.

louse (laʊs) *nc, pl* **lice** a small wingless insect that lives on other animals and sucks their blood: see picture at **insects. louse up** *slang* fail; do (something) badly. **lousy** ('laʊzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having lice. 2 *slang* bad or ill.

lout (laʊt) *nc* an unpleasant, bad-mannered person.

lovable ('lʌvəbəl) *adj* deserving love.

love (lʌv) *nu* 1 a strong feeling of attraction and fondness, esp. between a man and a woman. 2 affection or respect. 3 no points in a game of tennis: *love-thirty.* 4 *nc* a loved person or thing. 5 *infml, Brit* (expression used to address someone): *Cup of tea, love?* • *vt* feel love for. **be** or **fall in love** (often followed by **with**) (of a man, or woman, or both) (start to) feel love (for each other). **make love to** 1 have sex with. 2 *old-fashioned* make loving

approaches to. **love affair** a relationship between two people who fall in love.

lovely ('lʌvlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 beautiful; attractive. 2 very pleasant. **loveliness** *nu*

lover ('lʌvə*) *nc* 1 (usually *pl*) a person in love. 2 a person, esp. a man, having a sexual relationship outside marriage. 3 a person who likes something particular: *doglovers.*

loving ('lʌvɪŋ) *adj* showing or feeling love. **lovingly** *adv*

low[1] (ləʊ) *adj* 1 set deep in; at a not very high level: *low in the valley.* 2 being a small distance from top to bottom: *a low building.* 3 small in quantity: *low prices.* 4 (of a sound) made up of slow repeated movements; deep. 5 bad: *a low opinion; low grade.* 6 not generally considered nice or acceptable: *low entertainment.* 7 (of a gear) producing little movement but much power. • *adv* in or to a low position. • *nc* a time, place, etc., when someone or something is low. **lowland** ('ləʊlənd) *nc* (often *pl*) a low piece of land. **low-lying** ('ləʊˌlaɪɪŋ) *adj* (of land) low, esp. near sea level.

low[2] *nc* the sound made by cattle. • *vi* make this sound.

lower ('ləʊə*) *adj* in or to the bottom part. • *vti* 1 make or become smaller in amount, price, etc.; decrease. 2 make or become lower in height. **lower yourself** bring yourself down in the opinion of others: *I wouldn't lower myself to do such a thing.*

lowly ('ləʊlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** humble; modest.

loyal ('lɔɪəl) *adj* faithful or true (to an employer, friend, country, etc.). **loyalist** ('lɔɪəlɪst) *nc* a person loyal to their king, queen, or government. **loyalty** 1 *nu* the ability to be or quality of being loyal. 2 *nc* (usually *pl*) something or someone to which you are loyal: *Where do her loyalties lie?*

lozenge ('lɒzɪndʒ) *nc* 1 a piece of solid medicine sucked to turn it liquid. 2 *mathematics* a diamond shape.

lubricate ('luːbrɪkeɪt) *vt* cover or spread (part of a machine, etc.) with oil or grease to make run smoothly. **lubrication** (ˌluːbrɪ'keɪʃən) *nu* 1 the act of lubricating. 2 a substance used for lubricating.

lucerne (luː'sɜːn) *nu agriculture* also **alfalfa** a kind of leguminous plant used as animal feed.

lucid ('luːsɪd) *adj* (of writing, a mind, etc.) clear.

luck (lʌk) *nu* 1 chance; fortune: *How this will turn out is just a matter of luck.* 2 good luck; success. **bad luck!** (used to express sorrow that someone has not had good luck.) **good luck!** (used to wish someone success.) **luckily** *adv* **lucky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** to do with or having good luck.

lucrative ('luːkrətɪv) *adj* bringing a good profit or good earnings.

ludicrous ('luːdɪkrəs) *adj* so odd or silly as to cause laughter: *What a ludicrous suggestion!*

lug (lʌg) *nc* a part of something that sticks out and by which it can be lifted. • *vt* pull or carry with an effort.

luggage ('lʌgɪdʒ) *nu* 1 bags, suitcases, etc., in which to put clothes, etc., for travel. 2 your own belongings packed in this way: *lost luggage.*

lukewarm ('luːkˌwɔɪm) *adj* 1 slightly warm. 2 not enthusiastic.

lull (lʌl) *vt* calm (a person, suspicions, a storm, etc.): *The noise of the water lulled him to sleep.* • *nc* a short period of calm, esp. during fighting or in bad weather.

lullaby ('lʌləbaɪ) *nc, pl* **-bies** a gentle song intended to send a child to sleep.

lumbago (lʌm'beɪgəʊ) *nu* pain in the lower back.

lumber[1] ('lʌmbə*) *nu* 1 *chiefly US* trees cut down for their wood. 2 *Brit* unused or unwanted belongings: *Put them in the lumber room.* • *vt infml, Brit* give something that is unpleasant or a nuisance to (someone): *I've been lumbered with showing people round all day.* **lumberjack** ('lʌmbədʒæk) *nc* a person who cuts down trees.

lumber[2] *vi* move slowly, heavily, and awkwardly.

luminous ('luːmɪnəs) *adj* 1 giving off light in the dark: *luminous hands on a watch.* 2 bright; shining.

lump (lʌmp) *nc* 1 an amount or piece of something solid with no particular shape: *a lump of coal; a lump of butter.* 2 a rounded raised part of a surface: *I've got a lump on my head where I hit it.* • *vt infml* 1 (often followed by **together**) consider or act towards as a group: *I'll lump the English together with the French, Germans, etc., as Europeans.* 2 put up with, without complaining about: *Like it or lump it.* **lumpy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** having or full of lumps.

lunar ('luːnə*) *adj* to do with the moon.

lunatic ('luːnətɪk) *infml or old-fashioned nc, adj* (a person) with a sick mind. **lunatic asylum** *old-fashioned* See **asylum** (def. 2).

lunch ('lʌntʃ) (also *fml* **luncheon**) ('lʌntʃən) *nc* a midday meal, esp. when the

main meal of the day is in the evening. • *vi* eat lunch.

lung (lʌŋ) *nc* either of two spongy organs inside the body into which air is breathed, so that oxygen can be put into the blood and carbon dioxide removed.

lunge (lʌndʒ) *vti* move or push (something) forward suddenly. • *nc* an act of lunging.

lurch[1] (lɜːtʃ) *vi* move (forward and) suddenly or hard to one side. • *nc* an act of lurching.

lurch[2] *nu* **leave someone in the lurch** leave someone to deal with problems without help.

lure (ljʊə*) *vt* tempt (someone) by leading to expect some pleasure, profit, or advantage: *She lured me into town with the promise of an ice cream.* • *nc* a thing that lures.

lurid ('ljʊərɪd, 'lʊərɪd) *adj* 1 (of a colour) unpleasantly bright. 2 shocking: *a lurid past.*

lurk (lɜːk) *vi* be hidden, esp. for an evil purpose: *The robber was lurking in the bushes waiting for me.*

luscious ('lʌʃəs) *adj* (of food) sweet or juicy.

lush (lʌʃ) *adj* **-er, -est** (of plants) growing in great quantity.

lust (lʌst) *nu* a strong feeling of wanting something, esp. sexual pleasure. • *vi* (often followed by **after** or **for**) feel lust (for).

lustre *US* **luster** ('lʌstə*) *nu* 1 shine. 2 splendour; glory. • *vt* give lustre to. **lustrous** ('lʌstrəs) *adj*

lute (luːt) *nc* a stringed musical instrument played by pulling at the strings.

luxury ('lʌkʃərɪ) 1 *nu* great comfort (in your home, food, clothes, etc.). 2 *nc, pl* **-ries** something enjoyable but not necessary. • *adj* luxurious. **luxuriant** (lʌg'ʒʊərɪənt) *adj* (esp. of plants) rich; growing in great quantity. **luxurious** (lʌg'ʒʊərɪəs) *adj* providing luxury: *a luxurious home.*

lychee (also **litchi, lichee**) ('laɪˌtʃiː) *nc* a fruit with a tough red-brown skin and a shiny white fruit.

Lycra ('laɪkrə) *nu Trademark* a stretchy fabric like nylon, used to make tight-fitting clothing such as tights, leggings, and swimsuits.

lymph (lɪmf) *nu anatomy* a clear liquid leaked out of and returning to the blood, that passes round the body, supplying and cleaning the body cells. **lymphatic** (lɪm'fætɪk) *adj*

lynch (lɪntʃ) *vt* (of a crowd) kill, esp. hang (someone) by the neck because thought to have performed a crime.

lynx (lɪŋks) *nc, pl* **lynxes, lynx** an animal of the cat family with a short tail and grey-brown spotted fur: see picture at **animals.**

lyre (laɪə*) *nc* an ancient stringed musical instrument played by pulling at the strings.

lyric ('lɪrɪk) *adj* also **lyrical** (of poetry) 1 expressing the writer's feelings. 2 written to be sung. • *nc* 1 a poem or song. 2 (usually *pl*) the words of a (popular) song. **lyrical** *adj* 1 lyric. 2 enthusiastic; full of praise.

lysin ('laɪsɪn) *nc medicine* an antibody that destroys bacteria by breaking them into pieces.

M

ma (mɑː) *n infml* short for **mother.**

ma'am (mam, mɑːm) *n* short for **madam.**

macabre (mə'kɑːbrə) *adj* causing horror; gruesome, horrible, ghastly: *a macabre death.*

macadam (mə'kædəm) *nu* small stones laid and pressed down in layers, often with tar, to form a road surface. **macadamise** (mə'kædəmaɪz) *vt* surface (a road) with macadam.

macaroni (ˌmækə'rəʊnɪ) *nu* a food made from wheat flour, in the form of tubes.

mace[1] (meɪs) *nc* 1 a stick with a round metal head with sharp points, once used as a weapon. 2 an ornamental stick used as a sign of someone's position or office.

mace[2] *nu* the dried outer covering of nutmeg seeds, used in food for its taste.

Mach (mɑːk) *nc* also **Mach number** the ratio of the speed of an object to the speed of sound.

machine (mə'ʃiːn) *nc* 1 a mechanical device, such as a pump or a food mixer, making use of power to do a task. 2 a powerful group of people or organisation that does not seem to care about individual people: *the capitalist machine.* • *vt* shape (an object) by cutting it with a machine tool. **machine-gun** (mə'ʃiːngʌn) *nc* a gun that fires bullets and reloads itself automatically. **machinist** (mə'ʃiːnɪst) *nc* a person who works a machine, esp. a sewing-machine.

machinery (mə'ʃiːnərɪ) 1 *nu* machines, considered together. 2 *nc, pl* **-ries** a system for doing something: *the machinery for dealing with complaints.*

mackerel ('mækrəl) *nc, pl* **mackerel, mackerels** a North Atlantic oily food fish: see picture at **fish.**

mackintosh ('mækɪntɒʃ) *nc* a raincoat, esp. made of cloth covered with rubber.

macrobiotic (ˌmækrəbaɪ'ɒtɪk) *adj* giving value to living things naturally produced: *a macrobiotic diet.*

macroeconomics (ˌmækrəʊˌiːkə'nɒmɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of the economy of a whole country or society.

mad (mæd) *adj* **-der, -dest** 1 sick in the mind; insane. 2 *infml* (usually followed by **about** or **on**) very enthusiastic or keen: *He's mad about cars.* 3 *infml* very angry. 4 odd; strange in behaviour: *I know I may seem a bit mad.* **madly** *adv* **madness** *nu*

madman ('mædmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a **mad** (def. 1) person.

madam ('mædəm) *nu polite* (used to speak to a woman, esp. a customer in a shop, etc.).

madden ('mædən) *vt* make **mad** (defs. 1, 3).

made (meɪd) past tense and past participle of **make.**

Madonna (mə'dɒnə) 1 *n* the Virgin Mary; the mother of Jesus Christ. 2 *nc* a picture or statue of the Virgin Mary.

madrasah (mə'drɑːsə) *nc* a Muslim school or college.

madrigal ('mædrɪgəl) *nc* a song for several different voices, without instruments.

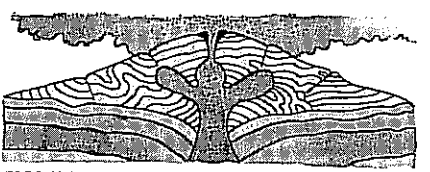
magazine (ˌmægə'ziːn) *nc* 1 a thin, paper-covered, regularly produced book, usually having large pages containing articles, photographs, news, etc.: *a music magazine.* 2 a store for ammunition and explosives. 3 a container for holding bullets for a gun, slides for a projector, etc.

maggot ('mægət) *nc* the soft larva of a fly, found esp. in rotten food.

magic ('mædʒɪk) *nu* 1 the art of influencing people or events by mysterious means. 2 the art of entertaining people with tricks that deceive their eyes. 3 anything that has a powerful, strange effect: *The doctor cured me so quickly—it was magic.* • *adj* also **magical** to do with magic. **magician** (mə'dʒɪʃən) *nc* a person who practises magic.

magistrate ('mædʒɪstreɪt) *nc* a person who decides simple law cases and makes court orders but is not a judge.

magma ('mægmə) *nu geography* the molten liquid beneath the earth's crust that forms igneous rock and erupts from volcanoes as lava: see picture.



magma

magnanimous (mæg'nænɪməs) *adj* generous, willing to forgive, etc. **magnanimity** (ˌmægnə'nɪmɪtɪ) *nu*

magnate ('mægneɪt) *nc* a wealthy or powerful person: *an oil magnate.*

magnesium (mæg'niːzɪəm) *nu* a chemical element; a metal that burns with a bright white flame.

magnet ('mægnɪt) *nc* 1 a piece of iron, steel, etc., that attracts iron. 2 a person or thing that attracts and is difficult to resist. **magnetic** (mæg'netɪk) *adj* to do with, esp. having, magnetism. **magnetic field** *nc physics* the space around a magnet in which its attraction is effective. **magnetise** ('mægnɪtaɪz) *vt* make magnetic. **magnetism** ('mægnɪtɪzəm) *nu* the property of a magnet; power to attract.

magnificent (mæg'nɪfɪsənt) *adj* splendid; excellent. **magnificence** *nu* **magnificently** *adv*

magnify ('mægnɪfaɪ) *vt* make (something) appear larger. **magnification** (ˌmægnɪfɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of magnifying. *nc* 2 the amount by which something is magnified or can magnify. 3 something magnified, such as a picture. **magnifying glass** a piece of glass, thick in the middle and thin at the edges, usually with a handle, used to magnify objects.

magnitude ('mægnɪtjuːd) 1 *nu* size. 2 *nc* the brightness of a star.

magnolia (mæg'nəʊlɪə) *nc* a tree with large, mainly white or pink flowers.

magpie ('mægpaɪ) *nc* 1 a black and white European and North American bird that is believed to steal things: see picture at **birds.** 2 a person who collects and keeps things for no clear reason.

mahogany (mə'hɒgənɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** a tropical hardwood tree; (also *nu*) the reddish-brown wood of this tree, much used for making furniture.

maid (meɪd) *nc* 1 a female servant. 2 short for **maiden.**

maiden ('meɪdən) *nc old-fashioned or poetry* also **maid** a girl or unmarried woman. • *adj* first: *a maiden voyage; a maiden speech.* **maiden name** a woman's last or family name before she married.

mail (meɪl) *nu, vt* See **post³.** **mail bag** a sack in which mail is carried. **mailbox** ('meɪlbɒks) *US n* See **postbox** under **post³.** **mailman** *US n* See **postman** under **post³.** **mail-order** *nu, adj* (the method of) selling goods by post: *a mail-order firm.*

maim (meɪm) *vt* injure (a person or animal) permanently.

main (meɪn) *adj* chief; largest or most important. • *nc* 1 a main water pipe, electric wire, etc. 2 (*pl*) a water, gas, or electricity supply or a system of waste pipes: *The water had been turned off at the mains.* **mainland** ('meɪnlənd) *nu* a large piece of land as compared with islands near it. **mainly** ('meɪnlɪ) *adv* generally; for the most part. **mainmast** ('meɪnmɑːst) *nc* the tallest mast supporting sails on a boat. **mainsail** ('meɪnseɪl) *nc* the sail at the bottom or back of a mainmast. **mainstay** ('meɪnsteɪ) *nc* 1 a wire or rope supporting a mainmast, fixed further forward on the boat. 2 the chief support of something. **mainstream** ('meɪnstriːm) *nu* the most popular opinions, music, fashions, etc.: *the mainstream of science.*

maintain (meɪn'teɪn) *vt* 1 cause to continue (to exist). 2 keep in good condition: *A car must be maintained to be reliable.* 3 provide with the means to live. 4 claim (to be true): *I maintain that I am right.* **maintenance** ('meɪntənəns) *nu* 1 the act of maintaining. 2 (money paid to provide) the means to live.

maize (meɪz) *Brit n* See **corn¹** (def. 2).

majestic (mə'dʒestɪk) *adj* grand; splendid. **majestically** *adv*

majesty ('mædʒəstɪ) *nu* the quality of being majestic. **Majesty** *nc, pl* **-ties** (used to refer to the King or Queen): *Your Majesties; Her Majesty.*

major ('meɪdʒə*) *adj* 1 large, larger, or largest: *the major part of the day.* 2 (more or most) important: *a major road; My major subject at university was English.* 3 (of a musical key) with the higher of the two possible third notes. • *nc* 1 an officer in an army or an air force. 2 *US, Australian* a university student's major subject. 3 *US, Australian* a student having a particular major subject: *an English major.* • *vi US, Australian* (usually followed by **in**) study as your major subject: *I major in English.*

majority (mə'dʒɒrɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a greater or the greatest number: *The majority of people have cars.* 2 the number by which a political party has more members in a parliament than the next strongest party or all other parties together. 3 the number of votes which separates the winner of an election from the best loser. 4 *nu* the age at which you are allowed to vote, etc.

make (meɪk) *vt* 1 cause (to exist); create: *I'll make the tea.* 2 cause to become: *Who made the floor dirty?* 3 force or cause to (do something): *Make him go away.* 4 be; be turned into: *He makes a good soldier.* 5 arrive in time for; arrange to have: *I didn't make my train.* 6 prepare (a bed) for sleeping in. 7 win; earn: *I made £100 on that sale.* 8 add up to: *3 and 4 make 7.* 9 reckon to be: *What time do you make it?* • *nc* a type of something according to who made it: *I know several makes of car.* **make-believe** ('meɪkbɪˌliːv) *adj, nu*

(something) pretended. **make for** 1 travel towards: *He's making for the coast.* 2 help to bring about. **make of** 1 consider to be the purpose or importance of: *I don't know what to make of him.* 2 make (something) using (a material): *a table made of wood.* **make off** leave or go away in a hurry. **make off with** steal. **make out** 1 see and recognise: *I can't make it out so far away.* 2 write (a cheque, etc.). 3 (try to) show to be: *The film made him out to be a coward.* 4 pretend: *Don't make out that you're rich.* **make out of** get (something, esp. sense or a reason) out of (an answer, statement, etc.): *Make some sense out of this report.* **maker** *nc* 1 a person who makes. 2 **the Maker** God. **makeshift** ('meɪkʃɪft) *adj* intended to serve for only a short time: *sheets pinned over the windows as makeshift curtains.* **make up** 1 put together; prepare (esp. something pretended or false): *That story is completely made up.* 2 be the parts of; be what (something) is made of: *Eleven people make up a football team.* 3 complete: *One more will make up the number we need.* 4 end (a disagreement, argument, etc.). 5 put **make-up** (def. 1) on. **make-up** ('meɪkʌp) 1 *nu* substances put on the skin of the face to change its appearance. 2 *nc* the combined parts of a person's character. **make up for** do or give something as a replacement for something lost or an unkind act: *I brought you a present to make up for coming home late.*

maladjusted (ˌmæləˈdʒʌstɪd) *adj* unable to deal with normal life and problems.

malady ('mælədɪ) *fml nc, pl* **-dies** an illness; disease.

malaise (mæˈleɪz) *nu* bodily discomfort or uneasiness without specific cause.

malapropism ('mæləprɒpˌɪzəm) *nc* a misuse of words which is often amusing to listeners.

malaria (məˈleərɪə) *nu* a disease carried by mosquitoes that produces fever.

male (meɪl) *adj, nc* 1 (to do with) a man, boy, or other animal of the sex that produces the seeds used in creating its young. 2 (to do with a plant producing) a flower with stamens, producing pollen. **male chauvinism** See **chauvinism.**

malevolent (məˈlevələnt) *adj* wishing evil to others. **malevolence** *nu* **malevolently** *adv*

malformation (ˌmælfɔːˈmeɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) not being normally formed.

malfunction (mælˈfʌŋkʃən) *vi* (of a machine, etc.) fail to work normally. • *nc* an instance of malfunctioning.

malice ('mælɪs) *nu* unkind thoughts towards someone. **malicious** (məˈlɪʃəs) *adj*

malignant (məˈlɪgnənt) *adj* 1 (of a growth in the body) spreading; doing harm. 2 feeling hate.

mall (mɔːl) *nc* a wide public pavement: *a shopping mall.*

malleable ('mælɪəbəl) *adj* (esp. of metal) able to be shaped by hammering or pressing.

mallet ('mælɪt) *nc* a hammer-like tool with a wooden head: see picture at **tools.**

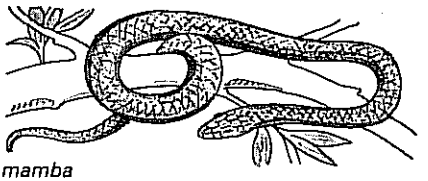
malnourished (ˌmælˈnʌrɪʃt) *adj* weak from improper eating or not eating enough.

malnutrition (ˌmælnjuːˈtrɪʃən) *nu* the condition resulting from not eating enough (of the right) food.

malt (mɔːlt) *nu* seeds, esp. of barley, dried after being wetted and allowed to start growing, used esp. in beer. • *vt* make into malt.

mama (also **mamma**) (məˈmɑː) *nc old-fashioned, fml* mother.

mamba ('mæmbə) *nc* a long slender poisonous snake from the cobra family: see picture.



mamba

mammal ('mæməl) *nc* any animal of which the female produces milk to feed its young.

mammoth ('mæməθ) *nc* a type of hairy elephant that has died out. • *adj* huge.

man (mæn) *nc, pl* **men** (men) 1 a grown-up male human. 2 any person. 3 (*pl*) members of armed forces who are not officers. 4 a male servant or employee. 5 *nu* the human race: *Man rules the world.* • *vt* (prepare to) work; look after: *Man the guns!* **the man in the street** an average or ordinary person. **man-made** (ˌmænˈmeɪd) *adj* made by man; not natural: *a man-made lake.*

manage ('mænɪdʒ) *vt* 1 succeed in being able (to do something): *I managed to come home early.* 2 have room, time, etc., for: *Can you manage another drink?* 3 control or be in charge of (a business, etc.). **manageable** *adj* able to be managed or easily handled. **management** 1 *nu* the act or skill of managing. 2 *nc* managers as a group. **manager** *nc* **manageress** *nc*

managerial (ˌmænɪˈdʒɪərɪəl) *adj* to do with a manager or management.

mandate ('mændeɪt) *nc* 1 an order made by a legal power. 2 power given by voters to a person or party winning an election. 3 power to govern the land of a defeated enemy. 4 land for which such power is given. • *vt* 1 give a **mandate** (defs. 1, 2, 3) to. 2 make (land) a mandate. **mandatory** ('mændətrɪ) *adj* ordered by a mandate; that must be done, given, etc.

mane (meɪn) *nc* the long hair growing on the neck of an animal, esp. a horse or lion.

maneuver (məˈnuːvə*) *US n, v* See **manoeuvre.**

manganese ('mæŋgəniːz) *nu* a chemical element; a grey metal used in making steel.

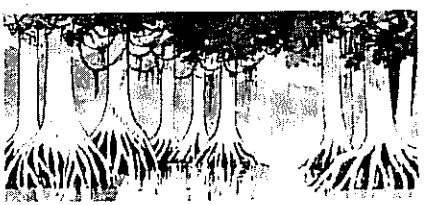
manger ('meɪndʒə*) *nc* a long, open box for food given to cattle or horses.

mangle[1] ('mæŋgəl) *vt* damage or destroy by cutting, pressing, or tearing.

mangle[2] *nc* a device with two rollers, between which wet clothes are squeezed to remove water from them.

mango ('mæŋgəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es, -s** the soft yellowish fruit of the tropical mango tree: see picture at **fruits.**

mangrove ('mæŋgrəʊv) *nc* a tree that grows in shallow coastal water in hot parts of the world and has roots that divide above the water: see picture.



mangrove

mangy ('meɪndʒɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (esp. of an animal) having a skin disease that makes hair fall out. **mange** ('meɪndʒ) *nu*

manhole ('mænhəʊl) *nc* a covered hole in the ground leading down to a tunnel, passage, etc.

manhood ('mænhʊd) *nu* the condition of being a man.

mania ('meɪnɪə) 1 *nu* an illness of the mind, causing excitement and sometimes violence. 2 *nc* great fondness or enthusiasm: *He has a mania for collecting furniture.* **maniac** ('meɪnɪæk) *nc* 1 person with a mania. 2 *infml* a wild, violent person.

manicure ('mænɪkjʊə*) *ncu* (a short time given to) care of the hands, esp. to make them look nicer. • *vt* carry out manicure on.

manifest ('mænɪfest) *adj, vt* (make) plain to see or recognise. • *nc* a list of the goods or passengers on a ship, plane, or train. **manifestation** (ˌmænɪfeˈsteɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) manifesting.

manifesto (ˌmænɪˈfestəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es, -s** a list of the things a political party says it intends to do if elected.

manifold ('mænɪfəʊld) *adj* many and various. • *nc* a part of an engine that divides a flow of fuel entering it or collects a flow of gas leaving it.

manioc ('mænɪɒk) *n* See **cassava.**

manipulate (məˈnɪpjʊleɪt) *vt* 1 handle or use (an instrument, machine, etc.). 2 influence the behaviour of (someone). **manipulation** (məˌnɪpjʊˈleɪʃən) *nu*

mankind (mænˈkaɪnd) *nu* 1 all humans. 2 all men.

manly ('mænlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a man) brave, attractive, or tough. 2 (of a woman) like a man. **manliness** *nu*

manna ('mænə) *nu* 1 food mysteriously supplied to the Israelites in the desert, as told in the Bible. 2 anything good or helpful, esp. unexpected.

mannequin ('mænɪkɪn) *nc* 1 a woman employed to show off clothes for sale by wearing them. 2 a model of a person used for making or showing clothes.

manner ('mænə*) 1 *nc* a way of doing something. 2 *nu* a person's general behaviour: *He has an unpleasant manner.* **all manner of** all kinds of: *There were all manner of people.* **mannered** *adj* 1 having manners as described: *well-mannered.* 2 having or marked by mannerisms. **manners** *n pl* (good) behaviour when you are with other people: *Don't forget your manners; bad manners.*

mannerism ('mænərɪzəm) *nc* a characteristic quality or habit.

mannish ('mænɪʃ) *adj* (of a woman's manner, voice, etc.) like a man: *She had a mannish way of walking.*

manoeuvre *US* **maneuver** (məˈnuːvə*) *nc* 1 a planned movement, esp. of armed forces. 2 an action or plan intended to influence someone to your own advantage. • *vti* carry out a manoeuvre (on): *He's manoeuvring to get elected leader.*

manometer (mæˈnɒmɪtə*) *nc science* an instrument for measuring the pressure of gases and vapours.

manor ('mænə*) *nc* also **manor house** the house of a lord or landowner.

manpower ('mænˌpaʊə*) *nu* the people able or needed to do a task: *Have we got the manpower to build the house in a month?*

mansion ('mænʃən) *nc* a large, grand house.

manslaughter ('mænˌslɔːtə*) *nu* the crime of killing someone without having planned to.

mantelpiece ('mæntəlpiːs) *nc* a shelf above a fireplace.

mantis ('mæntɪs) also **praying mantis** *nc* a large green insect that rests with its first pair of legs raised as if praying.

mantle ('mæntəl) *nc* 1 *old-fashioned* a long, loose garment covering the whole body from the neck down. 2 the part of a lamp round the flame that becomes hot and makes more light.

manual ('mænjʊəl) *adj* to do with, used with, or done by the hands: *manual work.* • *nc* a book describing how to use or repair a machine, etc.

manufacture (ˌmænjʊ'fæktʃə*) *vt* 1 make with machines. 2 make up (something that is not true). • *nu* the act of manufacturing. **manufacturer** *nc*

manure (mə'njʊə*) *nu* a substance, esp. animal waste, used to help plants grow. • *vt* put manure on.

manuscript ('mænjʊskrɪpt) *nc* 1 something written by hand or sometimes typed. 2 the first writing down of a book, etc.

many ('menɪ) *determiner, pron* a large number (of); several. **how many** what number of: *How many chairs are there?—Five.*

map (mæp) *nc* a drawn representation of (part of) the surface of the earth or the moon, the arrangement of stars, etc. • *vt* make a map of.

maple ('meɪpəl) *nc* a tree with winged seeds, of which the wood is used for furniture, etc.: see picture at **trees;** (also *nu*) this wood.

mar (mɑː*) *vt* spoil.

marasmus (mə'ræzməs) *nu* a wasting away of the body caused by malnutrition.

marathon ('mærəθən) *nc* 1 a running race over 42.195 km. 2 a lengthy task.

maraud (mə'rɔːd) *vti* attack and steal (from a place).

marble ('mɑːbəl) 1 *nu* a kind of limestone that can be highly polished and is much used for building. 2 *nc* a small stone or glass ball used in various children's games. • *vt* give an irregularly mixed coloured appearance to (paper).

March (mɑːtʃ) *n* the third month of the year, after February and before April.

march (mɑːtʃ) *vti* 1 (esp. of a group of soldiers), (cause to) walk with a firm, regular step. 2 walk in a determined way. • *ncu* 1 (an example of) marching. 2 *nc* a piece of music for marching to.

mare (meə*) *nc* a female horse.

margarine (ˌmɑːdʒə'riːn) *nu* a soft, greasy, yellowish food made from vegetable and sometimes also animal fats, used for cooking and eaten on bread.

margin ('mɑːdʒɪn) *nc* 1 an edge or border of a surface. 2 a strip free of writing or printing at the side of a page. 3 an extra amount: *a profit margin.* **marginal** *adj* 1 to do with a margin. 2 (of a seat in a parliament) held by a member who got only a few votes more than another candidate.

marijuana (also **marihuana**) (ˌmærɪjʊ'wɑːnə) *n* See **hemp** (def. 2).

marina (mə'riːnə) *nc* a harbour for small pleasure boats and yachts.

marine (mə'riːn) *adj* to do with the sea. • *nc* a soldier who fights on land or at sea. **mariner** ('mærɪnə*) *fml, poetry nc* a sailor.

marital ('mærɪtəl) *adj* to do with marriage or a marriage partner: *marital duty.*

maritime ('mærɪtaɪm) *adj* to do with the sea, esp. sailing and ships.

mark (mɑːk) *nc* 1 a line, scratch, spot, etc., on a surface. 2 a sign adding information (esp. to written language): *a postmark; a question mark.* 3 a characteristic quality or influence: *He left his mark everywhere he worked.* 4 a point given for a correct answer in school work, etc. 5 a number, esp. a total of marks (**mark** def. 4), or letter used to indicate the standard of school work, etc. • *vt* 1 put a **mark** (def. 1) on (a surface). 2 give (something) a particular or special character: *Let's have a party to mark the occasion.* 3 give a **mark** (def. 5) to. 4 put a label or other object by (an object or place) so as to be able to find the place again: *I've marked my place in the book.* 5 notice. **marked** (mɑːkt) *adj* (easily) noticeable: *a marked improvement.* **markedly** ('mɑːkɪdlɪ) *adv* **marker** *nc* 1 a thing (esp. a pen) that marks a thing or place. 2 a person who marks work or a game. **mark out** make (something, such as a games field) by marking the ground. **mark time** 1 move the feet up and down as in marching but without moving forward. 2 do nothing (to something) for a particular reason: *We're marking time on this until we are told we can have more money.* **mark up** add to the price of (something) to produce a profit.

market ('mɑːkɪt) *nc* 1 a gathering of people to buy and sell goods. 2 a place where goods are bought and sold. 3 possible buyers for a product. 4 a trade: *The cotton market has been better lately.* • *vt* put (a product) on sale. **on the market** for

sale. **marketing** *nu* the science and practice of selling goods. **market-place** 1 *nc* an open space in a town where a market is held. 2 *nu* the world of buying and selling. **market research** working out the probable number of possible buyers of a product.

marksman ('mɑːksmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a person trained to shoot well.

marmalade ('mɑːməleɪd) *nc* a kind of jam made from bitter oranges or sometimes lemons, limes, or grapefruit and eaten esp. for breakfast.

maroon[1] (mə'ruːn) *vt* (usually passive) leave or abandon (someone) in a lonely position: *They were marooned on their farm until the snow melted.*

maroon[2] *adj* dark brownish-red. • *ncu* a maroon colour.

marquee (mɑː'kiː) *nc* a large tent used for weddings, parties, exhibitions, etc.

marquess (also **marquis**) ('mɑːkwɪs) *nc* a nobleman next below a duke.

marriage ('mærɪdʒ) *nc* 1 the joining together of a man and a woman as husband and wife; the state of being married. 2 a ceremony of marriage; wedding.

marrow ('mærəʊ) 1 *nu* the substance inside hollow bones. 2 *nc* a large green vegetable with soft yellow flesh: see picture at **vegetables.**

marry ('mærɪ) *vt* 1 take (a person) as your husband or wife. 2 (of a priest, etc.) join in marriage.

marsh (mɑːʃ) *ncu* (a stretch of) watery land; swamp. **marshy** *adj* **-ier, -iest**

marshal ('mɑːʃəl) *nc* 1 an army or air force officer of the highest rank. 2 a person who organises processions, controls crowds, etc. 3 (in the USA) an officer of the law whose duty is to put into action the decisions of the courts. 4 (in the USA) the head of a police or fire department. • *vt* organise, put in order, or gather (thoughts, people, etc.).

marsupial (mɑː'suːpɪəl) *nc* an animal, such as the kangaroo, that carries its young in a pouch: *Marsupials are common in Australia.*

mart (mɑːt) *fml nc* a market(-place); centre of trade.

martial ('mɑːʃəl) *adj* to do with war, soldiers, etc.: *martial music.* **martial law** government by an army.

martyr ('mɑːtə*) *nc* 1 a person who is killed because of their beliefs. 2 a person who suffers greatly: *She is a martyr to poor health.* 3 *humorous* a person who complains a lot about small troubles. • *vt* (usually passive) kill (someone) because of their beliefs. **martyrdom** ('mɑːtədəm) 1 *nc* being martyred. 2 *nu* great suffering.

marvel ('mɑːvəl) *nc* something to wonder at: *the marvels of space travel.* • *vi* (often followed by **at**) wonder; be amazed. **marvellous** *US* **marvelous** *adj* wonderful. **marvellously** *US* **marvelously** *adv*

Marxism ('mɑːksɪzəm) *nu* the system of ideas started by Karl Marx. **Marxist** *adj* to do with Marxism. • *nc* a follower of Marxism.

mascara (mæ'skɑːrə) *nu* a cosmetic used for colouring the eyelashes.

masculine ('mæskjʊlɪn) *adj* 1 to do with or like a man. 2 (in some languages) of a class of nouns usually including male people and animals.

mash (mæʃ) *vt* press and mix (potatoes, etc.) until they are soft. • *nu* 1 mashed vegetables, meat, etc. 2 a mixture of water and corn, etc., fed to animals. 3 *infml* mashed potatoes.

mask (mɑːsk) *nc* 1 a covering for the face, used as disguise, for protection, to breathe a gas with, etc. 2 anything used to hide the real nature of something: *Behind his gentle mask, he was a violent man.* • *vt* 1 cover (the face). 2 hide the real nature of.

mason ('meɪsən) *nc* a person who builds with stone. **masonry** ('meɪsənrɪ) *nu* 1 stonework. 2 the art of building with stone.

masquerade (ˌmæskə'reɪd) *nc* 1 a gathering of people in fancy dress and masks. 2 a pretence; action intended to deceive. • *vi* (usually followed by **as**) pretend to be (something you are not).

Mass (mæs) *nc* 1 the Christian service of Holy Communion, esp. in the Roman Catholic Church. 2 a musical setting of parts of the Mass.

mass (mæs) *nc* 1 the size or volume of something; amount of matter. 2 a large solid block. 3 a great crowd or quantity. 4 (*pl*) *infml* a great quantity: *There's masses of food left over.* 5 *nu* the greatest number; majority. • *vti* bring or come together in large quantities. **mass production** the production of goods in factories in large quantities, with each worker doing only part of the work on each piece. **the masses** ordinary people as a group: *education for the masses.*

massacre ('mæsəkə*) *nc* the killing of many people, often without a plan. • *vt* 1 kill in large numbers; slaughter. 2 defeat completely (in a game, etc.): *Their team massacred us 12 nil.*

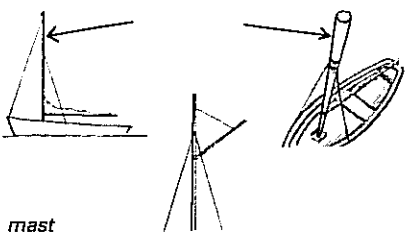
massage ('mæsɑːʒ) 1 *nu* the science of rubbing parts of the body to improve

health. 2 *nc* a treatment of massage. • *vt* give massage to (a person or a part of the body). **masseur** (mæ'sɜː*) *nc* a man who gives massage. **masseuse** (mæ'sɜːz) *nc* a woman who gives massage.

massif ('mæsiːf) *nc geography* the main part of a mountain range.

massive ('mæsɪv) *adj* 1 huge; bulky; heavy. 2 large; impressive; powerful.

mast (mɑːst) *nc* 1 an upright pole or post on a ship, to which sails or flags are attached: see picture. 2 a tall metal post which supports a radio or television aerial.



mast

mastectomy (mæ'stektəmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** *medicine* the surgical removal of a woman's breast, esp. because of cancer.

master ('mɑːstə*) *nc* 1 a man in charge: *I am master in my own house.* 2 the man in charge of a merchant ship. 3 a male schoolteacher. 4 a man who is fully qualified in a trade and employs others: *a master builder.* 5 a person who is very clever at something: *a master of disguise.* 6 a great painter. • *vt* 1 gain a thorough knowledge of (a subject). 2 get the better of or learn to control (a person or situation). **Master of Arts** or **Science** a man or woman who has passed the examinations for a second degree in arts or science. **masterful** *adj* able to master someone or something. **masterly** *adj* with thorough knowledge and skill: *His handling of that complicated subject was masterly.* **masterpiece** ('mɑːstəpiːs) *nc* 1 an outstanding object or piece of work. 2 the best object in a collection or in the work of a writer or artist. 3 a work or product of genius. **mastery** ('mɑːstərɪ) *nu* 1 charge; control. 2 thorough knowledge.

masticate ('mæstɪˌkeɪt) *vti* grind food to a pulp with the teeth; chew.

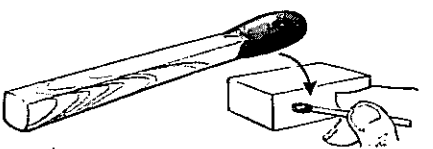
masturbate ('mæstəˌbeɪt) *vti* stimulate your own sexual organs for pleasure. **masturbation** (ˌmæstə'beɪʃən) *nu*

mat¹ (mæt) *nc* 1 a small floor covering. 2 a small piece of cloth, cork, etc., placed under objects to prevent damage to the furniture on which they are standing.

mat² *adj* See **matt.**

match¹ (mætʃ) *nc* 1 a competition between persons or teams playing a game or sport. 2 a marriage. 3 an equal; someone of the same ability: *She's a match for any of them.* 4 something that is the same as or goes well with something else: *This carpet is a very good match for the one you already have.* • *vti* 1 be the same (as) or go well (with): *I want a hat to match this coat; Their ideas match. vt* 2 (be) equal (to): *His courage matches hers.* 3 offer competition to. **matchless** *adj* without equal.

match² *nc* a small wooden stick with one end covered in a substance that catches fire when rubbed sharply against the special strip on a matchbox: see picture. **matchbox** ('mætʃbɒks) *nc* a box for matches with this special strip along its side.



match

mate (meɪt) *nc* 1 a companion, esp. friend or fellow worker. 2 a marriage partner; an animal's sexual partner. 3 a ship's officer who is next highest to the captain. • *vti* (cause to) become a sexual mate (of).

material (mə'tɪərɪəl) *nc* 1 a substance from which things can be made or with which things can be done. 2 a cloth; fabric. 3 *nu* the ideas and information used in writing a book, etc. • *adj* 1 made of matter. 2 important or relevant: *You've given me some very material help.* **materialise** (mə'tɪərɪəlaɪz) *vi* 1 come about; really happen: *I wonder whether his offer of money will materialise.* 2 (of the spirit of a dead person) become visible.

materialism (mə'tɪərɪəlɪzəm) *nu* 1 the overvaluing of money or material goods. 2 the belief that only material things exist. **materialistic** (məˌtɪərɪə'lɪstɪk) *adj*

maternal (mə'tɜːnəl) *adj* 1 like or to do with a mother; motherly. 2 on your mother's side of the family: *my maternal grandfather.*

maternity (mə'tɜːnɪtɪ) *nu* the condition of being a mother; motherhood. • *adj* for a woman soon to have a baby: *maternity clothes.*

mathematics (ˌmæθə'mætɪks) (*informal abbrevs.* **maths** *US* **math**) *nu* 1 (*with singular verb*) the science of numbers. 2 (*with*

plural verb) a person's ability to do mathematics: *His mathematics are not to be trusted.* **mathematical** *adj* 1 to do with mathematics. 2 that can be worked out by mathematics: *a mathematical certainty.* **mathematically** *adv* **mathematician** (ˌmæθəmə'tɪʃən) *nc* a person who studies or is an expert in mathematics.

matinée ('mætɪneɪ) *nc* a theatre or cinema performance in the afternoon.

matriarch ('meɪtrɪˌɑːk) *nc* a mother who is head of her family or group. **matriarchal** *adj* See also **patriarch. matriarchy** ('meɪtrɪˌɑːkɪ) *nc, pl* **-chies** 1 a form of social organisation in which women rule and power is passed from mothers to daughters. 2 a system in which women inherit land and possessions from their mothers. See also **patriarchy.**

matriculate (mə'trɪkjʊleɪt) *vi* (pass an examination that qualifies you to) enter a university. **matriculation** *nu* 1 this examination. 2 the act of matriculating.

matrimonial (ˌmætrɪ'məʊnɪəl) *adj* to do with marriage. **matrimony** ('mætrɪmənɪ) *nu* the state of marriage.

matrix ('mætrɪks, 'meɪtrɪks) *nc, pl* **-trixes, -trices** (trɪsiːz) a mould; a hollow inside which a thing can take shape.

matron ('meɪtrən) *nc* 1 (in the UK) the person in charge of nursing in a hospital. 2 the woman in charge of nursing, clothes, etc., in a boarding school, etc. 3 a married woman who is no longer young.

matt (also **mat**) (mæt) *adj* (of a surface) dull; not shining or polished.

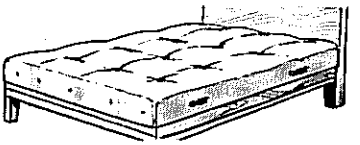
matted ('mætɪd) *adj* (of hair) tangled; not having been combed for some time.

matter ('mætə*) *nu* 1 all the substances of which objects, animals, and plants are made. 2 liquid that collects in a wound that goes bad, etc. 3 *nc* a subject; question: *I must see you about a very important matter.* • *vi* be important: *Does it matter?* **as a matter of course** according to the usual practice; automatically. **as a matter of fact** actually; to be correct. **matter-of-fact** (ˌmætərəv'fækt) *adj* factual; without expressing feelings. **no matter** without taking any notice of. **what's the matter?** what's the trouble?; what's wrong? **what's the matter with him?** 1 what has upset him? 2 what illness has he got?

matting ('mætɪŋ) *nu* a rough material used for mats, packing goods, etc.

mattock ('mætək) *nc* a large tool with a steel head used for loosening soil and cutting roots.

mattress ('mætrəs) *nc* a thick, firm pad covered with cloth made to fit on a bed, for lying on: see picture.



mattress

mature (mə'tjʊə*) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of a person, animal, or plant) fully grown. 2 (of fruit, wine, etc.) ripe to eat or drink. 3 wise with experience. • *vi* 1 (cause to) become mature. 2 *vi* (of a bill) become due to be paid. **maturity** (mə'tjʊərɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the state of being mature. 2 the date on which a bill matures.

maul (mɔːl) *vt* (esp. of a wild animal) handle roughly or violently.

mausoleum (ˌmɔːsə'lɪəm) *nc* a grand building in which a royal or other famous person is buried: *The Taj Mahal is the most famous mausoleum.*

mauve (məʊv) *adj* light purple, like lavender. • *ncu* a mauve colour.

maverick ('mævərɪk) *nc* a person who is unconventional in their actions.

maxim ('mæksɪm) *nc* a short, wise remark about life; proverb.

maximum ('mæksɪməm) *nc, pl* **-ima** (ɪmə), *adj* the greatest (amount) reached, possible, etc.: *today's maximum temperature.* **maximise** ('mæksɪmaɪz) *vt* make (profits, production, etc.) as great as possible.

May (meɪ) *n* the fifth month of the year, after April and before June.

may (meɪ) *v* 1 shall or will perhaps: *I may come; It might rain.* 2 be permitted (to): *May I leave early?* 3 would do well to: *You might shut the door.* 4 *fml* I hope that... shall or will: *May we have luck!* 5 (used in expressing a purpose) can: *Stand up so that you may see better.* 6 be no reason against: *We may as well go now.* **maybe** ('meɪbiː) *adv* perhaps.

mayn't (meɪənt) *v* may not.

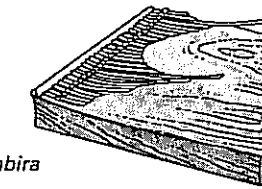
mayonnaise (ˌmeɪə'neɪz) *nu* a sauce for salads, made from eggs, oil, vinegar, etc.

mayor (meə*) *nc* the elected head of usually a large town.

maze (meɪz) *nc* 1 a puzzle in the form of many paths, esp. between high hedges, along which you have to find your way to the middle, etc. 2 something complicated or confusing: *The law is a maze.*

mbira (əm'biːrə) *nc* an African musical

instrument consisting of tuned metal or wooden strips, mounted on a wooden box, that vibrate when plucked with the thumbs: see picture.



mbira

me (miː) *pron* (used for the speaker or writer either after a preposition or when the object of a verb): *Give it to me; It won't do me any good.*

meadow ('medəʊ) *nc* a field of grass, esp. cut for hay.

meagre *US* **meager** ('miːgə*) *adj* 1 (of food) small in amount. 2 (of ideas, etc.) poor; weak. 3 (of a person) thin.

meal[1] (miːl) *nc* 1 a taking of food (usually of several kinds) and drink: *three meals a day.* 2 the food and drink eaten at a meal. **mealtime** ('miːltaɪm) *nc* the time when a meal is usually eaten.

meal[2] *nu* grain that has been broken up small, esp. to feed animals.

mealie ('miːlɪ) also **mealie meal** *ncu* (an ear of) maize. **mealie pap** porridge made from maize flour in southern Africa.

mean[1] (miːn) *vt* 1 have the sense of: *'Quick' means 'fast'.* 2 give (an expression) its exact sense: *When I say 'at once', I mean 'now'.* 3 be as important as: *Music means everything to him.* 4 indicate or be a sign of (something coming): *A north wind can mean snow.* 5 intend: *I didn't mean it; She doesn't mean to be rude.* **mean business** be serious about a matter.

mean[2] *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not generous, esp. with money. 2 (of an action) low; unkind. 3 (of a house, etc.) poor; dirty.

mean[3] *adj, nc* (an) average; middle: *yesterday's mean temperature.*

meander (mɪ'ændə*) *vi* 1 (of a river) wind; have many turns. 2 wander; walk around with no clear aim. • *nc* 1 a curve in a river. 2 a winding path or course.

meaning ('miːnɪŋ) *nc* 1 the sense of or idea behind an expression. 2 the sense or idea a person wants to make clear: *Do you get my meaning?* 3 an indication: *The election has a clear meaning: the President is losing popularity.* **meaningful** *adj* having some use or meaning. **meaningless** *adj*

means (miːnz) *nc, pl* **means** 1 anything that makes you able to do something: *A bicycle is a means of transport.* 2 (*pl*) money: *She has private means; a man of means.* **by all means** certainly; with my full approval: *May I have a biscuit?—By all means.* **by means of** by using: *I got in by means of a ladder.* **by no means** not at all; far from: *They are by no means rich.*

meant (ment) past tense and past participle of **mean.**

meantime ('miːntaɪm) also **meanwhile** ('miːnwaɪl) *adv, nu* (in) the period between two events.

measles ('miːzəlz) *nu* (*with singular verb*) a disease caught mainly by children, which causes fever and a rash and can be serious.

measure ('meʒə*) *nc* 1 an exact amount of a substance. 2 a necessary amount of a quality: *You need a measure of patience to deal with children.* 3 an instrument or container for measuring. 4 (often *pl*) an action; step; move: *Strong measures will be taken against law-breakers.* 5 a law: *a measure passed by Parliament.* 6 *nu* the proof, indication: *It is a measure of his success that everyone is happier.* 7 *nc* the metre or rhythm of a poem. • *vt* find the exact size or quantity of. **measure up (to)** prove yourself equal (to): *He measured up well to the other players.* **made-to-measure** *adj* (of clothes) specially made to fit a particular customer. **measurable** *adj* large enough to be measured. **measurement** 1 *nu* the act of measuring. 2 *nc* a size or quantity found by measuring.

meat (miːt) 1 *nc* the flesh of animals other than birds and fish, eaten as food. *nu* 2 solid food: *meat and drink.* 3 the important part of a speech, etc.

Mecca ('mekə) *n* 1 the sacred city of Islam in Saudi Arabia where Muslims go on pilgrimage. See also **hajj.** 2 **mecca** a place where many people go: *Greece is the tourist's mecca these days.*

mechanic (mɪ'kænɪk) *nc* a worker who makes or repairs machines: *a car mechanic.* **mechanical** (mɪ'kænɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with machines. 2 to do with mechanics. 3 (of behaviour) done as if by a machine. **mechanically** *adv*

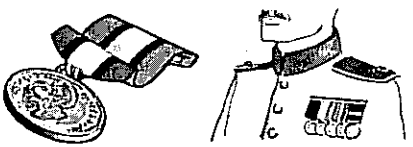
mechanics (mɪ'kænɪks) *nu* 1 (*with singular verb*) the science of movement and force; the science of machines. 2 (*with plural verb*) how something works: *The mechanics of this election are beyond my understanding.*

mechanise ('mekənaɪz) *vt* use machines to do: *The sorting of letters in the post office is mechanised now.* **mechanisation** (ˌmekənaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu*

mechanism ('mekənɪzəm) *nc* 1 all the parts of a mechanical process working as a

whole. 2 a system of parts that work together like the parts of a machine: *the mechanism of government.* 3 a way in which something can be done: *A secret vote is a good mechanism for the free expression of opinion.*

medal ('medəl) *nc* a piece of metal, usually like a coin and often on a ribbon, given to a person as a reward or to remember a special occasion by: see picture.



medal

meddle ('medəl) *vi* interfere in someone's affairs.

media ('mi:dɪə) *n pl* **the media** the chief means of informing and entertaining large numbers of people; newspapers, radio, and television: *The media were responsible for the politician's downfall.*

median ('mi:dɪən) *nc, adj* (the) middle; halfway (point).

mediate ('mi:dɪeɪt) *vi* act as a mediator.

mediator ('mi:dɪeɪtə*) *nc* person who tries to settle an argument between others.

medical ('medɪkəl) *adj* to do with medicine. • *nc infml* an examination by a doctor.

medicinal (mɪ'dɪsɪnəl) *adj* to do with or acting as medicine: *for medicinal use.*

medicine ('medsɪn, 'medɪsɪn) 1 *nu* the art and science of the prevention and cure of disease: *My sister is studying medicine at university.* 2 *nc* something to be eaten or drunk to help cure an illness.

medieval (also **mediaeval**) (ˌmedɪ'i:vəl) *adj* to do with the **Middle Ages.**

mediocre (ˌmi:dɪ'əukə*) *adj* ordinary; not particularly good or bad; second-rate.

meditate ('mediteɪt) 1 *vi* (often followed by **on**) think deeply; reflect (on something). 2 *vt* consider doing (something). **meditation** (ˌmedɪ'teɪʃən) *ncu* (a) deep thought; reflection.

Mediterranean (ˌmedɪtə'reɪnɪən) *adj* being or having a warm climate like that of the countries round the Mediterranean Sea.

medium ('mi:dɪəm) *adj* average; middle: *a man of medium height.* • *nu* 1 the middle point between two opposites. *nc* 2 *pl* **-s** a person who claims to have contact with the spirits of dead people. 3 *pl* **-dia** (dɪə) a means (of giving information, entertainment, etc.): *Films are a good teaching medium.* **medium-sized** ('mi:dɪəmsaɪzd) *adj* neither large nor small.

medley ('medlɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 a mixture of different things. 2 short snatches of music played one after the other: *They played a medley of sixties songs in the supermarket.*

meek (mi:k) *adj* humble; patient. **meekly** *adv* **meekness** *nu*

meerkat ('mɪəˌkæt) *nc* a small southern African carnivorous animal related to the mongoose.

meet (mi:t) 1 *vi* come together; gather together. *vti* 2 come into contact (with); get to know (each other). 3 come across (each other) by chance or on purpose. *vt* 4 go to welcome (someone who is arriving). 5 satisfy (demands). 6 deal or cope with (a challenge). **meeting** *nc* a gathering of people at which decisions are made or business is done.

megaphone ('megəfəun) *nc* a funnel-shaped device for making a person's voice sound louder, used for speaking to crowds.

melancholy ('melənkɒlɪ) *adj* sad; depressed. • *nu* sadness; depression.

melanin ('melənɪn) *nc biology* a black or brown pigment found in skin, hair, and eyes.

mellow ('meləu) *adj* 1 (of a person) kind; gentle. 2 (of a colour) warm; rich. 3 (of fruit) ripe. • *vti* make or become (more) mellow.

melodious (mɪ'ləudɪəs) *adj* tuneful; pleasant to listen to. **melodic** (mɪ'lɒdɪk) *adj* to do with melody.

melodrama ('melədrɑ:mə) *nc* a kind of play with over-simplified characters, strong emotions, and a happy ending. **melodramatic** (ˌmelədrə'mætɪk) *adj*

melody ('melədɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** a tune; air.

melon ('melən) *nc* a large, sweet, usually round fruit: see picture at **fruits.**

melt (melt) *vi* 1 (of a solid) become liquid. 2 (of a person) become kinder; change your hard intentions. *vt* 3 cause (a solid substance) to become liquid. 4 soften (someone's heart). **melt away** 1 become liquid and disappear. 2 (of anger, etc.) disappear.

member ('membə*) *nc* 1 a person or group that belongs to an organisation, church, team, etc. 2 one of a class of people or things: *a member of the human race.* **Member of Parliament** a person who has been elected to represent the voters of a district in a country's parliament. **membership** ('membəʃɪp) *nc* 1 the state of being a member. 2 members as a whole. 3 the number of members: *Membership in the local chess club fell last year.*

membrane ('membreɪn) *nc* 1 the skin-like material that lines, covers, or connects parts of animals or plants. 2 any skin-like substance.

memoir ('memwɑː*) *nc* 1 a short account of your personal memories of a dead person. 2 a learned article on a specialist subject. **memoirs** a person's own memories of his or her life; autobiography.

memorable ('memərəbəl) *adj* worth remembering.

memorandum (ˌmemə'rændəm) (often shortened to **memo**) *nc, pl* **-s, -anda** (ændə) a written note bringing a subject to someone's attention.

memorial (mɪ'mɔːrɪəl) *nc, adj* (something) done, built, or started in memory of a person or event.

memorise ('meməraɪz) *vti* learn and remember (words, music, etc.).

memory ('memərɪ) *nu* 1 the ability to remember things that are past: *Memory sometimes plays tricks with us.* 2 the place where information is stored in a computer. 3 *nc, pl* **-ries** something remembered from the past: *I have happy memories of India.* **in memory of** (done, built, etc.) so that people will remember (someone or something). **within living memory** recent enough for people still living to remember.

men (men) plural of **man.**

menace ('menɪs) *nc* a threat; danger. ● *vt* threaten (a person, jobs, peace, etc.). **menacingly** *adv* making menaces; in a threatening way.

menagerie (mɪ'nædʒərɪ) *nc* a collection of wild animals kept in cages.

mend (mend) 1 *vt* repair (something worn or broken). 2 *vti* improve (a relationship, etc.). 3 *vi* (of a broken bone, etc.) heal. **on the mend** *infml* getting better; recovering (from illness).

menial ('miːnɪəl) *adj* 1 (of a task) simple; humble. 2 to do with or suitable for a servant. ● *nc* a servant.

meningitis (ˌmenɪn'dʒaɪtɪs) *nu* a dangerous disease of the brain and spinal cord.

menopause ('menəpɔːz) *nu* the ending of menstruation in women.

menstruation (ˌmenstrʊ'eɪʃən) *nu* the monthly bleeding from a woman's womb.

mental ('mentəl) *adj* 1 to do with the mind. 2 *slang* mentally ill; mad. **mental hospital** a hospital for the mentally ill. **mental illness** any disease of the mind; madness. **mentally** *adv* **the mentally ill** those who have diseases of the mind; mad people.

mentality (men'tælɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a type of mind. 2 a view of or outlook on life.

mention ('menʃən) *vt* 1 refer to; speak or write briefly about (a subject). 2 name (a person) in a good or bad connection. ● *nc* the act of mentioning: *He received honourable mention.* **don't mention it** 1 it's a pleasure; there's no need to thank me. 2 there's no need to apologise.

menu ('menjuː) *nc* a list of the food that can be ordered in a restaurant.

mercantile ('mɜːkəntaɪl) *adj* to do with trade.

mercenary ('mɜːsənərɪ) *adj* 1 hired for money. 2 eager to make money. ● *nc, pl* **-ries** a soldier who fights only for money.

merchandise ('mɜːtʃəndaɪz) *nu* goods for sale.

merchant ('mɜːtʃənt) *nc* 1 a person who trades. 2 a shopkeeper. ● *adj* commercial: *a merchant ship.* **merchantman** ('mɜːtʃəntmən) *old-fashioned nc, pl* **-men** a merchant ship.

merciful ('mɜːsɪfʊl) *adj* showing mercy; forgiving.

merciless ('mɜːsɪlɪs) *adj* without mercy; cruel.

mercury ('mɜːkjərɪ) *nu* a poisonous, silver-coloured metal that is liquid at normal temperatures: symbol Hg.

mercy ('mɜːsɪ) 1 *nu* pity; compassion; unwillingness to punish. 2 *nc, pl* **-cies** a welcome event or situation. **at the mercy of** in the power of: *We were at the mercy of the weather in our tent.*

mere (mɪə*) *adj* **-st** plain; simple; no more than: *It's a mere ten minutes' walk; He made not the merest mention of the trouble.* **merely** ('mɪəlɪ) *adv* just; only.

merge (mɜːdʒ) *vti* 1 (cause to) become one (with) or join together. 2 cause to change slowly (into). **merger** *nc* the merging of two commercial companies.

meridian (mɪ'rɪdɪən) *nc* 1 a line that goes round the earth through the North and South Poles. 2 the height of a person's success. ● *adj* to do with a meridian.

meringue (mɪ'ræŋ) *ncu* a very light, breakable food made of white of egg and sugar.

meristem ('merɪˌstem) *ncu botany* any tissue of actively dividing cells which produces the cells of other plant tissues.

merit ('merɪt) 1 *nu* high quality; (great) worth. 2 *nc* a quality; good point. ● *vt* deserve.

mermaid ('mɜːmeɪd) *nc* an imaginary being, a young woman above the waist and a fish below it.

merry ('merɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 jolly; cheerful; happy. 2 *infml* slightly drunk. **merry-go-round** ('merɪgəʊˌraʊnd) *nc* also

roundabout a revolving machine with toy horses on which children ride: see picture. **merrily** *adv* **merriment** ('merɪmənt) *nu* fun; cheerfulness.

merry-go-round

mesh (meʃ) *nc* 1 a net. 2 the space between the threads or wires of a net. 3 a trap: *the mesh of crime.* • *vt* 1 catch in a net. 2 *vi* (of cog-wheels) fit into each other.

mesocarp ('mesəˌkɑːp) *nc botany* the (often fleshy) tissue of a fruit between the skin and the seed: *The mango has a juicy mesocarp.*

mesosphere ('mesəˌsfɪə*) *nu* the region of the earth's atmosphere between the stratosphere and the ionosphere.

mess (mes) *nc* 1 a dirty, untidy state; muddle. 2 (in the armed forces) (the people who use) a room or building for eating or spending free time in. • *vt* make dirty or untidy. **mess about** *infml* 1 do small tasks in a leisurely way. 2 waste time. 3 treat (someone) casually: *They've messed me about for months over this work.* **mess up** *infml* make (something) into a muddle or a difficult situation.

message ('mesɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a piece of news or information sent from one place to another. 2 the point made by (a book, etc.): *I've got the message.*

messenger ('mesɪndʒə*) *nc* a person who takes messages.

Messiah (mɪ'saɪə) *n* 1 the deliverer expected by the Jews. 2 a title given by Christians to Jesus Christ.

Messrs. ('mesəz) *determiner* a title for the name of a business company or the names of two or more men: *Messrs. Macmillan Limited; Messrs. Harry and Charles Brown.*

met (met) past tense and past participle of **meet.**

metabolism (mɪ'tæbəlɪzəm) *nu* the processes by which substances are changed in the bodies of animals and plants. **metabolic** (ˌmetə'bɒlɪk) *adj*

metacarpal (ˌmetə'kɑːpəl) *nc* one of the five bones in the hand between the wrist and fingers.

metal ('metəl) 1 *ncu* any of several substances obtained from under the ground, such as iron and gold, that are mostly hard at normal temperatures. 2 *nu* broken stones used in making roads. • *adj* made of **metal** (def. 1). • *vt* cover with **metal** (def. 2): *a metalled road.* **metallic** (mɪ'tælɪk) *adj* (sounding) like **metal** (def. 1).

metallurgy (mɪ'tælədʒɪ) *nu* the science of obtaining pure metals and the art of working in metal. **metallurgist** *nc* a person who studies metallurgy.

metamorphosis (ˌmetə'mɔːfəsɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (siːz) a change of shape or form, esp. in an animal.

metaphor ('metəfɔː*) *nc* a manner of speaking in which a thing is said actually to be something which it is like, such as 'She's a cat'.

metaphysical (ˌmetə'fɪzɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with the philosophy of existence and thought. 2 *infml* (of ideas) abstract and complicated.

metatarsal (ˌmetə'tɑːsəl) *nc* one of the five bones in the foot between the toes and the ankle.

mete (miːt) *fml vt* (often followed by **out**) measure out (punishment, etc.).

meteor ('miːtɪə) *nc* a small piece of material that enters the earth's atmosphere from space and is quickly burnt up. **meteoric** (ˌmiːtɪ'ɒrɪk) *adj* 1 to do with a meteor. 2 (of a rise to fame, etc.) sudden.

meteorology (ˌmiːtɪə'rɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the science of weather and of saying what it will be. **meteorological** (ˌmiːtɪərə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **meteorologist** *nc* a person who studies meteorology.

meter[1] ('miːtə*) *nc* 1 an instrument for measuring something passing through it, such as electricity. 2 an instrument for measuring the passage of time, such as a parking meter. • *vt* measure by means of a meter.

meter[2] *US n* See **metre**[1,2].

methane ('miːθeɪn) *nu* a natural gas burnt for cooking and heating.

method ('meθəd) 1 *nc* a (regular or orderly) manner of doing something. *nu* 2 order; organisation; tidiness. 3 *theatre* a way of acting as living a part rather than taking it on. **methodical** (mɪ'θɒdɪkəl) *adj* orderly; (done) using a method.

Methodist ('meθədɪst) *adj* of a Christian Church started by John Wesley in Britain in the eighteenth century. • *nc* a member of this Church. **Methodism** *nu* the teachings and practices of the Methodist Church.

methylated spirits (*infml abbrev.* **meths**) alcohol with methyl alcohol added, used for heating and lighting.

meticulous (mɪ'tɪkjələs) *adj* very careful, attentive to detail. **meticulously** *adv*

metre[1] *US* **meter** ('mi:tə*) *nc* a measure of length: see appendix. **metric** ('metrɪk) *adj* to do with the metre or the metric system. **metric system** the system of measures based on the metre, the gram, and the litre. **metric ton** See **tonne.**

metre[2] *US* **meter** *ncu* a pattern and rhythm of the syllables in poetry. **metric** ('metrɪk) *adj* of or concerning the metric system. **metrical** ('metrɪkəl) *adj* (of words) arranged in a metre.

metropolis (mɪ'trɒpəlɪs) *nc* the chief city of a country or district. **metropolitan** (,metrə'pɒlɪtən) *adj* to do with a metropolis. • *nc* the chief bishop of a province of an Eastern Church.

mettle ('metəl) *nu* courage; spirit.

mew (mju:) *vi* (of a cat) give its high-pitched cry. • *nc* the cry of a cat.

mews (mju:z) *nu* (*with singular verb*) 1 buildings used for the horses of a private house. 2 a street of houses made from a mews.

miaow (mɪ'aʊ) *nc, interj* the high-pitched cry of a cat. • *vi* (of a cat) give a miaow.

mica ('maɪkə) *nu* a substance found under the ground and used as an electric insulator.

mice (maɪs) plural of **mouse.**

microbe ('maɪkrəʊb) *nc* a germ; tiny animal or plant that can cause disease.

microbiology (,maɪkrəbaɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the science of microorganisms; the study of microbes.

microchip ('maɪkrəʊ,tʃɪp) *nc* a very small piece of silicon with electronic parts, used in a computer.

microcircuit ('maɪkrəʊ,sə:kɪt) *nc* a very small electronic circuit which holds a large amount of information, used in a computer.

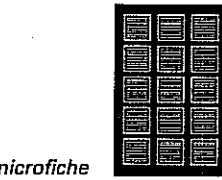
microcomputer ('maɪkrəʊkɒm,pju:tə*) *nc* the smallest kind of computer used at home, in small businesses and schools.

microcosm ('maɪkrəkɒzəm) *ncu* a situation, group of people, etc., taken to represent a larger one.

microeconomics (,maɪkrəʊ,i:kə'nɒmɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of the economics of particular areas or problems and the relationships between them.

microelectronics (,maɪkrəʊ,ɪlek'trɒnɪks) *nu* the branch of electronics concerned with the production of very small printed circuits.

microfiche ('maɪkrəʊ,fi:ʃ) *ncu* a sheet of film on which photographs of printed pages, etc., can be stored in very small form and read with a microfiche reader: *Our library has 100 years of newspapers on microfiche:* see picture.



microfiche

microfilm ('maɪkrəʊfɪlm) *nc* a film on which newspapers, books, etc., are photographed very small. • *vt* photograph on microfilm.

micrometer (maɪ'krɒmɪtə*) *nc* an instrument for measuring very small thicknesses.

microorganism ('maɪkrəʊ,ɔ:gənɪzəm) *nc* a very tiny animal or plant.

microphone ('maɪkrəfəʊn) (*infml abbrev.* **mike**) *nc* a device which changes sound waves into electrical signals for a telephone, radio, etc.

microprocessor ('maɪkrəʊ,prəʊsesə*) *nc* the central part of a small computer.

microscope ('maɪkrəskəʊp) *nc* an instrument that makes objects put under it look a lot larger. **microscopic** (,maɪkrə'skɒpɪk) *adj* 1 too tiny to see without a microscope. 2 to do with a microscope.

microwave ('maɪkrəʊweɪv) *nc* a very short wave, used for radar, cooking, etc.

mid (mɪd) *literary adj* in the middle of. **mid-point** ('mɪd,pɔɪnt) *nc* the point halfway between two others.

midday (,mɪd'deɪ) *nu* noon or the middle of the day. • ('mɪddeɪ) *adj* at noon or in the middle of the day: *It is too hot to go out in the midday sun.*

middle ('mɪdəl) *adj* 1 at the centre. 2 between others; neither first nor last. 3 (of opinions, etc.) away from the extremes; moderate: *the middle ground.* • *nc* 1 a centre or place away from the edges. 2 *infml* the waist. **middle-aged** between youth and old age; aged between about forty and sixty. **Middle Ages** the years between 1100 and 1500. **middle class** the class of people between the upper class and the working class. **Middle East** See under **east. middleman** ('mɪdəlmæn) *nc, pl* **-men** a trader who buys goods from their makers and sells them to people or shops.

midget ('mɪdʒɪt) *nc* an unusually small person. • *adj* very small.

midnight ('mɪdnaɪt) *nu* 1 twelve o'clock at night. 2 the middle of the night. • *adj* at midnight or in the middle of the night: *a midnight feast.*

midst (mɪdst) *literary nu* the middle: *He appeared in our midst.*

midsummer (ˌmɪdˈsʌmə*) *nu* the middle of the summer. • (ˈmɪdsʌmə*) *adj* happening at midsummer. **Midsummer Day** the longest day of the year.

midway (ˌmɪdˈweɪ) *adv* halfway (between two places).

midwife (ˈmɪdwaɪf) *nc, pl* **-wives** (waɪvz) a person who helps women to give birth.

midwinter (ˌmɪdˈwɪntə*) *nu* the middle of the winter. • (ˈmɪdwɪntə*) *adj* happening at midwinter.

might[1] (maɪt) past tense of **may.**

might[2] *nu* power; strength; force. **mighty -ier, -iest** *adj* powerful; strong. • *adv infml, chiefly US* very: *That's mighty good of him.* **mightily** *adv* 1 powerfully; strongly. 2 very: *She was mightily pleased.*

mightn't (ˈmaɪtənt) *v* might not.

migraine (ˈmiːgreɪn) *nc* a very bad headache, usually on only one side of the head or face.

migrate (maɪˈgreɪt) *vi* 1 go to live in another country. 2 (of birds, etc.) go to a warmer or cooler part of the world according to the season. **migrant** (ˈmaɪgrənt) *adj* migrating. • *nc* 1 a migrating person or animal. 2 *Australian* a person who has (just) arrived from another country to live. **migration** (maɪˈgreɪʃən) *nc* **migratory** (ˈmaɪgrətərɪ) *adj* (of birds, etc.) that migrate.

mihrab (ˈmiːræb) *nc* a niche or slab in a mosque which marks the direction of Mecca.

mike (maɪk) *infml n* short for **microphone.**

mild (maɪld) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of a person, manners, etc.) gentle. 2 (of weather) fairly warm. 3 (of food, drink, or tobacco) not strong or bitter. 4 (of interest, surprise, etc.) not great or excited. **mildly** *adv*

mildew (ˈmɪldjuː) *nu* a layer of fungus growing on things that are damp. • *vt* cover with mildew.

mile (maɪl) *nc* a measure of length: see appendix. **mileage** (ˈmaɪlɪdʒ) *nu* 1 the total number of miles a car has been driven. 2 *infml* unused capacity or wear: *There's plenty of mileage in that coat yet.* **milestone** (ˈmaɪlstəʊn) *nc* 1 a stone at the roadside that gives the distance in miles from the nearest town. 2 an important event in a person's life or in history.

militant (ˈmɪlɪtənt) *adj, nc* (a) fighting or aggressive (person). **militancy** *nu* **militantly** *adv*

military (ˈmɪlɪtərɪ) *adj* 1 to do with war or armies. 2 to do with soldiers. **the military** (*with plural verb*) soldiers.

militia (mɪˈlɪʃə) *nu* an army, sometimes of volunteer soldiers, that serves only in its own country.

milk (mɪlk) *nu* 1 the whitish liquid with which mammals feed their young. 2 cow's milk. • *vt* 1 draw the milk from (cows, etc.) to feed people. 2 take the resources of (a person, organisation, etc.). **milkman** (ˈmɪlkmən) *nc, pl* **-men** (in the UK) a man who delivers milk to his customers' houses.

milky (ˈmɪlkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 like milk, esp. in colour. 2 containing milk: *milky coffee.* **Milky Way** a strip of very faint stars across the sky.

mill (mɪl) *nc* 1 a machine for breaking grain, pepper, etc., up small: *a flour mill.* 2 a factory using or making a particular material: *a cotton mill; a paper mill.* • *vt* 1 break up small. 2 *vi* (usually followed by **about** or **around**) (of a crowd) move about within a space. **miller** (ˈmɪlə*) a person who works a flour mill.

millennium (mɪˈlenəm) 1 *nc, pl* **-nia** (nɪə) (the end of) a thousand years. 2 *nu* a future time of peace and happiness.

millet (ˈmɪlɪt) *nu* 1 a grass producing small seeds that can be eaten. 2 these seeds.

millibar (ˈmɪlɪˌbɑː*) *nc* a measure of the air pressure in the atmosphere.

milligram (ˈmɪlɪˌgræm) *nc* a measure of weight: see appendix.

millilitre *US* **milliliter** (ˈmɪlɪˌliːtə*) *nc* a measure of capacity: see appendix.

millimetre *US* **millimeter** (ˈmɪlɪˌmiːtə*) *nc* a measure of length: see appendix.

milliner (ˈmɪlɪnə*) *nc* a maker or seller of hats. **millinery** *nu* 1 hats. 2 the art of making hats.

million (ˈmɪljən) *determiner, n* the number 1,000,000; a thousand thousand. **millionaire** (ˌmɪljəˈneə*) a person who has a million pounds, dollars, etc. **millionth** (ˈmɪljənθ) *determiner, adv* (placed) after 999,999 others. • *nc* the whole of a quantity divided by a million.

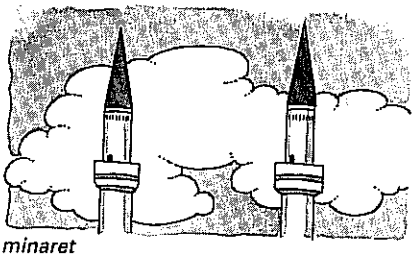
millipede (also **millepede**) (ˈmɪlɪpiːd) *nc* a herbivorous arthropod with a long segmented body and many legs.

mime (maɪm) *vt* act without speaking. • *nu* 1 acting without speaking. 2 *nc* an actor who mimes.

mimic (ˈmɪmɪk) *vti* imitate the behaviour of. • *nc* a person or animal that mimics (well). **mimicry** (ˈmɪmɪkrɪ) *nu* the act of mimicking.

mimosa (mɪˈməʊzə) *nu* a tropical tree or bush, often with small, yellow, ball-like flowers.

minaret (ˌmɪnəˈret) *nc* the tower of a mosque, from which people are called to prayer: see picture.



minaret

mince (mɪns) 1 *vt* cut up (meat, etc.) very small, esp. with a machine. 2 *vi* walk with short, affected steps. • *nu* 1 minced meat. 2 short for **mincemeat. mince your words** talk about something unpleasant without directly speaking of it.

mincemeat (ˈmɪnsmiːt) (often shortened to **mince**) *nu* a mixture of apples, dried fruit, fat, etc., made esp. into pies: *mince pies.*

mind (maɪnd) *nc* 1 the ability to think; intelligence; thoughts: *the power of mind over matter.* 2 opinion: *We are not of the same mind. nu* 3 wish; intention: *I've (half) a mind to send him away.* 4 memory: *I can't call it to mind.* • *vti* 1 be upset (by), feel offended (by). 2 object (to): *I don't mind your going. vt* 3 look after or care for (a child, etc.). 4 take care not to damage or be damaged by: *Mind my best hat!; Mind the traffic!* **bear** or **keep in mind** 1 remember. 2 take into account. **change your mind** alter your decision or opinion. **make up your mind** make a decision. **mind out!** be careful!; stand clear! **mind you** but then; though: *I don't eat much... mind you, I do like my food.* **mind your own business!** keep out of my affairs! **never mind!** it doesn't matter!; forget it! **never you mind!** it's nothing to do with you! **mindful** *literary adj* (usually followed by **of**) remembering; having in mind. **mindless** *adj* not according to reason; senseless: *mindless cruelty.*

mine¹ (maɪn) *pron* a person or thing belonging to me: *Mine is on the table; It is mine.*

mine² *nc* 1 a place underground where something such as coal, gold, or salt is dug out. 2 a rich source: *a mine of information.* 3 a metal case containing explosive, left in water or in the ground to explode when a vehicle, ship, etc., comes near it. 4 a passage dug under an enemy's camp, etc., in which explosive can be placed. • *vt* 1 dig out (coal, gold, salt, etc.) from mines. 2 make underground passages or tunnels in (a place). 3 place mines in (water or land). **minefield** (ˈmaɪnfiːld) *nc* 1 a piece of land that has been mined (**mine²** def. 3). 2 a subject or situation that has many hidden dangers. **miner** *nc* a person who works in an underground mine, esp. a coalmine.

mineral (ˈmɪnərəl) *nc, adj* (being or to do with) one of many substances without life that come out of the ground, such as rocks and metals. **mineral water** water that contains health-giving minerals and comes out of the ground.

mingle (ˈmɪŋgəl) *vti* (cause to) mix.

miniature (ˈmɪnɪtʃə*) *adj* very small: *A miniature camera is easy to hide.* • *nc* 1 a very small painting of someone's head. 2 any miniature thing. **miniaturise** (ˈmɪnɪtʃəˌraɪz) *vt* make a small version of something.

minibus (ˈmɪnɪbʌs) *nc* a small bus with room for about twelve people.

minim (ˈmɪnɪm) *US* **half note** *nc* a musical note that is twice as long as a crotchet.

minimal (ˈmɪnɪməl) *adj* very small; the least possible.

minimise (ˈmɪnɪmaɪz) *vt* 1 keep (bad effects, etc.) as small as possible. 2 make (disadvantages, etc.) seem as unimportant as possible.

minimum (ˈmɪnɪməm) *nc, pl* **-ima** (ɪmə), *adj* the smallest (amount) reached, possible, etc.: *We need a minimum of ten people; the minimum wage.*

mining (ˈmaɪnɪŋ) *nu* the digging of mines to obtain coal, gold, salt, etc.

minion (ˈmɪnjən) *nc* an unimportant servant or assistant.

minister (ˈmɪnɪstə*) *nc* 1 a Christian priest, esp. in some churches such as the Methodist. 2 the head of a government department. • *vi* (usually followed by **to**) take care of or give help to (someone). **ministerial** (ˌmɪnɪsˈtɪərɪəl) *adj* of or to do with a minister.

ministry (ˈmɪnɪstrɪ) 1 *nu* the job of a minister of religion. 2 *nc, pl* **-ries** a government department with a minister as its head.

mink (mɪŋk) *nc* 1 a small animal with fur. 2 a coat of mink fur.

minor (ˈmaɪnə*) *adj* 1 unimportant; lesser. 2 (of a musical key) with the lower of the two possible third notes. • *nc* a person who is too young to have full legal rights and responsibilities.

minority (maɪˈnɒrɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a smaller or the smallest number: *A small minority voted against the new law; We*

are in the minority. 2 the period for which you are a minor.

minstrel ('mɪnstrəl) *nc* a travelling musician of the Middle Ages.

mint[1] (mɪnt) *nu* a plant with strongly flavoured leaves used in food.

mint[2] 1 *nc* a place where coins are made. 2 *infml nu* a huge quantity of money. • *vt* make (coins).

minuet (ˌmɪnjʊ'et) *nc* 1 a dance popular in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. 2 a piece of music for this dance.

minus ('maɪnəs) *prep* 1 with (a number) taken away: *Seven minus four equals three.* 2 *infml* without: *She arrived minus her luggage.* • *adj* below zero: *We had minus temperatures yesterday.* • *nc* 1 a sign indicating minus (−). 2 *infml* a disadvantage; point against someone or something.

minuscule ('mɪnəˌskjuːl) *adj* extremely small: *a minuscule amount.*

minute[1] ('mɪnɪt) *nc* 1 a measurement of time = a sixtieth of an hour. 2 *infml* a very short time. 3 a sixtieth of a degree in an angle. 4 a short note. 5 (*pl*) a written record of the business of a meeting. • *vt* make a written record of the business of (a meeting).

minute[2] (maɪ'njuːt) *adj* 1 tiny. 2 exact; in great detail: *a minute study of these plants.*

miracle ('mɪrəkəl) *nc* 1 a wonderful event that you would not have thought possible. 2 anything particularly good or wonderful. **miraculous** (mɪ'rækjʊləs) *adj* like a miracle: *miraculous happenings.* **miraculously** *adv*

mirage (mɪ'rɑːʒ) *nc* 1 a false vision, esp. of water in a desert, caused by the state of the air. 2 anything that is not as good as it appears.

mire ('maɪə*) *nc* a wet, muddy place. **in the mire** in trouble or difficulty.

mirror ('mɪrə*) *nc* 1 a surface, esp. glass with one side covered in silver, that reflects light and can be used to look at yourself with. 2 a reflection of the life around: *Dickens' books are a mirror of his time.* • *vt* reflect; give a true impression of.

mirth (mɜːθ) *nu* amusement; laughter.

misadventure (ˌmɪsəd'ventʃə*) *nc* an unlucky event; accident: *death by misadventure.*

misanthrope ('mɪzənˌθrəʊp) *nc* someone who dislikes other people and prefers to be alone. **misanthropic** (ˌmɪzən'θrɒpɪk) *adj* **misanthropy** (mɪ'zænθrəpɪ) *nu*

misbehave (ˌmɪsbɪ'heɪv) *vi* behave badly; have bad manners.

miscarriage *nc* 1 ('mɪsˌkærɪdʒ, ˌmɪs'kærɪdʒ) the death of a baby through being born too early. 2 (ˌmɪs'kærɪdʒ) a situation where the right result is not produced: *a miscarriage of justice.*

miscellaneous (ˌmɪsɪ'leɪnɪəs) *adj* mixed, various: *miscellaneous notes; a miscellaneous collection.*

mischance (ˌmɪs'tʃɑːns) *ncu* (an) unlucky chance; (piece of) bad luck.

mischief ('mɪstʃɪf) *nu* 1 children's tricks or naughtiness. 2 harm. 3 trouble; bad relations: *He made mischief between his sisters.* **mischievous** ('mɪstʃɪvəs) *adj* causing mischief.

miscible ('mɪsɪbəl) *adj* that can be mixed: *Oil and water are not miscible.*

misconception (ˌmɪskən'sepʃən) *nc* a misunderstanding; mistaken idea of something: *You're under a misconception.*

misconduct (mɪs'kɒndʌkt) *nu* improper behaviour, esp. in your work: *The doctor was found guilty of misconduct.*

misdemeanour *US* **misdemeanor** (ˌmɪsdɪ'miːnə*) *nc* 1 a minor offence against the law. 2 a small act of wrongdoing.

miser ('maɪzə*) *nc* a person who likes to have money but not to spend it. **miserly** *adj*

miserable ('mɪzərəbəl) *adj* 1 unhappy; depressed; wretched; pitiable. 2 depressing: *miserable weather.* 3 poor, mean, inferior: *miserable food.* **miserably** *adv* **misery** ('mɪzərɪ) *nu* the state of being miserable; suffering. • *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a cause of misery. 2 *infml* a person who often complains.

misfire (mɪs'faɪə*) *vi* 1 (of a gun) fail to fire (correctly). 2 (of an engine) fail to fire at exactly the right time. 3 (of a plan) go wrong or out of control and produce unexpected results.

misfortune (mɪs'fɔːtʃən) *ncu* (a piece of) bad luck.

misgiving (mɪs'gɪvɪŋ) *nc* a doubt about the good sense of something; reservation.

misguided (mɪs'gaɪdɪd) *adj* acting or done under the influence of unwise ideas.

mishap ('mɪshæp) *nc* an accident; unlucky event.

misinterpret (ˌmɪsɪn'tɜːprɪt) *vt* misunderstand the sense or intention of (orders, etc.).

mislaid (mɪs'leɪd) past tense and past participle of **mislay.**

mislay (mɪs'leɪ) *vt* lose (something) for a short time, esp. by forgetting where it is.

mislead (mɪs'liːd) *vt* give incorrect information or advice to (someone).

misled (mɪs'led) past tense and past participle of **mislead.**

mismanagement (mɪs'mænɪdʒmənt) *nu*

failure to handle the affairs of a business, etc., well.

misogynist (mɪ'sɒdʒənɪst) *nc* a person who hates women. **misogyny** (mɪ'sɒdʒənɪ)

misplace (mɪs'pleɪs) *vt* 1 direct (your confidence, enthusiasm, etc.) towards an unworthy object. 2 put (something) in the wrong place.

misprint ('mɪsprɪnt) *nc* a mistake in printing. • (mɪs'prɪnt) *vt* print (a word, etc.) wrongly.

mispronounce (ˌmɪsprə'naʊns) *vt* pronounce (a word) wrongly.

Miss (mɪs) *determiner* 1 a title to put before the name of an unmarried woman. 2 the title of the winner of a beauty competition: *Miss World.* • *nc* **miss** *sometimes derogatory* a girl; young woman.

miss (mɪs) *vt* 1 feel sad at the absence of. 2 become aware of the absence of. 3 fail to be in time for (a train, etc.). 4 fail to take advantage of (an opportunity). 5 fail to hit (a ball). 6 fail to see (a person or thing): *We missed each other at the station.* 7 be absent from; not attend (an occasion). • *nc* a failure to hit, reach, etc. **miss out** 1 leave out; omit. 2 *infml* (usually followed by **on**) lose; fail to get. **missing** ('mɪsɪŋ) *adj* 1 absent or lost. 2 (of soldiers, etc.) absent after fighting but not yet known to be dead.

missile ('mɪsaɪl) *nc* 1 something that is thrown or shot through the air. 2 a container of explosive, driven by a rocket.

mission ('mɪʃən) *nc* 1 a party of people sent to carry out a particular task. 2 a task that a person or group is ordered to do, or sees as a duty to carry out. 3 a group of people who represent their national government in a foreign country. 4 an organisation that employs missionaries. 5 a centre of missionary or welfare work. **missionary** ('mɪʃənrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a religious worker who tries to spread their faith among non-believers, usually abroad. • *adj* to do with missionaries.

misspell (mɪs'spel) *vt* spell wrongly.

misspelt (mɪs'spelt) past tense and past participle of **misspell.**

mist (mɪst) *nu* 1 a kind of thin cloud just above the ground. 2 tiny drops of water on glass, preventing you from seeing through. • *vti* cover or be covered with mist.

mistake (mɪs'teɪk) *nc* something that is done wrongly; an error: *We've made a mistake.* • *vt* 1 be wrong about (something): *We have mistaken our way.* 2 (followed by **for**) suppose (someone or something) to be (someone or something else): *I mistook you for your sister.* **mistaken** (mɪs'teɪkən) past participle of **mistake.** • *adj* 1 wrong; in error: *He was mistaken about her age.* 2 wrongly supposed: *mistaken identity.* 3 unwise: *In a mood of mistaken jealousy she sent him away.*

mistletoe ('mɪsəltəʊ) *nu* a plant with small white berries that grows on various trees in the winter in Europe.

mistook (mɪs'tʊk) past tense of **mistake.**

mistress ('mɪstrəs) *nc* 1 a woman who employs servants. 2 a woman teacher. 3 a woman who has a lover to whom she is not married. 4 *nu* a woman in charge: *She was mistress of the situation.*

mistrust (mɪs'trʌst) *vt* have no confidence in; suspect. • *nu* lack of confidence; suspicion.

misty ('mɪstɪ) *adj* 1 full of or covered in mist: *misty mountains.* 2 unclear in your mind: *I have a misty recollection of the event.*

misunderstand (ˌmɪsʌndə'stænd) *vt* fail to understand properly. **misunderstanding** *ncu* (a) failure to understand properly.

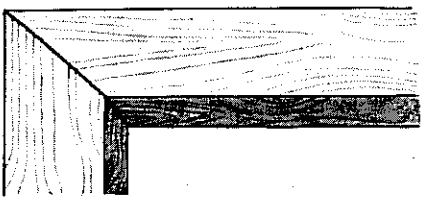
misunderstood (ˌmɪsʌndə'stʊd) past tense and past participle of **misunderstand.**

misuse (ˌmɪs'juːz) *vt* 1 treat badly. 2 use for an unsuitable purpose. • (ˌmɪs'juːs) 1 *nu* bad treatment. 2 *nc* an unsuitable use.

mite (maɪt) *nc* 1 *old-fashioned* a coin of very low value. 2 a small child. 3 any of many kinds of tiny animals similar to spiders. 4 *nu* a tiny bit.

mitigate ('mɪtɪgeɪt) *vt* lessen; make (a punishment, etc.) less severe.

mitre *US* **miter** ('maɪtə*) *nc* 1 a tall hat worn by Christian bishops, etc. 2 a joint made between two pieces of wood, etc., in the middle of the angle between them: see picture. • *vt* make a mitre joint between (two pieces).



mitre

mitten ('mɪtən) *nc* a glove with one cover for all four fingers together and a separate one for the thumb.

mix (mɪks) *vt* 1 put (substances, liquids, etc.) together, esp. by stirring. 2 make (a substance) by mixing others together: *I'll*

mix you a drink. vi 3 be able to be mixed: *Oil and water don't mix.* 4 meet people: *You should try to mix at a party.* • *nc infml* See **mixture. mixed** *adj* 1 made by mixing. 2 for people of both sexes, different races, etc.: *a mixed school; mixed sport.* **mixer** *nc* a machine for mixing food, cement, etc. **a good** or **bad mixer** a person who gets on well or badly with other people. **mixture** ('mɪkstʃə*) *nc* also **mix** a combination of different elements; blend; variety. **mix up** confuse: *I mix him up with his brother.* **mixed up** involved: *mixed up in crime.*

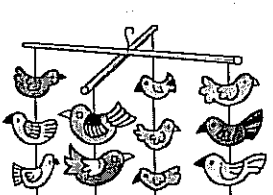
mnemonic (nɪ'mɒnɪk) *nc, adj* (a word, phrase, rhyme, etc.) that helps you to remember something.

moan (məʊn) *nc* 1 a cry of pain; groan. 2 *infml* a complaint or grumble: *We're having a moan about working hours.* • *vi* 1 cry or groan with pain. 2 *infml* complain or grumble.

moat (məʊt) *nc* a broad ditch full of water surrounding a castle.

mob (mɒb) *nc* a large noisy or excited crowd. • *vt* crowd excitedly round (a famous person, building, etc.) in friendliness or hostility.

mobile ('məʊbaɪl) *adj* 1 able to move or be moved. 2 provided with a means of transport. 3 that can change expression quickly: *He has mobile features.* • *nc* a hanging ornament made of parts that spin round in a current of air: see picture. **mobilise** ('məʊbɪlaɪz) *vti* gather (armed forces, etc.) together for action. **mobility** (mə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu* ability to move. **social mobility** movement from one social class to another.



mobile

moccasin ('mɒkəsɪn) *nc* a soft leather shoe originally worn by native Americans.

mock (mɒk) *vti* (when *vi*, often followed by **at**) make fun (of): *Don't mock him—he's doing his best.* • *adj* imitation; pretended: *A mock exam is a practice for the real thing.* **mockery** ('mɒkərɪ) 1 *nu* the act of mocking. 2 *nc, pl* **-ries** a meaningless performance of something serious. **mock orange** See **syringa.**

mode (məʊd) *nc* 1 a means; method; way: *Many modes of transport are used in the mountains.* 2 a fashion; fashionable style.

model ('mɒdəl) *nc* 1 a pattern; example to be copied; person whose picture is painted by an artist. 2 a tiny copy of something. 3 a perfect example: *He was a model of good behaviour.* 4 an article of dress designed to set a style. 5 a person who wears new fashions at shows or for advertisement: *a fashion model.* • *adj* deserving to be copied. • *vt* 1 form (clay, etc.) into the shape of (someone's head, etc.). 2 make a tiny copy of. 3 wear (clothes) as a fashion model. 4 *vi* act as an artist's model.

modem ('məʊdem) *nc* an electronic apparatus which transfers computer information into a form which can be transmitted by telephone to another computer.

moderate ('mɒdərɪt) *adj* 1 medium; neither strong nor weak, etc. 2 (of opinions, etc.) reasonable; not extreme. • *nc* a person with moderate political views. • ('mɒdəreɪt) *vti* (cause to) become moderate: *You ought to moderate your drinking.* **moderately** *adv* **moderation** (ˌmɒdə'reɪʃən) *nu* the state of being moderate; reasonableness.

modern ('mɒdən) *adj* 1 to do with the present or the recent past. 2 of the time since the end of the Middle Ages (about 1500). **modernise** ('mɒdənaɪz) *vt* make modern; bring up to date; add a bathroom, etc., to (a house). **modernisation** (ˌmɒdənaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu*

modest ('mɒdɪst) *adj* 1 (of a person) who does not boast of their qualities; humble. 2 fairly small; moderate: *modest beginnings; a modest house.* 3 decent; pure. **modestly** *adv* **modesty** *nu*

modify ('mɒdɪfaɪ) *vt* change the sense, character, etc., of. **modification** (ˌmɒdɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu* **modifier** *nc* a word that modifies another.

modulate ('mɒdjʊleɪt) 1 *vt* alter the pitch or frequency of (a sound, electrical signal, etc.). 2 *music vi* move into another key.

module ('mɒdjuːl) *nc* 1 a separate part of a spacecraft: *a landing module.* 2 an original unit of size from which larger parts of things are designed.

mohair ('məʊheə*) *nu* a hairy cloth made from the long hair of the Angora goat.

Mohammedan (mə'hæmɪdən) *n, adj* See **Muslim.**

moist (mɔɪst) *adj* damp; slightly wet. **moisten** ('mɔɪsən) *vt* make moist. **moisture** ('mɔɪstʃə*) *nu* dampness, slight wetness.

molar ('məʊlə*) *nc, adj* (to do with) one of the large teeth near the back of the mouth.

molasses (mə'læsɪz) *nu* a thick brown liquid obtained from raw sugar, esp. fed to cattle.

mold (məʊld) *US n, v* See **mould**[1,2].

molder ('məʊldə*) *US v* See **moulder.**

molding ('məʊldɪŋ) *US n* See **moulding.**

mole[1] (məʊl) *nc* 1 a small furry animal that lives underground. 2 *infml* an employee of a government organisation who gives its secrets to an enemy of the nation. **molehill** ('məʊlhɪl) *nc* a small pile of earth pushed above the surface by a mole as it digs. **make a mountain out of a molehill** make a great fuss over a small matter.

mole[2] *nc* a black or brown spot on the skin.

molecule ('mɒlɪkjuːl) *nc* the smallest possible quantity of a chemical compound. **molecular** (mə'lekjulə*) *adj*

molest (mə'lest) *vt* 1 annoy or trouble (someone). 2 interfere with (someone) sexually.

mollusc ('mɒləsk) *nc* one of a class of animals with shells and soft bodies, including snails and oysters.

molt (məʊlt) *US v, n* See **moult.**

molten ('məʊltən) *adj* 1 (of metals, etc.) melted; liquid. 2 made from melted metal.

moment ('məʊmənt) 1 *nc* a very short time. 2 *nu* importance. **at the moment** just now; at present. **for the moment** for now; for the present. **the moment** as soon as: *The moment he comes, you can go.* **momentary** ('məʊməntərɪ) *adj* lasting only a moment. **momentarily** ('məʊməntərəlɪ) *adv*

momentous (mə'mentəs) *adj* fateful; very important: *a momentous decision.*

momentum (mə'mentəm) *nu* the force that causes a moving object to continue moving.

monarch ('mɒnək) *nc* 1 a king, queen, emperor, etc. 2 a ruler: *He is monarch of all around him.* **monarchy** ('mɒnəkɪ) 1 *nu* the existence of a monarch. *nc, pl* **-chies** 2 a system of monarchy. 3 a country with a monarch.

monastery ('mɒnəstrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where monks live together. **monastic** (mə'næstɪk) *adj*

Monday ('mʌndɪ) *nc* the second day of the week, after Sunday and before Tuesday.

monetary ('mʌnɪtərɪ) *adj* to do with money. **monetarist** *nc, adj* (a person) believing that the best way to control the economy of a country is by controlling the supply of money.

money ('mʌnɪ) *nu* 1 banknotes and coins, for which things are sold and with which things are bought. 2 wealth. **money-box** *nc* a locked box in which to save or collect coins, which can be put in through a narrow hole. **money order** an order to a post office for money to be paid to a named person at another post office.

mongoose ('mɒŋguːs) *nc, pl* **-s** a small furry animal known for killing poisonous snakes: see picture at **animals.**

mongrel ('mʌŋgrəl) *nc, adj* a dog of mixed parentage.

monitor ('mɒnɪtə*) *nc* 1 a person or machine that checks or makes a record of an activity. 2 a child at school who helps a teacher, esp. by organising other children. 3 a television used to observe and check the programmes being sent out. • *vt* check or make a record of (an activity).

monk (mʌŋk) *nc* a man who joins others in leading a simple, religious life.

monkey ('mʌŋkɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 any of many kinds of animal that are closely related to man: see picture at **animals.** 2 *infml* a playful or naughty person, esp. a child. • *vi infml* (often followed by **about, with,** etc.) play naughtily; interfere (with machines, etc.).

monochrome ('mɒnəkrəʊm) *nu, adj* 1 (of paintings, printing, etc.) (in) one colour. 2 (of films, television, etc.) black and white.

monocotyledon (ˌmɒnəˌkɒtə'liːdən) *nc botany* a flowering plant with only one seed leaf. See also **dicotyledon.**

monoculture ('mɒnəˌkʌltʃə*) *nu agriculture* the growing of only one kind of crop: *It is a mistake to concentrate on coffee monoculture when the country is starving.*

monoecious (mɒ'niːʃəs) *adj* 1 *botany* with both male and female parts on the same plant. 2 *zoology* with both male and female organs in the same individual.

monogamy (mə'nɒgəmɪ) *nu* marriage to one wife or husband at a time.

monogram ('mɒnəgræm) *nc* a pattern made from two or more letters, usually the first letters of a person's names, and used to ornament handkerchiefs, etc.

monologue ('mɒnəlɒg) *theatre nc* 1 a long speech by one actor in a play. 2 a piece written for only one actor to speak.

monopoly (mə'nɒpəlɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** 1 control of all sales of a particular product. 2 a company that has a monopoly. 3 the largest claim (on); the greatest part: *Her children have the monopoly of her attention.* **Monopoly** *Trademark nu* a board game for two or more players, concerned with buying property in any of several large cities of the world.

monosodium glutamate (ˌmɒnəˌsəʊdɪəm

'glutə,meɪt) *nu* a white powder added to food to give it flavour.

monotony (mə'nɒtənɪ) *nu* 1 lack of variety; dullness. 2 (of music or a voice) sameness of tone. **monotonous** *adj*

monoxide (mə'nɒksaɪd) *nc* a chemical compound containing one atom of oxygen in each molecule: *carbon monoxide (symbol CO).*

monsoon (mɒn'su:n) *nc* a strong, seasonal wind in south-east Asia, esp. one bringing heavy rain in the summer.

monster ('mɒnstə*) *nc* 1 a huge, esp. imaginary animal: *the Loch Ness Monster.* 2 a very cruel or evil person. • *adj* huge; larger than life.

monstrous ('mɒnstrəs) *adj* 1 huge; enormous. 2 shocking; disgraceful: *a monstrous crime.* **monstrosity** (mɒn'strɒsɪtɪ) *nc*

montage (mɒn'tɑ:ʒ) 1 *nu* choosing and putting together material for a film. 2 *ncu* (the preparing of) several photographs which are made into one.

month (mʌnθ) *nc* 1 one of the twelve divisions of the year, of between twenty-eight and thirty-one days. 2 the time between a date in one month and the same date in the next month, such as from 6 May to 6 June. **monthly** ('mʌnθlɪ) *adj, adv* (that happens) every month; once a month. • *nc, pl* **-lies** a monthly magazine, etc.

monument ('mɒnjʊmənt) *nc* 1 a statue or other memorial built in honour of a dead person. 2 a permanent reminder of people or events of the past: *The laws he brought in are a monument to his efforts.* **monumental** (,mɒnjʊ'mentəl) *adj* 1 serving as a monument. 2 great; lasting: *a monumental piece of work.* 3 remarkable: *a monumental failure.*

moo (mu:) *nc, interj* a sound made by a cow. • *vi* (of a cow) give a moo.

mood[1] (mu:d) *nc* a state of mind or feeling. **moody** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person) 1 whose state of mind or feeling varies a lot. 2 bad-tempered.

mood[2] *grammar nc* any of the classes into which verbs are divided according to whether they express statements, wishes, orders, etc.

moon (mu:n) 1 *nc* a planet that moves around a larger planet. *nu* 2 the moon that goes around Earth. 3 the moon as seen from Earth: *There will be a full moon tonight.* **moon about** wander about without an aim. **moonlight** ('mu:nlaɪt) *nu* the light of the moon. • *vi infml* do an extra job in the evenings to earn more money.

moor[1] (mʊə*) *ncu* (a stretch of) open, bare land.

moor[2] 1 *vt* tie up (a ship). 2 *vi* (of a ship) be tied up.

moose (mu:s) *nc, pl* **moose** a large kind of deer found in the North of America and Europe: see picture.

moose

mop (mɒp) *nc* 1 a number of pieces of thick string, etc., on the end of a long handle, used to soak up liquid, clean floors, etc.: see picture. 2 *infml* hair that is untidy like the head of a mop. • *vt* clean (a floor) with a mop. **mop up** 1 soak up (water on the floor, etc.) with a mop. 2 deal with: *The army mopped up the last pockets of resistance.*

mop

mope (məʊp) *vi* be miserable or depressed.

moped ('məʊped) *nc* a bicycle powered by a small petrol engine.

moral ('mɒrəl) *adj* 1 to do with (a sense of) right and wrong. 2 (of actions, etc.) right; good. • *nc* a lesson that can be learned from an experience, story, etc. **morals** principles; ideas of how to behave. **morally** *adv*

morale (mə'rɑ:l) *nu* confidence; belief in your cause: *Soldiers' morale is good after a victory.*

morality (mə'rælɪtɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** a system of morals. 2 *nu* rightness.

morass (mə'ræs) *nc* a marshy area of land; bog.

morbid ('mɔ:bɪd) *adj* 1 diseased; to do with disease: *a morbid growth.* 2 unusually concerned with death: *morbid thoughts.*

more (mɔ:*) *determiner, pron* 1 a larger quantity (of): *I have more books than you.* 2 a further quantity (of): *Would you like some more?* • *adv* 1 (used to form comparatives) to a greater degree: *The town is more crowded than I had expected.* 2 further; else; besides: *There's nothing more to be said.* 3 again: *We've been there once more.* **more and more** even more; increasingly. **more or less** 1 roughly;

approximately: *There are twenty, more or less.* 2 near enough; as good as: *The battle is more or less over.*

moreover (mɔːˈrəʊvə*) *adv* besides; also.

morgue (mɔːg) *n* See **mortuary.**

Mormon (ˈmɔːmən) *nc, adj* (a member) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, started in the USA in 1830.

morn (mɔːn) *poetry nc* a morning.

morning (ˈmɔːnɪŋ) *nc* 1 the part of a day between dawn and noon. 2 *poetry* the early part: *the morning of life.* • *adj* of the morning; that happens in the morning.

moron (ˈmɔːrɒn) *nc derogatory* a stupid person.

morose (məˈrəʊs) *adj* bad-tempered; moody.

morphine (ˈmɔːfiːn) also **morphia** (ˈmɔːfɪə) *nu* a pain-killing drug.

morphology (mɔːˈfɒlədʒɪ) *nc biology* the study of the shape and arrangement of organs and tissues.

morrow (ˈmɒrəʊ) *literary nu* 1 tomorrow. 2 the next day.

Morse (mɔːs) *nu* also **Morse code** a system of dots and dashes that represent the letters of the alphabet for signalling.

morsel (ˈmɔːsəl) *nc* a mouthful; small piece of food.

mortal (ˈmɔːtəl) *adj* 1 whose life will end in death; subject to death: *We are all mortal.* 2 that causes death: *a mortal wound.* 3 until death: *They are mortal enemies.* • *nc* a human being. **mortally** *adv* 1 in such a way, or to such an extent, as to cause death: *He is mortally ill.* 2 very; greatly: *She was mortally offended.* **mortality** (mɔːˈtælɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the quality of being **mortal** (def. 1). 2 the number of deaths in a period: *The child mortality figures are improving.*

mortar (ˈmɔːtə*) 1 *nu* a mixture of lime, sand, and water that sets hard when it dries and is used to keep the bricks or stones of a building together. *nc* 2 a short heavy gun that can fire shells at high angles. 3 a strong bowl in which substances are broken up into powder.

mortgage (ˈmɔːgɪdʒ) *nc* a loan made to someone so that they can buy a house. • *vt* offer (a house) as security for a loan of money.

mortify (ˈmɔːtɪfaɪ) *vt* make (someone) feel shame: *He was mortified by her dislike of him.*

mortuary (ˈmɔːtjʊərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** also **morgue** a place where dead bodies are kept before being buried.

mosaic (məˈzeɪɪk) *nc* a picture or pattern made from small pieces of coloured stone.

Moslem (ˈmɒzləm) *n, adj* See **Muslim.**

mosque (mɒsk) *nc* a building where Muslims have religious services.

mosquito (mɒsˈkiːtəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** one of several kinds of insect that can give people malaria when they suck blood from them: see picture at **insects. mosquito net** a fine net used over a bed to keep mosquitoes out at night.

moss (mɒs) *nc, pl* **-es** any of various soft, thick plants that grow on wet surfaces. **mossy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** covered with moss.

most (məʊst) *determiner, pron* 1 the greatest quantity (of): *The big towns have the most television sets.* 2 the greater number (of); majority (of): *Most people eat cake sometimes.* • *adv* 1 very: *That's most kind of you.* 2 (used to form superlatives) to the greatest degree: *the most beautiful flower I have seen.* • *nu* the best thing: *The most you can say of him is that he is kind.* **at the most** at the highest guess or estimate: *There were fifty people there at the most.* **mostly** *adv* 1 also **for the most part** chiefly; mainly: *The people here are mostly farmers.* 2 usually; most often: *We mostly go away for the weekend.*

motel (məʊˈtel) *chiefly US nc* a hotel for motorists where you can park a car just outside each room.

moth (mɒθ) *nc* any of many kinds of butterfly-like insects that fly by night: see picture at **insects.**

mother (ˈmʌðə*) (*infml abbrevs.* **ma, mum, mummy**) *nc* 1 a female parent. 2 the source; origin: *Greece, the mother of the arts.* • *vt* look after (someone) like a mother would. **mother country** 1 your native country. 2 the home country from which people have gone to develop new countries. **mother-in-law** (ˈmʌðərɪnˌlɔː) *nc, pl* **mothers-in-law** the mother of your husband or wife. **mother tongue** the language you learn as a small child. **motherhood** (ˈmʌðəhʊd) *nu* the state of being a mother. **motherly** (ˈmʌðəlɪ) *adj* to do with or like a mother.

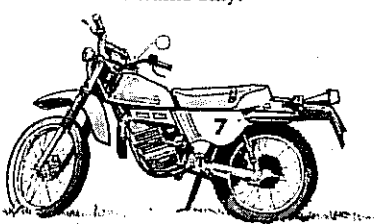
motion (ˈməʊʃən) 1 *ncu* (a) movement. 2 *nc* a proposal for discussion at a meeting. 3 an emptying of the bowels. **set in motion** start (a machine or chain of events). **motionless** (ˈməʊʃənlɪs) *adj* completely still; not moving.

motivate (ˈməʊtɪveɪt) *vt* provide (someone) with a motive; encourage. **motivation** (ˌməʊtɪˈveɪʃən) *nu*

motive (ˈməʊtɪv) *nc* a reason (for an action). • *adj* causing motion; that makes someone act: *motive force.*

motley ('mɒtlɪ) *adj* 1 mixed; varied: *a motley crowd of people.* 2 of many colours.

motor ('məʊtə*) *nc* 1 a kind of engine that makes vehicles move. 2 also **electric motor** a device in which electricity produces a turning movement. 3 *infml* a car, motor car. • *adj* to do with movement; that causes movement in the body: *motor nerves.* • *vi* go by car. **motorbike** *infml n* See **motorcycle. motorboat** ('məʊtəbəʊt) *nc* a small boat powered by a motor. **motorcade** ('məʊtəkeɪd) *nc* a procession of cars containing important people. **motor car** See **car. motorcycle** ('məʊtəˌsaɪkəl) *nc* also **motorbike** a vehicle with two wheels and an engine: see picture. • *vi* ride a motorcycle. **motorcyclist** *nc* **motorise** ('məʊtəraɪz) *vt* provide (someone) with motor vehicles. **motorist** ('məʊtərɪst) *nc* a person who drives a car. **motor-racing** *nu* racing among drivers of very fast cars. **motorway** ('məʊtəweɪ) *nc* a specially built road for fast motor traffic only.



motorcycle

motto ('mɒtəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** a phrase chosen by a family or an organisation to express its aims.

mould[1] *US* **mold** (məʊld) *nc* 1 a container into which a hot liquid is poured and from which it takes its shape when it cools and becomes solid. 2 a particular way in which a person has been trained or influenced: *a politician in the Marxist mould.* • *vt* 1 shape in a mould: *moulded plastic.* 2 influence or train (someone).

mould[2] *US* **mold** *nu* a growth of fungus on things that have been warm and damp.

moulder *US* **molder** ('məʊldə*) *vi* be destroyed by mould; decay.

moulding *US* **molding** ('məʊldɪŋ) 1 *nu* shaping, influencing. 2 *nc* a piece of shaped wood or stone on or around a door, etc.

moult *US* **molt** (məʊlt) *vi* (of some birds and animals) lose its feathers, skin, etc. • *nc* the process of losing feathers or skin.

mound (maʊnd) *nc* 1 a very small hill. 2 a bank of earth or stones built as a protection. 3 *infml* a huge heap or pile.

mount[1] (maʊnt) *vt* 1 get up onto (a horse, etc.). 2 climb or go up (stairs, a hill, etc.). 3 arrange and fix (pictures, jewels, heavy guns, etc.) in position. 4 prepare (a play, exhibition, etc.) for public showing. 5 put (an operation) into action. 6 *vi* increase; grow; rise: *mounting excitement.* • *nc* 1 an animal to ride on. 2 a support or frame for guns, pictures, etc.

mount[2] *nc* 1 *sometimes poetry* a mountain. 2 (*with capital letter*) the title of a mountain: *Mount Kilimanjaro.*

mountain ('maʊntɪn) *nc* 1 a high hill. 2 *infml* a huge heap: *She gets through a mountain of work every day.* **mountain range** a group or row of mountains. **mountaineer** (ˌmaʊntɪ'nɪə*) *nc* a person who climbs mountains. **mountaineering** (ˌmaʊntɪ'nɪərɪŋ) *nu* the sport of climbing mountains. **mountainous** ('maʊntɪnəs) *adj* 1 (of country) with many mountains. 2 like a mountain. **mountainside** ('maʊntɪnˌsaɪd) *nu* the sloping side of a mountain.

mourn (mɔːn) *vti* grieve (for), lament (anything sad, esp. a death). **mourner** *nc* 1 a relative or friend of a dead person who attends the funeral. 2 a person who mourns. **mournful** *adj* sad; full of grief. **mournfully** *adv* **mourning** *nu* 1 grieving; lamenting. 2 black clothes worn as a sign of grief.

mouse (maʊs) *nc, pl* **mice** 1 an animal with a long tail, like a rat but smaller: see picture. 2 a timid quiet person. 3 a computer device that you hold with your hand. • (maʊz) *vi* (of a cat) hunt mice.


mouse

moustache *US* **mustache** (məs'tɑːʃ) *nc* hair that grows on a man's upper lip.

mouth (maʊθ) *nc, pl* **-ths** (ðz) *nc* 1 the opening in an animal's head through which it makes sounds and takes in food. 2 a person considered as an eater of food: *There are six mouths to feed in this house.* 3 the place where a river reaches the sea. 4 the opening of a bay, etc. • (maʊð) *vt* move your mouth to make (words) but without speaking. **mouthful** *nc* 1 the amount of food a person can chew and swallow comfortably at a time. 2 *infml* a long and complicated word. **mouthpiece** ('maʊθpiːs) *nc* 1 the part of a musical instrument, etc.,

which the player or user puts to or into their mouth. 2 a person who speaks for an organisation.

movable ('muːvəbəl) *adj* able to be moved. **movable feast** one of the important dates in the Christian calendar that occur on a different date each year.

move (muːv) *vti* 1 go or take from one place to another. 2 go to live in another (house). *vi* 3 go to another job. 4 take action. *vt* 5 cause (someone) (to do something). 6 affect the feelings of: *The audience was deeply moved by her singing.* 7 recommend or propose (an action) formally at a meeting. • *nc* 1 an action: *He made a move to obtain control of the company.* 2 a change of house or job. 3 a moving of a counter, etc., in a game: *It's your move.* **get a move on** *infml* hurry. **move along** 1 walk on; keep walking. 2 go further along (a bus, etc.). **move in** 1 come or go to live in a house. 2 move closer (to deal with something): *The soldiers moved in to capture the town.* **move off** start off; (of a procession, etc.) leave the place where it has gathered. **move out** 1 leave (a house where you have been living). 2 (of an army, etc.) leave (a town).

movement ('muːvmənt) *nc* 1 a change of position. 2 some or all of the moving parts of a machine: *the movement of a clock.* 3 an organised activity: *a youth movement.* 4 a section of a long piece of instrumental music. 5 an emptying of the bowels.

movie ('muːvɪ) *chiefly US, infml nc* a film for the cinema: *Are there any good movies on this week?* **the movies** a cinema: *Let's go to the movies.*

mow (məʊ) *vt* cut the (grass) in (a field, etc.). **mow down** knock or shoot (people) down. **mower** ('məʊə*) *nc* a machine which cuts grass, etc.

mown (məʊn) past participle of **mow.**

much (mʌtʃ) *adv* a lot; greatly. • *determiner, pron* a lot (of); a large quantity (of). **how much** 1 how great a quantity (of money): *How much does that fruit cost?* 2 to what extent. **make much of** 1 make a fuss of or pay a lot of attention to (someone). 2 treat (something) as important. 3 succeed in understanding: *I couldn't make much of what he said.* **much the same** nearly the same; similar. **not think much of** have a low opinion of. **think too much of** have a higher opinion of (a person or thing) than they deserve.

muck (mʌk) *nu* dirt, esp. manure. • *v* **muck in** *infml* share work (with others). **muck out** clean out (buildings where horses are kept). **muck up** *infml* 1 make (something) dirty. 2 spoil; handle (a situation) badly.

mucous ('mjuːkəs) *adj* that produces mucus: *mucous membranes.*

mucus ('mjuːkəs) *nu* a sticky substance produced by the lining of the throat, nose, etc.

mud (mʌd) *nu* very wet earth. **muddy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 full of or covered with mud: *muddy boots.* 2 not clear: *a muddy colour.* • *vt* get mud on (something). **mudguard** ('mʌdgɑːd) *US* **fender** *nc* a metal cover for each wheel of a vehicle to stop mud from flying up.

muddle ('mʌdəl) *nc* a state of untidiness or confusion. • *vt* confuse; get (someone or something) into a muddle. **muddle through** overcome a problem in a disorganised way.

muesli ('muːzlɪ) *nu* a breakfast dish made from dried fruit, grains, and nuts.

muezzin (muː'ezɪn) *nc* the crier who calls Muslims to prayer at the mosque.

muffin ('mʌfɪn) *nc* a kind of small bread roll, eaten hot, with butter.

muffle ('mʌfəl) *vt* 1 wrap (yourself) up to be warm. 2 quieten the sound of. **muffler** *nc* a long, narrow scarf.

mug[1] (mʌg) *nc* 1 a large kind of cup with straight sides. 2 *infml, derogatory* face; mouth.

mug[2] *infml nc* a person who is easily deceived.

mug[3] *vti* attack (a person) in order to steal from them. **mugger** *nc* **mugging** *ncu*

muggy ('mʌgɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of the air) unpleasantly warm and damp.

mulberry ('mʌlbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a small dark purple fruit that can be eaten. 2 the tree on which this fruit grows.

mulch (mʌltʃ) *agriculture ncu* leaves, straw, and compost put round a plant to keep the soil moist. • *vti* put mulch around a plant.

mule (mjuːl) *nc* 1 an animal that has a horse and a donkey for parents. 2 a shoe that covers only the front part of the foot.

mull[1] (mʌl) *v* **mull over** consider (an idea) carefully, think (a thing) over thoroughly.

mull[2] *vt* heat and add spices, etc. to (wine, etc.).

mullah ('mʌlə) *nc* a person who is learned in or teaches the Muslim sacred law.

mullet ('mʌlɪt) *nc* any of various kinds of sea-fish that can be eaten.

multicellular (ˌmʌltɪ'seljulə*) *adj biology* made up of many cells.

multicoloured ('mʌltɪˌkʌləd) *adj* of many colours.

multicultural (ˌmʌltɪ'kʌltʃərəl) *adj* including people or teachings from many different cultures and backgrounds: *multicultural education.*

multi-ethnic (ˌmʌltɪ'eθnɪk) *adj* to do with people from different ethnic groups or communities.

multifarious (ˌmʌltɪ'feərɪəs) *adj* (of activities, etc.) many and varied.

multilateral (ˌmʌltɪ'lætərəl) *adj* 1 having many sides. 2 (of discussions, etc.) in which many people or sides take part.

multinational (ˌmʌltɪ'næʃənəl) *nc, adj* (a business company) which operates in more than one country.

multiple ('mʌltɪpəl) *adj* more than one: *multiple births.* • *nc* a quantity which contains another quantity an exact number of times: *Fourteen is a multiple of seven.*

multiply ('mʌltɪplaɪ) 1 *vt* increase (a number) by a given number of times: *Two multiplied by three is six.* 2 *vti* (cause to) increase (greatly): *They have multiplied their profits since they opened their new factory.* **multiplication** (ˌmʌltɪplɪ'keɪʃən) *nu* **multiplicand** (ˌmʌltɪplɪ'kænd) *nc* a number being multiplied. **multiplier** *nc* a number by which another is multiplied.

multipurpose (ˌmʌltɪ'pɜɪpəs) *adj* with many different uses: *a multipurpose spanner.*

multitude ('mʌltɪtjuːd) *nc* 1 a large crowd. 2 a large number (of things). **the multitude** the common people.

mum[1] (mʌm) *infml n* short for **mother.**

mum[2] *infml adj* silent or quiet about a subject: *Keep mum; Mum's the word.*

mumble ('mʌmbəl) *vti* say (words) quietly and unclearly. • *nc* something mumbled.

mummy[1] ('mʌmɪ) *infml n, pl* **-mies** short for **mother.**

mummy[2] *nc, pl* **-mies** a preserved dead body, esp. from Egypt long ago. **mummify** ('mʌmɪfaɪ) *vt* preserve a body as a mummy.

mumps (mʌmps) *nu* (*with singular verb*) disease which is caught from other people and causes the neck to swell.

munch (mʌntʃ) *vti* chew (food) thoroughly.

municipal (mjuː'nɪsɪpəl) *adj* to do with a town or city (council). **municipality** (mjuːˌnɪsɪ'pælɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a town that has its own local council.

munitions (mjuː'nɪʃənz) *n pl* weapons of war.

mural ('mjʊərəl) *nc* a large picture painted on a wall. • *adj* to do with walls.

murder ('mɜːdə*) 1 *nc* the unlawful killing of a person. 2 *infml nu* a painful, dangerous, etc., experience. • *vt* 1 kill (a person) unlawfully. 2 *infml* play (music), read (a poem, etc.) very badly. **murderer** *nc* **murderous** ('mɜːdərəs) *adj* 1 to do with murder. 2 violent or dangerous enough to kill: *a murderous blow.*

murky ('mɜːkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 dark. 2 mysterious: *his murky past.*

murmur ('mɜːmə*) *nc* 1 a slight continuing sound not clearly heard: *a murmur of conversation.* 2 something said very quietly. 3 a complaint: *murmurs of discontent.* • *vt* 1 say (something) in a murmur. 2 *vi* (of a stream) make a gentle sound as it flows.

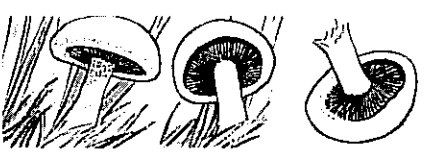
muscle ('mʌsəl) 1 *ncu* a particular piece of tissue in a body which can be made to shorten itself to move a part of the body. 2 *nu* strength; power. **muscle in** (often followed by **on**) push or force your way (into). **muscular** ('mʌskjʊlə*) *adj* 1 to do with muscles. 2 (of a man) with powerful muscles.

muse (mjuːz) *vi* reflect; think; meditate. • *nc* also **Muse** one of the nine spirits believed by the ancient Greeks to inspire art and learning.

museum (mjuː'zɪəm) *nc* a building where works of art and interesting and valuable objects are collected and displayed to the public.

mush (mʌʃ) *nu* partly liquid food that is easy to swallow. **mushy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of food) partly liquid. 2 (of music, etc.) over-sentimental.

mushroom ('mʌʃrʊm) *nc* a fungus with a thick stem and flat or pointed top, some of which can be eaten: see picture. • *vi* (of businesses, etc.) start or appear very quickly.



mushroom

music ('mjuːzɪk) *nu* 1 a connected series of sounds that are pleasant to listen to. 2 a beautiful sound: *The news of the victory was music to their ears.* 3 the art of playing or writing music. 4 the written or printed notes of music. **musical** ('mjuːzɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with music. 2 (of sounds) pleasant to listen to. 3 (of persons) able to play music or sing pleasantly. • *nc* a play or film with many songs and dances. **musician** (mjuː'zɪʃən) *nc* 1 a person who plays an instrument or sings, esp. in public to make a living. 2 a person who understands and interprets music well. 3 a person who writes music.

musical instruments

musk (mʌsk) *nu* a substance used in perfumes, obtained from the glands of deer.

musket ('mʌskɪt) *nc* a long shoulder-gun formerly used by soldiers.

Muslim ('mʊzlɪm) also **Moslem** *nc* a follower of Islam. • *adj* to do with Muslims; Islamic.

muslin ('mʌzlɪn) *nu* a thin, open, cotton cloth used for garments and to strain butter and cheese.

mussel ('mʌsəl) *nc* a shellfish that can be eaten, with a black shell in two halves.

must (mʌst unstressed məst, məs) *v* 1 be obliged to, have it as your duty to: *We must pay the price.* 2 be certain to: *You must win some time.* **must not** not be allowed to: *We must not smoke here.* • *nc* something that must be done, bought, etc.

mustache (məs'tɑːʃ) *US n* See **moustache.**

mustang ('mʌstæŋ) *nc* a wild North American horse.

mustard ('mʌstəd) 1 *ncu* (a type of) sharp-tasting yellow or brown paste used in or with food. 2 *nu* the plant of which the seeds are made into mustard.

muster ('mʌstə*) 1 *vt* gather (soldiers, supporters, etc.) together. 2 *vi* (of soldiers, supporters, etc.) gather together. • *nc* such a gathering.

mustn't ('mʌsənt) *v* must not.

musty ('mʌstɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** smelling or tasting mouldy or stale.

mutation (mjuː'teɪʃən) *ncu* 1 (a) genetic change in a plant or animal. 2 (in language) a sound change under certain conditions.

mute (mjuːt) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 dumb; unable to speak. 2 silent. 3 not said: *'Honest' has a mute h.* • *nc* a person who cannot speak.

mutilate ('mjuːtɪleɪt) *vt* seriously injure or damage. **mutilation** (ˌmjuːtɪ'leɪʃən) *ncu*

mutiny ('mjuːtɪnɪ) *ncu, pl* **-nies** (a) revolt or rebellion in the armed forces. • *vi* take part in a mutiny. **mutineer** (ˌmjuːtɪ'nɪə*) *nc* a person who mutinies.

mutter ('mʌtə*) 1 *vti* speak (words) quietly and unclearly. 2 *vi* complain quietly. • *nc* 1 something spoken quietly and unclearly. 2 a quiet complaint.

mutton ('mʌtən) *nu* meat from a sheep.

mutual ('mjuːtjʊəl) *adj* 1 (of an emotion, etc.) felt by each of two people for each other: *mutual respect.* 2 to do with or belonging to both or all; shared: *This is in our mutual interest.* **mutually** *adv*

muzzle ('mʌzəl) *nc* 1 the projecting mouth and nose of some animals. 2 a cage or strap that is put over a dog's muzzle to prevent it from biting people. 3 a limit on freedom, esp. of expression. 4 the mouth of a gun. • *vt* 1 put a muzzle on (a dog). 2 limit the freedom of: *muzzled press.*

my (maɪ) *determiner* belonging or to do with me: *This is my house.* • *interj* what a surprise!

mycelium (maɪ'siːlɪəm) *nc, pl* **-lia** (lɪə) *botany* a network of interwoven fibres that make up a fungus.

mycosis (maɪ'kəʊsɪs) *nc medicine* an infection caused by a fungus.

myelin ('maɪəlɪn) *nu zoology* the sheath that surrounds nerve fibres: *myelin deficiency.*

mynah ('maɪnə) *nc* a black tropical bird with a yellow beak which can mimic human speech: see picture.

mynah

myopia (maɪ'əʊpɪə) *nu* short-sightedness; inability to see distant things clearly.

myriad ('mɪrɪəd) *literary nc* a large number. • *adj* in large numbers: *There were myriad flowers in the field.*

myrrh (mɜː) *nu* a kind of gum used in some perfumes.

myrtle ('mɜːtəl) *nu* a large evergreen plant with shiny leaves and sweet-smelling white flowers.

myself (maɪ'self) *pron* 1 (used to refer back to the speaker or writer): *I made myself work; I did it myself.* 2 in my normal state: *I don't feel myself today.* **by myself** 1 without help. 2 alone.

mystery ('mɪstərɪ) 1 *nu* the state of being unknown or secret. *nc, pl* **-ries** 2 an unsolved puzzle: *It's a mystery to me what happened to my keys.* 3 a story describing the solving of a crime or murder. **mysterious** (mɪ'stɪərɪəs) *adj* 1 that cannot be explained. 2 puzzling. **mysteriously** *adv*

mystic ('mɪstɪk) *nc* a person who feels, or seeks to be, united to God. • *adj* also **mystical** 1 of a mystic. 2 to do with mysticism. **mysticism** ('mɪstɪsɪzəm) *nu* 1 a feeling of union with God. 2 beliefs about, and experiences of, this feeling.

mystify ('mɪstɪfaɪ) *vt* puzzle or confuse (a person).

mystique (mɪ'stiːk) *nu* fear of or wonder at the power or ability of someone or

something: *People are attracted by the mystique of the theatre.*

myth (mɪθ) *nc* 1 an ancient story that expresses important truths. 2 *infml* an invented person or thing. **mythical** ('mɪθɪkəl) *adj*

mythology (mɪ'θɒlədʒɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-gies** a body of myths. 2 *nu* the study of myths **mythological** (ˌmɪθə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj*

myxomatosis (ˌmɪksəmə'təʊsɪs) *nu* an infectious disease which affects rabbits and kills them.

N

'n' (ən) *infml conj* short for **and**: *fish 'n' chips; rock 'n' roll.*

naartjie ('nɑːrtʃɪ) *nc* a small South African tangerine.

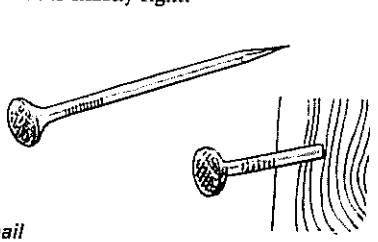
nab (næb) *infml vt* get (hold of); seize quickly: *You nab a seat while I get in the queue.*

nag[1] (næg) *nc* an old horse.

nag[2] *vti* keep complaining (at) (someone).

nagana (nəˈgɑːnə) *nu* a serious disease of cattle, horses, and camels transmitted by the tsetse fly.

nail (neɪl) *nc* 1 a layer of horn on the end of each finger and toe. 2 a long thin piece of metal, pointed at one end and with a head at the other, which can be hammered into a wall, etc.: see picture. • *vt* fix (something) to a wall, etc., with a nail. **hit the nail on the head** say or do something that is exactly right.



nail

naive (naɪˈiːv) *adj* new to the ways of the world; innocent.

naked ('neɪkɪd) *adj* 1 without any clothes on. 2 with no defence or protection. 3 (of evil intentions, etc.) undisguised: *naked aggression.* **nakedness** *nu*

name (neɪm) 1 *nc* the word by which a person, animal, plant, or thing is called and known. 2 *nu* reputation: *It's a shop with a very good name.* • *vt* 1 give a name to: *I name this child Elizabeth.* 2 put the correct name to. 3 appoint (someone): *He has been named the new president.* **call (someone) names** insult (someone). **make a name for yourself** become well known; make a reputation. **nameless** *adj* 1 without a name; unnamed. 2 too horrible to describe: *nameless crimes.* **namesake** ('neɪmseɪk) *nc* a person who has the same name as someone else.

namely ('neɪmlɪ) *adv* that is to say: *He was somewhere else, namely at home.*

nap[1] (næp) *nc, vi* (take) a short sleep during the day.

nap[2] *nu* a hairy finish on cloth.

nape (neɪp) *nc* the back of the neck.

napkin ('næpkɪn) *nc* a piece of cloth used to protect your clothes while eating.

nappy ('næpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pies** a thick towel or paper pad wrapped around a baby's bottom to collect its waste.

narcotic (nɑːˈkɒtɪk) *nc, adj* (a substance) that makes a person sleepy or relieves pain.

narrate (nəˈreɪt) *vt* tell (a story). **narration** (nəˈreɪʃən) *ncu* the telling of a story. **narrative** ('nærətɪv) *nc* a story. • *adj* that tells a story: *a narrative poem.* **narrator** *nc* 1 a storyteller. 2 a person who reads aloud the background story of a radio play, etc.

narrow ('nærəʊ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not wide; thin. 2 (of opinions, etc.) ungenerous; not broad. 3 close: *a narrow escape.* • *vti* make or become narrow(er). **narrowly** *adv* only just; barely: *We narrowly avoided an accident.* **narrow-minded** *adj* (of a person) with narrow opinions; intolerant.

nasal ('neɪzəl) *adj* 1 to do with the nose. 2 spoken or sung through the nose: *a nasal voice.* • *nc* a nasal sound.

nasty ('nɑːstɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 unpleasant: *a nasty cold.* 2 disagreeable: *He was quite nasty about it.* 3 ugly: *The wrecked plane was a nasty sight.* 4 dangerous: *This is a nasty stretch of road on a wet day.* **nastily** *adv*

nation ('neɪʃən) *nc* a group of people, usually with their own language and government. **national** ('næʃənəl) *adj* of or to do with a nation or its country. • *nc* a citizen of a particular country. **nationality** (ˌnæʃəˈnælɪtɪ) *ncu* the fact of belonging to a particular country. **nationally** *adv* **nationwide** ('neɪʃənˌwaɪd) *adj, adv* (applying) over a whole country.

nationalise ('næʃənəlaɪz) *vt* bring (a business or industry) under the ownership of a national government. **nationalisation** (ˌnæʃənəlaɪˈzeɪʃən) *nu*

nationalism ('næʃənəlɪzəm) *nu* 1 the feeling of belonging to a nation. 2 a nation's wish for independence. **nationalist** *adj* to do with nationalism. • *nc* a supporter of nationalism. **nationalistic** (ˌnæʃənəˈlɪstɪk) *adj*

native ('neɪtɪv) *adj* 1 of the place where a person was born: *my native country; their native language.* 2 (of animals and plants) living naturally (in): *a native bird; a bird native to America.* • *nc* 1 a person born

or living in a particular place: *a native of Calcutta.* 2 *pl* **the natives** *old-fashioned* the people living in a place who were considered less civilised or inferior by their colonial masters.

natural ('nætʃrəl) *adj* 1 according to nature. 2 to do with nature. 3 given by nature. 4 without artificial additions or procedures: *in its natural state; natural childbirth.* 5 simple and unforced: *natural manners.* 6 (of a musical note) neither sharp nor flat. • *nc* 1 *music* a note that is neither sharp or flat. 2 the sign that indicates this in written music. 3 *infml* a person naturally suited (for something). **naturally** *adv* 1 in a natural way. 2 of course: *Naturally, she expected him to come and meet her.* **natural gas** a gas that is found in underground deposits ready to use for heating and cooking. **natural history** the study of animals and plants.

naturalise ('nætʃrəlaɪz) *vt* give nationality to (a foreigner).

naturalist ('nætʃrəlɪst) *nc* a person who studies animals and plants.

nature ('neɪtʃə*) *nu* 1 life and all its processes. 2 the forces that control the working of the physical world. 3 a simple way of life. *nc* 4 a person's character. 5 the character or particular features of a plan, idea, etc. 6 a kind; sort: *We don't want any trouble of that nature.*

naught (nɔːt) *n literary or old-fashioned* See **nought** (def. 2).

naughty ('nɔːtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of children) behaving badly; not obeying a parent, teacher, etc. 2 indecent; intended to shock: *She sang some rather naughty songs.*

nausea ('nɔːsɪə) *nu* the feeling that you are going to vomit.

nautical ('nɔːtɪkəl) *adj* to do with ships, sailors, or sailing. **nautical mile** a measure of length used for shipping and flying = 1.852 km

naval ('neɪvəl) *adj* 1 to do with a navy. 2 to do with ships.

navel ('neɪvəl) *nc* the place on the abdomen where a cord connected a baby or young animal to its mother before and during birth.

navigable ('nævɪgəbəl) *adj* 1 (of a waterway) able to be sailed along. 2 (of a boat, etc.) able to be steered.

navigate ('nævɪgeɪt) *vti* plan and direct the course of (a ship or plane). **navigation** (ˌnævɪ'geɪʃən) *nu* **navigator** *nc*

navy ('neɪvɪ) *nc, pl* **-ies** a national force of warships. **navy blue** (a) very dark blue (colour).

nay (neɪ) *adv* 1 *old-fashioned* no. 2 no, rather: *difficult, nay, impossible.* • *nc* a no.

near (nɪə*) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 close: *Go away—you're too near!* 2 just avoided: *a near failure.* • *prep, adv* close (to). • *vti* approach; come close (to). **nearby** (nɪə'baɪ) *adv*; ('nɪəbaɪ) *adj* not far away. **nearly** *adv* 1 almost. 2 closely. 3 anywhere near: *I'm not nearly tall enough to see over.* **nearness** *nu* closeness. **near-sighted** (ˌnɪə'saɪtɪd) *adj* unable to see distant things clearly.

neat (niːt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 tidy; in order. 2 (of an action) smoothly done; efficient. 3 (of alcoholic drinks) with nothing added. **neatly** *adv* **neatness** *nu*

nebula ('nebjulə) *nc, pl* **-lae** (liː) a faint, hazy light that comes from very distant stars or gas in space.

nebulous ('nebjuləs) *adj* (of ideas, etc.) not clearly thought out or expressed; vague.

necessary ('nesəsərɪ) *adj* 1 needed. 2 that must be; inescapable. **necessarily** ('nesəsərɪlɪ, ˌnesə'serɪlɪ) *adv* unavoidably.

necessitate (nɪ'sesɪteɪt) *vt* cause a need for; make necessary.

necessity (nɪ'sesɪtɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** a thing that is needed: *the necessities of life. nu* 2 need. 3 poverty.

neck (nek) *nc* 1 the part of the body between the head and the rest of the body. 2 a narrow connecting part of anything. • *vi infml* kiss or cuddle lovingly. **neck and neck** (of competitors in a race) level with each other. **necklace** ('neklɪs) *nc* an ornamental chain, string of pearls, etc., that a woman wears around her neck. **necktie** ('nektaɪ) *US n* See **tie** (def. 2).

nectar ('nektə*) *nu* 1 a substance in flowers that bees collect to make honey. 2 a delicious drink.

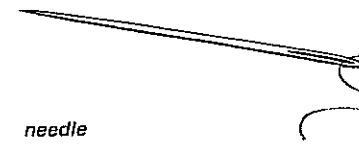
nectarine ('nektərɪn) *nu* a peach-like fruit with a smooth skin.

née (neɪ) *adj* (of a married woman) born with the name: *Sarah Jones, née Evans.*

need (niːd) *nc* 1 the fact of having to have something: *We must satisfy their needs.* 2 a necessary thing. 3 *nu* poverty. • *vt* 1 have to have: *Everyone needs food.* 2 be without; lack. 3 (*chiefly interrogative or negative*) have to: *Need we take all this luggage?* **in need of** 1 without; lacking. 2 needing: *in need of repair.* **needless** *adj* unnecessary; pointless. **needy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** poor.

needle ('niːdəl) *nc* 1 a metal pin with a point at one end and a hole at the other for a thread, used in sewing: see picture. 2 any of various other kinds of pointed pin used for knitting, playing records, etc. 3 a

moving pin that indicates the reading on a measuring instrument, etc. 4 a hollow pin that is stuck into the skin in order to pass liquid into the body, take blood out, etc. • *vt* remind (someone) sharply of a duty. **needlework** ('niːdəlwɜːk) *nu* 1 sewing by hand. 2 something sewn by hand.



needle

needn't ('niːdənt) *v* need not.

ne'er (neə*) *adv poetry* short for **never.**

negation (nɪ'geɪʃən) 1 *nc* a refusal; denial. *nu* 2 the act of undoing; neutralisation. 3 the opposite.

negative ('negətɪv) *adj* 1 (of a number such as −2) less than nothing. 2 (of a verb, statement, etc.) expressing a denial, refusal, failure, etc., through the addition of a word such as 'not', as in 'We shall not be going'. 3 (of an attitude, etc.) not active or helpful; lacking enthusiasm. 4 the opposite of: *A negative tax is really a payment to people.* 5 (of an electric charge) like that of an electron. • *nc* 1 a photographic film or plate on which light and dark are in the opposite places. 2 a negative verb, statement, etc. • *vt* 1 reduce to nothing; cancel out. 2 refuse to accept. **negatively** *adv*

neglect (nɪ'glekt) *vt* 1 fail to care for. 2 fail (to do) (something). • *nu* (followed by **of**) failure to care (for); lack of attention (to). **negligence** ('neglɪdʒəns) *nu* carelessness, failure to take trouble. **negligible** ('neglɪdʒəbəl) *adj* so small that it need not be considered.

negotiate (nɪ'gəʊʃɪeɪt) *vt* 1 reach (an agreement) by discussion. 2 make your way through, round, etc. (a difficulty, etc.). **negotiation** (nɪˌgəʊʃɪ'eɪʃən) *ncu*

Negro ('niːgrəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es,** *adj* (of or to do with) a black person, of African origin.

neigh (neɪ) *vi* (of a horse) give a cry. • *nc* the cry of a horse.

neighbour *US* **neighbor** ('neɪbə*) *nc* 1 a person who lives in the next house to, or not far from, yourself. 2 a person or thing next to or near another: *The Moon is Earth's nearest neighbour.* • *vti* (when *vi,* often followed by **on**) be close or next to (something or someone else). **neighbourhood** *US* **neighborhood** ('neɪbəhʊd) *nc* a district. • *adj* local. **neighbouring** *US* **neighboring** *adj* close; nearby: *the neighbouring villages.*

neither ('naɪðə*, 'niːðə*) *determiner, pron* not the one nor the other of two: *Neither story is correct; Neither came to see us again.* • *conj* 1 (used to introduce the first of a choice) not: *Neither he nor she knows anything about it.* 2 See **nor** (def. 2).

nematode ('nemə,təʊd) *nc zoology* one of a variety of non-segmented worms which is often a parasite: *Hookworms and roundworms are nematodes.*

neo-colonialism (ˌniːəʊkə'ləʊnɪə,lɪzəm) *nu* the domination of small or poor countries by rich countries, esp. when the poor country is a former colony.

neon ('niːɒn) *nu* a chemical element; gas used to produce coloured electric lighting in tubes for advertisements: symbol Ne.

nephew ('nevjuː, 'nefjuː) *nc* the son of a person's brother or sister.

nephridium (nɪ'frɪdɪəm) *nc, pl* **-dia** (dɪə) *zoology* the organ of excretion of an invertebrate.

nephron ('nefrɒn) *nc* one of many small coiled tubes in a kidney which filters liquid.

nepotism ('nepəˌtɪzəm) *nu* the practice of giving jobs or favours to relatives when you are in a position of power: *The town council was run on nepotism.*

nerve (nɜːv) *nc* 1 a collection of fibres that carry signals between the brain and different parts of the body. 2 (*pl*) *infml* excitability; the control of your state of mind: *My nerves won't take another shock like that. nu* 3 self-confidence; boldness: *He's lost his nerve.* 4 *infml* cheek; insolence. • *vt* give (someone) courage to do something. **get on your nerves** annoy you greatly.

nervous ('nɜːvəs) *adj* 1 to do with nerves. 2 restless; excitable. 3 afraid. **nervous breakdown** a collapse of the body's central nervous system through exhaustion. **nervousness** *nu*

nest (nest) *nc* 1 a structure built by a bird, mouse, etc., from feathers, leaves, etc., in which to lay its eggs or give birth and then bring up its young: see picture. 2 a comfortable place. 3 a set of objects that fit together: *a nest of tables.* • *vi* (of a bird or animal) build and live in a nest.

nest

nominate ('nɒmɪneɪt) *vt* 1 suggest that (a person) be elected to a position. 2 appoint (a person) to a position. **nomination** (ˌnɒmɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu* **nominee** (ˌnɒmɪ'niː) *nc* a person suggested for, or appointed to, a position.

nonchalant ('nɒnʃələnt) *adj* not worried; carefree.

none (nʌn) *pron* 1 not one; not any: *None of our planes is missing.* 2 *literary* no-one: *None can describe its beauty.* • *adv* not at all; not a bit: *They came none too soon.* **nonetheless** (ˌnʌnðə'les) *adv* in spite of that.

non-fiction (ˌnɒn'fɪkʃən) *nu* any writing to do with facts, as compared with stories, poetry, etc.

non-iron (ˌnɒn'aɪən) *adj* (of cloth) that does not need to be ironed after being washed.

nonplussed *US* **nonplused** (ˌnɒn'plʌst) *adj* confused and unable to answer a question, do something, etc.

non-resident (ˌnɒn'rezɪdənt) *nc, adj* (a person) not living in a particular place, such as a house that they own or their place of work.

nonsense ('nɒnsəns) *nu* 1 something without sense or meaning. 2 stupidity.

non-smoker (ˌnɒn'sməʊkə*) *nc* 1 a person who does not smoke tobacco. 2 (part of) a public vehicle where smoking is forbidden.

non-stop ('nɒn'stɒp) *adj, adv* without stopping: *a non-stop train to London.*

noodles ('nuːdəlz) *n pl* a paste made from flour and eggs, in long strips for use in soups, etc.

nook (nʊk) *nc* a sheltered or hidden corner: *The house was full of nooks and crannies.*

noon (nuːn) *nu* twelve o'clock in the day; midday. **noonday** ('nuːndeɪ), **noontide** ('nuːntaɪd) *US* **noontime** ('nuːntaɪm) *nu, adj* (of or to do with) noon.

no-one ('nəʊwʌn) *pron* nobody.

noose (nuːs) *nc* a loop of rope which can be pulled tight, esp. used for hanging a person by the neck. • *vt* catch in a noose.

nor (nɔː*) *conj* 1 (used after **neither**) and not: *Neither he nor I knew; He is neither rich nor poor.* 2 also **neither** (used after any negative expression) (and) not... either; (and) no more: *I don't know what is going on and nor does anyone else.*

norm (nɔːm) 1 *nc* a normal amount or quality of work. 2 *nu* normal behaviour: *It is the norm for children to start school at 8 a.m.*

normal ('nɔːməl) *adj* usual; average; common. **normally** *adv* **normality** (nɔː'mælɪtɪ) *nu* the normal state of affairs.

north (nɔːθ) *n* **the north** 1 the direction that is on the left of a person facing the east. 2 the direction in which a compass needle points. **the North** 1 the northern part of a country, etc. 2 the richer countries of the world. • *adj* 1 in or towards the north. 2 (of the wind) coming from the north. • *adv* towards the north. **north-east** (ˌnɔːθ'iːst) *n* the direction halfway between north and east. • *adj* 1 in or towards the north-east. 2 (of the wind) coming from the north-east. • *adv* towards the north-east. **northerly** ('nɔːðəlɪ) *adj* in or from the north. **northern** ('nɔːðən) *adj* in or to the north. **northernmost** ('nɔːðənməʊst) *adj* (of a place) the furthest (towards the) north. **northward(s)** ('nɔːθwəd(z)) *adj, adv* towards the north. **north-west** *n* the direction halfway between north and west. • *adj* 1 in or towards the north-west. 2 (of the wind) coming from the north-west. • *adv* towards the north-west.

nose (nəʊz) *nc* 1 the part of the head through which humans and animals breathe and smell. 2 the front part of something such as a plane, that sticks out. **follow your nose** 1 do what seems right. 2 go where seems right: *I don't have a map—I'll just have to follow my nose.* **have a nose for** have a natural ability to find or recognise. **look down your nose at** regard as inferior. **turn up your nose at** scorn or refuse (something you consider beneath your dignity). **under someone's nose** very close to but unnoticed by someone.

nostalgia (nɒs'tældʒə) *nu* 1 regret and longing for the past. 2 longing to be at home or with your family: *While living abroad, she felt a nostalgia for England.*

nostril ('nɒstrɪl) *nc* either of the two openings in the nose.

not (nɒt) *adv* (used to make words mean the opposite): *The book is not on the table but on the chair.* **not at all** 1 not in the least; not even slightly. 2 there is no need to thank me. 3 there is no need to apologise.

notable ('nəʊtəbəl) *adj* worth taking note of; remarkable. • *nc* an important person. **notably** ('nəʊtəblɪ) *adv* particularly; especially.

notation (nəʊ'teɪʃən) *nu* a system of expressing numbers, musical notes, etc., in writing by means of signs or symbols.

notch (nɒtʃ) *nc* a slight cut or nick in wood, etc. • *vt* make a notch in. **notch up** *infml* reach a total of: *I've notched up twenty years' service.*

note (nəʊt) *nc* 1 a short letter; memorandum. 2 a written reminder to yourself: *I've*

made a note of it. 3 (*pl*) the main points of a speech, etc., written down. 4 a banknote. 5 a written remark or comment on a point in a book. 6 a musical sound at a particular pitch. 7 a written sign that represents such a sound. 8 a sign. **of note** worth mentioning; important. • *vt* 1 take notice of; give attention to. 2 (sometimes followed by **down**) make a **note** (def. 2) of. **notebook** ('nəʊtbʊk) *nc* a small book for writing notes in. **noted** *adj* known; famous. **notepaper** ('nəʊt,peɪpə*) *nu* paper for writing letters on. **noteworthy** ('nəʊt,wɜːðɪ) *adj* worth mentioning.

nothing ('nʌθɪŋ) *nu* 1 not anything: *Nothing can be done; It's nothing serious.* 2 completely unimportant: *It's nothing.* 3 no points, goals, etc., in a game: *They won six-nothing.* **come to nothing** (of a plan, etc.) fail to develop or succeed: *All our plans came to nothing.* **nothing like** or **near** not in the least: *nothing like as good as the old one.* **nothing to do with** 1 without any connection with. 2 not the business of: *This is private—it's nothing to do with you.*

notice ('nəʊtɪs) *nc* 1 a written or printed announcement. 2 a criticism of a play, etc. *nu* 3 a warning that your job is going to end, that you must leave a rented house, etc.: *They will have to give us a month's notice.* 4 attention: *This has been brought to my notice.* • *vt* see; observe. **take (no) notice (of)** pay (no) attention (to). **noticeable** *adj* easily seen. **noticeboard** ('nəʊtɪsbɔːd) *nc* a board on which notices (**notice** def. 1) are put up, usually for the members of an organisation.

notify ('nəʊtɪfaɪ) *vt* tell or inform (someone) in a formal way. **notification** (,nəʊtɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu*

notion ('nəʊʃən) *nc* an idea or opinion.

notorious (nəʊ'tɔːrɪəs) *adj* well known for something shocking or evil.

notwithstanding (,nɒtwɪð'stændɪŋ) *prep, adv* in spite of (that).

nought (nɔːt) 1 *nc* the figure 0. 2 *literary or old-fashioned nu* also **naught** nothing; an end: *It's all come to nought.*

noun (naʊn) *nc* a word that is a name for something, such as 'book', 'ambition', or 'Nairobi'.

nourish ('nʌrɪʃ) *vt* 1 feed; build up the strength of. 2 encourage or maintain (feelings, etc.). **nourishment** *nu* 1 the act of nourishing. 2 something that nourishes; food.

novel[1] ('nɒvəl) *nc* a book telling a story. **novelist** ('nɒvəlɪst) *nc* a person who writes novels.

novel[2] *adj* new and interesting. **novelty** ('nɒvəltɪ) 1 *nu* the excitement of newness. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a new and interesting thing.

November (nəʊ'vembə*) *n* the eleventh month of the year, after October and before December.

novice ('nɒvɪs) *nc* 1 a beginner in some activity. 2 a person who has just joined a religious order and is still on trial.

now (naʊ) *adv* 1 at this moment. 2 at this time; at present. 3 after all that has happened: *He won't stand for election now.* • *conj* (followed by **that**) since at this time; because. **(every) now and again** or **then** occasionally; from time to time. **for now** for the present; for the time being. **just now** 1 a moment ago. 2 *US* at this moment. **now, now!** 1 calm down! 2 (used as a warning): *Now, now, children—don't start fighting!*

nowadays ('naʊədeɪz) *adv* in these times.

nowhere ('nəʊweə*) *adv* in no place; not anywhere. **get nowhere** fail to make any progress; have no success: *I was trying to make friends with her but I was getting nowhere.*

noxious ('nɒkʃəs) *adj* (esp. of chemicals, etc.) harmful.

nozzle ('nɒzəl) *nc* a fitting on the end of a pipe, used to direct the gas or liquid coming through it.

n't (nt) short for **not**: *Don't do it!*

nuclear ('njuːklɪə*) *adj* 1 to do with energy produced by splitting an atom. 2 to do with a nucleus; that consists of a nucleus only: *the nuclear family.* **nuclear disarmament** getting rid of nuclear weapons. **nuclear-powered** (,njuːklɪə-'paʊəd) *adj* driven by nuclear energy. **nuclear reactor** See under **reactor.** **nuclear weapon** a weapon that uses nuclear energy and has the power to destroy all living things over a wide area.

nucleus ('njuːklɪəs) *nc, pl* **-lei** (lɪaɪ) 1 the centre of an atom. 2 the most important people in an organisation. 3 a small centre from which a larger thing can develop. 4 a cell structure which contains chromosomes.

nude (njuːd) *adj* naked; without clothes on. **in the nude** naked. *nc* (a painting, etc. of) a nude person.

nudge (nʌdʒ) *vt* push (someone) gently with an elbow. • *nc* a gentle push with an elbow.

nugget ('nʌgɪt) *nc* 1 a small lump of precious metal found in rock. 2 a small valuable thing.

nuisance ('njuːsəns) *nc* a person or thing that causes annoyance or trouble.

null (nʌl) *adj* also **null and void** (of a law, etc.) not in force; not binding. **nullify** ('nʌlɪfaɪ) *vt* make null.

numb (nʌm) *adj* **-er, -est** without feeling because of cold, shock, etc. • *vt* make numb. **numbness** *nu*

number ('nʌmbə*) *nc* 1 a quantity of things: *a large number of people.* 2 a figure representing a number, such as any from 0 to 9. 3 a figure or figures representing a position in an order: *This house is number four; What's your telephone number?* 4 an issue of a magazine. 5 a piece of music, esp. a song within an opera or musical. • *vt* 1 give a number or numbers to. 2 be... in number: *The crowd numbered three thousand.* 3 consider; put in a group: *I was numbered among his followers.* **a number of** several. **number plate** a metal or plastic plate on the front and back of a vehicle showing its official number: see picture.

number plate

numeral ('nju:mərəl) *nc* any of the figures 0 to 9.

numerator ('nju:məreɪtə*) *nc* the number above the line in a fraction, such as 1 in $\frac{1}{2}$.

numerical (nju:'merɪkəl) *adj* to do with numbers.

numerous ('nju:mərəs) *adj* 1 many: *Numerous lives were saved.* 2 made of many parts: *a numerous collection.*

nun (nʌn) *nc* a woman who joins others in leading a simple, religious life. **nunnery** ('nʌnərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where nuns live.

nuptial ('nʌpʃəl) *adj* to do with a wedding. • *nc* (*pl*) a wedding.

nurse (nə:s) *nc* 1 a person who looks after people who are ill, esp. in a hospital. 2 a person who looks after children in their family home. • *vt* 1 look after (someone ill). 2 try to cure (an illness): *I'm nursing a cold.* 3 help (a plant, an organisation, jealousy, etc.) to grow or develop.

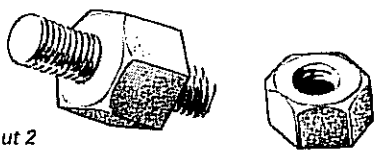
nursery ('nə:sərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a room kept for use by children. 2 a piece of ground where plants are grown, esp. for sale. **nursery rhyme** a short simple poem or song for children.

nursing ('nə:sɪŋ) *nu* the art and practice of looking after ill people. **nursing home** a kind of hospital, usually a private organisation, where ill people are looked after.

nurture ('nə:tʃə*) *nu* care, attention, and training given to children. • *vt* bring up or care for (children).

nut 1

nut (nʌt) *nc* 1 the hard fruit of many kinds of tree and shrub: see picture. 2 a small piece of metal for screwing onto the end of a bolt: see picture. 3 *infml* a crazy person. 4 *slang* a human head. **nutcracker** ('nʌtkrækə*) *nc* a device for cracking the shells of nuts. **nutshell** ('nʌtʃel) *nc* the hard outer covering of a nut. **(put) in a nutshell** (explain or describe) very briefly.



nut 2

nutmeg ('nʌtmeg) *ncu* the scented seed of an East Indian tree, which is made into a powder and used in food.

nutrient ('nju:trɪənt) *nc* a nourishing (substance in) food.

nutrition (nju:'trɪʃən) *nu* 1 food. 2 the study of food and its effects on health. 3 the system by which an animal or plant takes in and uses food. **nutritious** (nju:'trɪʃəs) *adj* (of food) nourishing; useful to the body.

nuzzle ('nʌzəl) *vti* (of a child or animal) put its nose or head close up to (a person or thing).

nylon ('naɪlɒn) 1 *nu* a man-made plastic material used for cloth, combs, etc. 2 *nc* (*pl*) nylon stockings.

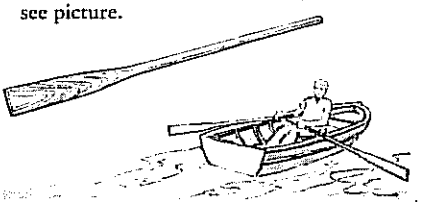
nymph (nɪmf) *nc* 1 (in Greek and Roman stories) a beautiful girl who lived in trees, rivers, hills, etc. 2 an undeveloped insect.

O

o (əʊ) *interj* See **oh.**

oak (əʊk) *nc* a large tree with acorns as its fruit and lobed leaves: see picture at **trees;** (also *nu*) the wood of the tree. • *adj* made of oak.

oar (ɔː*) *nc* a shaped board on a long handle used to move a boat through the water: see picture.



oar

oasis (əʊˈeɪsɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (siːz) 1 a place in a desert where plants grow because water is there. 2 a place of calm where a person can escape to: *Your house is an oasis in my busy life.*

oat (əʊt) *nc* 1 (often *pl*) a grass grown for its seeds, which are eaten. 2 (*pl*) these seeds. **oatmeal** (ˈəʊtmiːl) *nu* oats broken up small for eating in porridge, etc.

oath (əʊθ) *nc, pl* **-ths** (ðz) 1 the act of calling on God, a dead person, or some object to show that you are making a sincere promise: *He made an oath that he would never give up his search.* 2 a disrespectful use of the name of God, etc., to add force to a statement.

obdurate (ˈɒbdjʊrət) *adj* very unlikely to change your mind: *You can ask him again, but I think he's obdurate.*

obedient (əˈbiːdɪənt) *adj* obeying; doing as you are told. **obedience** *nu* **in obedience to** according to; as ordered by. **obediently** *adv*

obelisk (ˈɒbəlɪsk) *nc* a tall, thin stone monument with four sides that come to a point at the top.

obese (əʊˈbiːs) *adj* (of a person) very fat. **obesity** (əʊˈbiːsɪtɪ) *nu*

obey (əʊˈbeɪ, əˈbeɪ) *vti* do as you are told (by someone or in an order, etc.): *Children should obey their parents.*

obituary (əˈbɪtjʊərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a report in a newspaper of someone's death, often also describing their life.

object (ˈɒbdʒɪkt) *nc* 1 a thing that can be seen or touched. 2 an aim; purpose: *the object of my visit.* 3 the person or thing towards which something is directed: *an object of hate.* 4 the part of a sentence that receives the action of a verb, such as 'the apple' in 'I ate the apple'. See also **subject.** **no object** no problem: *Time is no object—take as long as you like.* • (əbˈdʒekt) *vti* (when *vi,* often followed by **to**) say or write that you dislike something: *I object to bad laws; She objected that she had not had enough time to get ready.*

objection (əbˈdʒekʃən) 1 *ncu* (an instance of) objecting. 2 *nc* a reason for objecting. **objectionable** *adj* unpleasant.

objective (əbˈdʒektɪv) *adj* (of a person, description, etc.) to do only with what is known, plain to see, etc., and not with personal feelings. See also **subjective.** • *nc* an aim, purpose, or place you wish to reach. **objectively** *adv*

obligation (ˌɒblɪˈgeɪʃən) 1 *nc* something you have to do; a duty. 2 *nu* the state of having an obligation: *I'm under no obligation to him.*

obligatory (əˈblɪgətrɪ) *adj* that must be done, etc.; binding.

oblige (əˈblaɪdʒ) *vt* 1 (usually passive) force or bind (someone to do something): *I was obliged by law to give my name.* 2 (passive) be grateful (to) or in someone's debt: *I'm obliged to you for helping.* 3 *vti* help (someone); do as you are asked: *They obliged (us) by carrying our bags.* **obliging** *adj* helpful.

oblique (əˈbliːk) *adj* 1 sloping; not upright or in line with something. 2 (of an answer, etc.) unclear. 3 *geometry* at or being an angle other than a right angle. • *n* See **stroke** (def. 4). **obliquely** *adv*

obliterate (əˈblɪtəreɪt) *vt* destroy; rub out.

oblivion (əˈblɪvɪən) *nu* 1 the state of forgetting; unconsciousness. 2 the state of having been forgotten or disregarded. **oblivious** *adj* (usually followed by **of** or **to**) forgetful; unconscious.

oblong (ˈɒblɒŋ) *adj, nc* (a figure) with square corners and longer in one direction than the other.

obnoxious (əbˈnɒkʃəs) *adj* very unpleasant: *an obnoxious smell.*

oboe (ˈəʊbəʊ) *nc* a musical wind instrument with keys and a double reed: see picture at **musical instruments.**

obscene (əbˈsiːn) *adj* (of a photograph, book, etc.) not decent; unpleasant. **obscenity** (əbˈsenɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the quality of being obscene. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something obscene.

obscure (əb'skjʊə*) *adj* 1 unclear; hard to understand. 2 hidden or far away. 3 unimportant or little known. 4 dark or difficult to see. ● *vt* make **obscure** (defs. 1, 2, 4). **obscurity** 1 *nu* the state of being obscure. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** someone or something that obscures or is obscure.

observable (əb'zɜːvəbəl) *adj* able to be seen: *She was making no observable movements.*

observance (əb'zɜːvəns) *ncu* (an instance of) observing (**observe** def. 3). **observant** *adj* 1 good at observing (**observe** def. 1). 2 dutiful over your observance.

observation (ˌɒbzə'veɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of observing (**observe** def. 1). 2 *nc* a remark or opinion (esp. made after you have studied something carefully).

observatory (əb'zɜːvətərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a building for observing something, esp. the stars.

observe (əb'zɜːv) *vt* 1 watch or notice. 2 remark. 3 keep, follow, etc., (a law, custom, holiday, etc.). **observer** *nc* someone who observes, esp. by watching without taking part.

obsess (əb'ses) *vt* occupy or take over (the mind of) completely: *He is obsessed with becoming rich.* **obsession** (əb'seʃən) 1 *nu* the act of obsessing or state of being obsessed. 2 *nc* something that obsesses you.

obsolete ('ɒbsəliːt) *adj* out-of-date; no longer in use. **obsolescence** (ˌɒbsə'lesəns) *nu* the process of becoming obsolete.

obstacle ('ɒbstəkəl) *nc* something that gets in the way.

obstetrics (əb'stetrɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the part of medicine to do with childbirth. **obstetrician** (ˌɒbste'trɪʃən) *nc* a doctor who practises obstetrics.

obstinate ('ɒbstɪnɪt) *adj* 1 difficult to persuade to act differently. 2 (of dirt, an illness, etc.) difficult to get rid of. **obstinacy** ('ɒbstɪnəsɪ) *nu* **obstinately** *adv*

obstruct (əb'strʌkt) *vt* block; make movement, etc., difficult for. **obstruction** 1 *nc* a person or thing that obstructs. 2 *ncu* (an instance of) obstructing.

obtain (əb'teɪn) 1 *vt* get (possession of). 2 *fml vi* (of a law, etc.) apply; be used. **obtainable** *adj*

obtrusive (əb'truːsɪv) *adj* annoyingly noticeable.

obtuse (əb'tjuːs) *adj* 1 stupid; slow to understand. 2 (of an angle) of between 90 and 180 degrees.

obviate ('ɒbvɪeɪt) *vt* get rid of (danger, a necessity, etc.).

obvious ('ɒbvɪəs) *adj* easy to see or understand. **obviously** *adv*

occasion (ə'keɪʒən) 1 *nc* a time at which something is or may be done: *She came here many times—on the last occasion I told her not to come again.* 2 *nu* reason; cause: *There is no occasion to laugh!* 3 *nc* a special or splendid event: *The Queen's visit was quite an occasion.*

occasional (ə'keɪʒənəl) *adj* 1 infrequent or irregular: *occasional visits.* 2 *fml* to do with special occasions: *occasional clothes.* **occasionally** *adv*

occipital (ɒk'sɪpɪtəl) *adj* of or situated at the back of the skull: *occipital bone; occipital lobe; occipital nerve.*

occlude (ə'kluːd) *vt chemistry* absorb and retain gases and other substances.

occult ('ɒkʌlt, ə'kʌlt) *adj* magical; mysterious. **the occult** occult events, beliefs, etc.

occupant ('ɒkjʊpənt) *nc* a person occupying a place or holding a position.

occupation (ˌɒkjʊ'peɪʃən) 1 *nc* an activity, esp. a job or regular work. 2 *ncu* (an instance of) occupying or being occupied. **occupational** *adj* to do with an **occupation** (def. 1).

occupy ('ɒkjʊpaɪ) *vt* 1 live or be in (a house, position, space, etc.). 2 enter and stay in (someone else's country or property, during a war or to express a complaint, dislike, etc.). 3 keep busy; give (someone or yourself) something to do.

occur (ə'kɜː*) *vi* 1 happen; take place. 2 exist; be found. 3 (followed by **to**) be thought of (by): *It occurs to me that we may be going the wrong way.* **occurrence** (ə'kʌrəns) *nc* an event. **of... occurrence** happening as stated: *of frequent occurrence.*

ocean ('əʊʃən) *ncu* (one of the large areas of) sea: *the Atlantic Ocean.* **ocean-going** (of a ship) able to sail in the open sea. **oceanic** (ˌəʊʃɪ'ænɪk) *adj*

ochre ('əʊkə*) 1 *nu* a soil that contains iron oxide; used as a dye. 2 *nu, adj* a brownish-yellow colour: *yellow ochre.*

o'clock (ə'klɒk) *adv* (used after a number to give the time of day, but only whole hours): *six o'clock.*

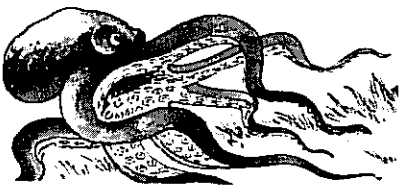
octagon ('ɒktəgən) *nc* a figure, building, etc., with eight sides.

octane ('ɒkteɪn) *nu* a measure of the grade of petrol: *98-octane petrol gives more power than 94-octane.*

octave ('ɒktɪv) *nc* (the gap or the notes between) two musical notes known by the same letter of which one is twice as high as the other.

October (ɒk'təubə*) *n* the tenth month of the year, after September and before November.

octopus ('ɒktəpəs) *nc* a sea-animal with eight tentacles coming directly from its head: see picture.



octopus

ocular ('ɒkjulə*) *adj* to do with the eyes: *an ocular muscle; ocular movements.*

odd (ɒd) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 strange or unusual. 2 (of a number) not able to be divided by two. 3 not (part of) a pair or set: *wearing odd socks.* 4 occasional; extra: *doing odd jobs.* 5 left over: *If you've taken all you want, I'll give the odd ones away.* 6 and a little or few more: *two kilos odd of butter.* • *nc* an odd number. **oddity** 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** something **odd** (def. 1). 2 *nu* the quality of being **odd** (def. 1). **oddly** *adv* **oddment** ('ɒdmənt) *nc* something **odd** (def. 5).

odds (ɒdz) *n pl* 1 the amount paid to a person who wins a bet, compared to the amount betted: *odds of five to one.* 2 a chance; probability: *What are the odds that he won't come?* **odds and ends** oddments or a mixture of objects.

ode (əud) *nc* a poem written as if spoken to someone or something: *Ode to Music.*

odious ('əudɪəs) *adj* hateful; disgusting: *odious comparisons.*

odour *US* **odor** ('əudə*) *nc* a smell. **odourless** *adj* **odorous** *adj* having a smell.

oedema (ɪ'diːmə) *nu medicine* swelling in different parts of the body caused by a problem in the kidneys.

o'er (əuə*, uə*) *poetry prep, adv* short for **over.**

oesophagus *US* **esophagus** (ɪ'sɒfəgəs) *nc, pl* **-gi** (gaɪ) also **gullet** the tube down which food travels from the throat to the stomach.

oestrogen *US* **estrogen** ('iːstrədʒən) *nu* the female hormone that controls sexual development and pregnancy.

of (ɒv unstressed əv) *prep* 1 belonging to or to do with: *the danger of flying.* 2 with; having: *a man of wealth.* 3 from: *within a mile of my house.* 4 about: *Tell me of your life.* 5 made with or containing: *a window of glass; a book of rules.* 6 (used in expressing a quantity): *a litre of milk.* 7 done to: *the arranging of flowers.* 8 done by: *the shouting of a hundred voices.* 9 who or that is or are: *the Republic of China.* 10 *US* See **to**[1] (def. 6). 11 because of: *plants dying of cold.* 12 from among: *two of you.* 13 on the part of: *That was nice of him.*

off (ɒf) *prep* 1 away from: *Get off the floor.* 2 not wanting or liking: *I've gone off drink.* 3 near; connected to: *the farm off the main road.* • *adv* 1 away; so as to be no longer in the same place: *He just walked off.* 2 so as to stop, get rid of, separate, etc.: *Turn the light off; Will you cut me off a piece of meat?* 3 away from work: *I've got the day off.* • *adj* 1 away from work: *I'm afraid Mr Jones is off sick.* 2 not happening (yet): *The concert is off.* 3 provided with money or (followed by **for**) something else: *He's well off for money, but badly off for friends.* 4 poor; disappointing: *I'm having rather an off day.* 5 not able to be had, served etc.: *Soup's off.* 6 (of food) gone rotten or sour. **the off** the start of a race, etc. **be off** go away. **off and on** or **on and off** occasionally, from time to time. **off chance** a faint possibility. **off colour** not feeling well. **off-licence** ('ɒf,laɪsəns) a shop where alcoholic drink may be bought but not drunk.

offence *US* **offense** (ə'fens) 1 *nc* a wrong or crime. 2 *nu* the cause of anger or hurt. **take offence** be hurt: *She really took offence when I suggested she tidied her room.*

offend (ə'fend) *vt* 1 hurt the feelings of. 2 be very unpleasant to. 3 *vi* do wrong. **offender** *nc*

offensive (ə'fensɪv) *adj* 1 hurting someone's feelings. 2 very unpleasant. 3 to do with attack. • *nc* an attack. **the offensive** an attacking position or state: *to be on the offensive.*

offer ('ɒfə*) *vt* 1 allow (someone) to choose to accept or take (something): *I was offered a free ticket.* 2 say or write that you would be glad (to do something): *She offered to take me there.* • *nc* 1 an act of offering. 2 something offered, such as a service or the chance to buy something cheap. **offering** *nc* something offered, such as money for the work of a church. **offer up** give, esp. to God.

offhand (,ɒf'hænd) *adj, adv* 1 without

warning or time to think. 2 without thought or respect.

office ('ɒfɪs) *nc* 1 (a building containing) a room for working at a desk in: *He's gone to the office; a large office.* 2 a part of a government: *the Foreign Office.* 3 an important position: *an office in the Government.* 4 a duty; job; service: *the most important office of a president.* 5 a place where a particular kind of business is done: *a railway ticket office.* 6 a religious service. 7 (*pl*) *fml* help. **office-bearer** a person who holds an **office** (def. 3). **office block** a large building containing offices.

officer ('ɒfɪsə*) *nc* 1 a member of one of the armed forces or person working on a ship who is responsible for others of whom he or she is in charge. 2 a person with a job as described: *a police officer; an information officer.* 3 a person in a responsible position in a society, such as its treasurer.

official (ə'fɪʃəl) *adj* to do with or coming from someone in charge of something: *official approval to spend public money.* • *nc* a person holding an **office** (def. 3), esp. in a government. **officially** *adv*

officiate (ə'fɪʃɪeɪt) *vi* do an official job or action.

officious (ə'fɪʃəs) *adj derogatory* too eager to give orders or use authority: *an officious traffic warden.*

offing ('ɒfɪŋ) *n* **in the offing** expected soon.

offset ('ɒfset) *vt* act as a balance against: *The extra business will offset our earlier losses.* • *nu, adj, adv* (to do with or by) printing by putting ink onto a metal plate that transfers it to a rubber roller that then presses the ink onto the paper.

offshore (ˌɒf'ʃɔː*) *adj, adv* away from the coast; out at or out to sea: *an offshore oil platform.*

offspring ('ɒfsprɪŋ) *nu* children or animal young: *Do they have any offspring yet?*

oft (ɒft) *adv old-fashioned or literary* short for **often.**

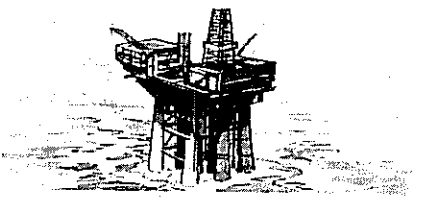
often ('ɒfən) *adv* frequently; many times. **oftentimes** *adv old-fashioned* frequently.

ogre ('əʊgə*) *nc* 1 (in stories) a huge man who eats people. 2 a fierce frightening person.

oh (also **o**) (əʊ) *interj* (used to express surprise, doubt, pleasure, etc.)

ohm (əʊm) *nc* a measure of electrical resistance.

oil (ɔɪl) 1 *nc* any of several mostly thick, smooth liquids obtained from plants, animals, or from under the ground and used in foods, for greasing machines, for burning for heat and light, etc. 2 *nu* also **petroleum** an oil found under the ground and made esp. into petrol. 2 (*pl*) paint containing oil. • *vt* apply oil to (a machine, etc.) to make it run smoothly. **oilcloth** ('ɔɪlklɒθ) *nu* cloth coated with oil to stop it letting water through. **oilfield** ('ɔɪlfiːld) *nc* a piece of land under which oil is found. **oil painting** a picture made with oils. **oil-producing** *adj* (of a country) exporting oil. **oil rig** the machinery used for making an oil well: see picture. **oilskin** ('ɔɪlskɪn) *ncu* (a garment made of) cloth coated with oil to stop it letting water through. **oil slick** a large quantity of oil floating on the sea. **oil tanker** a ship or road vehicle for carrying oil. **oil well** a deep hole in the ground or bottom of the sea for obtaining oil. **oily** *adj* **-ier, -iest** like, covered with, or containing oil.



oil rig

ointment ('ɔɪntmənt) *nc* a creamy or oily substance put onto the skin to heal it.

OK (also **okay**) (ˌəʊ'keɪ) *interj infml* (used to express or ask for agreement or approval.) • *adj, adv* all right; good or well enough. • *vt* agree to or approve of. • *ncu* (an expression of) agreement or approval.

okapi (ə'kɑːpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pis, -pi** an African ruminant mammal related to the giraffe with a shorter neck and stripes round its hindquarters: see picture.

okapi

okra ('ɒkrə) *ncu* also **okro** ('ɒkrəʊ) a tall tropical plant with sticky green pods used as a vegetable and in soups.

old (əʊld) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 having lived or existed for some, esp. a long, time; no longer young. 2 of age: *fifty years old.* 3 damaged or worn through age or use: *Wear old clothes in case you get dirty.* 4

former: *Your old copy of the book.* 5 familiar; dear: *We're old friends.* 6 not new or modern. **the old** (def. 1) old people. **old-fashioned** (ˌəʊldˈfæʃənd) *adj* belonging to former times; not thought of value now. **old hand** an experienced person. **old-time** (ˈəʊldtaɪm) *adj* as done or seen in former times: *old-time dancing.*

olden (ˈəʊldən) *old-fashioned or literary adj* old: *in olden times.*

olfactory (ɒlˈfæktərɪ) *adj medicine* to do with the sense of smell: *olfactory organs.*

oligarchy (ˈɒləˌgɑːkɪ) *nc, pl* **-chies** a form of government in which power is in the hands of very few people.

olive (ˈɒlɪv) *nc* 1 a tree with green or black fruit that is eaten or made into oil. 2 one of these fruits. • *adj* 1 (of skin) brown. 2 also **olive green** pale green.

omelette (ˈɒmlət) *nc* a food made of eggs, beaten and cooked flat with oil or butter in a pan.

omen (ˈəʊmən) *nc* an event believed to indicate another, esp. bad, in the future. **ominous** (ˈɒmɪnəs) *adj* indicating something bad to come.

omit (əʊˈmɪt) *vt* 1 miss or leave out. 2 fail (to do something). **omission** (əʊˈmɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an instance of) omitting. 2 *nc* something omitted.

omnibus (ˈɒmnɪbəsɪ) *nc old-fashioned* See **bus.** • *nc, adj* (a book) containing several stories, plays, etc.

omnivore (ˈɒmnɪˌvɔː*) *nc biology* an animal that eats both plants and animals (meat and vegetables): *Most humans are omnivores.* See also **carnivore; herbivore. omnivorous** *adj*

on (ɒn) *prep* 1 touching the top of or supported by; upon: *sitting on a chair.* 2 against (something upright): *on the wall.* 3 during: *on Monday.* 4 by means of: *I came on foot; We spoke on the telephone.* 5 close to: *a house on the river.* 6 in (a street, etc.): *on Oxford Street.* 7 against: *the war on crime.* 8 at the time of; after: *On arrival, please collect your luggage.* 9 in a state, action, or place described: *on the move.* 10 about; to do with: *a book on gardening.* 11 occupied in: *on a long journey.* 12 held by: *a dog on a lead.* 13 according to: *on your recommendation.* 14 *infml* carried by: *Have you a pen on you?* • *adv* 1 working; running: *You left the water on.* 2 touching or surrounding something: *I've no shoes on.* 3 without stopping: *He just talks on (and on).* 4 further: *We drove on towards the town.* 5 happening: *Is there a meeting on inside?* **and so on** See under **so. off and on** or **on and off** See under **off.**

once (wʌns) *adv* 1 one time; in one case. 2 formerly: *There was once a castle here.* 3 ever: *If once it goes, it'll never come back.* • *conj* when; as soon as: *Once you start, it's easy.* • *nu* one time: *I saw him just the once.* **at once** 1 at the same time. 2 immediately; straightaway. **once and for all** for the only or last time. **once in a while** occasionally; not often. **once more** (yet) another time; again. **once or twice** only a few times. **once upon a time** (used to start children's stories) in former times.

onchocerciasis (ˌɒŋkəsəˈkaɪəsɪs) also **river blindness** *nu* a tropical disease which can cause blindness and is caused by a parasitic worm carried by the blackfly.

oncoming (ˈɒnˌkʌmɪŋ) *adj* approaching: *oncoming traffic.*

one (wʌn) *determiner, n* the number 1. • *determiner* 1 a single; each. 2 (used after **the**) only: *the one way to make more friends.* 3 some: *One day you'll know what I mean.* • *pron* 1 a single person or thing. 2 (used after **the**) only person or thing. 3 *fml* any person, representing people generally: *One puts petrol in a car.* 4 (used to avoid repeating something): *Do you like that plant?—Yes, I have one in my garden.* **one another** each other: *They talked to one another.* **one or two** a few. **one-legged** (ˌwʌnˈlegd, ˌwʌnˈlegɪd) *adj* with only one leg. **oneness** *nu* 1 the state of being one. 2 agreement. **oneself** (wʌnˈself) *pron* 1 (the reflexive form of **one** (*pron* def. 3)): *One should not blame oneself.* 2 (the emphatic form of **one** (*pron* def. 3)): *Can one do it oneself?* **by oneself** 1 without help. 2 alone. **one-sided** (ˌwʌnˈsaɪdɪd) *adj* 1 larger, better, etc., on one side than the other. 2 (of a fight, etc.) with one side at an advantage. 3 considering only one side; unfair: *a one-sided view of the argument.* **one-way** (ˌwʌnˈweɪ) *adj* travelling or allowing travel in only one direction: *a one-way street.*

onerous (ˈɒnərəs, ˈəʊnərəs) *adj* causing a lot of work or trouble: *onerous responsibilities.*

ongoing (ˈɒnˌgəʊɪŋ) *adj* continuing; in progress: *the ongoing economic situation.*

onion (ˈʌnjən) *nc* a plant bulb with many layers, widely used as food: see picture at **vegetables.**

onlooker (ˈɒnˌlʊkə*) *nc* a person just watching.

only (ˈəʊnlɪ) *adv* 1 no more than: *He is young—only twelve.* 2 merely; simply: *I*

only want to see. 3 alone; no other than: *Only you could do that.* 4 no longer ago than: *I only did it yesterday.* • *adj* 1 being the whole number or quantity of or the one: *The only bread I have is very dry; the only soldier I know.* 2 (of a child) with no brothers or sisters. • *conj* but: *I would do it, only I don't know how to.* **if only** See under **if. not only... but also...** not just... but... as well: *not only naughty but also proud of it.* **only just** See under **just.**

onomatopoeia (ˌɒnəˌmætəˈpiːə) *nu* a sound which is suggested by the name of something, for example *cuckoo* or *buzz.* **onomatopoeic** (ˌɒnəˌmætəˈpiːɪk) *adj*

onset (ˈɒnset) *nc* the beginning of something, esp. of something bad.

onshore (ˌɒnˈʃɔː*) *adj, adv* (blowing) from the sea towards land.

onslaught (ˈɒnslɔːt) *nc* a fierce attack.

onto (ˈɒntuː unstressed ˈɒntə) *prep* 1 to a position on: *I walked onto the stage.* 2 *infml* knowing about; making use of: *I'm onto your little tricks, so behave yourself!* 3 *infml* into contact with: *I'll get onto the police.*

onus (ˈəʊnəs) *nu* responsibility: *The onus is on you to prove what you are saying.*

onward (ˈɒnwəd) *adv, adj* (moving or pointing) further forward. **onwards** *adv* further forward.

onyx (ˈɒnɪks) *nc* a semi-precious stone with bands of different colours.

ooze (uːz) *vti* 1 (allow to) flow out gently. 2 (cause to) be squeezed out. • *nc* 1 a gentle flow. 2 *old-fashioned or poetic* mud.

opal (ˈəʊpəl) *ncu* a precious stone appearing to be any of several colours.

opaque (əʊˈpeɪk) *adj* 1 not letting light through. 2 hard to understand.

open (ˈəʊpən) *adj* 1 not closed; free to be passed through, etc.: *an open gate.* 2 closed but not locked: *Come in—the door's open.* 3 spread out; unfolded: *an open book.* 4 not covered in: *an open boat.* 5 (of a shop, etc.) ready to do business, let in visitors, etc. 6 (of a meeting, competition, etc.) allowing anyone to enter. 7 without natural shelter: *open country; open sea.* 8 not yet decided: *an open question; an open mind.* 9 not hidden or disguised: *open dishonesty.* • *vti* 1 make or become (wider) open. 2 start: *The music opens with a horn call.* • *nc* an **open** (def. 6) competition. **the open** open land; outside: *The soldiers came out of the house into the open.* **open-air** (ˌəʊpənˈeə*) *adj* not in a building: *an open-air concert.* **opening** *nc* 1 a space or hole, esp. for going or looking through. 2 a first part. 3 an opportunity, esp. for employment. **opening hours** the period(s) for which a shop, office, etc., is open. **openly** *adv* in an **open** (def. 9) manner. **open out** spread out; unfold. **open up** 1 allow someone or something to come through or into (something): *We are police—open this door up!* 2 *infml* start shooting or throwing.

opera (ˈɒpərə) *nc* a musical work for singers and instruments that is acted like a play.

operate (ˈɒpəreɪt) 1 *vti* (cause to) work or do a job: *Can you operate this machine?* 2 *vi* (often followed by **on**) do an **operation** (def. 2).

operation (ˌɒpəˈreɪʃən) 1 *ncu* the act or a manner of operating. *nc* 2 an act of using instruments on a person's body, esp. by cutting into it to repair damage, remove a diseased part, etc. 3 an action of the armed forces. 4 *nu* the state of operating or being in force. **operational** *adj* 1 to do with **operation** (defs. 1, 3). 2 to do with, esp. able to carry out, an **operation** (def. 3).

operative (ˈɒpərətɪv) *adj* 1 in force; in operation. 2 important; that matters: *'Must' is the operative word.* 3 to do with operations (**operation** def. 2). • *nc polite* a person who does unskilled work.

operator (ˈɒpəreɪtə*) *nc* 1 a person who operates a machine, etc. 2 a person who connects telephone calls. 3 *infml* a person who is successful but usually dishonest: *a smooth operator.*

operculum (əʊˈpɜːkjʊləm) *nc, pl* **-la** *biology* 1 a flap covering an opening; the covering over the gills of fish, or the opening of a mollusc. 2 the lid of the spore cases in mosses.

operetta (ˌɒpəˈretə) *nc* a light or funny opera.

ophthalmic (ɒfˈθælmɪk) *adj medicine* to do with the eyes: *an ophthalmic examination.* **ophthalmology** (ɒfθælˈmɒlədʒɪ) *nc* the study of the eye and eye diseases. **ophthalmologist** (ɒfθælˈmɒlədʒɪst) *nc*

opiate (ˈəʊpɪɪt) *nc medicine* a drug that contains opium and dulls pain and brings sleep.

opinion (əˈpɪnjən) *nc* what a person thinks about a subject; a view. **opinion poll** the act of asking a number of people their opinions on something.

opium (ˈəʊpɪəm) *nu* a drug made from poppy seeds, used in medicine or smoked.

opponent (əˈpəʊnənt) *nc* a person fighting or playing against you.

opportune (ˈɒpətjuːn) *adj* 1 (of a time) good for a particular purpose. 2 (of an event) done or happening at a good time.

opportunity (ˌɒpəˈtjuːnɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a situation in which something can be done; chance: *Do it while there is the opportunity.*

oppose (əˈpəʊz) *vt* 1 fight against; resist. 2 take the opposite view to.

opposite (ˈɒpəzɪt) *adj* 1 facing (each other): *in opposite directions.* 2 exactly what something else is not; totally different: *We hold opposite opinions—he agrees with it and I do not.* • *adv* on opposite sides. • *prep* also **opposite to** facing. • *nc* an opposite person or thing: *Black is the opposite of white.* **opposition** (ˌɒpəˈzɪʃən) *nu* 1 the act of opposing; resistance: *We wrote a letter in opposition to the plan.* 2 the main party not in power in a parliament, whose job is to oppose the government. 3 a person or group of people who oppose.

oppress (əˈpres) *vt* 1 control (a people) by force and cruelty. 2 trouble, worry: *oppressed by feelings of doubt.* **oppression** *nu* **oppressive** *adj* **oppressor** *nc*

opt (ɒpt) *vt* (followed by an infinitive) also **opt for** choose. **opt out (of)** choose to avoid (something).

optic (ˈɒptɪk) *adj* to do with the eye. **optical** *adj* to do with light or the eye. **optician** (ɒpˈtɪʃən) *nc* a person who makes or sells optical instruments, esp. glasses.

optimism (ˈɒptɪmɪzəm) *nu* the practice of looking for the good in everything and hoping for the best. **optimist** *nc* a person who has optimism. **optimistic** (ˌɒptɪˈmɪstɪk) *adj*

optimum (ˈɒptɪməm) *adj, nu* (the) best (thing) for something: *optimum conditions for plant growth.*

option (ˈɒpʃən) *ncu* (a) choice. **optional** *adj* that you are free to choose or not: *Leather seats are optional on this car.*

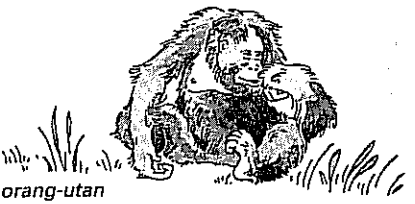
or (ɔː* unstressed ə*) *conj* (used to join things of which any may be chosen, true, etc.): *Robert, or Bob as he is usually called; Do you want these or those?* **or else** See under **else. or so** about: *There are thirty or so people.*

oracle (ˈɒrəkəl) *nc* a person or thing mysteriously able to answer questions and give information about the future: *consult the oracle.*

oral (ˈɔːrəl) *adj* 1 spoken: *an oral examination.* 2 to do with the mouth. • *nc* a spoken examination. **orally** *adv*

orange (ˈɒrɪndʒ) 1 *nc* a large, round, juicy, reddish-yellow fruit grown in fairly hot parts of the world: see picture at **fruits.** 2 *ncu* an orange colour. • *adj* of a colour between red and yellow.

orang-utan (ɔːˌræŋuːˈtæn) *nc* a large ape with reddish-brown fur from the forests of Borneo and Sumatra: see picture.



orang-utan

oration (əˈreɪʃən) *nc* a formal public speech.

orator (ˈɒrətə*) *nc* a (good) public speaker.

oratorio (ˌɒrəˈtɔːrɪəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s** a religious musical work for singers and instruments that is theatrical but not acted.

orb (ɔːb) *nc* 1 a ball with a cross fixed to it, held by a king or queen as a sign of power. 2 *poetry* a star or planet.

orbit (ˈɔːbɪt) *nc* a path taken by a planet, spacecraft, etc., travelling around the sun, earth, etc. • *vt* (of a moon, spacecraft, etc.) travel in an orbit around. **orbital** *adj*

orchard (ˈɔːtʃəd) *nc* a piece of land used for growing fruit trees.

orchestra (ˈɔːkɪstrə) 1 *nc* a large group of musicians, usually playing several different types of instrument. 2 *nu* the place in front of the stage in a theatre where the orchestra sits. **orchestral** (ɔːˈkestrəl) *adj*

orchid (ˈɔːkɪd) *nc* 1 any of several plants with unusual flowers. 2 one of these flowers.

ordain (ɔːˈdeɪn) *vt* 1 make (someone) a priest. 2 appoint; decide on: *the ordained time when each of us will die.*

ordeal (ɔːˈdiːl) *nc* a testing or unpleasant experience.

order (ˈɔːdə*) *nc* 1 a direction to do something, given to a soldier, made by a judge, etc. 2 the act of asking a shop, restaurant, etc., to supply goods, serve food, etc. 3 a way, esp. the correct way, of arranging things one after or behind the other: *in order.* 4 a group of people who have a common purpose, esp. religious, or have been given the same rank by a king or queen. 5 *nu* a state in which things are as they should be; control: *in order.* • *vt* 1 give an order for (something) to be done, supplied, etc., for (someone) to go (away, out, etc.), or that (someone) is (to do something): *We ordered two cups of tea; The king ordered his army to advance.* 2 put in order. **in order that** so that: *We agreed in order that war should be avoid-*

ed. **in order to** so as to; so that you can or could: *He works in order to earn money.* **of the order of** about: *of the order of 1000 people.* **on order** (of goods) ordered but not yet supplied. **out of order** 1 not in **order** (defs. 3, 5). 2 (of a machine) not working. **order about** give orders unnecessarily or unpleasantly to (someone).

orderly ('ɔːdəlɪ) *adj* 1 arranged in order. 2 behaving properly. • *nc, pl* **-lies** 1 a helper or cleaner in a hospital. 2 a soldier who attends upon an officer.

ordinal ('ɔːdɪnəl) *nc* also **ordinal number** a number such as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, as compared with 1, 2, and 3.

ordinance ('ɔːdɪnəns) *nc* an order, rule, etc., made by someone in charge.

ordinary ('ɔːdənrɪ) *adj* 1 normal; usual. 2 unexciting; boring. **ordinarily** ('ɔːdənərəlɪ, ˌɔːdən'erəlɪ) *adv*

ordinate ('ɔːdɪnɪt) *nc mathematics* the y-co-ordinate of a point on a graph. See also **abscissa.**

ore (ɔː*) *ncu* (a type of) rock from which a metal or other useful substance can be obtained: *iron ore.*

organ ('ɔːgən) *nc* 1 a musical instrument with keys to be pressed by the fingers and usually also some for the feet, the notes being produced by air being blown through pipes of different lengths or sometimes electrically. 2 a part of an animal or plant, such as a heart. 3 a part of a large organisation. **organist** *nc* a person who plays the organ.

organic (ɔː'gænɪk) *adj* 1 to do with animals or plants. 2 to do with chemical substances containing carbon. 3 (of food) grown using only natural substances to help growth and prevent plant diseases.

organise ('ɔːgənaɪz) 1 *vt* put in order; arrange (a meeting, etc.). 2 *vti* (of members of a group), (cause to) form into an association. **organisation** (ˌɔːgənaɪ'zeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of organising or state of being organised. 2 *nc* a business, society, etc., with a particular purpose. **organiser** *nc*

organism ('ɔːgənɪzəm) *nc* any animal or plant; anything which may be considered to be alive.

orgy ('ɔːdʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** 1 a wild party with drinking and sexual activity. 2 a period of having too much of something pleasurable, esp. drinking or sexual activity.

orient ('ɔːrɪənt) *n* **the Orient** *literary* the East. **oriental** (ˌɔːrɪ'entəl) *adj* from or to do with the East.

orientate ('ɔːrɪəntɪeɪt) *vt* 1 cause to get used to new surroundings or conditions. 2 turn to face the right way. **orientation** (ˌɔːrɪen'teɪʃən) *ncu* (a position achieved by) orientating.

orienteering (ˌɔːrɪen'tɪərɪŋ) *nu* a sport relying on skill in map reading and compass use.

orifice ('ɒrɪfɪs) *nc fml* a hole or opening in the body, a wall, a machine, etc.

origin ('ɒrɪdʒɪn) *nc* a starting-point; place from which something comes or is developed: *a word of Latin origin.*

original (ə'rɪdʒɪnəl) *adj* 1 to do with an origin or beginning; earliest. 2 (of an idea, fashion, etc.) new; unusual. 3 having original ideas. • *nc* something that copies may be made from. **originality** (əˌrɪdʒɪ'nælɪtɪ) *nu* **originally** *adv*

originate (ə'rɪdʒɪneɪt) *vti* start; come or bring into being.

ornament ('ɔːnəmənt) *nc* anything used to decorate or make something beautiful. • ('ɔːnəment) *vt* decorate or make beautiful. **ornamental** (ˌɔːnə'mentəl) *adj*

ornate (ɔː'neɪt) *adj* greatly ornamented.

ornithology (ˌɔːnɪ'θɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of birds.

orphan ('ɔːfən) *nc* a child, both of whose parents are dead. **be orphaned** have both your parents die while you are a child. **orphanage** ('ɔːfənɪdʒ) *nc* a home for orphans.

orthodontics (ˌɔːθə'dɒntɪks) *nu* a branch of dentistry concerned with straightening teeth. **orthodontist** (ˌɔːθə'dɒntɪst) *nu* a dentist who specialises in orthodontics.

orthodox ('ɔːθədɒks) *adj* doing, believing, etc., what is approved, esp. in religion.

orthography (ɔː'θɒgrəfɪ) *ncu* (a system of) spelling.

orthopaedic *US* **orthopedic** (ˌɔːθə'piːdɪk) *adj* to do with healing bones, joints, and muscles.

oryx ('ɒrɪks) *nc, pl* **oryxes, oryx** a large African antelope with long nearly straight horns in both male and female adults.

oscillate ('ɒsɪleɪt) *science vti* move from side to side or up and down regularly. **oscillation** (ˌɒsɪ'leɪʃən) *ncu*

oscilloscope (ə'sɪləskəʊp) *science nc* an instrument that gives a representation of electrical signals on a screen.

osmosis (ɒz'məʊsɪs) *science nu* the process by which water passes through a selectively permeable membrane from a weak solution to a stronger one.

ostensible (ɒ'stensɪbəl) *adj* made to look real but actually pretended: *The ostensible purpose of this advertisement is to give advice, but it is really meant to make you buy their goods.*

ostentatious (ˌɒstenˈteɪʃəs) *derogatory adj* showing off; attracting attention on purpose.

ostrich (ˈɒstrɪʃ) *nc, pl* **ostriches, ostrich** a large African bird that cannot fly but runs fast.

other (ˈʌðə*) *determiner, pron* (one(s)) different from the one(s) already mentioned or under consideration. See also **another. every other** every second: *I have a bath every other day.* **one after the other** one at a time; separately. **on the other hand** See under **hand. or other** not known: *someone or other; He went somewhere or other—I don't know exactly.* **the other day, week, afternoon, etc.** only a few days, weeks, afternoons, etc., ago.

otherness (ˈʌðənɪs) *nu* the quality of difference: *When I visited the USA I had a distinct feeling of otherness.*

otherwise (ˈʌðəwaɪz) *adv* 1 differently: *I could not have spoken otherwise.* 2 in other respects: *It is too sweet, but otherwise quite nice.* 3 if not: *Put it back, otherwise there will be trouble.*

otter (ˈɒtə*) *nc* a furry animal that eats fish: see picture.

otter

Ottoman (ˈɒtəmən) *adj* of the former Turkish empire in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

ouch (aʊtʃ) *interj* (used to express sudden pain.)

ought (ɔːt) *v* (followed by an infinitive) 1 (used to express what it is advisable, your duty, etc., to do): *You ought to go to the theatre more often.* 2 (used to express what is probable and often also wanted): *It ought to be sunny today.*

oughtn't (ˈɔːtənt) *v* ought not.

ounce (aʊns) *nc* 1 a measure of weight: see appendix. 2 a small amount: *every last ounce of freedom.*

our (ˈaʊə* unstressed ɑː*) *determiner* belonging to or to do with us: *Our army is winning.* **ours** (ˈaʊəz) *pron* a person or thing belonging to or to do with us. **ourselves** (aʊəˈselvz) *pron* 1 (the reflexive form of **us**): *We dressed ourselves.* 2 (the emphatic form of **us**): *We read it ourselves.* **by ourselves** (of the speaker or writer and one or more others) 1 without help. 2 alone.

oust (aʊst) *vt* put or drive out: *The government will be ousted at the next election.*

out (aʊt) *adv* 1 at or to a place not in something: *He just walked out.* 2 (used to show removal): *I rubbed out my name on the list.* 3 (used to show an increase in length, size, etc.): *The days are drawing out.* 4 (used to show a conclusion or exhaustion): *That family died out long ago.* • *adv, adj* 1 (so as to be) no longer burning: *The light went out.* 2 (so as to be) unconscious: *He was knocked out cold.* 3 (so as to be) away from home: *a day out with the family.* 4 (so as to be) (far) away: *a ship out at sea.* 5 (so as to be) able to be seen, bought, etc., by the public: *His new book has just come out.* 6 (so as to be) not in place or accurate: *Your guess was a long way out.* 7 (so as to be) no longer fashionable: *Shoes like those went out years ago.* 8 (so as to be) on strike: *The whole factory is out.* • *adj* 1 not allowed: *Speaking when you're not asked to is out!* 2 no longer possible: *A holiday is out, as we've no money.* 3 finished: *before the day is out.* 4 (followed by **for** or an infinitive) hoping or trying: *only out for himself; out to get rich.* • *prep* out of; out through: *He went out the door.* **out loud** aloud; using the voice. **out of** 1 at or to a point not in: *He walked out of the room.* 2 because of: *I shouted at him out of anger.* 3 no longer having a supply of: *Sorry, we're out of petrol.* 4 from; using: *I've made curtains out of sheets.* **out-of-date** (ˌaʊtəvˈdeɪt) *adj* See under **date**[1]. **out-of-doors** (ˌaʊtəvˈdɔːz) *adv, adj* outside; not in a building. **out-of-the-way** (ˌaʊtəvðəˈweɪ) *adj* in a place that is difficult to reach or not visited much.

outboard (ˈaʊtbɔːd) *nc* also **outboard motor** an engine that is fixed to the back of a boat and is easily removable: see picture.

outboard motor

outbreak (ˈaʊtbreɪk) *nc* a sudden happening or start of something, such as a disease or a war.

outbuilding (ˈaʊtˌbɪldɪŋ) *nc* a building separate from but belonging to another one.

outburst (ˈaʊtbɜːst) *nc* a sudden show of feeling, esp. anger.

outcast ('aʊtkɑːst) *nc, adj* (a person) avoided by the rest of society.

outcome ('aʊtkʌm) *nc* a result.

outcrop ('aʊtkrɒp) *nc* a part of a layer of rock that pushes up or out from the surface.

outcry ('aʊtkraɪ) *nc, pl* **-cries** a strong general protest or complaint.

outdated (aʊt'deɪtɪd) *adj* no longer in use or in fashion.

outdo (aʊt'duː) *vt* do better than (someone).

outdoor ('aʊtdɔː*) *adj* (done, used, etc.) outside. **outdoors** (aʊt'dɔːz) *adv, nu* (the world) outside or not in a building.

outer ('aʊtə*) *adj* 1 on the outside. 2 further from the middle. **outermost** ('aʊtəməʊst) *adj* farthest from the middle.

outfit ('aʊtfɪt) *nc* 1 a set of things intended to be used together. 2 a set of clothes worn together. 3 *infml* a group of people working together, such as a business or part of an army. • *vt* provide with an outfit.

outgoing ('aʊt,gəʊɪŋ, ,aʊt'gəʊɪŋ) *adj* 1 friendly. 2 leaving a job or position: *the outgoing president.*

outgrow (aʊt'grəʊ) *vt* 1 grow faster than. 2 grow too big for (clothes, etc.). 3 develop beyond (childish ideas, etc.).

outhouse ('aʊthaʊs) *nc* a small building separate from but belonging to another one.

outing ('aʊtɪŋ) *nc* a short journey to somewhere and back, made for pleasure: *a school outing.*

outlandish (aʊt'lændɪʃ) *adj* shockingly unusual: *She was wearing the most outlandish hat!*

outlaw ('aʊtlɔː) *nc* a person who has had the protection of the law taken away from them, esp. a hunted criminal. • *vt* 1 make into an outlaw. 2 forbid.

outlet ('aʊtlet) *nc* 1 a place or means for escape, esp. of strong feelings. 2 a place or means for selling something.

outline ('aʊtlaɪn) *nc, vt* 1 (give) a short description (of). 2 (draw) a line in the shape of the outside of (something).

outlive (aʊt'lɪv) *vt* live longer than: *My grandmother will outlive us all.*

outlook ('aʊtlʊk) 1 *nc* a feeling towards something: *We have different outlooks on life.* 2 *nu* the probable future of something: *There's not much outlook for peace.*

outlying ('aʊt,laɪɪŋ) *adj* far from a centre such as a town: *outlying villages.*

outnumber (aʊt'nʌmbə*) *vt* exist in a greater number than.

outpost ('aʊtpəʊst) *nc* a far-off settlement or army camp.

output ('aʊtpʊt) 1 *ncu* (an example of) the amount of something produced, such as electricity: *These two power stations have different outputs—one generates more than the other.* 2 *nu* information got out of a computer.

outrage ('aʊtreɪdʒ) 1 *nc* a serious insult, injury, or act of cruelty done on purpose. 2 *nu* great anger or hurt caused by an outrage. • *vt* cause outrage in (someone). **outrageous** (aʊt'reɪdʒəs) *adj* causing outrage.

outright ('aʊtraɪt) *adj* complete; done all at once: *an outright sale.* • (aʊt'raɪt) *adv* completely; all at once.

outrun (aʊt'rʌn) *vt* run faster or farther than.

outset ('aʊtset) *nc* a beginning: *I want to make something clear at the outset.*

outshine (aʊt'ʃaɪn) *vt* 1 do better or get a better result than. 2 shine more brightly than.

outside (aʊt'saɪd, 'aʊtsaɪd) *prep, adv* at or to a place not inside. • *prep* apart from. • ('aʊtsaɪd) *adj* outside something: *outside help.* • (aʊt'saɪd, 'aʊtsaɪd) *nc* the side of something that faces outwards or the part of something near its edge; the farthest limit: *It will cost twenty pounds at the outside.* **outsider** (aʊt'saɪdə*) *nc* 1 a person or thing not a member of some group. 2 a person or animal thought unlikely to win a race or other competition.

outskirts ('aʊtskɜːts) *n pl* the district near the edge of a town, etc.

outspoken (aʊt'spəʊkən) *adj* speaking or spoken boldly and plainly.

outspread (aʊt'spred) *vt, adj* spread out.

outstanding (aʊt'stændɪŋ) *adj* 1 remarkable, esp. very good. 2 not yet paid or decided.

outstretched (aʊt'stretʃt) *adj* stretched or reaching out.

outstrip (aʊt'strɪp) *vt* do better, esp. go faster, than.

outward ('aʊtwəd) *adv* also **outwards** towards the outside. • *adj* 1 on the outside. 2 able to be seen; not deep or hidden: *He showed no outward signs of fear.* 3 (esp. of the first half of a journey to somewhere and back) (travelling) away from somewhere: *Your outward flight leaves at six tonight.* **outwardly** *adv*

outweigh (aʊt'weɪ) *vt* be more important than: *Our joy outweighed our sorrow.*

outwit (aʊt'wɪt) *vt* be cleverer than; deceive.

ova plural of **ovum.**

oval ('əʊvəl) *adj, nc* (having) a flat shape similar to that of an egg: see picture at **shapes.**

ovary ('əʊvərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 the part of a female body that produces eggs. 2 the part of a plant from which fruit develops.

ovation (əʊ'veɪʃən) *nc* an enthusiastic reception, esp. with clapping: *a standing ovation.*

oven ('ʌvən) *nc* a heated container like a box or cupboard for cooking food, heating or drying substances, etc.

over ('əʊvə*) *prep* 1 above, but not touching; above, esp. to cover: *Put a cloth over the bird's cage.* 2 about: *He argued over the price.* 3 more than: *over 100 people.* 4 during: *Come and stay with us over the weekend.* 5 (showing higher rank): *She's over us at work.* 6 recovered from (an illness, etc.). • *prep, adv* across: *I jumped over the gate; The plane flew over (the city); Come over and see us.* • *adv* 1 so as to (cause to) fall: *The bottle was knocked over.* 2 so as to leave a different side showing: *Turn the page over.* 3 from beginning to end: *I'll read the letter over to you.* • *adj* finished: *Let's get this job over.* **over and above** besides: *He gets this money over and above his normal pay.* **over and over (again)** a great many times.

overall ('əʊvər,ɔ:l) *adj* complete; taking everything into account: *overall length.* • (,əʊvər'ɔ:l) *adv* taking everything into account. • ('əʊvərɔ:l) *nc* 1 *Brit* a work garment worn over other clothes to protect them. 2 (*pl*) trousers with shoulder straps, or a complete one-piece garment, worn over other clothes to protect them.

overboard (,əʊvə'bɔ:d) *adv* from a ship into the sea.

overcast (,əʊvə'kɑ:st) *adj* (of the sky) covered with (dark) clouds.

overcharge (,əʊvə'tʃɑ:dʒ) *vti* charge (someone) too much money.

overcoat ('əʊvəkəʊt) *nc* a warm coat worn over other clothes.

overcome (,əʊvə'kʌm) *vt* 1 beat (an enemy), get over (a difficulty), etc. 2 (usually passive) (of smoke, laughter, etc.) make helpless or powerless.

overdo (,əʊvə'du:) *vt* 1 work too hard at: *Don't overdo your welcome.* 2 cook for too long. **overdone** (,əʊvə'dʌn) *adj* well cooked: *I like my steak overdone.*

overdose ('əʊvədəʊs) *nc* too much of a drug taken at once.

overdraft ('əʊvədrɑ:ft) *nc* an arrangement or situation in which you draw more money from a bank account than you have in it.

overdue (,əʊvə'dju:) *adj* late; expected, owed, etc., but not yet arrived or paid.

overeat (,əʊvər'i:t) *vi* eat too much.

overflow (,əʊvə'fləʊ) 1 *vti* (of a liquid, crowd, etc.) flow over the top of; more than fill. 2 *vi* (of a container, room, etc.) be filled so that the contents overflow: *The house is overflowing with visitors.* • ('əʊvəfləʊ) *nc* a pipe, etc., that carries away overflowing liquid.

overgrown (,əʊvə'grəʊn) *adj* covered with wild plants.

overhang (,əʊvə'hæŋ) *vti* stick out (over): *an overhanging rock.* • ('əʊvəhæŋ) *nc* something that overhangs.

overhaul (,əʊvə'hɔ:l) *vt* 1 examine (and repair) (a machine, etc.). 2 overtake (another car, etc.). • ('əʊvəhɔ:l) *nc* an examination (and repair).

overhead (,əʊvə'hed) *adj, adv* above your head, esp. in the sky. **overheads** ('əʊvəhedz) *n pl* general business costs, such as rent, that are not caused by any one job or sale.

overhear (,əʊvə'hɪə*) *vt* hear (a person, conversation, etc.) by chance or without the speaker knowing.

overjoyed (,əʊvə'dʒɔɪd) *adj* very happy.

overland (,əʊvə'lænd) *adj, adv* (travelling) across land.

overlap (,əʊvə'læp) 1 *vt* partly cover. 2 *vi* (of two things) lie so that you partly covers the other. • ('əʊvəlæp) *nc* an overlapping part of something.

overload (,əʊvə'ləʊd) *vt* put too much load on. • ('əʊvələʊd) *nc* a load that is too great.

overlook (,əʊvə'lʊk) *vt* 1 fail to see. 2 choose not to take (a mistake, etc.) into account; forgive. 3 allow you to look out over: *My room overlooks the garden.*

overly ('əʊvəlɪ) *adv* too (much).

overnight (,əʊvə'naɪt) *adv, adj* 1 at night or for a night. 2 immediate(ly); sudden(ly): *an overnight success.*

overpower (,əʊvə'paʊə*) *vt* overcome (an enemy, etc.) by force, or with smoke, laughter, etc.

overrate (,əʊvə'reɪt) *vt* have too high an opinion of.

overriding (,əʊvə'raɪdɪŋ) *adj* (of a consideration, claim, etc.) more important than any other.

overrule (,əʊvə'ru:l) *vt* not allow (a decision, argument, etc.) of (someone).

overrun (,əʊvə'rʌn) *vt* 1 attack and beat (an army, town, etc.) 2 (of animals or plants) spread quickly over (ground): *The house is overrun with ants.* 3 use or occupy more than (the time or space allowed).

overseas (,əʊvə'si:z) *adv, adj* abroad, esp. across the sea.

overseer ('əʊvəsɪə*) *nc* a person who makes sure that others work properly.

overshadow (ˌəʊvə'ʃædəʊ) *vt* seem more important than.

overshoot (ˌəʊvə'ʃuːt) *vti* shoot or go too far or past (something) by mistake.

oversight ('əʊvəsaɪt) *nc* a mistake, esp. something overlooked or forgotten.

overstep (ˌəʊvə'step) *vt* go beyond (a mark, etc.).

overt ('əʊvɜːt, əʊ'vɜːt) *adj* openly done; observable.

overtake (ˌəʊvə'teɪk) *vt* 1 *chiefly Brit* pass (someone or something moving in the same direction) by travelling faster. 2 pass in some other way, such as in value. 3 come upon; surprise.

overthrow (ˌəʊvə'θrəʊ) *vt* destroy; get rid of (a government, society, etc.) • ('əʊvəθrəʊ) *nu* the act of overthrowing.

overtime ('əʊvətaɪm) *adv* outside normal working hours. • *nu* time spent working overtime; pay for this.

overtones ('əʊvətəʊnz) *n pl* extra, unexpressed meaning.

overture ('əʊvətjʊə*) *nc* 1 a piece of music for orchestra, usually written to be played before an opera or play. 2 (*pl*) an offer to start talks or business.

overturn (ˌəʊvə'tɜːn) *vti* (cause to) fall or turn over.

overweight (ˌəʊvə'weɪt) *adj* weighing more than is healthy or allowed. • ('əʊvəweɪt) *nu* weight that is more than is healthy or allowed.

overwhelm (ˌəʊvə'welm) *vt* 1 astonish, esp. with something pleasant: *I was overwhelmed by their generosity.* 2 overcome (an enemy, etc.) by great force, quantity, or numbers: *An overwhelming number of people said 'no'.*

overwork (ˌəʊvə'wɜːk) *vti* (cause to) work too hard. • *nu* the act of overworking (yourself).

overwrought (ˌəʊvə'rɔːt) *adj* very excited or nervous.

oviduct ('əʊvɪˌdʌkt) *nc zoology* the tube which carries the ova to the ovaries.

ovule ('əʊvjuːl) *nc* the part of a plant that develops into its seed.

ovum ('əʊvəm) *nc, pl* **ova** ('əʊvə) an animal's egg that has not (yet) started growing into a new animal.

owe (əʊ) *vt* 1 be or feel bound to give (money, thanks, etc.) (to someone). 2 have to be grateful (to someone or something) for: *We owe our victory to luck.* **owing to** because of; as a result of: *We stayed at home, owing to the bad weather.*

owl (aʊl) *nc* a large bird that hunts small animals at night: see picture.

owl

own (əʊn) *determiner, pron* 1 (used as an intensifier after **my,** etc.) and not another's: *The house has its own garden; David bought one of his own.* 2 for or to do with yourself: *I'll make my own way there.* • *vt* have the right to possess; have as your property: *I own this land.* **get your own back (on)** do harm, etc., to (someone who has done harm to you). **on your own** 1 alone. 2 without help. **own up (to)** confess (to a crime, doing something wrong, etc.).

owner ('əʊnə*) *nc* a person who owns something. **ownership** ('əʊnəʃɪp) *nu* the fact of owning something.

ox (ɒks) *nc, pl* **-en** (ən) 1 any animal of the cattle family. 2 a castrated male of the type of cattle kept on farms: see picture at **animals.**

oxide ('ɒksaɪd) *nc* any chemical compound containing oxygen with another substance: *iron oxide.* **oxidise** ('ɒksɪdaɪz) *vti* (cause to) combine with oxygen, esp. to form an oxide.

oxpecker ('ɒksˌpekə*) *nc* also **tickbird** a small African starling that feeds on parasites from the skins of cattle and other animals.

oxygen ('ɒksɪdʒən) *nu* a chemical element; colourless gas that is necessary for respiration and makes up part of the air: symbol O. **oxygenate** ('ɒksɪdʒəneɪt) *vt* supply with oxygen.

oyster ('ɔɪstə*) *nc* a shellfish that is eaten and from which pearls are obtained.

ozone ('əʊzəʊn) *nu* a colourless gas formed from oxygen. **ozone layer** also **ozonosphere** (əʊ'zəʊnəˌsfɪə*) *nu* a region of concentrated ozone in the outer stratosphere which shields the earth from excessive ultraviolet radiation. See **CFC.**

P

pa (pɑː) *infml n* See **father.**

pace (peɪs) *nc* 1 a step in walking or running. 2 a speed, esp. of walking or running. 3 a manner of walking or running. • *vti* 1 walk (about on (something)), esp. slowly, as if in thought: *He nervously paced the corridor.* 2 *vt* set a speed for (a runner in a race, etc.).

pachyderm ('pækɪˌdɜːm) *nc zoology* a large mammal with a thick skin, such as an elephant, rhinoceros, or hippopotamus.

pacific (pə'sɪfɪk) *adj* peaceful; peace-loving.

pacifism ('pæsɪfɪzəm) *nu* the belief that violence, esp. war, is wrong. **pacifist** *nc, adj* **pacify** *vt* make peaceful or calm.

pack (pæk) *nc* 1 a load carried on the back. 2 a set of playing-cards. 3 a group of animals, esp. ones that hunt. 4 a wrapped or boxed quantity of something such as food for selling. • *vti* 1 put (objects) into (a container), esp. clothes, etc., into a suitcase for a journey. 2 crowd or press tightly together (into): *The hall was packed for the meeting.*

package ('pækɪdʒ) *nc* 1 anything wrapped or boxed; parcel. 2 a number of offers, conditions, etc., made as a whole: *a package holiday; package deal.* • *vt* wrap as or make into a package.

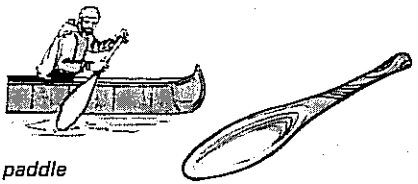
packet ('pækɪt) *nc* 1 (a quantity of something in) a small box or wrapping: *a packet of cigarettes.* 2 *slang* a lot of money: *That cost a packet!*

packing ('pækɪŋ) *nu* 1 material used to pack goods in. 2 the act of packing clothes, etc., for a journey: *I've done the packing.*

pact (pækt) *nc* an agreement, esp. between countries, to help one another.

pad (pæd) *nc* 1 a thick piece of soft material used as a cushion or to hold a cleaning liquid, ink, etc. 2 a pile of sheets of paper joined at one edge, to be torn off as each is written on. 3 See **launching-pad** under **launch.** 4 a soft part of the foot of an animal. • *vt* 1 use soft material to shape or protect. 2 *vi* walk quietly and steadily. **padding** *nu* material used to pad with.

paddle[1] ('pædəl) *nc* a shaped board with a handle, used to move a boat through water: see picture. • *vt* move (a boat) with a paddle.



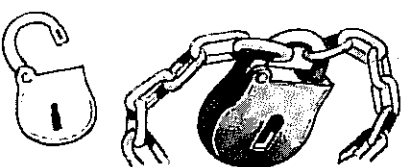
paddle

paddle[2] *vi* walk about in shallow water. • *nc* a period of paddling: *Let's go for a paddle.*

paddock ('pædək) *nc* a small field used esp. for horses.

paddy ('pædɪ) 1 *nu* rice that is growing or has just been harvested. 2 *nc, pl* **-dies** also **paddy field** a field used for growing rice.

padlock ('pædlɒk) *nc* a lock used by passing its closable ring through the ends of a chain, etc.: see picture.



padlock

paediatrics *US* **pediatrics** (ˌpiːdɪ'ætrɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the branch of medicine to do with children's diseases. **paediatrician** (ˌpiːdɪə'trɪʃən) *nc* a doctor who practises paediatrics.

pagan ('peɪgən) *nc, adj* (a person) with no apparent religion.

page[1] (peɪdʒ) *nc* (one side of) a leaf of a book.

page[2] *nc* (esp. in older times) a boy employed to carry messages, etc. • *vt* call out the name of (someone) so that they can be given a message when they answer.

pageant ('pædʒənt) *nc* a colourful show or procession, esp. illustrating events from history. **pageantry** *nu* the show and splendour of pageants.

pagoda (pə'gəʊdə) *nc* a religious building, tall and narrowing towards the top, seen in India, China, etc.: see picture.

pagoda

paid (peɪd) past tense and past participle of **pay.**

pail (peɪl) *nc* a bucket.

pain (peɪn) *nc u* (an instance of) suffering or hurt in body or mind: *a pain in my foot.* **painful** *adj* causing pain. **painfully** *adv* **painless** *adj*

pains (peɪnz) *n pl* care: *He took great pains to get everything right.* **painstaking** ('peɪnz,teɪkɪŋ) *adj* (of work, etc.) very careful; in great detail.

paint (peɪnt) *nc* a liquid that is spread and dries on surfaces to colour or protect them. • *vt* 1 spread paint onto (a surface), esp. with a brush. 2 make (a picture) of (something) by brushing paint onto paper, cloth, etc. **painter** *nc* 1 a person who paints houses, etc. 2 an artist who makes paintings. **painting** *nc* a painted picture.

pair (peə*) *nc* 1 a set of two things: *a pair of shoes.* 2 an object (as if) made of two similar parts: *a pair of trousers; a pair of scissors.* 3 a man and a woman who are in love or married; couple. • *vti* (sometimes followed by **off**) form (into) pairs.

pajamas (pə'dʒɑːməz) *n* See **pyjamas.**

pal (pæl) *infml nc* a friend. **pal up (with)** become friends (with).

palace ('pælɪs) *nc* the official home of a king, queen, bishop, etc.

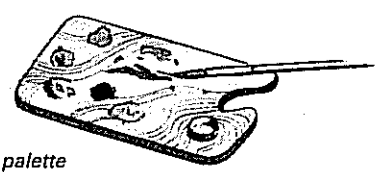
palate ('pælɪt) *nc* 1 the roof of the mouth. 2 a person's taste or liking.

palatial (pə'leɪʃəl) *adj* like a palace; splendid.

palaver (pə'lɑːvə*) 1 *nc* a long talk about something, esp. between leaders. 2 *nu* fuss or bother: *What a palaver!*

pale (peɪl) *adj* **-r, -st** not strong in colour; whitish: *pale blue; He was pale from lack of sleep.* • *vi* make or become pale or paler.

palette ('pælɪt) *nc* a board on which an artist mixes paints: see picture.



palette

palindrome ('pælɪndrəʊm) *nc* a word or group of words that is spelt the same forwards and backwards, such as 'radar'.

pall¹ (pɔːl) *nc* 1 a thick cloth spread over anything containing a dead body. 2 a thick, heavy covering: *a pall of smoke.*

pall² *vi* become uninteresting (to someone): *Television began to pall after a few hours.*

pallid ('pælɪd) *adj* (of a person's appearance, etc.) pale.

pally ('pælɪ) *infml adj* friendly.

palm¹ (pɑːm) *nc* 1 the inner surface of the hand between the wrist and fingers. 2 the part of a glove covering the palm. • *vt* cleverly hide (something) in or with your hand. **palm off** (often followed by **on**) *infml* get rid of: *I palmed the job off on my assistant.*

palm² *nc* a tree that grows in hot parts of the world and of which all the branches and leaves grow out of the top: see picture.

palm

palpitate ('pælpɪteɪt) *vi* (esp. of the heart) tremble; flutter.

palsy ('pɔːlzɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** a disease that prevents movement, control, or use of a part of the body.

paltry ('pɔːltrɪ) *derogatory adj* **-ier, -iest** worthless; too little to be of (much) use: *I got paid a paltry amount.*

pampas ('pæmpəs) *n pl* (*sometimes singular*) the grassy plains of southern South America.

pamper ('pæmpə*) *vt* be too kind to; give (someone) anything that is asked for.

pamphlet ('pæmflɪt) *nc* a small book with a paper cover, esp. on a subject of current interest.

pan¹ (pæn) *nc* 1 a container, esp. shallow and of metal, for cooking, etc.: *a frying-pan.* 2 *geography* a shallow hollow in the ground: *a salt pan.*

pan² *vt* swing (a film or television camera) sideways, esp. to follow something moving. • *nc* an instance of panning.

pancake ('pænkeɪk) *nc* a thin, flat cake of egg, milk, and flour, cooked in a pan.

pancreas ('pæŋkrɪəs) *nc* a part of the body, near the stomach, that produces juices to break down the food you eat.

panda ('pændə) *nc* 1 also **giant panda** a large black and white bear-like animal from China: see picture at **animals.** 2 a reddish-brown furry Indian animal.

pandemic (pæn'demɪk) *adj* spread over an entire continent or the world, esp. of a disease. See also **epidemic.**

pandemonium (ˌpændɪ'məʊnɪəm) *nu* great confusion and noise.

pander ('pændə*) *vi* (followed by **to**) completely satisfy (someone's wishes, esp. bad).

pane (peɪn) *nc* a sheet of glass in a window or door.

panel ('pænəl) *nc* 1 a sheet of metal, wood, etc., that is part of something else: *a door panel; car-body panel.* 2 a group of people who choose someone for a job, answer questions from an audience, etc. • *vt* make or fit (a wall, etc.) with panels.

pang (pæŋ) *nc* a sudden painful or unpleasant feeling: *pangs of hunger.*

panic ('pænɪk) *nu* sudden great fear causing strange behaviour, esp. among a group of people. • *vti* (cause to) feel panic.

panorama (ˌpænə'rɑːmə) *nc* a long, wide, unbroken view of surrounding land.

pansy ('pænzɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** a garden plant with yellow, purple, or white flowers.

pant (pænt) 1 *vi* breathe fast after exercise, etc. 2 *vt* say while panting. • *nc* an instance of panting.

panther ('pænθə*) *n* See **leopard.**

pantomime ('pæntəmaɪm) *nc* 1 *Brit* a children's entertainment produced around Christmas. 2 a play without words.

pantry ('pæntrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a small room either for food or for plates, glasses, etc.

pants (pænts) *n pl* also **pair of pants** 1 short for **underpants.** 2 *chiefly US* See **trousers.**

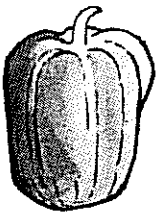
papa (pə'pɑː) *old-fashioned nc* a father.

papal ('peɪpəl) *adj* to do with the pope.

papaya (pə'paɪə) *n* See **pawpaw.**

paper ('peɪpə*) 1 *ncu* a (type of) substance made from wood, cotton, etc., and used in thin sheets for writing, printing, wrapping, etc. *nc* 2 short for **newspaper.** 3 a piece of writing on some subject. 4 also **examination paper** a set of questions, or someone's answers to them, in a written examination. 5 (*pl*) a person's letters, diaries, etc. 6 (*pl*) pieces of paper giving your name, your permission to visit somewhere, etc. 7 short for **wallpaper.** • *vt* cover (a wall or the walls of a room) with wallpaper. **paperback** ('peɪpəbæk) *nc* a cheap book with paper covers. **paper bag** a bag made from paper, esp. used for wrapping goods bought in a shop. **paperwork** ('peɪpəwɜːk) *nu* the part of a job involving writing letters, records, etc.

paprika ('pæprɪkə, pə'priːkə) 1 *nu* a powder, made from a hollow red fruit, used to add taste to food. 2 *nc* one of these fruits: see picture.



paprika

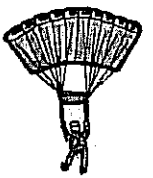
papyrus (pə'paɪrəs) *nu* a tall water plant used by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans to make paper.

par (pɑː*) *nu* a set value or standard.

parable ('pærəbəl) *nc* a story that explains a religious point.

parabola (pə'ræbələ) *nc* a curve made by, for example, something thrown up through the air and falling to the ground again.

parachute ('pærəʃuːt) (*infml abbrev.* **chute**) *nc* a large, shaped cloth attached by lines to a person, box of supplies, etc., to slow its fall through the air: see picture. • *vti* drop by parachute. **parachutist** *nc*



parachute

parade (pə'reɪd) *nc* 1 a gathering or procession of soldiers, etc. 2 a public street or row of shops. 3 *nu* show: *on parade.* • *vti* 1 (cause to) gather or march in a procession. 2 show (yourself) off.

paradise ('pærədaɪs) *nu* 1 heaven. 2 a place, state, or time of great happiness.

paradox ('pærədɒks) *nc* something that at first does not appear true or possible but when thought about is found to be so. **paradoxical** (ˌpærə'dɒksɪkəl) *adj* **paradoxically** *adv*

paraffin ('pærəfɪn) *US, Australian* **kerosene** *nu* a light oil burnt in lamps, heaters, plane engines, and, as paraffin wax, in candles.

paragon ('pærəgən) *nc literary* a model of perfection: *a paragon of virtue.*

paragraph ('pærəgrɑːf) *nc* a part of a piece of writing or printing that starts a new line, usually a little way in from the edge.

parakeet ('pærəkiːt) *nc* a bird; a small, esp. long-tailed, parrot.

parallel ('pærəlel) *adj* 1 (of lines, etc.) always the same distance away (from each other): *parallel railway lines.* 2 similar; matching: *There has been a parallel improvement in our other factories.* • *nc* 1 one of two or more parallel lines. 2 a parallel fact, development, etc. • *vt* be a parallel to; match. **parallelogram** (ˌpærə'leləgræm) *nc* a four-sided figure

whose opposite sides are parallel: see picture at **shapes.**

paralyse *US* **paralyze** ('pærəlaɪz) *vt* cause (someone or a part of the body) to be unable to move. **paralysis** (pə'rælɪsɪs) *nc, pl* **-lyses** (lɪsiːz) a state of being paralysed; a condition causing this.

parameter (pə'ræmətə*) *nc* a factor or limit used in a calculation.

paramount ('pærəmaʊnt) *adj* chief; most important: *The wishes of the local people are paramount.*

parapet ('pærəpɪt) *nc* a low wall along the edge of a roof, bridge, etc.

paraphernalia (ˌpærəfə'neɪlɪə) *n pl* 1 belongings; equipment. 2 useless objects.

paraphrase ('pærəfreɪz) *vt* express (something written or spoken) in a different way. • *nc* a piece of language produced by paraphrasing.

parasite ('pærəsaɪt) *nc* 1 a plant or animal that cannot exist on its own and lives and feeds in or on another one. 2 *derogatory* a person who lives on the money or work of others. **parasitic** (ˌpærə'sɪtɪk) *adj*

parasol ('pærəsɒl) *nc* a light umbrella used to give protection from the sun.

paratroops ('pærətruːps) *n pl* soldiers who can parachute in to where they are needed.

parazoan (ˌpærə'zəʊən) *nc, pl* **-zoa** ('zəʊə) an invertebrate organism without a nervous system, for example, a sponge.

parcel ('pɑːsəl) *nc* something wrapped up, esp. to be sent by post. • *vt* 1 (often followed by **up**) wrap as a parcel. 2 (often followed by **out**) divide or share something out. **parcel post** a postal service delivering parcels.

parch (pɑːtʃ) *vt* (of the sun, etc.) dry (something or someone) up.

parchment ('pɑːtʃmənt) *ncu* (a sheet of) thin leather from a sheep or goat, or thick, good-quality paper, used for writing on.

pardon ('pɑːdən) *vt* forgive (someone) for (a mistake, crime, etc.). • *nu* 1 forgiveness. 2 *nc* the stopping of someone's punishment for a crime. • *interj* also **I beg your pardon** 1 excuse me; sorry. 2 what did you say?

pare (peə*) *vt* cut away (the outside or edges) of (fruit, your nails, etc.).

parent ('peərent) *nc* a father or mother. **parental** (pə'rentəl) *adj*

parenthesis (pə'renθɪsɪs) *nc, pl* **-theses** (θɪsiːz) 1 a group of words that are separate from the main flow of a sentence, usually within brackets. 2 (*pl*) See **bracket** (def. 5). **parenthetical** (ˌpærən'θetɪkəl) *adj*

parish ('pærɪʃ) *nc* 1 a district having its own church and priest. 2 (in England) the smallest district for local government.

park (pɑːk) *nc* 1 a piece of open or wooded land kept for people's enjoyment. 2 a place where vehicles, etc., are kept. • *vt* 1 position (a motor vehicle), esp. so that it can be left for a time. 2 *infml* put; leave: *Can I park the kids with you?*

parliament ('pɑːləmənt) *nc* an assembly of people who represent the population in deciding how a country should be run. **parliamentary** (ˌpɑːlə'mentrɪ) *adj*

parlour *US* **parlor** ('pɑːlə*) *nc* 1 *old-fashioned* a room for receiving visitors in. 2 *chiefly US* a room or shop for a particular business: *a beauty parlor.*

parody ('pærədɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** a piece of writing or music imitating and making fun of another writer's or composer's works. • *vt* write or be a parody of.

parole (pə'rəʊl) *nu* the early freeing of a prisoner if they behave well in prison. • *vt* free (a prisoner) early.

parrot ('pærət) *nc* 1 any of various brightly coloured birds that live in hot parts of the world and can learn to repeat words: see picture at **birds.** 2 a person who repeats or imitates words or actions without thinking or understanding. • *vt* repeat or imitate without thinking or understanding. **parrot fever** See **psittacosis.**

parsley ('pɑːslɪ) *nu* a plant whose leaves are added to food for their taste.

parsnip ('pɑːsnɪp) *nc* a long pointed plant root, eaten cooked.

parson ('pɑːsən) *nc* a priest, esp. of the Church of England.

part (pɑːt) *nc* 1 a piece or not the whole of something: *He only told a part of the story.* 2 a character played by an actor: *a good part in a play.* 3 a share in an activity: *I shall do my part.* 4 one of several equal quantities: *Use one part of butter to two parts of flour.* 5 a set of musical notes for one of two or more voices or instruments: *This song has a piano part.* 6 (*pl*) a district: *I'm a stranger in these parts.* • *vti* 1 separate; divide. 2 *vi* leave each other: *They parted as enemies.* **part with** give (something) up or away. **for the most part** See under **most. in part** partly. **on the part of** done by; coming from: *There were no complaints on the part of the local people.* **part of speech** a class of words in a language that may be used in similar places in sentences, such as verb and noun. **take part (in)** help (in an activity).

partake (pɑː'teɪk) *vi* 1 (often followed by **in**) join in or take part (in). 2 (often

followed by **of**) take a share, esp. of food or drink.

partial ('pɑːʃəl) *adj* 1 to do with only a part; not complete: *the partial agreement of the group.* 2 (often followed by **to**) liking: *I'm quite partial to ice cream.* 3 unfair: *a partial judgement.* **partiality** *nu* **partially** *adv*

participate (pɑː'tɪsɪpeɪt) *vi* take part. **participant** *nc* **participation** (pɑːˌtɪsɪ'peɪʃən) *nu*

participle ('pɑːtɪsɪpəl) *nc* a form of a verb, used in some tenses and as an adjective: *The present participle of 'go' is 'going', and the past participle is 'gone'.*

particle ('pɑːtɪkəl) *nc* 1 a very small piece (of something): *dust particles.* 2 *grammar* a word like 'to', 'and', or 'but' that joins the other important words in a sentence.

particular (pə'tɪkjulə*) *adj* 1 being or to do with one and no other; special: *a report on a particular case.* 2 unusual: *of particular importance.* 3 difficult to please: *He is particular about what he eats.* • *nc* (often *pl*) a detail: *correct in every particular.* **in particular** specially. **particularly** *adv*

parting ('pɑːtɪŋ) 1 *ncu* (an instance of) separating or going away. 2 *Brit nc* a line of skin showing on the head, on either side of which the hair is combed in a different direction.

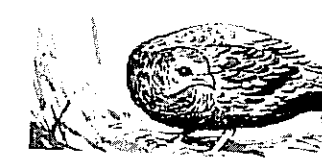
partisan (ˌpɑːtɪ'zæn, 'pɑːtɪzæn) *nc* 1 an armed person fighting an army that has occupied their country. 2 a member of a party, follower of a cause, etc. • *adj* unthinkingly following one cause, etc.

partition (pɑː'tɪʃən) 1 *nc* a thin wall dividing one room from another. 2 *nu* the act of dividing a country, etc., into parts. • *vt* divide into parts.

partly ('pɑːtlɪ) *adv* in part; not completely.

partner ('pɑːtnə*) *nc* 1 a companion; someone who shares in something with another or others. 2 a husband, boyfriend, wife, or girlfriend. 3 a person you dance with. • *vt* be a partner to (someone). **partnership** 1 *nu* the state of being partners. 2 *nc* a business carried on by two or more people together.

partridge ('pɑːtrɪdʒ) *nc, pl* **partridges, partridge** a brown European bird shot for food: see picture.



partridge

part-time (ˌpɑːt'taɪm) *adj, adv* (of a job) working part of a day or week: *a part-time job.*

party ('pɑːtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a social gathering, esp. of friends invited to someone's home: *a dinner party; a birthday party.* 2 also **political party** a group of people with common aims regarding the running of their country. 3 a person having a part in an agreement such as insurance or marriage. 4 a group of people doing something together: *a shooting party.*

pass (pɑːs) *vt* 1 move past or to beyond (something). 2 cause to move, esp. with the hand: *Pass me the sugar.* 3 do well enough in (an examination). 4 say that (someone) has done well enough in an examination. 5 allow or approve (a law, measure, etc.). 6 spend (time, a season, etc.): *They passed two happy weeks by the sea.* 7 give a (judgement). *vi* 8 move; lead: *He passed along the line of soldiers.* 9 (of a law, measure, etc.) be allowed or approved. 10 happen: *What passed between you?* 11 come to an end; finish: *The illness soon passed.* • *nc* 1 the act of passing. 2 a piece of paper giving someone permission to visit somewhere, etc. 3 a route between high mountains. **pass away** 1 come slowly to an end. 2 *euphemistic* die. **pass by** 1 walk or go past (something). 2 take no notice of. **pass for** be taken for or thought to be: *This will have to pass for an answer.* **pass off** 1 take place; be carried on: *The discussion passed off smoothly.* 2 cause to be thought to be (something else) in order to deceive: *He passed the painting off as his own.* **pass on** 1 give (news, an object, etc.) to (yet) another person. 2 *euphemistic* die. **pass out** *infml* become unconscious.

passable ('pɑːsəbəl) *adj* fair; just good enough.

passage ('pæsɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a way for someone or something to pass down or along. 2 also **passageway** a long, narrow room off which other rooms lead; corridor. 3 the act of travelling; a journey. 4 a piece of writing in a book: *Find the passage about the second battle.*

passenger ('pæsɪndʒə*) *nc* 1 a traveller in a vehicle that they are not driving, flying, etc. 2 *infml* a member of a team who is not doing their share of the work, etc.

passer-by (ˌpɑːsə'baɪ) *nc, pl* **passers-by** a person passing something, esp. on foot.

passion ('pæʃən) 1 *nc* a strong liking. *nu* 2 strong sexual love. 3 strong feeling. **passionate** ('pæʃənɪt) *adj* feeling or showing passion. **passionately** *adv* **passion fruit** See **granadilla** (def. 2).

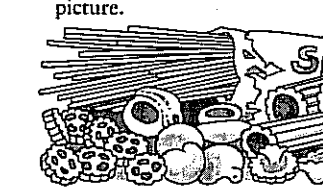
passive ('pæsɪv) *adj* 1 not taking part; inactive: *passive behaviour.* 2 to do with a verb of which the action is done to, not by, its subject: *In 'The book was written by me', 'was written' is a passive verb.*

Passover ('pɑːsˌəʊvə*) *n* the time of the year at which Jews remember God's sparing of the Israelites in Egypt.

passport ('pɑːspɔːt) *nc* a small book given to someone by a country's government to say that they are from that country and may travel abroad.

past (pɑːst) *adj* 1 having passed; over; finished. 2 to do with former times: *past history.* 3 former: *a past leader.* 4 to do with a verb describing a past event. • *nu* 1 **the past** time that has passed. *nc* 2 someone's past life. 3 a verb describing a past event. • *prep* 1 (by the side of and) beyond. 2 *US* **after** (used in giving the time of day) beyond: *twenty past two.* • *adv* so as to go past something or someone.

pasta ('pæstə) *nu* a food made from flour, water and sometimes eggs and formed into different shapes: *Macaroni, spaghetti and lasagne are my favourite kinds of pasta:* see picture.



pasta

paste (peɪst) *nu* 1 a substance made from flour and water and used for sticking paper. 2 any soft, stiff substance made for eating, cleaning your teeth with, etc. 3 a hard glass-like material used for making imitation jewels and pearls. • *vt* stick with **paste** (def. 1). **pasteboard** *nu* cardboard.

pastel ('pæstəl) *nc* 1 an artist's coloured drawing stick. 2 a picture drawn with these. • *adj* (of a colour) soft or pale.

pasteurise ('pæstʃəraɪz, 'pæstəraɪz) *vt* heat (milk) in a particular way to kill anything in it that might cause disease.

pastime ('pɑːstaɪm) *nc* a hobby, sport, or other activity done for enjoyment.

pastor ('pɑːstə*) *nc* a priest in charge of the church or people of a district.

pastoral ('pɑːstərəl) *adj* 1 to do with life in the country. 2 to do with the work of a pastor.

pastry ('peɪstrɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (a piece of food made with) a baked mixture of flour, fat, salt, and water.

pasture ('pɑːstʃə*) *ncu* (a piece of) land covered with grass. • *vt* keep (animals) on pasture.

pasty ('peɪstɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a face) pale; unhealthy-looking.

pat (pæt) *vt* hit lightly, esp. with the inside of an open hand. • *nc* 1 an instance of patting. 2 a small quantity of butter. **off pat** exactly remembered or done: *He recited the long speech off pat.*

patch (pætʃ) *nc* 1 a piece of cloth, leather, metal, etc., fixed onto a larger piece to repair it or make a pocket. 2 a part of a surface such as land or skin. • *vt* fix a patch to. **patch up** 1 mend (something) quickly or roughly. 2 settle (a quarrel, etc.). **patchwork** ('pætʃwɜːk) *nu* material made of many small pieces of cloth sewn together.

patella (pə'telə) *nc, pl* **-lae** (liː) also **kneecap** the small, nearly flat bone in front of the knee-joint.

patent ('peɪtənt, 'pætənt) *nc* a right to be the only maker of an invention. • *vt* obtain a patent for. • *adj* 1 patented: *a patent invention.* 2 (of a medicine) sold under a name chosen by its maker. 3 ('peɪtənt) clear for all to see: *patent nonsense.* **patently** *adv*

paternal (pə'tɜːnəl) *adj* 1 like or to do with a father. 2 on your father's side of the family: *My paternal grandfather emigrated to Australia in 1925.*

paternity (pə'tɜːnɪtɪ) *nu* being a father.

path (pɑːθ) *nc, pl* **-ths** (ðz) 1 a track for walking along. 2 the route or direction followed by something moving. 3 a course of action.

pathetic (pə'θetɪk) *adj* 1 causing sadness or pity: *The homeless children were a pathetic sight.* 2 *Brit, derogatory, slang* useless, uninteresting, etc.: *a pathetic attempt to be funny.*

pathogen ('pæθədʒən) *nc medicine* anything which is capable of producing disease.

pathology (pə'θɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of the causes and nature of diseases.

pathos ('peɪθɒs) *nu* a **pathetic** (def. 1) quality in language.

pathway ('pɑːθweɪ) *nc* a **path** (def. 1).

patience ('peɪʃəns) *nu* 1 the ability to stay calm when annoyed, in pain, repeatedly failing to do something, etc. 2 *Brit* a card game for only one person.

patient ('peɪʃənt) *adj* having or showing patience. • *nc* a person receiving medical treatment or care. **patiently** *adv*

patio ('pætɪəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s** a piece of ground with a hard surface put on it, next to a

house, and esp. used for sitting in the sunshine.

patois ('pætwɑː) *nc* a dialect spoken by a people of a particular area.

patriarch ('peɪtrɪɑːk) *nc* the male leader of a family or community. **patriarchal** *adj* **patriarchy** *nc, pl* **-chies** a family or community which is run by men. See also **matriarchy.**

patriot ('pætrɪət, 'peɪtrɪət) *nc* someone loyal to their country. **patriotic** (ˌpætrɪ'ɒtɪk, peɪtrɪ'ɒtɪk) *adj* **patriotism** *nu*

patrol (pə'trəʊl) *nc* (a person or group that carries out) a regular tour of a town, army camp, etc., to guard or observe. • *vt* go on a patrol of (a place).

patron ('peɪtrən) *nc* 1 a customer of a shop, restaurant, etc., esp. a frequent one. 2 a person who protects or supports (an artist, organisation that helps others, etc.). **patronage** ('pætrənɪdʒ) *nu* the support or custom of a patron.

patronise ('pætrənaɪz) *vt* 1 be a patron of. 2 behave towards (someone) as if they are inferior or less clever than you are. **patronising** *adj* tending to **patronise** (def. 2).

patter[1] ('pætəʳ) *vi, nu* (make) the quick tapping noise of rain falling on a window, etc.

patter[2] *nu* the fast speech of an entertainer, salesman, etc. • *vi* speak quickly, esp. without much meaning.

pattern ('pætən) *nc* 1 a (regular) arrangement of objects, marks, places, events, etc.: *a pattern of behaviour.* 2 an ornamental arrangement of lines, shapes, and colours on cloth, etc. 3 a model or plan of something to be made: *a dress pattern.* • *vt* put a **pattern** (def. 2) on. **pattern yourself on** copy (someone).

pause (pɔːz) *nc* a wait; a break for a short time. • *vi* make a pause.

pave (peɪv) *vt* cover (a road, floor, etc.) with flat stones or a material that sets hard. **pavement** *US* **sidewalk** *nc* a paved path for people to walk on next to a road.

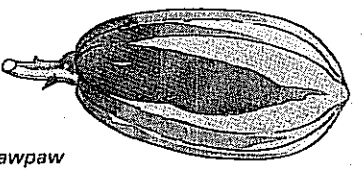
pavilion (pə'vɪljən) *nc* 1 a building used for entertainment, putting something on show, etc. 2 *Brit* a building beside a cricket or football ground used by players to change their clothes, etc.

paw (pɔː) *nc* a foot of an animal such as a dog or lion. • *vt* 1 (of a horse, bull, or other animal) scrape (the ground) with the feet. 2 *infml* feel with the hands.

pawn[1] (pɔːn) *vt* borrow money by leaving (a possession) with the lender. **pawnbroker** ('pɔːnˌbrəʊkəʳ) *nc* a person who lends money to the owners of possessions left with him.

pawn[2] *nc* a chess piece of the lowest value.

pawpaw ('pɔːˌpɔː) also **papaya** *ncu* the large yellow-green fruit of a tall tropical tree: see picture.



pawpaw

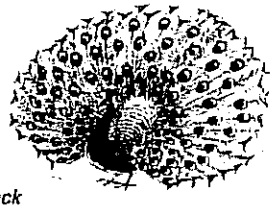
pay (peɪ) *vt* 1 give (money) to (someone) for work or goods. 2 make (a visit). 3 give (attention, your respects, etc.). 4 *vti* be profitable or worth the trouble (to someone): *It will pay you to take your time; Does the business pay?* • *nu* money paid for work. **payable** *adj* to be paid: *Your rent is payable monthly.* **pay back** 1 give (someone) back (money you have borrowed). 2 do something, esp. harm, to (someone who has done something similar to you). **payee** (peɪ'iː) *nc* the person to whom a cheque, etc., is payable. **payer** *nc* **pay in** put (money) into a bank account. **payload** ('peɪləʊd) *nc* (the weight of) the goods, passengers, etc., carried by a plane, etc. **payment** 1 *ncu* (an instance of) paying. 2 *nc* something paid. **pay off** 1 (of an action) succeed; turn out to be profitable: *It was a risk, but it paid off.* 2 pay (someone) all the money owed at the end of a job. 3 pay (a debt) completely. **pay out** 1 pay (money), esp. to several people. 2 let (a rope, etc.) fall or be pulled away from you. **payroll** ('peɪrəʊl) *nc* a list of employees receiving regular pay. **pay up** pay (a debt) at once or when asked to do so.

pea (piː) *nc* a round green seed eaten as a vegetable: see picture at **vegetables.**

peace (piːs) *nu* 1 absence of war. 2 order within a country. 3 agreement between people. 4 quietness; calmness. **at peace** 1 not at war. 2 in agreement. 3 calm. **peaceable** *adj* 1 wanting peace. 2 peaceful. **peaceful** *adj* 1 not at war. 2 calm. 3 to do with peace. **peacefully** *adv* **peacetime** *nu* a period of peace.

peach (piːtʃ) *nc* a soft, juicy fruit with a large stone and furry, red and yellow skin: see picture at **fruits.**

peacock ('piːkɒk) *nc* a bird of which the male has long tail feathers that it can raise and spread out: see picture. **peahen** ('piːhen) *nc* a female peacock.



peacock

peak (piːk) *nc* 1 the flat part sticking out at the front of a cap. 2 (the top of) a pointed mountain. 3 the point or time of greatest power, activity, etc.: *Travelling at peak times takes longer.*

peal (piːl) *nc* 1 a loud noise, esp. of thunder, laughter, etc. 2 a series of notes made by bells ringing. • *vi* 1 sound in a peal. 2 *vti* ring (bells) in a peal (as a welcome, etc.).

peanut ('piːnʌt) *nc* also **ground-nut** the nut-like seed, which is eaten or made into oil, of a plant grown in hot parts of the world.

pear (peə*) *nc* a juicy fruit, with a brown or greenish-yellow skin, that gets narrower towards the top: see picture at **fruits.**

pearl (pɜːl) *nc* 1 a small, white, valuable, stone-like ball found in some oysters and used in jewellery. 2 a person you admire and respect. **pearly** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

peasant ('pezənt) *nc* 1 a poor farmer, esp. in a developing country. 2 *infml, derogatory* a person who does not understand or like civilised things.

peat (piːt) *nu* a brown substance formed from dead plants that is dug out of the ground and either used to help plants grow or dried and burnt for heat.

pebble ('pebəl) *nc* a small stone rounded by being in moving water.

pecan (pɪ'kæn, 'piːkæn) *ncu* (the edible smooth oval nut of) a tree with a bark with deep furrows.

peck (pek) 1 *vti* (esp. of a bird) strike with its beak (at). 2 *vt* make (a hole) by pecking. • *nc* an instance of pecking.

peculiar (pɪ'kjuːlɪə*) *adj* 1 strange; odd. 2 special; particular: *Everyone has their own peculiar likes; Lions are not peculiar to Africa.* **peculiarity** (pɪˌkjuːlɪ'ærɪtɪ) 1 *ncu, pl* **-ties** (an instance of) being peculiar. 2 *nc* something that is peculiar. **peculiarly** *adv*

pedal ('pedəl) *nc* a part of a machine or musical instrument pressed or sometimes lifted with the foot. • *vt* 1 move (a bicycle, boat, etc.) by working the pedals. 2 *vi* work the pedals of a machine or instrument.

peddle ('pedəl) *vt* 1 travel around selling (something). 2 sell (illegal drugs). **peddler** *US n* See **pedlar.**

pedestal ('pedɪstəl) *nc* a block of stone, wood, etc., on which a statue, pillar, etc., is supported.

pedestrian (pɪ'destrɪən) *nc* a person travelling on foot. • *adj* 1 for, or to do with, walking. 2 ordinary or boring.

pediatrics (ˌpiːdɪ'ætrɪks) *US n* See **paediatrics.**

pedigree ('pedɪgriː) *nc* a line of descent, esp. of an animal. • *adj* having a good pedigree: *a pedigree poodle.*

pediment ('pedɪmənt) *nc geography* a gradual slope at the base of steep hills consisting of gravel eroded from the hills.

pedlar *US* **peddler** ('pedlə*) *nc* a person who peddles something.

pedology (pe'dɒlədʒɪ) *nu agriculture* the study of soil.

peek (piːk) *vi* look quickly or secretly. • *nc* a quick or secret look.

peel (piːl) *vt* 1 cut or pull the skin or covering off (fruit, etc.). *vi* 2 (of a tree, the body, etc.) lose its skin or covering. 3 (of paint, tree bark, etc.) come away. • *nu* the skin of an apple, orange, etc.

peep (piːp) *vi* look secretly, esp. through a narrow hole, etc. • *nc* such a look.

peer[1] (pɪə*) *vi* look hard or with difficulty.

peer[2] *nc* 1 (chiefly in the UK) a noble person. 2 someone of the same age or class as yourself. **peerage** ('pɪərɪdʒ) *nu* peers (**peer**[2] def. 1) as a group.

peg (peg) *nc* 1 a thick pin of wood, metal, etc., fixed to something to hold it together, hang a coat on, fix a tent to the ground, etc. 2 *Brit* also **clothes peg** a split wooden pin or device with a spring for holding washing on a line to dry. • *vt* 1 fix with a peg. 2 fix (prices, etc.) at a constant level.

pelican ('pelɪkən) *nc* a large water bird that traps fish in a bag under its mouth: see picture at **birds.**

pellagra (pə'lægrə) *nu* a deficiency disease caused by lack of vitamin B, producing skin eruptions and digestive problems.

pellet ('pelɪt) *nc* a small hard ball of something.

pelt[1] (pelt) *nc* the skin and fur of an animal.

pelt[2] 1 *vt* throw a large number of things at (someone): *He was pelted with stones. vi* 2 rain heavily. 3 travel or run fast.

pelvis ('pelvɪs) *nc, pl* **-vises, -ves** (vɪz) the circle of bones to which the legs are joined.

pen[1] (pen) *nc* a writing instrument using ink. **the pen** writing; literature: *The pen is mightier than the sword.* • *vt fml* write

(a letter). **pen-friend** *nc* a friend, esp. abroad, with whom you exchange letters but whom in most cases you do not meet.

pen² *nc* a small piece of land with a fence round it to keep farm animals such as sheep in. • *vt* shut or keep in a pen.

pen³ *nc* a female swan.

penalty ('penəltɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a punishment. 2 (in sport) a disadvantage brought on you or your team by your own action: *penalty kick.*

pencil ('pensəl) *nc* a writing instrument made of 'lead' (actually graphite) in a tube of wood. • *vt* write with a pencil.

pendant ('pendənt) *nc* a piece of jewellery made up of an ornament hanging from a chain.

pending ('pendɪŋ) *adj* not yet settled or decided: *That decision is still pending.* • *prep* until: *I shall allow this, pending a final decision by the board.*

pendulous ('pendʒuləs) *adj* hanging down loosely.

pendulum ('pendjʊləm) *nc* a hanging weight that is free to swing, esp. one controlling a clock.

peneplain ('piːnɪˌpleɪn) *nc geography* a flat area caused by erosion, often with a river flowing through it.

penetrate ('penɪtreɪt) *vt* 1 make your way into or through: *We soon penetrated the enemy's defences.* 2 see through (darkness, mist, etc.). 3 understand (an idea, someone's mind, etc.). **penetrating** *adj* 1 (of a noise) unpleasantly loud. 2 (of someone's mind) able to understand quickly or easily. **penetration** *nu*

penguin ('peŋgwɪn) *nc* a sea-bird in the cold southern part of the world that cannot fly but swims underwater: see picture.

penguin

penicillin (ˌpenɪ'sɪlɪn) *nu medicine* an antibiotic made from a fungus and used to kill the bacteria that cause some diseases.

peninsula (pɪ'nɪnsjʊlə) *nc* a piece of land sticking out into the sea or a lake.

penis ('piːnɪs) *nc, pl* **-nises, -nes** (niːz) the external male sex organ.

penitent ('penɪtənt) *adj* sorry; feeling regret.

penknife ('pennaɪf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) a small knife of which the blade(s) fold(s) into the handle.

pennant ('penənt) *nc* a small flag narrowing towards one side, esp. used on ships for signalling, etc.

penniless ('penɪlɪs) *adj* having no money or very poor.

penny ('penɪ) *nc, pl* **pennies, pence** See appendix. **the penny dropped** the meaning of what was said was understood at last. **penny whistle** a musical instrument consisting of a small metal pipe with six holes.

pension ('penʃən) *nc* 1 a regular payment made by a government or former employer to someone when they stop work or reach a certain age. 2 a boarding-house. • *vt* (start to) pay a pension to. **pensioner** *nc* a person receiving a pension, esp. on account of old age.

pensive ('pensɪv) *adj* deep in thought, esp. sad.

pentagon ('pentəgən) *nc* a five-sided figure. **the Pentagon** the building in the USA from which orders are given to its armed forces.

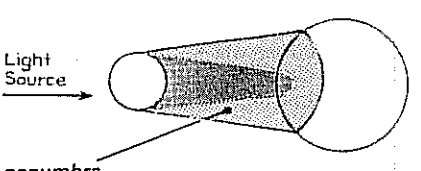
pentathlon (pen'tæθlən) *nc* an athletic contest consisting of five different events.

Pentecostal (ˌpentɪ'kɒstəl) *adj* to do with Christian churches that consider the influence of the Holy Spirit as very important.

pent-up ('pentˌʌp) *adj* shut in; not allowed out: *pent-up anger.*

penultimate (pɪ'nʌltɪmət) *adj* last but one.

penumbra (pɪ'nʌmbrə) *nc, pl* **-brae** (briː), **-bras** the part of a shadow where some light falls, esp. as seen during an eclipse: see picture.



penumbra

penury ('penjʊrɪ) *nu* extreme poverty.

people ('piːpəl) plural of **person.** *nc* 1 a race or nation. 2 a large number, group, or class of persons: *the common people.* 3 your family. • *vt* provide or occupy (land, etc.) with people.

pep (pep) *nu* energy; spirit. • *vt* (usually followed by **up**) add pep to: *He looks so sad—he needs pepping up.*

pepper ('pepə*) *ncu* 1 (a type of) seed that is dried, powdered, and added to food for its sharp taste. 2 a hollow red, green, or yellow fruit eaten cooked or in salad. • *vt*

1 add **pepper** (def. 1) to. 2 provide (something) plentifully (with something else): *His talk is peppered with jokes.* 3 hit (someone or something) repeatedly (with small objects).

peppermint ('pepəmɪnt) *ncu* ((a sweet made from) the oil of) a particular mint plant.

pepsin ('pepsɪn) *nu* an enzyme produced in the stomach which helps to digest protein.

peptic ('peptɪk) *adj* to do with digestion.

per (pɜː* unstressed pə*) *prep* 1 in or for each: *ten kilometres per hour.* 2 *fml* by: *as per your wishes.* **per annum** ('ænəm) each year. **per cent** See under **cent.**

perceive (pə'siːv) *vt* 1 learn of or discover, esp. by seeing. 2 understand.

percentage (pə'sentɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a number's relationship to another number expressed as a number per hundred: *A half, expressed as a percentage, is fifty per cent.* 2 *infml* a share: *What's my percentage of the profits?*

perceptible (pə'septəbəl) *adj* able to be perceived: *a perceptible difference.*

perception (pə'sepʃən) *nu* 1 the act of perceiving. 2 the ability to perceive. **perceptive** (pə'septɪv) *adj* good or quick at perceiving.

perch[1] (pɜːtʃ) *nc* 1 a branch, etc., on which a bird rests, off the ground. 2 any similar high place. • *vti* (cause to) land or rest on a perch.

perch[2] *nc* a freshwater fish with sharp points on its fins.

percolate ('pɜːkəleɪt) *vti* 1 (of a liquid), (cause to) flow slowly through something solid. 2 (of coffee), (cause to) be made by percolating.

percussion (pə'kʌʃən) 1 *nc* (the noise of) a blow or hit. 2 *nu* musical instruments played by hitting, such as a drum or piano.

perennial (pə'renɪəl) *adj* 1 lasting for a long time or for ever. 2 lasting all year. • *nc* a plant that lives for several years.

perfect ('pɜːfɪkt) *adj* 1 good or correct in every way. 2 complete; total: *a perfect stranger.* 3 to do with a verb describing a completed past event, such as 'I have sung'. • *nu* 1 the class of perfect verbs. 2 *nc* a verb in the perfect. • (pə'fekt) *vt* make **perfect** (def. 1). **perfection** (pə'fekʃən) *nu* 1 the act of perfecting. 2 the state of being **perfect** (def. 1). **perfectly** *adv* in a **perfect** (defs. 1, 2) way.

perforate ('pɜːfəreɪt) *vt* make holes in (something, esp. paper to make it easy to tear). **perforation** (ˌpɜːfə'reɪʃən) *ncu* (a hole or holes made by) perforating.

perform (pə'fɔːm) *vti* 1 carry out (a task). 2 act in (a play, etc.). 3 behave, esp. well. **performance** (pə'fɔːməns) 1 *nu* the act of performing. *nc* 2 an occasion on which a play, etc., is performed: *We give two performances a night.* 3 a quality of performance: *a car with good performance.* 4 *infml* a troublesome task. **performer** *nc*

perfume ('pɜːfjuːm) 1 *ncu* (a type of) liquid made from flowers, etc., and used to give a pleasant smell to the body. 2 *nc* a pleasant smell. • (pə'fjuːm) *vt* give a pleasant smell to.

perhaps (pə'hæps) *adv* possibly; it may be.

perianth ('perɪˌænθ) *nc botany* the outer parts of a flower; the calyx and the corolla.

pericycle ('perɪˌsaɪkəl) *nc botany* a layer of cells on the surface of a root.

peril ('perɪl) *ncu* (a) danger or risk. **perilous** ('perɪləs) *adj* dangerous; risky.

perimeter (pə'rɪmɪtə*) *nc* (a line round) the edge of something.

period ('pɪərɪəd) *nc* 1 an amount of time. 2 a school lesson. 3 *chiefly US* a full stop. 4 an instance of menstruation. • *adj* to do with a (particular) period of history: *The actors were in period dress.* **periodic** (ˌpɪərɪ'ɒdɪk) *adj* 1 happening occasionally. 2 happening regularly. **periodical** (ˌpɪərɪ'ɒdɪkəl) *adj* periodic. • *nc* a magazine that appears regularly, esp. every week or month. **periodically** (ˌpɪərɪ'ɒdɪklɪ) *adv*

periphery (pə'rɪfərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** the outside edge of something.

periscope ('perɪskəʊp) *nc* a device made, for example, of mirrors in a tube, that allows you to see over something, esp. over the water from inside a submarine while it is beneath the surface.

perish ('perɪʃ) *vi* 1 (of rubber, leather, etc.) rot. 2 die; be destroyed. **perishable** *adj* that rots easily or quickly. • *nc* (often *pl*) a perishable substance, esp. food such as fruit.

peritoneum (ˌperətə'niːəm) *nc* a thin membrane covering the organs in, and lining the walls of the abdomen. **peritonitis** (ˌperətə'naɪtɪs) *nu medicine* inflammation of the peritoneum.

perjury ('pɜːdʒərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** the act of telling a lie in a law court when you have sworn to tell the truth.

perk[1] (pɜːk) *v* **perk up** make or become lively or confident.

perk[2] *infml nc* (often *pl*) money, an advantage, etc., obtained from your job other than your normal pay: *His company car is a good perk.*

perm (pɜːm) also **permanent wave** *nc* a hair treatment which permanently curls or

straightens the hair. • *vt* give (someone's hair) a perm.

permafrost ('pɜːmə,frɒst) *nu geography* the parts of the earth where the ground is always frozen, esp. in the arctic regions.

permanent ('pɜːmənənt) *adj* lasting or intended to last for an unknown, esp. long, time. **permanence** *nu* **permanently** *adv*

permeable ('pɜːmɪəbəl) *adj* able to be permeated by a liquid, gas, etc.

permeate ('pɜːmɪeɪt) 1 *vt* (of a liquid) flow slowly through (a solid). 2 *vti* spread (through); fill: *The room was permeated with the smell of his cigar.*

permissible (pə'mɪsəbəl) *adj* allowable or allowed.

permission (pə'mɪʃən) *nu* the state of being allowed to do something: *Have you permission to leave?*

permit (pə'mɪt) *vt* allow (something), (someone to do something), etc. • ('pɜːmit) *nc* a paper giving permission for something.

permutation (,pɜːmjʊ'teɪʃən) *nc mathematics* a changing in the order of a set of things; arranging in different orders: *The permutations of abc are cab, bac, bca, cba, and so on.*

pernicious (pə'nɪʃəs) *adj* causing great harm or ruin.

perpendicular (,pɜːpən'dɪkjʊlə*) *adj* 1 at right angles. 2 upright. • *nc* a line at right angles to another.

perpetrate ('pɜːpɪtreɪt) *fml vt* carry out or cause (a crime, etc.).

perpetual (pə'petjʊəl) *adj* 1 never ending or unchanging: *Bats live in perpetual darkness.* 2 happening all the time: *the perpetual noise in the classroom.* **perpetually** *adv* **perpetuate** (pə'petjʊeɪt) *vt* cause to last.

perplex (pə'pleks) *vt* puzzle or confuse (someone). **perplexity** 1 *nu* the state of being perplexed. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that perplexes.

persecute ('pɜːsɪkjuːt) *vt* harm or trouble (someone) unfairly. **persecution** (,pɜːsɪ'kjuːʃən) *nu* **persecutor** *nc*

persevere (,pɜːsɪ'vɪə*) *vi* continue in spite of difficulties. **perseverance** *nu* the act of persevering or ability to persevere.

persist (pə'sɪst) *vi* continue, esp. in spite of difficulties or not being allowed to do something: *Why do you persist in telling lies?* **persistence** *nu* the act of persisting or ability to persist. **persistent** *adj* having or showing persistence.

person ('pɜːsən) *nc* 1 *pl* **-s, people** a single, particular human: *that person; person or persons unknown.* 2 *pl* **-s** any of the three classes of pronouns and verbs, divided according to whether they refer to the speaker or writer (first person), someone spoken or written to (second person), or someone or something else (third person). 3 a human body; self: *He will be here in person to explain his views.*

personage ('pɜːsənɪdʒ) *nc fml* an important person.

personal ('pɜːsənəl) *adj* 1 with the person actually appearing, taking part, etc.: *a personal appearance.* 2 for or to do with one particular person: *my personal opinion.* 3 rude: *Don't make personal remarks.* 4 private: *a personal letter from a friend.* 5 to do with the body. **personalise** *vt* make personal, esp. by marking with someone's name. **personally** *adv*

personality (,pɜːsə'nælɪtɪ) 1 *ncu, pl* **-ties** a person's character or nature. 2 *nc* a famous person.

personnel (,pɜːsə'nel) *nu* the people employed by a company, army, etc.

perspective (pə'spektɪv) *nu* 1 the way of painting or drawing objects so that they appear to be positioned and as large, far away, etc., as they really are. 2 a view of the world in which everything is given its correct importance: *Let's get this issue in perspective.* 3 *nc* a way of looking (at something); view: *We have very different perspectives on this matter.*

Perspex ('pɜːspeks) *Trademark nu* a plastic material which looks like glass but is less easily breakable.

perspire (pə'spaɪə*) *polite vti* sweat. **perspiration** (,pɜːspə'reɪʃən) *nu* 1 sweat. 2 the act of sweating.

persuade (pə'sweɪd) *vt* 1 cause (someone to do something): *I persuaded him to let us go.* 2 cause (someone) to believe: *He persuaded me that he was right.* **persuasion** (pə'sweɪʒən) *nu* 1 the ability to persuade. 2 the act of persuading. 3 *ncu* (a) belief: *Are you of the same persuasion as us?* **persuasive** (pə'sweɪsɪv) *adj* able to persuade people.

pert (pɜːt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 naughty and not having proper respect. 2 cheerful and confident.

pertain (pə'teɪn) *fml vi* (often followed by **to**) belong (to) or have to do with.

pertinent ('pɜːtɪnənt) *adj* to do with the matter being considered.

perturb (pə'tɜːb) *vt* disturb; trouble; throw into confusion.

peruse (pə'ruːz) *vt* read; examine.

pervade (pə'veɪd) *vt* spread slowly through: *Smoke pervaded the room.*

perverse (pə'vɜːs) *adj* differing on purpose from what is normal or expected.

pervert (pə'vɜːt) *vt* 1 use for a wrong purpose. 2 turn from right actions.

pessimism ('pesɪmɪzəm) *nu* the practice of looking for the bad in everything and expecting the worst. **pessimist** *nc* a person who is pessimistic. **pessimistic** (ˌpesɪ'mɪstɪk) *adj*

pest (pest) *nc* 1 an animal that damages plants being grown by people or harms their animals. 2 an annoying person or thing: *My little brother is a pest.*

pester ('pestə*) *vt* annoy (someone) by asking a lot of questions, etc.

pesticide ('pestɪˌsaɪd) *ncu* a chemical substance sprayed on crops to destroy harmful insects.

pet (pet) *nc* 1 a tame animal kept in or around your house for pleasure. 2 *derogatory* a favourite person: *the teacher's pet.* • *adj* favourite; particularly personal: *my pet hate.* • *vt* 1 treat as a pet. 2 stroke lovingly.

petal ('petəl) *nc* any of the leaf-like parts of a flower, usually coloured and forming a ring.

peter ('piːtə*) *v* **peter out** (of a road, or a flow or supply of something) get narrower or smaller and come to an end.

petiole ('petɪˌəʊl) *nc botany* the stalk of a leaf which joins it to a stem.

petition (pə'tɪʃən) *nc* a paper signed usually by many people asking a king, government, etc., to do or not do something. • *vti* ask (someone) formally (for something).

Petri dish ('piːtrɪ) a shallow round glass dish used to grow bacteriological cultures.

petrify ('petrɪfaɪ) 1 *vt* frighten greatly. 2 *vti* turn into stone.

petrochemical (ˌpetrəʊ'kemɪkəl) *nc* a chemical made or derived from petroleum or natural gas: *Ammonia and benzine are both petrochemicals.*

petrol ('petrəl) *US* **gasoline** *ncu* a (type of) light, explosive oil made from petroleum and used to power car engines, etc. **petrol station** a place where petrol is sold.

petroleum (pɪ'trəʊlɪəm) *n* See **oil** (def. 2).

petrology (pe'trɒlədʒɪ) *nu geography* the study of rocks.

petticoat ('petɪkəʊt) *nc* a woman's garment worn under a dress or skirt.

petty ('petɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 unimportant. 2 having or showing meanness or spite. **petty cash** money in coins and notes used for or received as small payments. **petty officer** a member of a navy, just below a full officer.

petulant ('petjʊlənt) *adj* annoyingly impatient or not doing as you are told.

petunia (pɪ'tjuːnɪə) *nc* a plant grown for its white or purple flowers.

pew (pjuː) *nc* 1 a wide seat for several people in a church. 2 *infml* a seat: *Take a pew.*

pewter ('pjuːtə*) *nu* a metal made of tin mixed with lead.

pH (ˌpiː'eɪtʃ) *nc biology, agriculture* a measure of the acidity of a substance or solution.

phantom ('fæntəm) *nc* something, esp. the figure of a person, that can be seen but has no material form.

pharmacy ('fɑːməsɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-cies** a place where medicines are prepared and given out. 2 *nu* the practice of preparing and giving out medicines. **pharmaceutical** (ˌfɑːmə'sjuːtɪkəl) *adj* to do with making medicines: *the pharmaceutical industry.* **pharmacist** *nc* a person who practises pharmacy.

pharynx ('færɪŋks) *medicine nc, pl* **-rynxes, -rynges** (rɪndʒiːz) the top part of the tube leading from the mouth to the stomach; throat.

phase (feɪz) *nc* 1 a stage or period of a change or development. 2 a fixed period describing the appearance of a moon or planet from the earth. • *vt* spread (a change) over a period. **phase in** or **out** bring in or get rid of (something) slowly or bit by bit.

pheasant ('fezənt) *nc* a long-tailed, mainly brown bird that is shot for food: see picture.

pheasant

phenomenon (fɪ'nɒmɪnən) *nc, pl* **-mena** (mɪnə) 1 any thing or event that can be seen, smelt, touched, etc. 2 a remarkable person, thing, or event. **phenomenal** *adj* huge; very surprising.

philanthropic (ˌfɪlən'θrɒpɪk) *adj* showing care or love for other people.

philately (fɪ'lætəlɪ) *nu* stamp collecting. **philatelist** *nc* a person who collects stamps.

philosophy (fɪ'lɒsəfɪ) 1 *nu* the study of the nature of truth, existence, etc. *nc, pl* **-phies** 2 a system of thought. 3 your ideas about life. **philosopher** *nc* a person who studies philosophy. **philosophical**

(ˌfɪlə'sɒfɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with philosophy. 2 calm; unworried by difficulties. **philosophically** *adv*

phlegm (flem) *nu* a thick liquid coat to the inside of the throat, mouth, etc. **phlegmatic** (fleg'mætɪk) *adj* calm; not easily excited.

phloem ('fləʊem) *nu botany* one of the conducting tissues of a plant which moves the products of photosynthesis from the leaves to the rest of the plant. See also **xylem.**

phobia ('fəʊbɪə) *nc* an extreme terror of a certain thing: *a phobia of spiders.* **phobic** *adj*

phone (fəʊn) *infml n, v* short for **telephone. phone back** See **ring back** under **ring.**

phonetics (fə'netɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of the sounds of language.

phosphate ('fɒsfeɪt) *nc* any of several chemicals containing phosphorus, used esp. to make plants grow better.

phosphorus ('fɒsfərəs) *nu* a chemical element used, for example, in matches: symbol P.

photocopy ('fəʊtəʊˌkɒpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pies** a photographically-made copy of something written or drawn. • *vt* make a photocopy of.

photograph ('fəʊtəgrɑːf) *nc* (*infml abbrev.* **photo** ('fəʊtəʊ) *pl* **-s**) a picture produced chemically by light falling on the film in a camera. • *vt* take a photograph of. **photographer** (fə'tɒgrəfə*) *nc* **photographic** (ˌfəʊtə'græfɪk) *adj* **photography** (fə'tɒgrəfɪ) *nu* the art or practice of taking photographs.

photosynthesis (ˌfəʊtəʊ'sɪnθəsɪs) *nu* the formation by plants of new material using the energy of light.

phrase (freɪz) *nc* 1 a group of words that makes sense but is usually not a whole sentence. 2 a group of notes in music. • *vt* express in words.

phylum ('faɪləm) *nc, pl* **-la** (lə) any of the broad divisions of the animal or plant world.

physical ('fɪzɪkəl) *adj* 1 to do with what can be seen, touched, etc.: *the physical world.* 2 to do with the body: *physical exercise.* 3 to do with nature: *a physical impossibility.* 4 to do with physics: *physical chemistry.* **physically** *adv*

physician (fɪ'zɪʃən) *nc* a doctor, esp. one healing diseases with medicine.

physics ('fɪzɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the science of matter and energy; study of light, heat, electricity, sound, etc. **physicist** ('fɪzɪsɪst) *nc* a person who studies physics.

physiology (ˌfɪzɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of the workings of plants and animals. **physiological** (ˌfɪzɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj*

physiotherapy (ˌfɪzɪəʊ'θerəpɪ) *nu* the healing of diseases and injuries by exercise, etc., not medicines.

physique (fɪ'ziːk) *nc* the size, shape, strength, etc., of the body.

piano (pɪ'ænəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s** a musical instrument with strings hit by pressing the keys: see picture at **musical instruments. pianist** ('pɪənɪst) *nc*

pick[1] (pɪk) *vt* 1 choose. 2 take (fruit or flowers) from their trees or plants. 3 open (a lock) with an instrument other than the proper key. 4 get into (a fight, etc.) on purpose. 5 make (your way) carefully. 6 remove loose bits from (bones, your teeth, nose, etc.). 7 *vi* (often followed by **at**) eat little of. • *nu* 1 something picked, esp. the best of a quantity. 2 the act of picking. **pick out** 1 choose. 2 recognise from among others. 3 cause to be noticeable: *The doors are picked out in a different colour.* **pick up** 1 take hold of and lift up. 2 buy (something). 3 collect (people or goods) to deliver somewhere. 4 improve: *Business will soon pick up.* 5 learn, esp. while doing something else. 6 receive (a signal). **pick-up** ('pɪkʌp) *nc* 1 a small, open goods vehicle. 2 a device on a record-player, etc., that turns movements into electrical signals.

pick[2] *nc* a tool with a long handle and a long, curved metal head for digging up the ground, etc.

picket ('pɪkɪt) *nc* a person or group of people trying to prevent employees, customers, or suppliers from entering a factory or business. • *vt* act as picket outside (a factory or business).

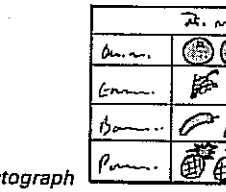
pickle ('pɪkəl) *nc* 1 (often *pl*) a food, esp. a vegetable, kept good in vinegar, salty water, etc. 2 *infml* a difficult situation; trouble. • *vt* put (food) in vinegar, salty water, etc., to keep it good.

pickpocket ('pɪkˌpɒkɪt) *nc* a person who steals from people's pockets.

picnic ('pɪknɪk) *nc* 1 a meal eaten in the open air. 2 **no picnic** not an easy or pleasant thing: *Looking after small children is no picnic.* • *vi* have a **picnic** (def. 1).

pictogram ('pɪktəgræm) *nc* a picture or sign representing one or more words, as in Chinese or on signs at airports, etc.

pictograph ('pɪktəˌgrɑːf) *nc mathematics* a chart in which values are shown by using pictures of different colours or sizes: see picture.



pictograph

pictorial (pɪk'tɔːrɪəl) *adj* to do with pictures.

picture ('pɪktʃə*) *nc* 1 a drawing, painting, photograph, or other flat representation of something. 2 an idea in your mind of what something is or looks like. 3 a beautiful person or thing. 4 a cinema film. 5 an example: *a picture of happiness.* • *vt* 1 imagine. 2 describe. 3 make a picture of. **the pictures** *chiefly Brit* a cinema.

picturesque (ˌpɪktʃə'resk) *adj* 1 strikingly attractive: *a picturesque landscape.* 2 (of language) very descriptive; vivid.

pidgin ('pɪdʒɪn) *nc, adj* (being or to do with) a language made from parts of two different languages: *pidgin English.*

pie (paɪ) *nc* a food, esp. with fruit or meat, baked in a dish lined, covered, or both, with pastry. **pie chart** *mathematics* a picture representing percentages as if they were slices of a round pie.

piebald ('paɪbɔːld) *adj, nc* (an animal, esp. a horse) with markings in black and white.

piece (piːs) *nc* 1 a separate part of something: *The pieces of the model train have to be stuck together; a piece of cheese.* 2 a work of art, music, writing, etc. 3 a coin: *a ten-pence piece.* 4 an object used to mark a player's position in a board game. **in pieces** cut or broken up or not yet put together. **to pieces** into separate parts. **piecemeal** ('piːsmiːl) *adv, adj* (done, etc.) bit by bit or in stages. **piece together** put (something) together piece by piece. **piecework** ('piːswɜːk) *nu* work paid for according to results, not the time spent.

pier (pɪə*) *nc* 1 a long platform built out into but above the sea for landing goods or walking on. 2 an upright of brick, stone, etc., supporting a bridge.

pierce (pɪəs) *vt* 1 make a hole with a pointed object. 2 (of a pointed object) make a hole in. **piercing** *adj* (of a sound) high and painfully loud.

piety ('paɪətɪ) *nu* the quality of being pious.

pig (pɪg) *nc* 1 a four-legged pink-fleshed animal, widely raised for its meat. 2 *infml, derogatory* a greedy, dirty, or annoying person. • *vt infml* eat greedily. **pig iron** iron in large blocks, ready to be shaped, used in steel, etc. **pigsty** ('pɪgstaɪ) *nc, pl* **-sties** 1 a covered or open space for pigs. 2 *derogatory* a dirty or untidy place. **pigtail** ('pɪgteɪl) *nc* hair held twisted together, hanging from any point on the head.

pigeon ('pɪdʒɪn) 1 *nc* a very common, usually grey bird: see picture at **birds.** 2 *infml nu* (someone's) responsibility: *You'll be taken there, but getting home again is your pigeon.*

piggy (pɪgɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** *infml, children* 1 a (small) pig. 2 a toe. • *adj infml* 1 like a pig: *piggy little eyes.* 2 greedy.

pigment ('pɪgmənt) *nc* a substance giving colour to plant or animal material or to paints, inks, etc. **pigmentation** (ˌpɪgmən'teɪʃən) *nu* colouring in plants, animals, or people caused by pigments.

pigmy ('pɪgmɪ) *n* See **pygmy.**

pike[1] (paɪk) *nc* a long wooden pole with a sharp metal point at one end, formerly used as a weapon.

pike[2] *nc, pl* **pike, pikes** a fierce freshwater fish that eats other fish and animals: see picture at **fish.**

pile[1] (paɪl) *nc* a collection of things put one on top of another; heap. • *vti* 1 arrange or be arranged in a pile. 2 *vi* (followed by **in(to), off, out (of),** etc.) (of a large number of people) move quickly: *We all piled into the cars.* **pile-up** *infml nc* an accident involving several cars, etc.

pile[2] *nc* a long post driven into the ground to support a building, etc.

pile[3] *nu* the soft surface of a carpet or similar cloth, etc.

pilfer ('pɪlfə*) *vt* steal small quantities of.

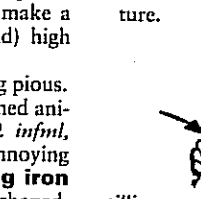
pilgrim ('pɪlgrɪm) *nc* a person who makes a pilgrimage. **pilgrimage** *nc* a journey to a holy or special place.

pill (pɪl) *nc* a small hard piece of medicine, swallowed whole. **the pill** a pill taken by women to prevent them having children.

pillage ('pɪlɪdʒ) *vt* steal from (a place) during war. • *nu* the act of pillaging.

pillar ('pɪlə*) *nc* 1 a thick post supporting part of a building, etc. 2 someone or something that gives important support: *a pillar of society.*

pillion ('pɪljən) *nc* the seat behind the driver of a motorcycle, scooter, etc.: see picture.



pillion

pillow ('pɪləʊ) *nc* a cloth case filled esp. with feathers to rest your head on in bed. **pillowcase** ('pɪləʊkeɪs) *nc* a washable cloth bag used to cover a pillow with.

pilot ('paɪlət) *nc* 1 a person who flies a plane, helicopter, etc. 2 a person who steers a ship, esp. only into or out of ports. 3 something used as a guide or experiment. • *vt* act as pilot in (a plane), for (someone), etc.

pimp (pɪmp) *nc* a man who controls and makes money from prostitutes.

pimple ('pɪmpəl) *nc* a small, red, painful, raised spot on the skin.

pin (pɪn) *nc* 1 a small piece of thin, stiff wire, flattened at one end and sharpened at the other for holding cloth, paper, etc., together. 2 any of various long, narrow pieces of wood, metal, etc., for fastening with. 3 any of nine or ten bottle-shaped objects knocked over with a ball in a game. • *vt* fasten with a pin or pins. **pin down** 1 stop (an enemy army, etc.) from moving away. 2 make (someone) tell the truth, give more information, etc.: *Can you pin him down to a definite time?* **pinhole** ('pɪnhəʊl) *nc* a very small hole. **pin-up** ('pɪnʌp) *nc* a picture of a popular person or pretty girl.

pinafore ('pɪnəfɔː*) *nc* also **pinny** a garment worn by women to protect the front of their other clothes.

pincers ('pɪnsəz) *n pl* 1 a tool with jaws used for pulling nails out of wood, etc.: see picture at **tools.** 2 the part of the body of a crab, lobster, etc., used for holding.

pinch (pɪntʃ) *vt* 1 hold a small quantity of, esp. the flesh of (someone), tightly between two surfaces, esp. the finger and thumb: *That boy pinched me.* 2 *infml* take or steal. • *nc* 1 an act of pinching. 2 an amount of something, esp. salt, that you can hold between one finger and the thumb.

pine[1] (paɪn) *nc* any of several types of tree with dark green needle-shaped leaves, which do not fall in the autumn, and cones containing seeds: see picture at **trees;** (also *nu*) the wood of this tree.

pine[2] *vi* 1 (often followed by **for** or an infinitive) long; want sadly: *an old woman pining for her lost sons.* 2 (often followed by **away**) become slowly weaker through worry, sadness, etc.; waste away.

pineapple ('paɪn,æpəl) *nc* a large fruit, yellow inside, with leaves coming out of the top: see picture at **fruits.**

ping pong ('pɪŋ,pɒŋ) *n* See **table tennis.**

pinion[1] ('pɪnjən) *nc* 1 *poetry* a bird's wing. 2 a large feather. • *vt* hold (someone's arms) to stop them moving.

pinion[2] *nc* a small wheel with teeth that fit into those of a larger one, so that the two wheels move at the same time.

pink (pɪŋk) *adj* **-er, -est** pale red. • *ncu* a pink colour.

pinnacle ('pɪnəkəl) *nc* the highest point of something.

pinnate ('pɪneɪt) *adj botany* of a compound leaf with a central axis and subdivisions of a leaf on either side.

pinpoint ('pɪnpɔɪnt) *nc* 1 the point of a pin. 2 something very tiny. • *vt* find the exact position of.

pint (paɪnt) *nc* a measure of capacity: see appendix.

pioneer (ˌpaɪə'nɪə*) *nc* 1 one of the first people to do something, esp. go to live in unknown country. 2 a soldier who makes roads, etc. • *vt* be a **pioneer** (def. 1) of: *This hospital pioneered many modern practices.*

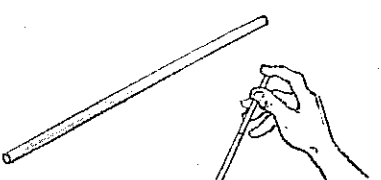
pious ('paɪəs) *adj* (pretending to be) religious.

pip (pɪp) *nc* a seed of a fruit such as an apple or an orange.

pipe (paɪp) *nc* 1 a tube or hollow rod through which a liquid or gas is moved. 2 (a part of) a musical wind instrument made from a pipe. 3 a small bowl attached to a pipe through which tobacco is smoked. • *vt* 1 move (a liquid or gas) through a pipe. 2 *vi* play (music) on a pipe. **piper** *nc*

pipeline ('paɪplaɪn) *nc* a long, large pipe laid to carry water, oil, or gas across land or under the sea. **in the pipeline** about to be produced, brought out, etc.

pipette (pɪ'pet) *nc* a narrow glass tube for moving or measuring liquid chemicals, etc.: see picture.



pipette

piquant ('piːkənt) *adj* 1 with a pleasantly spicy taste: *piquant sauce.* 2 exciting and interesting: *a piquant story.* **piquancy** *nu*

pique (piːk) *vt* annoy (someone); wound (someone's) pride. • *nu* bad feeling towards someone.

pirate ('paɪərət) *nc* 1 a person who robs ships at sea. 2 a person who copies (something, esp. a book or film) and sells copies without the permission needed. • *vt* produce (goods, esp. copies of someone else's)

without permission.

pistil ('pɪstəl) *nc botany* the female reproductive organ of a flower, consisting of the ovary, style, and stigma.

pistol ('pɪstəl) *nc* a small gun held in one hand.

piston ('pɪstən) *nc* a machine part that fills and can slide up and down a tube so as to turn movement into pressure or pressure into movement.

pit (pɪt) *nc* 1 a hole in the ground, esp. made for digging out coal, etc. 2 a sunken part of a surface, esp. on the body. 3 a lower part of the floor of a theatre, esp. occupied by an orchestra. 4 (usually *pl*) the place where a racing car is prepared or repaired during a race. • *vti* 1 mark or be marked with pits (**pit** def. 2). 2 *vt* (usually followed by **against**) use (your strength, wits, etc.) (against another's). **pithead** *nc* the top of a mine shaft.

pitch[1] (pɪtʃ) *vt* 1 throw. 2 set up (a tent or camp). 3 sing or play a note: *He pitched that note too low.* 4 aim at a particular level: *Pitch the book at intelligent people.* *vi* 5 slope downwards. 6 move or fall heavily. 7 (of a ship) move up and down at the front and back. • *nc* 1 an angle of slope. 2 the height of a musical note. 3 *chiefly Brit* a field of play for cricket, football, etc. **pitchfork** ('pɪtʃfɔːk) *nc* a long-handled fork used for moving hay, etc.

pitch[2] *nu* a black or dark brown substance made from tar that melts when heated and is used esp. to stop water getting between the boards of wooden boats.

piteous ('pɪtɪəs) *adj* causing pity: *piteous cries for help.*

pitfall ('pɪtfɔːl) *nc* a danger or problem that you do not know about before meeting it.

pith (pɪθ) *nu* 1 the soft white material just inside the outer covering of a fruit such as an orange or lemon. 2 the important part of (a talk, article, etc.). 3 the centre of a stem in a plant.

pitiable ('pɪtɪəbəl) *adj* deserving pity.

pitiful ('pɪtɪfʊl) *adj* 1 deserving pity. 2 *derogatory* useless; not worthy of respect.

pitiless ('pɪtɪlɪs) *adj* showing no pity.

pittance ('pɪtəns) *nc* a very small amount of money: *They paid me a pittance for all my hard work.*

pituitary (pɪ'tjuːɪtrɪ) *n* **pituitary gland** the oval endocrine gland at the base of the brain which produces several hormones.

pity ('pɪtɪ) 1 *nu* sorrow caused by someone else's bad luck or suffering. 2 *nc* a fact about which you feel sorry: *What a pity it broke!* • *vt* feel pity for (someone). **have** or **take pity on** show mercy to or help (someone for whom you feel pity).

pivot ('pɪvət) *nc* 1 a pin or rod on which something turns. 2 an important person or thing on which something depends. • *vt* 1 fit with a pivot. 2 *vti* move on a pivot.

pixie ('pɪksɪ) *nc* an imaginary little person.

pizza ('pɪtsə) *nc* a baked dish of cheese, tomatoes, etc., spread on a round piece of dough.

placard ('plækɑrd) *nc* a large notice put up in public or carried by someone.

place (pleɪs) *nc* 1 a point in or a part of space. 2 a position in an order or arrangement: *second place.* 3 the proper position for someone or something: *Put the salt in its place.* 4 a town, village, house, etc.: *a place in the country.* 5 a square in a town: *a market place.* 6 a chance to enter a school, university, career, etc. 7 a page in a book that you had been reading: *I've lost my place.* • *vt* 1 put. 2 find or show the place of. 3 remember a connection with: *I've seen that man before but I can't place him.* 4 make (an order for goods, a bet, etc.). 5 find a home, job, etc., for. **in** or **out of place** 1 in or not in the correct place. 2 in or not in keeping; suitable or unsuitable. **in place of** instead of. **in the first, second,** etc., **place** as the first, second, etc., point in an argument, etc. **take place** happen. **take the place of** act or serve instead of. **placement** 1 *nu* the act of placing or being placed. 2 *nc* the act or state of being found a job, home, etc.

placenta (plə'sentə) *nc* 1 *zoology* the organ that transfers nourishment from a mother's body to the foetus during pregnancy. 2 *botany* the part inside a plant's ovary to which the ovules are attached. **placentation** (ˌplæsən'teɪʃən) *nu botany* the arrangement of the ovules in an ovary.

placid ('plæsɪd) *adj* calm; untroubled.

plagiarise ('pleɪdʒəˌraɪz) *vti* use someone else's words or ideas without saying that they are not your own. **plagiarism** *nu*

plague (pleɪg) *nc* a dangerous disease caught by many people at once. • *vt* annoy or trouble.

plaice (pleɪs) *ncu* a kind of flat fish used for food: see picture at **fish.**

plaid (plæd) *nc* a long, woollen cloth with a square pattern which used to be worn by Scotsmen. • *adj* having a pattern consisting of squares and lines in various sizes and colours.

plain (pleɪn) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 clear; easy to see or understand. 2 flat; smooth. 3 ordinary. 4 with no pattern; all one colour. 5 not pretty or beautiful. 6 not mixed. 7

honest. • *nc* a large piece of flat, open land. **plainly** *adv*

plaintiff ('pleɪntɪf) *nc* a person who brings a lawsuit against someone else.

plaintive ('pleɪntɪv) *adj* sad-sounding.

plait (plæt) *vt* cross three bunches or lines of (hair, etc.) repeatedly over each other to make one bunch. • *nc* a plaited bunch of hair, etc.

plan (plæn) *nc* 1 an intended method for doing something. 2 a map, esp. of a town or the rooms in a building. • *vt* 1 make a plan of or for. 2 intend (to do something).

plane[1] (pleɪn) *nc* 1 short for **aeroplane.** 2 a flat surface. 3 a level of thought, knowledge, ability, etc. • *adj* (of a surface) flat. • *vi* 1 fly without power. 2 (of a boat) travel higher in the water when going faster.

plane[2] *nc* a tool with a blade sticking slightly out underneath for smoothing or levelling wood: see picture at **tools.** • *vt* use a plane on.

plane[3] *nc* also **plane tree** a tree with broad leaves, often planted in towns.

planet ('plænɪt) *nc* one of the large objects in space which move round the sun, including the earth. **planetarium** (ˌplænɪ'teərɪəm) *nc, pl* **-riums, -ria** (rɪə) (a building containing) a device that produces a picture of the night sky by shining lights onto the curved ceiling. **planetary** ('plænɪtərɪ) *adj*

plank (plæŋk) *nc* a long, thick wooden board.

plankton ('plæŋktən) *nu* the tiny organisms that live on the surface of a sea or lake.

planner ('plænə*) *nc* a person who plans something, esp. where buildings may be put up, roads built, etc.

plant (plɑːnt) *nc* 1 any living thing that is not an animal; tree, flower, or vegetable. 2 any plant that has leaves and roots and is smaller than a tree. 3 a factory. 4 *nu* heavy machines for a particular purpose. 5 *infml nc* someone or something placed so as to provide information or cause trouble. • *vt* 1 put (seeds or plants) into the ground. 2 put (an idea, etc.) in someone's mind. 3 *infml* place as a **plant** (def. 5).

plantain ('plæntɪn) *nc* the green banana-like fruit of a tree grown in many hot parts of the world.

plantation (plæn'teɪʃən, plɑːn'teɪʃən) *nc* a large piece of land where coffee, rubber, tea, etc., is produced.

plaque (plæk, plɑːk) 1 *nc* a sheet of stone, wood, etc., with writing on, marking the place where something famous happened, etc. 2 *nu* a substance that forms on teeth if they are not cleaned.

plasma ('plæzmə) *nu* the clear liquid in blood.

plaster ('plɑːstə*) *nu* 1 a mixture of lime and sand that is wetted and spread smoothly over walls and ceilings and then sets hard. 2 also **plaster of Paris** a white powder that is wetted and shaped and then sets hard, used esp. round parts of the body to make broken bones heal properly. 3 *Brit ncu* (a piece of) cloth that is stuck to the skin to cover a wound. • *vt* 1 cover (a wall or ceiling) with plaster. 2 spread (something) thickly with (something).

plastic ('plæstɪk) *nc* a man-made material that is shaped when hot and firm when cold. • *adj* 1 made of plastic. 2 able to be shaped. 3 to do with shaping: *plastic surgery.*

plate (pleɪt) *nc* 1 a round, shallow dish for eating from. 2 a sheet of metal or other substance, used as a cover or protection. 3 a sheet of metal with your name on, on a door, etc. 4 a sheet, usually of metal, used for printing from. 5 a picture printed from a plate. 6 *nu* also **plating** a thin layer of metal, esp. silver or gold, put chemically all over an object of another metal. • *vt* 1 cover with metal plates (**plate** def. 2). 2 coat with metal plate.

plateau ('plætəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -x** (z) a large piece of high, level ground.

platform ('plætfɔːm) *nc* 1 a level raised (part of a) surface, such as a stage. 2 *Brit* a strip of raised ground at a railway station, from which passengers get onto trains. 3 a set of aims, ideas, etc., expressed esp. by a political party.

platinum ('plætɪnəm) *nu* a chemical element; silvery metal used in jewellery, etc.: symbol Pt.

platter ('plætə*) *nc* a large plate for serving food.

plausible ('plɔːzəbəl) *adj* 1 (of an argument, etc.) seeming to be true or reasonable: *a plausible excuse.* 2 (of a person) seeming to be telling the truth.

play (pleɪ) *vt* 1 take part in (a game) against (someone). 2 act (a part) in (a play): *He's playing Hamlet in this year's production.* 3 produce (music) on (an instrument). 4 carry out (a joke or trick) on someone. 5 use (a playing-card) in a game. 6 cause (a radio, record, etc.) to give out sound. 7 pretend to be: *play dead. vi* 8 (of a radio, record, etc.) give out sound. 9 (often followed by **with**) amuse yourself. 10 *vti* direct or be directed: *I played water on the flames.* • *nc* 1 a written work acted and

spoken by actors in a theatre or on television or only spoken on the radio. *nu* 2 games and other amusement, carried on esp. by children. 3 the playing of a game: *Rain stopped play.* 4 freedom of movement, esp. between two connected parts of a machine. 5 a pun: *play on words.* **play at** 1 play (a game). 2 pretend to be: *What are you playing at?* **play back** play (the sound) on (a recorded tape). **play-back** ('pleɪbæk) *nu* the act of playing sound or tape back. **play down** cause other people to think (something) less important than it is. **player** *nc* 1 a person taking part in a game. 2 someone who acts, performs on a musical instrument, etc. **playful** *adj* 1 wanting to play or have fun. 2 (of a remark, etc.) funny; not serious. **playground** ('pleɪgraʊnd) *nc* a yard or field where children play. **playing-card** ('pleɪɪŋkɑːd) *nc* any of a set of fifty-two small cards used in several games. **playmate** ('pleɪmeɪt) *nc* a companion in children's play. **play off** 1 decide the winner of (a competition). 2 set (someone) in competition with (another person) so that you benefit yourself: *She played her two brothers off against each other.* **play-off** ('pleɪˌɒf) *nc* a final competition to decide the winner. **play on** 1 continue to play. 2 use (someone's feelings) for your own advantage. **playroom** ('pleɪrʊm) *nc* a room used by children during the day. **plaything** ('pleɪθɪŋ) *nc* a toy. **playtime** ('pleɪtaɪm) *nc* a break between school lessons for small children. **play up** *chiefly Brit* 1 be naughty (with (someone)). 2 (of a machine) not work properly.

plea (pliː) *nc* 1 the act of asking urgently for something. 2 the answer to a charge, made by someone at their trial: *a plea of guilty.*

plead (pliːd) 1 *vi* ask urgently (for something). 2 *vt* say that you are (guilty or not guilty) in answering a charge at your trial.

pleasant ('plezənt) *adj* giving pleasure; agreeable. **pleasantly** *adv* **pleasantry** ('plezəntrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** (often *pl*) an unimportant but polite remark.

please (pliːz) *vt* 1 give pleasure to. 2 like: *Take what you please.* • *adv* 1 (used for politeness in asking someone for or to do something): *Please go away; Would you close the door, please?* 2 also **yes please** (used to accept an offer or invitation politely.) **pleased** *adj* happy (about, at, or with something). **pleasing** *adj* giving pleasure.

pleasure ('pleʒə*) *ncu* (something or someone that gives) enjoyment or happiness. • *vi* (often followed by **in**) take pleasure. **pleasurable** ('pleʒərəbəl) *adj* giving pleasure.

pleat (pliːt) *nc* a fold in cloth: *At school we had to wear skirts with pleats.* • *vt* make a pleat in.

pledge (pledʒ) *vt, nc* (make) a formal or serious promise (of): *He pledged his support to the movement.*

plentiful ('plentɪful) *adj* existing in large quantities.

plenty ('plentɪ) *nu, pron* a lot; enough; large number.

pleura ('plʊərə) *nc, pl* **-rae** (riː) one of the two membranes that contain the lungs.

pleurisy ('plʊərɪsɪ) *nu medicine* inflammation of the lungs causing breathing difficulties.

pliable ('plaɪəbəl) *adj* easy to bend or influence.

pliers ('plaɪəz) *n pl* a tool with two jaws used for holding something tight: see picture at **tools.**

plight (plaɪt) *nc* a dangerous or hopeless situation.

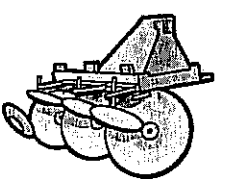
plod (plɒd) *vi* 1 walk heavily. 2 work slowly and steadily. • *nc* the act or sound of plodding.

plop (plɒp) *vi, nc* (make) the sound of a small object falling into a liquid.

plot[1] (plɒt) *nc* 1 a secret plan to do something, esp. dishonest or unlawful. 2 the story of a play, etc. • *vti* 1 (of several people) plan (something dishonest or unlawful) secretly. 2 *vt* mark (a point, course, etc.) on a map.

plot[2] *nc* a small piece of land.

plough *US* **plow** (plaʊ) *nc* a farm machine with a curved blade that turns the earth over when pulled through it: see picture. **the Plough** *US* **the Big Dipper** a group of stars thought to resemble a plough. • *vt* 1 turn (earth) over with a plough. 2 *vi* move like a plough: *The car left the road and ploughed into the bushes.* **plough back** use (profits) to build up the business from which they came.



plough

pluck (plʌk) 1 *vti* (when *vi*, often followed by **at**) pull at or off lightly. *vt* 2 pull or pick (feathers) from (a bird). 3 pull (the strings of a musical instrument) and let them go. • *nc* 1 the act of plucking. 2 *nu*

courage. **pluck up your courage** become confident enough to do something. **plucky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** brave.

plug (plʌg) *nc* 1 an object used to block off a pipe, esp. to stop water flowing out of a bath, etc. 2 a small plastic object with two or three metal pins coming from it, used to connect an electrical device to an electricity supply. • *vt* put a **plug** (def. 1) in (a pipe, etc.).

plum (plʌm) *nc* a soft, roundish, yellow or dark red fruit with a stone: see picture at **fruits.**

plumage ('pluːmɪdʒ) *nu* a bird's feathers.

plumb (plʌm) *nc* a small metal weight lowered on a line to measure the depth of water or to indicate what is exactly upright. • *adj* exactly upright. • *adv* straight down. • *vt* 1 find the bottom of; solve (a mystery). 2 put esp. water pipes in (a building). **plumber** *nc* a person who plumbs buildings and repairs pipes. **plumbing** *nu* 1 the practice or business of a plumber. 2 water, gas, etc., pipes in a building.

plume (pluːm) *nc* 1 a large brightly-coloured feather. 2 something shaped like a plume: *a plume of smoke.*

plump (plʌmp) *adj* **-er, -est** fat or well filled. • *vt* make plump. **plump for** *infml* choose.

plumule ('pluːmjuːl) *nc botany* the first shoot of a seedling from which the leaves and stem develop.

plunder ('plʌndə*) *vti* steal (goods) from (a place), esp. in war. • *nu* 1 something taken in plundering. 2 the act of plundering.

plunge (plʌndʒ) *vti* push or dive deep into something, esp. quickly and without thinking. • *nc* the act of plunging. **plunger** *nc* a device that pushes or plunges.

plural ('pluərəl) *adj* 1 (of a number) more than one. 2 (of a word) indicating a plural number: *a plural verb.* • *nc* a plural word.

plus (plʌs) *prep* 1 added to: *Two plus two equals four.* 2 with: *I got another car out of them, plus some money back.* • *adj* above zero: *a plus figure.* • *nc* 1 a sign indicating plus (+). 2 *infml* an advantage.

plush (plʌʃ) *infml adj* **-er, -est** smart and expensive-looking. • *nu* silk or cotton cloth with short, soft hairs on one side.

plutonium (pluː'təunɪəm) *nu* a radioactive chemical element important in splitting the atom to produce atomic energy. Symbol: Pu.

ply¹ (plaɪ) 1 *vi* (of a ship, bus, etc.) go regularly between one place and another. *vt* 2 work at (a job or trade). 3 offer or supply repeatedly.

ply² *nc, pl* **-plies** 1 a layer of wood, cloth, etc. 2 one of the threads twisted together with other threads into wool, rope, etc. **plywood** ('plaɪwʊd) *nu* thin, strong board made of thin sheets of wood stuck together.

pneumatic (njuː'mætɪk) *adj* to do with, esp. worked by or containing, air: *a pneumatic tyre.*

pneumonia (njuː'məunɪə) *nu* a serious inflammation of the lungs caused by viral or bacterial infection.

poach¹ (pəutʃ) *vt* 1 cook (an egg) without its shell in boiling water. 2 cook (fish, etc.) in liquid that is almost boiling.

poach² *vt* kill and steal (animals and birds) without permission on someone else's land.

pocket ('pɒkɪt) *nc* 1 a small bag in a garment in which to keep money, a handkerchief, etc. 2 a small quantity of something surrounded by something else: *an air pocket.* • *adj* of the right size for putting in a pocket: *a pocket-knife.* • *vt* 1 put into your pocket. 2 take for yourself, esp. steal. **pocket-book** *nc* 1 a small notebook. 2 *US* a small case for money, papers, etc. **pocket money** a small amount of money given regularly, esp. to children.

pod (pɒd) *nc* the long seed-case of a plant, esp. a pea or bean: see picture. • *vt* take (peas, etc.) out of their pods.

pod

poem ('pəuɪm) *nc* a piece of writing, often arranged in lines of regular length and sound, showing deep feelings, etc., in beautiful language.

poet ('pəuɪt) *nc* a person who writes poetry. **poetic** (pəu'etɪk) *adj* to do with poetry.

poetry ('pəuɪtrɪ) *nu* poems collectively.

poignant ('pɔɪnjənt) *adj* disturbing the feelings.

point (pɔɪnt) *nc* 1 a sharp end: *the point of a pencil.* 2 an idea; matter: *We have three points to discuss.* 3 an exact place. 4 a special quality: *Her eyes are her best point.* 5 a unit won in a game, the side that wins the most being the winner. 6 *nu* a purpose; aim: *What was the point of doing that?* • *vt* 1 (often followed by **at**) hold or position (a finger, gun, etc.) along the direction towards someone or something: *Don't point the gun at me!* 2 *vi* (often followed by **at** or **to**) indicate where someone or

something is by pointing something at them: *He pointed to the guilty man.* **be on the point of doing something** do something soon. **make a point of doing something** do (something you believe to be necessary). **point of view** See under **view. to the point** directly connected with the matter being talked about. **point out** show. **pointed** *adj* 1 having a point. 2 aimed directly at a person: *a pointed remark.* **pointless** *adj* without any meaning or purpose. **pointer** *nc* 1 a stick, etc., used for pointing at something. 2 a kind of needle indicating the reading on a measuring instrument. 3 a large dog, used in hunting, that stands with its nose pointing to where a bird or small animal is.

poise (pɔɪz) *nu* 1 calmness of mind and behaviour; quiet self-control. 2 being balanced or steady. 3 a way of walking and holding the head. • *vti* (cause to) balance or keep steady.

poison ('pɔɪzən) *nc* a substance that can harm, destroy, or kill when taken in by an animal or plant. • *vt* give poison to. **poisonous** *adj* that acts as a poison.

poke (pəuk) 1 *vt* push (a finger, stick, etc.) into, out of, or through (something): *He poked me in the back with his gun; Don't poke your head out of the window.* 2 *vi* (of a finger, stick, etc.) be pushed into, out of, or through something. • *nc* a push with a finger, stick, etc.

poker[1] ('pəukə*) *nu* a card game for two or more players.

poker[2] *nc* a strong metal tool used for stirring up a fire to keep it burning.

polar ('pəulə*) *adj* to do with the North or South Pole. **polar bear** a large bear with white fur that lives near the sea round the North Pole. **polarity** (pə'lærɪtɪ) *nu* the state of having poles (**pole**[2] defs. 2, 3, 4).

polarise ('pəuləraɪz) 1 *vt* divide (a group) into two, each with opposite or very different opinions, etc. 2 *vi* (of a group) be divided in this way. **polarisation** (ˌpəuləraɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu* polarising or being polarised.

pole[1] (pəul) *nc* a long, strong stick, esp. used as a support: *a flagpole.*

pole[2] *nc* 1 the most northerly or southerly point of the earth: *the North Pole.* 2 either of two places carrying an opposite electric charge. 3 either end of a magnet. 4 either of two opposite or very different opinions, etc. **Pole Star** a star that is always to the north.

police (pə'liːs) *nu* a group of people trained and paid to keep public order and peace. • *vt* control or keep in order with, or as if with, the help of the police. **police station** a building in which the police of a district have their offices. **policeman** (pə'liːsmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a male member of the police. **policewoman** (pə'liːsˌwumən) *nc, pl* **-women** a female member of the police.

policy ('pɒlɪsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 an action decided upon, esp. by a government or big organisation. 2 also **insurance policy** an insurance agreement, esp. between a person and an insurance company. 3 *nu* wise or sensible behaviour.

poliomyelitis (ˌpəulɪəuˌmaɪə'laɪtɪs) (also **polio** ('pəulɪəu)) *nu* a serious viral disease, esp. affecting children and young adults, that is spread in food and water and by infected people and damages nerves and causes paralysis and wasted muscles; it can be prevented by vaccination.

polish ('pɒlɪʃ) *vt* 1 rub (a surface) until it shines. 2 make (something) even better or perfect: *a polished result.* 3 *vi* (of a surface) be rubbed until it shines. • *nu* 1 a shine on a surface. 2 *nc* a wax or other substance used for polishing: *shoe polish.* 3 *nu* the act of polishing. **polish off** finish or use (something) up completely or quickly.

polite (pə'laɪt) *adj* giving thought to the feelings and wishes of other people in your manners, behaviour, etc. **politely** *adv* **politeness** *nu*

political (pə'lɪtɪkəl) *adj* to do with politics. **politically** *adv*

politician (ˌpɒlɪ'tɪʃən) *nc* a person who is or who wants to be occupied in the government of a country.

politics ('pɒlɪtɪks) 1 *nu* (*with singular verb*) the practice or study of government and authority. 2 *n pl* political opinions, affairs, etc.

poll (pəul) *nc* 1 the voting at an election; result of this voting; place where this voting takes place. 2 See **opinion poll** under **opinion.** • *vt* 1 receive (a number of votes). 2 *vti* give (your vote) at an election.

pollen ('pɒlən) *nu* the fine yellow powder in a flower that is produced by the anther.

pollinate ('pɒlɪneɪt) *vt* take pollen from anthers to stigmas so that fertilisation takes place. **pollination** (ˌpɒlɪ'neɪʃən) *nu*

pollute (pə'luːt) *vt* make dirty or impure: *The sea was polluted with oil.* **pollution** (pə'luːʃən) 1 *nu* polluting or being polluted. 2 *nc* something that pollutes. **pollutant** (pə'luːtənt) *ncu*

polo ('pəuləu) *nu* a game played on horse-

back using long-handled wooden hammers and a wooden ball.

polyandry (ˌpɒlɪˈændrɪ) *adj* the practice of a woman having more than one husband.

polygamy (pəˈlɪgəmɪ) *nu* the practice of having more than one wife at the same time.

polyglot (ˈpɒlɪˌglɒt) *nc* a person who can speak or write many languages.

polygon (ˈpɒlɪgən) *nc* a figure having many straight sides, usually more than five: see picture at **shapes.**

polyhedron (ˌpɒlɪˈhiːdrən) *nc mathematics* a solid figure with four or more faces.

polymer (ˈpɒlɪmə*) *nc* a chemical compound in which each molecule is made up of two or more molecules strung together.

polytechnic (ˌpɒlɪˈteknɪk) *nc* a college that teaches many subjects, esp. those connected with science and industry.

polythene (ˈpɒlɪθiːn) *nu* a strong, plastic material used for wrapping, keeping heat in, making pipes, etc.

pomegranate (ˈpɒmɪˌgrænɪt) *nc* 1 a round fruit with a tough, orange skin containing juicy red flesh and many seeds. 2 a tree bearing this fruit.

pomp (pɒmp) *nu* 1 stately, splendid show, esp. in public. 2 something that seems splendid and worthy of pride but is not really so.

pompous (ˈpɒmpəs) *adj* thinking yourself to be very important and worthy.

pond (pɒnd) *nc* a hollow place in the ground filled with water used by cattle for drinking, by ducks, etc.

ponder (ˈpɒndə*) *vti* (when *vi*, often followed by **over**) think (something) over carefully.

ponderous (ˈpɒndərəs) *adj* 1 heavy. 2 awkward in movement. 3 dull: *a ponderous speech.*

pontoon (pɒnˈtuːn) 1 *nc* a boat used as a floating support for a bridge, etc. 2 *nu* a card game.

pony (ˈpəʊnɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** a small kind of horse.

poodle (ˈpuːdəl) *nc* a kind of dog with curly hair that is often cut.

pool[1] (puːl) *nc* 1 a small hollow in the ground filled with water. 2 a small amount of liquid lying on a surface. 3 See **swimming-pool** under **swim.**

pool[2] *nc* 1 an amount of money that people have joined together to provide in a game or for a business. 2 a game played with balls and long, thin sticks on a table with cushions and holes along its edges. **the (football) pools** a gambling game in which many people risk money on the results of football matches.

poor (pʊə*) *adj* 1 not rich; having little money. 2 of little value. 3 not enough: *a poor night's sleep.* 4 not lucky; unhappy: *Both of the poor child's parents are dead.* **the poor** poor people. **poorly** *adj* not in good health. • *adv* in a poor manner; badly: *The family has little money so the children are very poorly dressed.*

pop[1] (pɒp) *nc* the sound of a light explosion: *The cork came out of the bottle with a pop.* • *adv* with such a sound. • *vti* 1 (cause to) make this sound. 2 *infml* move quickly or for a short time: *I'm just popping upstairs.*

pop[2] *infml adj* short for **popular.** • *nu* popular music.

pope (pəʊp) *nc* the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

poplar (ˈpɒplə*) *nc* a tall, narrow tree; (also *nu*) wood from this tree.

poppy (ˈpɒpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pies** a plant with red, orange, or white flowers and a milky liquid.

populace (ˈpɒpjʊləs) *fml nc* all the members of the public, esp. except for those in important positions.

popular (ˈpɒpjʊlə*) *adj* 1 admired or well-liked by many people. 2 made suitable for most ordinary people's tastes, needs, etc.: *the popular press.* 3 to do with the people: *popular opinion.* **popularise** (ˈpɒpjʊləraɪz) *vt* make popular. **popularity** (ˌpɒpjʊˈlærɪtɪ) *nu* **popularly** *adv*

populate (ˈpɒpjʊleɪt) *vt* 1 live in (a place). 2 supply (a place) with people. **population** (ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃən) *nc* the (number of) people living in a place.

populous (ˈpɒpjʊləs) *adj* filled with people.

porcelain (ˈpɔːsəlɪn) *nu* (cups, plates, etc., made from) a delicate kind of baked clay with a glass-like surface.

porch (pɔːtʃ) *nc* an entrance with a roof built outside the door of a house, church, etc.

porcupine (ˈpɔːkjʊpaɪn) *nc* an animal covered with needle-like parts: see picture.

porcupine

pore[1] (pɔː*) *v* **pore over** read or study (something) very carefully.

pore[2] *nc* one of the many tiny openings in the skin through which liquids that are given off by the body may pass.

pork (pɔːk) *nu* the flesh of a pig used for food.

pornography (pɔːˈnɒgrəfɪ) *nu* books, films, etc., describing sexual activity in an indecent way so as to stir up sexual feelings. **pornographic** (ˌpɔːnəˈgræfɪk) *adj*

porous (ˈpɔːrəs) *adj* that allows liquid to pass through.

porpoise (ˈpɔːpəs) *nc* a sea mammal that looks like a small whale.

porridge (ˈpɒrɪdʒ) *nu* oats boiled in water or milk and eaten as a soft, hot food.

port[1] (pɔːt) *nc* 1 a place in a river or sea in which ships shelter; harbour. 2 a town with a harbour.

port[2] *nc* an opening in the side of a ship through which goods are taken in or brought out. **porthole** (ˈpɔːthəʊl) *nc* a round window in the side of a ship or plane.

port[3] *nu, adj* (on) the left-hand side of a ship or plane as you face the front.

port[4] *nu* a strong, sweet wine.

portable (ˈpɔːtəbəl) *adj* that can easily be carried about: *a portable radio.*

portal (ˈpɔːtəl) *nc* a grand or splendid door or entrance to a building.

portend (pɔːˈtend) *fml vt* be a sign or warning of something to happen in the future.

porter (ˈpɔːtə*) *nc* a person at a railway station, hotel, etc., whose job is to carry luggage.

portfolio (pɔːtˈfəʊlɪəʊ) *nc* 1 a flat case in which to keep sheets of paper, drawings, etc. 2 the job of a person in a chief position in a government.

portion (ˈpɔːʃən) *nc* 1 a part or share. 2 a quantity of food served to one person; helping. • *vt* divide into shares or parts.

portly (ˈpɔːtlɪ) *adj* rather fat and heavy.

portrait (ˈpɔːtrɪt) *nc* a painting, drawing, photograph, etc., of a person, esp. of the face.

portray (pɔːˈtreɪ) *vt* 1 make a picture of. 2 describe in great detail. **portrayal** (pɔːˈtreɪəl) 1 *nu* the act of portraying. 2 *nc* a picture or description.

pose (pəʊz) 1 *vt* put forward or bring up (a question, problem, etc.). 2 *vti* (cause to) stand, sit, etc., in a certain position to be painted, photographed, etc. **pose as** pretend to be.

position (pəˈzɪʃən) *nc* 1 the place where someone or something is. 2 the way in which someone or something is standing, etc., or is placed. 3 a person's place and reputation in society, at work, etc. 4 a job; employment. 5 an opinion; point of view. 6 a state of affairs: *What's the position at home?* • *vt* place in position.

positive (ˈpɒzɪtɪv) *adj* 1 sure; with no doubts: *a positive view of things; a positive statement.* 2 helpful; good: *positive criticism.* 3 complete: *positive stupidity.* 4 (of a number) greater than nothing. 5 (of an electric charge) like that of a proton. • *nc* a photograph in which light and dark are the right way round, as in real life. **positively** *adv*

positron (ˈpɒzɪˌtrɒn) *nc* an elementary particle with the same mass as an electron but with a positive charge.

possess (pəˈzes) *vt* have as belonging to you; own. **in possession of** having or owning. **possession** (pəˈzeʃən) 1 *nu* the state of having or owning. 2 *nc* a thing that is owned. **possessive** *adj* 1 to do with possession. 2 wanting possession, control or influence, esp. over another person. 3 *grammar* showing who something belongs to: in 'a child's toy', 'child's' is possessive.

possible (ˈpɒsəbəl) *adj* that can be done or may be or may happen. **possibility** (ˌpɒsəˈbɪlɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the state of being possible. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a thing that is possible. **possibly** *adv* 1 perhaps; maybe. 2 at all: *I cannot possibly do what you ask.*

post[1] (pəʊst) *nc* a strong, upright piece of wood or metal used as a support or for marking something: *a lamppost.* • *vt* put up (a notice, etc.) in a public place.

post[2] *nc* a position in employment; job.

post[3] also **mail** *nu* 1 letters, parcels, etc., delivered by a postal service to the houses to which they are addressed. 2 a service that delivers post: *The post is very slow.* • *vt* take or hand in (a letter, etc.) to be delivered as post. **postbox** (ˈpəʊstbɒks) *nc* a box in a public place into which letters are posted. **postcard** (ˈpəʊstkɑːd) *nc* a piece of card with a short message, and sometimes a picture on one side, sent by post without an envelope. **postcode** (ˈpəʊstkəʊd) *US* **zip code** *nc* a group of letters and numbers added to an address to help a post office in sorting the mail. **postman** (ˈpəʊstmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a person whose job is to deliver mail. **postmark** (ˈpəʊstmɑːk) *nc* a mark printed over the stamps on letters by a post office giving the date and place where they were collected and preventing the stamps from being used again. **postmaster** (ˈpəʊstˌmɑːstə*) or **postmistress** (ˈpəʊstˌmɪstrɪs) *nc* a man or woman who is paid to be in charge of a post office. **post office** (ˈpəʊstˌɒfɪs) *nc* 1 a room or building where stamps are sold, etc., and other business connected with the

post is dealt with. 2 a service that delivers post. **postpaid** (ˌpəʊstˈpeɪd) *adj, adv* with the postage paid before posting.

postage (ˈpəʊstɪdʒ) *nu* the money charged for delivering a letter, etc. **postage stamp** a paper stamp stuck on a letter, parcel, etc., to show that postage has been paid.

postal (ˈpəʊstəl) *adj* to do with (the) **post**[3]. **postal order** a written order to a post office to pay a certain amount of money to a particular person.

poster (ˈpəʊstə*) *nc* 1 a printed notice shown in a public place. 2 a large printed picture used as decoration.

posterior (pɒˈstɪərɪə*) *adj* 1 placed at the back of or behind something. 2 coming later in time or order. • *nc humorous* the buttocks.

posterity (pɒˈsterɪtɪ) *nu* 1 all the people in the future. 2 your descendants.

postgraduate (ˌpəʊstˈgrædjʊət) *adj, nc* (to do with) a student who continues studying after successfully finishing a university course.

posthumous (ˈpɒstjʊməs) *adj* happening after someone's death. **posthumously** *adv*

post-mortem (ˌpəʊstˈmɔːtəm) *nc, adj* (to do with) the examination of a dead body to find out the cause of death.

postnatal (ˌpəʊstˈneɪtəl) *adj* after childbirth: *postnatal exercises; postnatal depression.*

postpone (pəsˈpəʊn) *vt* put off until a later time.

postscript (ˈpəʊstskrɪpt) (*infml abbrev.* **PS**) *nc* a piece of writing added to a letter after the signature.

postulate (ˈpɒstjʊleɪt) *vt* put forward (an idea, statement, etc., you consider to be true) in order to reason from it.

posture (ˈpɒstʃə*) *nc* a way of holding your head and body. • *vi* behave in an unnatural or vain way to impress people.

post-war (ˌpəʊstˈwɔː*) *adj* happening, built, etc., after a war: *post-war housing.*

posy (ˈpəʊzɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies** a small bunch of flowers.

pot (pɒt) *nc* a round container made of glass, metal, baked clay, etc.: *a cooking pot; a teapot; Plants can grow in flowerpots.* • *vt* 1 put (a plant) with soil in a pot. 2 put meat, butter, etc., in a pot to keep it from decay. **go to pot** *infml* be ruined. **pothole** (ˈpɒthəʊl) *nc* 1 a hole in a road caused by traffic, rain, etc. 2 a deep hole or cave under the ground caused by running water. • *vi* explore potholes under the ground. **potholing** *nu*

potash (ˈpɒtæʃ) *nu* any of several substances containing potassium, esp. used to help plants grow.

potassium (pəˈtæsɪəm) *nu* a chemical element; soft, silver-white metal: symbol K.

potato (pəˈteɪtəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** a root that is nearly white inside, has brown or red skin, and is cooked and eaten as a vegetable: see picture at **vegetables. potato crisp** *US* **potato chip** See **crisp.**

potent (ˈpəʊtənt) *adj* powerful.

potential (pəˈtenʃəl) *adj* that may happen or be; possible: *a potential danger.* • *nc* 1 a possibility. 2 *nu* an ability that has not yet been developed or is not yet active. **potentiality** (pəˌtenʃɪˈælɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** an ability or power that is present but needs developing. **potentially** *adv*

potter[1] (ˈpɒtə*) *nc* a person who makes pots out of baked clay. **pottery** (ˈpɒtərɪ) 1 *nu* articles made of baked clay. 2 *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where such articles are made.

potter[2] *vi* (often followed by **about**) move about doing various things in your house, etc., with little purpose but in a pleasant manner.

pouch (paʊtʃ) *nc* 1 a small bag. 2 the bag in which an animal such as a kangaroo keeps its young.

poultry (ˈpəʊltrɪ) *nu* birds, such as hens, kept to provide eggs and meat.

pounce (paʊns) *vi* (often followed by **on**) jump or come down on suddenly.

pound[1] (paʊnd) *nc* See appendix.

pound[2] *nc* a measure of weight: see appendix.

pound[3] *nc* 1 a place where animals found loose are kept until their owners fetch them. 2 a place where vehicles are taken if left where they should not have been.

pound[4] 1 *vti* beat heavily with the fists again and again (on). 2 *vt* break into very small pieces. *vi* 3 walk, run, or make your way in a heavy manner. 4 (of your heart) beat heavily because of fear, after running, etc.

pour (pɔː*) 1 *vt* cause (liquid, etc.) to flow, esp. from one container to another. 2 *vi* (of a liquid, etc.) flow. 3 *vti* (cause to) flow down, out, etc.: *Rain was pouring down.*

pout (paʊt) 1 *vti* push (the lips) out to show displeasure. 2 *nc* an act of pouting.

poverty (ˈpɒvətɪ) *nu* being poor. **poverty-stricken** (ˈpɒvətɪˌstrɪkən) *adj* made very poor.

powder (ˈpaʊdə*) *ncu* a substance, such as soap or medicine, in tiny, dry pieces. • *vt* 1 make into powder. 2 cover with powder; put powder on.

power (ˈpaʊə*) *nu* 1 ability to do some-

thing: *He did all in his power to help us.* 2 strength; force. 3 control or authority: *He has us in his power.* 4 the ability of glasses, etc., to make things look larger than they really are. 5 energy used to make machines work. *nc* 6 a person, country, etc., with control, influence, or authority. 7 *mathematics* the number of times another number is to be multiplied by itself: *Two to the power of three (written 2^3) is eight.* **powerful** *adj* having great power; strong. **powerless** *adj*

practicable ('præktɪkəbəl) *adj* that can be done or used.

practical ('præktɪkəl) *adj* 1 of or to do with action rather than just ideas. 2 meant for use; useful: *a practical device.* 3 (of a person) experienced in the practice of something. **practically** *adv* 1 in a practical way. 2 almost.

practice ('præktɪs) *nu* 1 the doing of something rather than just thinking about it. 2 a custom; regular habit. 3 the doing of something often and regularly in order to improve: *music practice.* 4 *nc* a job as a dentist, lawyer, family doctor, etc.: *A new doctor has taken over the practice.* **in** or **out of practice** having or not having worked hard at your skill, etc., often and lately.

practise *US* **practice** ('præktɪs) *vt* 1 do (something) often to improve at it and become skilful. 2 do (something) as a regular habit. 3 work at (a profession, etc.): *to practise medicine.*

practitioner (præk'tɪʃənə*) *nc* a person who works at a profession or art: *a medical practitioner.*

pragmatic (præg'mætɪk) *adj* 1 interested in being practical and keeping to facts rather than ideas. 2 accepting beliefs, etc., as true without reasoning them out.

prairie ('preərɪ) *nc* a large area of grassland without trees, esp. in North America and Canada.

praise (preɪz) *vt* 1 say that you admire. 2 give honour to (God, a hero, etc.). • *nu* praising. **praiseworthy** ('preɪz,wɜːðɪ) *adj* worthy of praise.

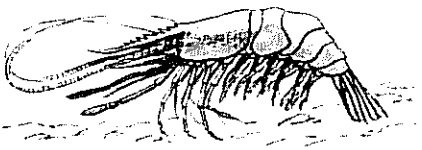
pram (præm) *nc* a four-wheeled vehicle for carrying a baby.

prance (prɑːns) *vi* 1 walk about in a self-important way. 2 jump around. 3 (of a horse) take lively steps.

prank (præŋk) *nc* a playful, not serious or harmful trick.

prattle ('prætəl) *vi* talk in a childish or foolish way.

prawn (prɔːn) *nc* a small shellfish (crustacean), used for food: see picture.



prawn

pray (preɪ) *vti* (when *vt*, often followed by **that;** when *vi*, often followed by **to** or **for**) speak or think prayers: *I pray that I may go to heaven; We prayed to God for the war to end.* **praying mantis** *n* See **mantis.**

prayer (preə*) *ncu* (set of words spoken or thought in) praying to God.

preach (priːtʃ) *vi* 1 give a serious talk or speech, esp. in church about God and religious teachings. 2 give advice about what is right or wrong. **preacher** ('priːtʃə*) *nc* a person who preaches, esp. in church.

preamble (prɪ'æmbəl) *nc* the first part of a speech, law, etc., introducing the main part.

precarious (prɪ'keərɪəs) *adj* not certain or safe, likely to lead to danger or failure.

precaution (prɪ'kɔːʃən) *ncu* care or an action taken to avoid an accident, danger, etc.

precede (ˌprɪ'siːd) *vt* come before in time, order, or importance. **precedent** ('presɪdənt) *nc* something that has happened or been done earlier, taken as an example or rule for what comes later. **preceding** *adj* coming before.

precinct ('priːsɪŋkt) *nc* a piece of land, part of a building, etc., that is enclosed or marked off. **precincts** the surrounding district: *in the precincts of the city.*

precious ('preʃəs) *adj* 1 of great value. 2 very dear to a person, whether valuable or not. 3 (of behaviour, language, or a person) not natural or real; trying to make an effect. • *adv* very.

precipice ('presɪpɪs) *nc* the steep side of a cliff or rock.

precipitate (prɪ'sɪpɪteɪt) *vt* 1 cause (something) to happen sooner than it would have done. 2 throw down with force. 3 *chemistry* cause (a substance dissolved in a liquid) to be separated and left in its solid form at the bottom of a liquid. • (prɪ'sɪpɪtɪt) *nc* a solid form after precipitation. • (prɪ'sɪpɪtɪt) *adj* done or said too quickly. **precipitation** (prɪˌsɪpɪ'teɪʃən) *nu* 1 precipitating or being precipitated. 2 (an amount of fallen) rain, snow, etc.

precipitous (prɪ'sɪpɪtəs) *adj* 1 like a

precipice; covered with precipices. 2 very steep. 3 hasty.

précis ('preɪsiː) *nc, pl* **précis** ('preɪsiːz) a piece of writing, speech, etc., made shorter by giving only the main points. • *vt* make a précis of.

precise (prɪ'saɪs) *adj* 1 exact. 2 (of language, etc.) careful and clear. **precisely** *adv* **precision** (prɪ'sɪʒən) *nu*

preclude (prɪ'kluːd) *vt* make (something) impossible, esp. before it would happen.

precocious (prɪ'kəʊʃəs) *adj* (of a child, mind, etc.) having developed earlier than is normal.

predator ('predətə*) *nc* a predatory animal. **predatory** ('predətərɪ) *adj* 1 (of an animal) living by hunting, killing, and eating other animals. 2 to do with stealing, often by force, or living off others.

predecessor ('priːdɪˌsesə*) *nc* someone or something that has come before: *The new headmaster is not as good as his predecessor.*

predetermine (ˌpriːdɪ'tɜːmɪn) *vt* decide that (something) will happen.

predicament (prɪ'dɪkəmənt) *nc* an upsetting, difficult, or dangerous situation from which there seems to be no escape.

predicate ('predɪkət) *nc* the part of a sentence saying something about its subject, such as 'ran away' in 'The boy ran away'.

predict (prɪ'dɪkt) *vt* say that (something) will happen. **predictable** *adj* that can be predicted. **prediction** (prɪ'dɪkʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) predicting. 2 *nc* something that is predicted.

predominant (prɪ'dɒmɪnənt) *adj* 1 most easily seen or noticed: *the predominant colour.* 2 having the most control over other people; most important. **predominance** *nu* **predominantly** *adv*

predominate (prɪ'dɒmɪneɪt) *vi* 1 (often followed by **over**) have or use power or influence over another person, etc. 2 be greater in number or stronger, have more influence, etc.

pre-eminent (priː'emɪnənt) *adj* doing or being better than others: *He is the pre-eminent surgeon in his field.*

prefabricate (priː'fæbrɪkeɪt) *vt* make the parts of (a building, etc.) in a factory before they are fitted together where the building, etc., is to be.

preface ('prefəs) *nc* a statement at the front of a book explaining its subject, etc. • *vt* supply with a preface; begin.

prefect ('priːfekt) *nc* a senior pupil given some control over the other children in a school.

prefer (prɪ'fɜː*) *vt* (often followed by **to**) like better; choose (one thing) rather than another: *I prefer to walk to school than to go by bus; I prefer fish to meat.*

preferable ('prefərəbəl) *adj* to be preferred; better. **preferably** ('prefərəblɪ) *adv*

preference ('prefərəns) *nu* 1 preferring. 2 special consideration. 3 *nc* something that is preferred.

prefix ('priːfɪks) *nc* a group of letters, such as 're-' or 'dis-', joined to the front of a word in order to change its meaning • *vt* put a prefix in front.

pregnancy ('pregnənsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies** the condition of being pregnant. **pregnant** ('pregnənt) *adj* 1 (of a woman or female animal) carrying a child, children, or other young yet to be born. 2 full of meaning.

prehensile (prɪ'hensaɪl) *adj zoology* adapted for seizing, grasping, or holding on: *Many monkeys have prehensile tails.*

prehistoric (ˌpriːhɪ'stɒrɪk) *adj* before the events of history were put down in writing.

prejudice ('predʒʊdɪs) 1 *nc* an opinion made before knowing or examining all the facts. 2 *nu* the practice of having such opinions. **prejudiced** *adj* having a prejudice.

preliminary (prɪ'lɪmɪnərɪ) *adj* happening before; getting ready for something that is to come: *He made a few preliminary remarks before introducing the speaker.* • *nc, pl* **-ries** a preliminary action.

prelude ('preljuːd) *nc* 1 a piece of music played before the main or a longer one. 2 anything that comes before or introduces something else.

premature ('premətʃə*) *adj* happening, done, or born before the usual or proper time; too early.

premeditated (prɪ'medɪˌteɪtɪd) *adj* that is considered in advance: *premeditated murder.*

premier ('premɪə*) *adj* first in importance, order, etc. • *nc* the head of a government.

première ('premɪeə*) *nc* the first public performance of a new play, film, etc.

premise ('premɪs) *nc* a set of facts, views, etc., believed to be true and from which an opinion or conclusion can be reached. **premises** *n pl* a house or other building and the land on which it is built.

premium ('priːmɪəm) *nc* 1 an extra payment, in addition to what is usual or expected; reward. 2 the money paid for an insurance policy.

preoccupation (priːˌɒkjʊ'peɪʃən) 1 *nu* a state of having all your attention or thoughts occupied with something. 2 *nc* something that occupies all your attention

or thoughts. **preoccupied** (priːˈɒkjʊpaɪd) *adj* being in a state of preoccupation.

prepare (prɪˈpeə*) 1 *vti* make or get ready: *Prepare yourself for a shock.* 2 *vt* make (a meal). **preparation** (ˌprepəˈreɪʃən) 1 *nu* preparing or being prepared. *nc* 2 something done to prepare. 3 a prepared substance or material, such as a medicine. **preparatory** (prɪˈpærətərɪ) *adj* making prepared; leading to something else.

preposition (ˌprepəˈzɪʃən) *nc* a word, such as 'in' or 'to', used in front of a noun or pronoun to indicate its relationship to another part of its sentence.

preposterous (prɪˈpɒstərəs) *adj* completely foolish: *What a preposterous idea!*

prerogative (prɪˈrɒgətɪv) *nc* a special right enjoyed only by a certain person, class, etc.: *Many old people think that it is their prerogative to go to the front of the bus queue.*

Presbyterian (ˌprezbɪˈtɪərɪən) *adj* of or to do with a Christian church governed by the elder members of the people who worship there. • *nc* a member of the Presbyterian Church.

prescribe (prɪˈskraɪb) *vt* 1 recommend (a medicine or other treatment). 2 direct or order that (an action) be taken. **prescription** (prɪˈskrɪpʃən) 1 *nu* prescribing. 2 *nc* something that is prescribed.

presence (ˈprezəns) *nu* 1 being present. 2 a person's appearance, way of walking, etc., esp. of a kind that deserves or gets respect.

present[1] (ˈprezənt) *adj* 1 being in a certain place: *He was present when the accident happened.* 2 now passing, in existence, being dealt with, etc.: *the present year.* • *adj, nc grammar* (to do with) a form of a verb used to describe the present time: *present tense.* **at present** now. **the present** the present time; now.

present[2] *nc* a gift; something given: *birthday presents.* • (prɪˈzənt) *vt* 1 introduce: *May I present my parents?* 2 give (something) to someone formally on a special occasion: *He was presented with a large cheque when he retired from his job.* 3 show or give (a theatre play, etc.).

presentable (prɪˈzentəbəl) *adj* fit or suitable to be seen: *Can you make yourself presentable for the party?*

presentation (ˌprezənˈteɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of presenting or being presented. 2 *nc* something that is presented.

presently (ˈprezəntlɪ) *adv* 1 soon. 2 *chiefly US* now.

preserve (prɪˈzɜːv) *vt* 1 keep from going bad: *preserved fruit.* 2 protect from danger or harm: *Heaven preserve us!* 3 keep safe from change, loss, or destruction: *We like to preserve old buildings.* • *nc* 1 a jam. 2 a piece of land in which the animals, birds, and fish are protected. **preservation** (ˌprezəˈveɪʃən) *nu* 1 preserving or being preserved. 2 the state of being well or badly cared for: *The old house was in a poor state of preservation.* **preservative** (prɪˈzɜːvətɪv) *nc, adj* (a substance) that helps to preserve something, esp. food.

preside (prɪˈzaɪd) *vi* have control: *to preside over a meeting.*

president (ˈprezɪdənt) *nc* 1 the head of a government such as that of the USA. 2 the head of some colleges, societies, etc. 3 *US* the head of a bank or business company. **presidency** (ˈprezɪdənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 the post of a president. 2 the length of time for which one person is president. **presidential** (ˌprezɪˈdenʃəl) *adj*

press (pres) 1 *vti* push steadily (against). *vt* 2 use force and heat to make (clothes) smooth and flat; iron. 3 urge. • *nu* 1 pressing or being pressed. *nc* 2 a device or machine used for pressing. 3 short for **printing press.** 4 a cupboard used for storing clothes, bed-sheets, etc. **be pressed for** not have enough of (esp. time, money, or space). **press for** keep on asking for: *The workers are pressing for higher wages.* **press on** 1 hurry. 2 continue firmly to do something. **the press** newspapers, magazines, etc., as a whole. **pressing** *adj* 1 urgent. 2 always asking for something.

pressure (ˈpreʃə*) 1 *nu* pressing or being pressed. *nc* 2 an amount of force applied to a given area. 3 something that causes trouble or difficulty. **pressurise** (ˈpreʃəraɪz) *vt* 1 put under pressure. 2 try to force (someone) into doing something.

prestige (preˈstiːʒ) *nu* a good reputation due to being successful, wealthy, etc. **prestigious** *adj*

presume (prɪˈzjuːm) 1 *vt* take to be true before there is proof. 2 *vi* be too self-confident or bold in your behaviour. **presumably** *adv* **presumptuous** (prɪˈzʌmptʃʊəs) *adj* bold and badly behaved.

presuppose (ˌpriːsəˈpəʊz) *vt* 1 accept as true before proof or reason is given. 2 have as a necessary condition.

pretence *US* **pretense** (prɪˈtens) *nu* 1 pretending. *nc* 2 false behaviour intended to impress, etc. 3 a false reason.

pretend (prɪˈtend) 1 *vt* claim (something untrue): *He pretends that he is rich.* 2 *vti* play at (being or doing something): *The children pretended to be soldiers.*

pretentious (prɪ'tenʃəs) *adj* pretending or claiming, without good reason, to be important or very worthy.

pretext ('pri:tekst) *nc* a pretended reason.

pretty ('prɪtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** of pleasing or nice appearance. • *adv* quite; rather: *The weather was pretty bad last week.* **prettily** *adv*

prevail (prɪ'veɪl) *vi* 1 have the most influence, power, etc.: *Truth will prevail.* 2 be generally current or in use: *the prevailing opinion.* **prevail upon** persuade (someone) to do something.

prevalent ('prevələnt) *adj* common or usual.

prevent (prɪ'vent) *vt* 1 stop (something) happening. 2 stop (someone) from doing something. **prevention** (prɪ'venʃən) *vt* **preventive** (prɪ'ventɪv), **preventative** (prɪ'ventətɪv) *adj, nc* (something, esp. a medicine) used to prevent something, esp. disease.

preview ('pri:vju:) *nc* the act of seeing a film, new car, etc., before the public do.

previous ('pri:vɪəs) *adj* coming earlier in time or order: *the previous evening; a previous marriage.* **previously** *adv*

prey (preɪ) *nu* 1 an animal or bird that is hunted by another one for food. 2 a person or thing that suffers under an enemy, disease, etc.: *She's a prey to ill health.* **prey (up)on** 1 hunt for as food. 2 worry greatly.

price (praɪs) *nc* 1 the amount of money for which something is bought or sold. 2 that which must be done to obtain anything: *Death can be the price of victory.* 3 *nu* value. • *vt* 1 give (goods) a price. 2 find out the price of (goods) by asking. 3 mark the price on (goods). **priceless** ('praɪslɪs) *adj* 1 of too great a value to be priced. 2 *infml* very funny.

prick (prɪk) *vt* 1 make a tiny hole or holes in with something sharp-pointed: *I've pricked my finger on a needle.* 2 cause a sharp pain to (the body or mind). 3 *vi* (of the body or mind) feel a sharp pain. • *nc* 1 a tiny hole made by pricking. 2 a pain made by pricking. **prickle** ('prɪkəl) *nc* one of many sharp-pointed growths on a plant or the skin of an animal. • *vti* (cause to) have feelings of being pricked. **prickly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered with prickles. 2 *infml* easily made angry.

pride (praɪd) *nu* 1 the state of having too high an opinion of yourself. 2 being satisfied or pleased with what you, or another person, have done. 3 self-respect. 4 a person or thing with which you are very satisfied or pleased. 5 *nc* a group of lions. **pride yourself on** be proud of.

priest (pri:st) *nc* a person, esp. a man, trained to lead prayers and talk on religious matters in a Christian Church. **priesthood** ('pri:sthʊd) *nu* 1 the state of being a priest. 2 all priests.

prim (prɪm) *adj* **-mer, -mest** too concerned with what is correct, right, or suitable.

primary ('praɪmərɪ) *adj* first in importance, order, or time. **primarily** *adv*

primate ('praɪmeɪt) *nc* one of the highest class of animals, which includes man and the monkeys.

prime (praɪm) *adj* 1 chief in importance. 2 of the best kind; very good. 3 (of a number such as 2, 3, or 41) that cannot be divided except by itself and the number 1. • *nu* the time when a person or thing is at their best: *He's in the prime of life.* • *vt* 1 prepare for use. 2 prepare (a person) before an event by supplying them with information, etc., about it. 3 put a first coat of special paint, etc., onto (a surface) to prevent following coats from being taken in through the surface. **prime minister** the head of a government.

primer ('praɪmə*) *nc* 1 a child's first school book. 2 a paint used for priming (**prime** def. 3). 3 a device for setting off an explosion.

primitive ('prɪmɪtɪv) *adj* 1 to do with the earliest period of man's existence. 2 not civilised. 3 not highly developed; simple: *primitive weapons.*

primrose ('prɪmrəʊz) *nc* a wild yellow flower.

prince (prɪns) *nc* 1 the son of a king or queen. 2 the ruler of a small country. **princely** *adj* 1 to do with a prince. 2 generous: *a princely sum.*

princess (prɪn'ses) *nc* 1 the daughter of a king or queen. 2 the wife of a prince.

principal ('prɪnsɪpəl) *adj* first in importance. • *nc* 1 a person who is first in importance, esp. the head of a college. 2 an amount of money lent on which interest is paid. **principally** *adv*

principle ('prɪnsɪpəl) *nc* 1 a rule of behaviour. 2 a general truth, rule, or law. 3 a natural law that controls how a machine, etc., works. **in principle** in the main facts, but not necessarily in the details. **on principle** because of your principles.

print (prɪnt) *vt* 1 make (books, pictures, patterns, etc.), esp. in large numbers, by pressing ink onto (paper, cloth, etc.), in a machine. 2 fix (ideas, feelings, etc.) firmly and deeply in the mind. 3 write (the letters) of (a word) separately instead of joining them as in usual handwriting. 4 make a photographic print from (a negative or

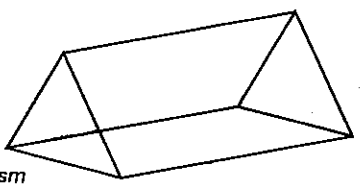
film). • *nu* 1 printed matter. *nc* 2 a printed picture. 3 a cloth printed with a pattern. 4 a photograph on paper. **in print** (of a book) printed and ready to be sold. **out of print** (of a book) no longer being printed. **printer** *nc* **printing press** a machine for printing.

prior ('praɪə*) *adj* earlier; coming before. **prior to** before. • *nc* the head of a house in which men live and serve God.

priority (praɪ'ɒrɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the right to have or do something before other people. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that must be dealt with first or early.

prise (also **prize**) (praɪz) *vt* force (something) open or away from something, esp. by using a strong tool.

prism ('prɪzəm) *nc* a solid block with five or more flat sides and with ends that are regular and equal, esp. one made of glass that refracts light or breaks it up into its colours: see picture.



prism

prison ('prɪzən) 1 *nc* a building in which people who have broken the law are kept locked up for a certain time. 2 *nu* being kept in such a building. **prisoner** *nc* 1 a person who is kept in prison for breaking the law. 2 anyone who is put under control, shut in, etc., for some reason.

private ('praɪvɪt) *adj* 1 to do with one person or a few people and not the public: *a private letter.* 2 secret: *private business.* • *nc* a common soldier. **privacy** ('prɪvəsɪ) *nu* 1 being alone and undisturbed by other people. 2 being secret. **privately** *adv* **privatise** ('praɪvə,taɪz) *vt* (of a government) sell a state-owned industry to a private individual or group: *privatise the railway.*

privilege ('prɪvɪlɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a special right that only a certain person or a few particular people can have. 2 a special favour. **privileged** *adj* having special rights.

prize[1] (praɪz) *nc* a reward for winning a race, competition, etc. • *vt* have a very high opinion of; value greatly.

prize[2] *v* See **prise.**

pro[1] (prəʊ) *infml adj, n* short for **professional.**

pro[2] *prep* in favour of (something): *pro nuclear weapons.* **pros and cons** arguments for and against something.

probable ('prɒbəbəl) *adj* that is likely to happen or be true. **probability** (,prɒbə'bɪlɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being probable. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that is probable. **probably** *adv*

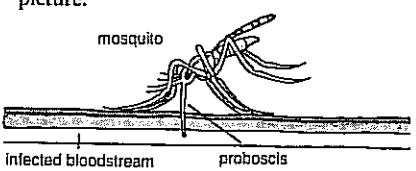
probate ('prəʊbeɪt) 1 *nu* the proving that a will is valid. 2 *nc* an official copy of a will declared to be valid.

probation (prə'beɪʃən) *nu* 1 a testing period to find out if someone is suitable for a job, etc. 2 the system of allowing people, esp. young people, who have broken the law to stay out of prison as long as they keep out of trouble. **probationary** *adj* to do with probation.

probe (prəʊb) *nc* 1 *medicine* a narrow metal tool for examining wounds, teeth, etc. 2 a very careful inquiry. • *vt* examine very carefully.

problem ('prɒbləm) *nc* a difficult question; anything that is difficult to understand, deal with, or work out.

proboscis (prəʊ'bɒsɪs) *nc, pl* **-scises, -scides** (sɪdɪz) *zoology* 1 the long nose of an animal, such as an elephant. 2 the tube-like mouth parts of some insects such as the butterfly, the mosquito, or the fly: see picture.



proboscis

procedure (prə'siːdʒə*) *nc* a way of doing something, esp. the usual way.

proceed (prə'siːd) *vi* 1 go on, esp. after stopping; continue: *He proceeded to tell me the rest of the story.* 2 *fml* or *old-fashioned* come or start from: *Serious trouble could proceed from evil talk.* **proceeds** ('prəʊsiːdz) *n pl* money taken at some event, etc.: *The proceeds from the concert are to be given away.*

proceeding (prə'siːdɪŋ) *nc* an action taken.

process ('prəʊses) *nc* 1 a set of actions aimed at the same result or state. 2 a way of doing something. • *vt* treat (a substance) in a special way or with special devices: *processed cheese; You process a camera film so that the picture can be seen.* **in the process of** occupied in: *He's in the process of buying a house.* **processing** *nu* See **data processing** under **data.**

procession (prə'seʃən) *nc* a number of people, vehicles, etc., following each other in order.

proclaim (prə'kleɪm) *vt* 1 make known to the public; declare. 2 clearly show. **proclamation** (ˌprɒklə'meɪʃən) 1 *nu* proclaiming. 2 *nc* something that is proclaimed.

procure (prə'kjʊə*) *vt* obtain, esp. after trying hard.

prod (prɒd) *vt* 1 push into with your finger or something pointed. 2 urge (someone) into doing something. • *nc* a sharp push.

prodigious (prə'dɪdʒəs) *adj* 1 huge: *a prodigious amount of spaghetti.* 2 most unusual; wonderful.

produce (prə'djuːs) *vt* 1 bring forward to be shown: *Can you produce proof of who you are?* 2 bring into being: *This tree produces good fruit.* 3 cause. 4 give birth to. 5 make (goods). 6 show a film, play, etc., to the public. • ('prɒdjuːs) *nu* anything that is produced, esp. grown on a farm, etc. **producer** (prə'djuːsə*) *nc* 1 a person or thing that produces. 2 a person in charge of producing a play, film, etc.

product ('prɒdʌkt) *nc* 1 something produced by man or by natural means. 2 *mathematics* the amount obtained by multiplying two or more numbers together.

production (prə'dʌkʃən) *nu* 1 the process of producing something. 2 the amount produced. 3 the speed at which something is produced. 4 *nc* a performance of a play, opera, etc.: *That was the best production of Hamlet I have seen.*

productive (prə'dʌktɪv) *adj* having the power to produce; producing much. **productivity** (ˌprɒdʌk'tɪvɪtɪ) *nu* being productive.

profane (prə'feɪn) *adj* 1 feeling or showing lack of respect for God or sacred things. 2 to do with the world, not religious or spiritual matters. • *vt* treat God's name or sacred place with disrespect.

profess (prə'fes) *vt* 1 claim (to be or be able to do something). 2 pretend. 3 declare openly.

profession (prə'feʃən) *nc* 1 a declaration or claim. 2 a kind of work for which a person has to have higher education.

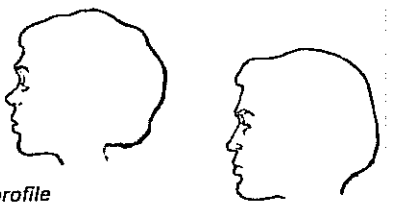
professional (prə'feʃənəl) *adj* 1 to do with a **profession** (def. 2). 2 to do with professionals. • *nc* a person who is an expert at a sport and plays or teaches it for money.

professor (prə'fesə*) *nc* 1 a teacher of the highest grade in a university or college. 2 *chiefly US* any teacher in a university or college.

proffer ('prɒfə*) *vt* offer (a gift, thanks, etc.).

proficient (prə'fɪʃənt) *adj* able to do something very well: *He's a proficient teacher.* **proficiency** *nu*

profile ('prəʊfaɪl) *nc* 1 something seen from the side, esp. someone's head; the outside edge of anything: see picture. 2 a short account of a person's life, interests, or work, in a magazine, etc. **keep a low profile** stay quiet or hidden for a certain length of time.



profile

profit ('prɒfɪt) 1 *nc* (often *pl*) money gained from a business, etc. 2 *nu* advantage. **profitable** *adj* providing profit. **profitably** *adv*

profound (prə'faʊnd) *adj* (of thought, feeling, knowledge, etc.) deep. **profoundly** *adv*

profuse (prə'fjuːs) *adj* generous or in large quantities: *profuse thanks.* **profusion** (prə'fjuːʒən) *nu* a very large number or amount: *a profusion of flowers.*

program ('prəʊgræm) *nc* 1 a set of orders in code fed into a computer to make it do something to information it is given. 2 *US* See **programme.** • *vt* feed a program into (a computer).

programme *US* **program** ('prəʊgræm) *nc* 1 a notice describing an event such as a play, concert, sports meeting, etc. 2 a show or service on radio or television. 3 a plan for an event or set of events.

progress ('prəʊgres) *nu* forward movement; development. **in progress** being done or happening. • (prə'gres) *vi* move forward; develop. **progression** (prə'greʃən) *nu* **progressive** (prə'gresɪv) *adj* 1 making continual progress. 2 improving. 3 continually increasing. **progressively** *adv*

prohibit (prə'hɪbɪt) *vt* forbid by rules or laws; stop. **prohibition** (ˌprəʊɪ'bɪʃən) 1 *nu* prohibiting. 2 *nc* a rule, law, or order that prohibits. **prohibitive** *adj* 1 likely to prohibit. 2 (of prices) so high as to prevent sale.

project ('prɒdʒekt) *nc* a plan, esp. for a group of people to take part in a scheme or activity together. • (prə'dʒekt) *vt* 1 throw forwards. 2 cause (a picture, light, etc.) to fall onto a surface: *project a film.* 3 *vi* stick or stand out.

projectile (prə'dʒektaɪl) *nc* something that is sent forward with force, esp. from a gun.

projection (prə'dʒekʃən) 1 *nu* projecting

or being projected. 2 *nc* something that sticks or stands out.

projector (prə'dʒektə*) *nc* a device for projecting pictures onto a screen by means of rays of light.

proletariat (ˌprəulə'teərɪət) *nc* all the people in society who are wage-earners, esp. industrial workers.

proliferate (prə'lɪfəreɪt) 1 *vi* increase very quickly. 2 *vt* produce (cells) quickly and in great numbers. **proliferation** (prəˌlɪfə'reɪʃən) *nu* 1 proliferating or being proliferated. 2 something that proliferates.

prolific (prə'lɪfɪk) *adj* producing much.

prologue ('prəulɒg) *nc* 1 the opening lines of a poem or speech. 2 anything said or done to prepare for what is to follow.

prolong (prə'lɒŋ) *vt* make longer; cause to last longer: *He prolonged his holiday by another week.* **prolongation** (ˌprəulɒŋ'geɪʃən) 1 *nu* making or being made longer. 2 *nc* something that is added to prolong something else.

promenade (ˌprɒmə'nɑɪd) *nc* 1 a place where people can walk for pleasure, esp. by the side of the sea. 2 a pleasant walk. • *vi* 1 take a promenade. 2 *vt* show (yourself or someone else) off.

prominent ('prɒmɪnənt) *adj* 1 that clearly stands out; easily seen: *a prominent nose.* 2 important: *He's in a prominent position in the government.* **prominence** 1 *nu* being prominent. 2 *nc* (a part of) something that is prominent. **prominently** *adv*

promiscuous (prə'mɪskjuəs) *adj* having many relationships, esp. sexual. **promiscuity** *nu*

promise ('prɒmɪs) *vt* 1 say or write (to someone) that you certainly will or will not do something: *I promise that I will come tomorrow; I promise to come.* 2 cause a person to hope for or expect (something) in the future. • *nc* 1 a written or spoken agreement to do or not to do something. 2 *nu* a sign of something good, hopeful, etc., in the future: *His work shows great promise.* **promising** *adj* having signs of success, etc., for the future.

promontory ('prɒməntərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a high point of land sticking out into the sea: see picture.

promontory

promote (prə'məut) *vt* 1 give (someone) a higher position in their job or in life. 2 support or urge the start of (a business, cause, etc.). **promoter** *nc* **promotion** (prə'məuʃən) *ncu* (an example of) promoting or being promoted.

prompt (prɒmpt) *adj* done immediately: *prompt action.* • *vt* 1 urge or cause (someone) to do something. 2 help (an actor, speaker, etc.) by telling them their words if they forget them. **promptly** *adv*

prone (prəun) *adj* lying with the face or front downwards; lying stretched out on the ground. **prone to** likely to (do something).

prong (prɒŋ) *nc* a sharp-pointed end on a tool, esp. a fork.

pronoun ('prəunaun) *nc* a word such as 'she' or 'them' used instead of a noun to point out a person or thing just spoken or written about.

pronounce (prə'naʊns) *vt* 1 make known, esp. officially or in a solemn way. 2 make the sound of (words): *Some foreign words are difficult to pronounce.* **pronounced** *adj* easily noticeable: *a pronounced limp.* **pronouncement** *nc* something solemn or official that is made known.

pronunciation (prəˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃən) *nc* the way a word or language is pronounced: *His French pronunciation was so good we thought he was French.*

proof (pruɪf) 1 *nu* showing that something is or is not true. *nc* 2 a thing or reason that shows this. 3 the first printing of a book, etc., that will be corrected before being finally printed and published. 4 *nu* a fixed measure of the strength of alcoholic drinks or other liquids. **proof against** able to resist: *a paint that is proof against oil.*

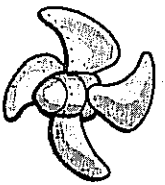
prop (prɒp) *nc* 1 a support, esp. a stick used to keep something up. 2 a person who greatly helps someone or something. • *vt* support.

propaganda (ˌprɒpə'gændə) *nu* information, claims, etc., spread about to advertise a political movement, etc.

propagate ('prɒpəgeɪt) 1 *vt* breed (plants or animals) by natural or artificial means. 2 *vi* (of plants, etc.) increase in a natural way. 3 *vt* spread (ideas, beliefs, etc.). **propagation** (ˌprɒpə'geɪʃən) *nu*

propane ('prəupeɪn) *nu* a colourless gas made from oil and burnt for light or heat.

propel (prə'pel) *vt* drive or push forward. **propeller** (prə'pelə*) *nc* a device with two or more curved blades that is made to turn in air or water to drive a plane or ship: see picture.



propeller

propensity (prə'pensɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a natural tendency to behave in a particular way: *a propensity for violence.*

proper ('prɒpə*) *adj* 1 correct; suitable: *Is he the proper man for the job?* 2 fitting; polite; decent: *proper behaviour.* **proper noun** *grammar* the name of a particular person, animal, place, etc. **properly** *adv*

property ('prɒpətɪ) 1 *nu* goods belonging to a person. *nc, pl* **-ties** 2 a building or piece of land owned by someone. 3 a quality of a person or thing.

prophecy ('prɒfɪsɪ) *ncu, pl* **-cies** (an example of) prophesying.

prophesy ('prɒfɪsaɪ) *vt* tell of (future events), esp. claiming that you have learned of these from God.

prophet ('prɒfɪt) *nc* 1 a person who teaches on religious matters, esp. one who has been inspired by God directly. 2 a person who prophesies. **prophetic** (prə'fetɪk) *adj* to do with a prophet or a prophecy.

prophylaxis (ˌprɒfɪ'læksɪs) *nu* medical treatment that controls or prevents disease. **prophylactic** (ˌprɒfɪ'læktɪk) *adj, nc*

propitious (prə'pɪʃəs) *adj* helpful; favourable; suitable.

proportion (prə'pɔːʃən) 1 *nu* the relationship between a part of something and the whole thing. *nc* 2 (*pl*) the size of something: *a house of huge proportions.* 3 a share or part. • *vt* put into proportion; put into a correct and satisfactory arrangement. **in proportion to** in relation to. **proportional** (prə'pɔːʃənəl) *adj* of or to do with being in proportion; equal. **proportionately** (prə'pɔːʃənɪtlɪ) *adv* in proper proportion.

propose (prə'pəuz) *vt* 1 put forward (an idea, plan, etc.). 2 propose that (someone) be appointed to a position. 3 *vti* suggest (marriage) to someone: *He proposed to her and she said yes.* **proposal** (prə'pəuzəl) 1 *nu* proposing. 2 *nc* something proposed; a suggestion: *a proposal of marriage.*

proposition (ˌprɒpə'zɪʃən) *nc* 1 a matter for discussion. 2 *infml* a problem; plan that may be impossible to carry out. 3 an offer, esp. an indecent one made to a woman by a man.

proprietary (prə'praɪətərɪ) *adj* 1 being privately owned or controlled. 2 of or to do with an owner.

proprietor (prə'praɪətə*) *nc* 1 an owner, esp. of a shop, hotel, or other business that is not a company. 2 the only person or company that by law has the right to own something.

propriety (prə'praɪətɪ) *nu* suitable, fitting, and correct behaviour. **the proprieties** the rules of such behaviour.

propulsion (prə'pʌlʃən) *nu* driving or being driven forward by force.

pro rata (ˌprəu'rɑːtə) *Latin* in proportion: *Twenty sheets cost a pound, and any extra are charged pro rata.*

prose (prəuz) *nu* written language, but not poetry. **prosaic** (prə'zeɪɪk) *adj* uninteresting; ordinary; dull.

prosecute ('prɒsɪkjuːt) *vt* take action against (someone) in a court of law. **prosecution** (ˌprɒsɪ'kjuːʃən) *ncu* (an example of) prosecuting or being prosecuted. **prosecutor** *nc*

prospect ('prɒspekt) *nc* 1 a hope or chance of something, esp. success, in the future: *a job with good prospects.* 2 a view: *a window with a wide prospect.* **in prospect** expected. • (prə'spekt) *vi* search for gold or other precious metals, etc. **prospector** *nc*

prospective (prə'spektɪv) *adj* expected; looked forward to, esp. with pleasure.

prospectus (prə'spektəs) *nc* a small book produced by a university, college, etc., to tell you all about it.

prosper ('prɒspə*) *vi* be successful. **prosperity** (prə'sperɪtɪ) *nu* being successful; wealth. **prosperous** *adj* successful.

prostate ('prɒsteɪt) *nc medicine* a gland by the neck of the bladder in males.

prostitute ('prɒstɪtjuːt) *nc* a woman who has sexual intercourse for money. • *vt* 1 offer (yourself or someone) as a prostitute. 2 offer (something) to be used for an unworthy purpose.

prostrate ('prɒstreɪt) *adj* 1 stretched out face down on the ground, esp. to show obedience or respect. 2 very tired and weak in body or mind. • (prɒ'streɪt) *vt* 1 put or stretch out on the ground to show obedience or respect. 2 overcome with tiredness or weakness of the body or mind.

protagonist (prəu'tægənɪst) *nc* 1 the chief person in a play or story. 2 *infml* the chief supporter of a cause, political party, etc.

protea ('prəutɪə) *nc* one of a variety of South African trees with cone-shaped heads of red or purple flowers with no petals.

protease ('prəutɪˌeɪz) *nc zoology* one of a

group of enzymes used in the digestion of proteins.

protect (prə'tekt) *vt* keep safe from danger or harm. **protection** 1 *nu* protecting or being protected. 2 *nc* person or thing that protects. **protective** *adj* that protects. **protector** *nc*

protectorate (prə'tektərɪt) *nc history* a country that is under the control of a stronger one but has its own government: *Botswana used to be a British protectorate.*

protein ('prəʊtiːn) *nc* a food essential to living things, found in milk, meat, eggs, fish, etc.

protest (prə'test) 1 *vti* argue against; refuse to agree or accept: *I protest at the government's actions.* 2 *vt* say that (something) is definitely real or true. • ('prəʊtest) *nc* an act of protesting.

Protestant ('prɒtɪstənt) *nc* a member of one of the Christian churches that separated from the Church of Rome in the sixteenth century. • *adj* to do with Protestants.

protocol ('prəʊtəkɒl) 1 *nu* the rules of usual, generally accepted behaviour. 2 *nc* a written account of an agreement about to be made, esp. between nations.

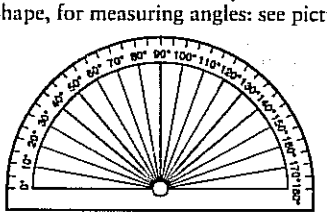
proton ('prəʊtɒn) *nc* one of several tiny amounts of matter with a positive charge that form part of the nucleus of an atom.

protoplasm ('prəʊtəˌplæzəm) *nu biology* a colourless substance like soft jelly or white of egg which is the living matter of all plant and animal cells.

prototype ('prəʊtətaɪp) *nc* the first example of something that can be improved or copied.

protozoan (ˌprəʊtəʊ'zəʊən) *nc, pl* **-zoa** (zəʊə) one of a variety of tiny animals formed of a single cell, such as an amoeba.

protract (prə'trækt) *vt* make longer; cause to last longer: *a protracted holiday.* **protractor** *nc* a device, usually semi-circular in shape, for measuring angles: see picture.



protractor

protrude (prə'truːd) *vti* (cause to) stick out from a surface: *protruding eyes.*

proud (praʊd) *adj* 1 being pleased and satisfied with what you have or have done: *proud of her work.* 2 having too good an opinion of yourself. 3 making people **proud** (def. 1): *a proud day for the family.* **proudly** *adv*

prove (pruːv) *vt* 1 show that (something) is true by giving reasons, arguments, etc. 2 *mathematics* test whether or not (an answer) is correct. 3 *vi* be found (to be): *He proved to be the right man for the job; This could prove useful.*

proven ('pruːvən) past participle of **prove.**

proverb ('prɒvɜːb) *nc* a well-known, short, wise saying generally accepted as true. **proverbial** *adj*

provide (prə'vaɪd) *vt* supply (someone or something) with (something): *We'll provide you with clothes; Can you provide a car for us to go in?* **provided** or **providing (that)** only if. **provide for** supply (someone) with enough money to live on.

providence ('prɒvɪdəns) 1 *ncu* (a sign or example of) God's protection. 2 *nu* care taken, esp. in planning for the future.

provident ('prɒvɪdənt) *adj* taking care to provide for future needs, esp. for when you are old. **providential** (ˌprɒvɪ'denʃəl) *adj* to do with God's protection.

province ('prɒvɪns) *nc* 1 a large district of a country. 2 a person's interests, activities, particular knowledge, etc. **the provinces** the part of a country outside the city that governs it. **provincial** (prə'vɪnʃəl) *adj* 1 to do with a **province** (def. 1) or the provinces. 2 thinking or behaving in a way that is not open to greater ideas, etc.

provision (prə'vɪʒən) 1 *nu* providing for something, esp. future needs. *nc* 2 amount of something supplied. 3 a condition of an agreement. 4 (*pl*) food for a household, journey, etc. **provisional** *adj* for the present time only; until some other arrangement has been made.

proviso (prə'vaɪzəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a condition, esp. in a legal agreement.

provoke (prə'vəʊk) *vt* 1 make angry. 2 cause (certain behaviour): *He provokes laughter.* **provocation** (ˌprɒvə'keɪʃən) *nu* provoking or being provoked. **provocative** (prə'vɒkətɪv) *adj* provoking or likely to provoke something, esp. anger or sexual feelings.

prow (praʊ) *nc* the pointed front end of a boat or ship.

prowess ('praʊɪs) *nu* 1 great courage. 2 great ability or skill.

prowl (praʊl) *vi* move about carefully and quietly in search of animals to kill, goods to steal, etc. **on the prowl** hunting.

proximity (prɒk'sɪmɪtɪ) *nu* nearness.

proxy ('prɒksɪ) 1 *nu* the power given to a person to act for someone else. *nc, pl* **-xies**

2 a printed document that gives this power. 3 a person given this power.

prudent ('pruːdənt) *adj* careful and wise, esp. with money or in planning for the future. **prudence** *nu*

prune¹ (pruːn) *nc* a dried plum.

prune² *vt* 1 cut (branches, etc.) off (a tree, bush, etc.). 2 get rid of (unwanted parts): *to prune a book of unnecessary facts.*

pry (praɪ) *vi* take too much interest in other people's affairs.

PS ('piː'es) *infml n* short for **postscript.**

psalm (sɑːm) *nc* a religious poem sung in praise of God.

pseudonym ('sjuːdənɪm) *nc* a name used instead of your real name, esp. when writing a book.

psittacosis (ˌsɪtə'kəʊsɪs) *nu medicine* also **parrot fever** a contagious viral disease of parrots which can be caught by humans.

psychiatry (saɪ'kaɪətrɪ) *nu* the treatment of illnesses of the mind. **psychiatrist** *nc* a person who practises psychiatry.

psychic ('saɪkɪk) *adj* to do with the soul or the mind.

psychology (saɪ'kɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of behaviour. **psychological** (ˌsaɪkə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* to do with psychology or the mind. **psychologist** (saɪ'kɒlədʒɪst) *nc* a person who studies psychology.

pteridophyte ('terɪdəʊˌfaɪt) *nc botany* one of a variety of plants which reproduce by spores and have no flowers: *Ferns and club mosses are pteridophytes.*

pub (pʌb) *nc Brit* a place in which alcoholic drinks are sold and drunk.

puberty ('pjuːbətɪ) *nu* the physical beginning of manhood or womanhood when a person begins to become sexually mature.

public ('pʌblɪk) *adj* to do with people in general: *a public library.* **in public** not in private or in secret. **the public** people in general. **public house** a **pub. public relations** the practice of building up friendly feelings between the public and business companies, etc. **public school** *Brit* a school for children over thirteen whose parents have to pay to send them there. **publicly** *adv*

publication (ˌpʌblɪ'keɪʃən) 1 *nc* a book, etc., that is published. *nu* 2 the act of publishing a book, etc. 3 the act of making information, etc., known to the public.

publicity (pʌb'lɪsɪtɪ) *nu* information given to the public about someone or something to stir up interest. **publicise** *vt* give publicity to.

publish ('pʌblɪʃ) *vt* 1 print, advertise, and sell (a book, etc.). 2 make (a fact, etc.) known to the public. **publisher** *nc* a business company or a person who publishes books, etc.

puck (pʌk) *nc* a flat, round piece of rubber used instead of a ball in the game of ice-hockey.

pucker ('pʌkə*) 1 *vt* gather (something soft, such as lips, eyebrows, cloth, etc.) into small folds or wrinkles. 2 *vi* (of lips, etc.) be gathered into small folds or wrinkles.

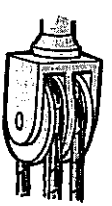
pudding ('pʊdɪŋ) *nc* 1 any sweet food served after the main course of a meal. 2 any of several foods made with flour, eggs, etc.

puddle ('pʌdəl) *nc* 1 a small amount of water left on the ground after rain. 2 a small amount of any liquid lying on a surface: *a puddle of milk on the kitchen floor.*

puff (pʌf) *nc* a short, quick giving out of breath, wind, air, smoke, etc. • *vti* give out a puff of (breath, wind, air, smoke, etc.): *He was puffing at a cigarette; The train puffed smoke.* **puff adder** a large poisonous African viper which swells its body when disturbed.

pull (pʊl) *vt* 1 use force on (something) to draw it towards or along behind you. 2 damage (a muscle) by straining it. • *nc* 1 the act of pulling. 2 a deep gulp of liquid. *nu* 3 force applied by pulling. 4 *infml* influence: *He has a lot of pull with the government.* 5 something used to pull with, such as a handle on a door. **pull down** destroy: *Those old houses are to be pulled down.* **pull in** 1 (of a train) arrive at a station and stop. 2 (of a car, etc.) move to the edge of the road, etc. **pull off** 1 take off clothing with some effort. 2 *infml* succeed in (a task). **pull on** put on (clothes). **pull out** 1 take out, esp. with some effort. 2 move out; leave. **pull through** win or succeed after some difficulty or trouble. **pull up** 1 drag up (a plant) by the roots. 2 (of a car, etc.) come to a stop. 3 speak sharp words to.

pulley ('pʊlɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a wheel with a curved hollow round the outside for a rope, etc., used for lifting heavy weights: see picture.



pulley

pullover ('pʊlˌəʊvə*) *nc* a knitted sweater.

pulmonary ('pʌlmənərɪ) *adj* to do with the lungs.

pulp (pʌlp) *nu* 1 the soft part of fruit. 2 a soft mixture with no regular shape, esp. one made from wood and turned into paper. • *vti* make or be made into pulp.

pulpit ('pʊlpɪt) *nc* a raised box, with sides about a metre high, from which a priest speaks to the people in a church.

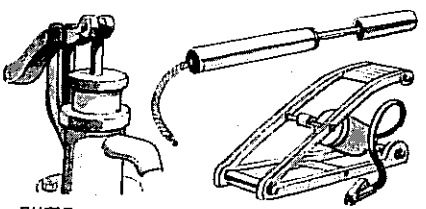
pulsate (pʌl'seɪt) *vi* beat, esp. regularly, like the heart.

pulse (pʌls) *nc* the beat of the heart.

pulverise ('pʌlvəraɪz) *vti* crush or be crushed to powder.

pumice ('pʌmɪs) *nu* also **pumice stone** a light stone full of tiny holes, used for polishing or cleaning with.

pump (pʌmp) *nc* a device for moving a liquid or gas, such as a bicycle pump, which is used for forcing air into tyres: see picture. • *vt* use a pump to move a liquid or gas.



pump

pumpkin ('pʌmpkɪn) *nc* a large, soft, round, orange-coloured fruit used as food.

pun (pʌn) *nc* a humorous use of words which have the same sounds, or of a word which has two meanings; a play on words. • *vi* make a play on words.

punch[1] (pʌnʃ) *vt* strike with the hand tightly closed. • *nc* the act of punching.

punch[2] *nc* 1 a tool for cutting out holes or printing designs. 2 a tool for knocking out nails, etc., from holes. • *vt* 1 make (a hole) in (something) with a punch. 2 knock (a nail, etc.) out with a punch.

punch[3] *nu* a drink made of wine or strong alcohol with hot water, sugar, spices, etc.

punctual ('pʌŋktjʊəl) *adj* arriving or happening at the exact time arranged. **punctually** *adv*

punctuate ('pʌŋktjʊeɪt) *vt* 1 put punctuation marks into a piece of writing. 2 interrupt frequently: *His speech was punctuated by shouts from the audience.* **punctuation** (ˌpʌŋktjʊ'eɪʃən) *nu* 1 also **punctuation marks** signs such as commas and full stops added to words in writing sentences. 2 the act of punctuating.

puncture ('pʌŋktʃə*) *nc* a small hole caused by something sharp, esp. one that lets the air out of a tyre. • *vt* 1 make a puncture in. 2 *vi* be punctured.

pungent ('pʌndʒənt) *adj* 1 (of a smell or taste) sharp; bitter. 2 (of something said to or about someone) hurtful; bitter.

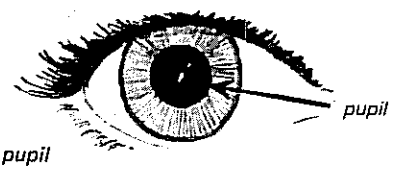
punish ('pʌnɪʃ) *vt* 1 make (someone) suffer for doing wrong. 2 treat in a rough manner. **punishment** 1 *nu* punishing or being punished. 2 *nc* a way of punishing.

puny ('pjuːnɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** small and weak; useless: *a puny effort.*

pupa ('pjuːpə) *nc, pl* **-pae** (piː), **-pas** *zoology* the stage in the development of some insects when it is encased in a hard covering.

pupil[1] ('pjuːpəl) *nc* a schoolchild or other person who is being taught.

pupil[2] *nc* the black, circular opening in the centre of the eye that controls the amount of light entering: see picture.



puppet ('pʌpɪt) *nc* 1 a doll that is made to move by working the strings attached to its body or by a hand pushed inside it. 2 a person controlled by someone else.

puppy ('pʌpɪ) *nc, pl* **-pies** a young dog.

purchase ('pɜːtʃɪs) *vt* buy. • *nu* 1 buying. 2 *nc* something that is bought. **purchase tax** *Brit* a tax on goods sold, added to prices by shopkeepers. **purchaser** *nc*

pure (pjʊə*) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 with no other substance added: *pure water.* 2 without any bad quality: *She has a pure heart.* 3 complete: *pure nonsense.* **purely** *adv*

purge (pɜːdʒ) *vt* 1 make pure; make clean in body or mind. 2 show (yourself or someone else) to be innocent of wrongdoing. • *nc* 1 purging. 2 a medicine used to get rid of waste matter from the body.

purify ('pjʊərɪfaɪ) *vt* make pure. **purification** ('pjʊərɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu*

purist ('pjʊərɪst) *nc* a person who urges purity, esp. in music, art, the use of language, etc.

puritan ('pjʊərɪtən) *nc* a person who is very strict in their views on religion and morals and believes most pleasures to be sinful.

purity ('pjʊərɪtɪ) *nu* being pure.

purl (pɜːl) *nu* a knitting stitch made with the needle moving in the opposite direction to the usual one. • *vt* knit with purl stitches.

purple ('pɜːpəl) *adj* red and blue mixed together. • *ncu* a purple colour.

purpose ('pɜːpəs) *nc* 1 an intention; plan. 2 a reason for the existence of something. 3 *nu* the ability to keep to a firmly fixed plan or intention. **on purpose** with intention.

purr (pɜː*) *vi* (of a cat) make a low, continuous throbbing sound showing pleasure.

purse (pɜːs) *nc* 1 a small bag for money, esp. carried by a woman. 2 *US* a woman's handbag. • *vt* move (the lips) into a small, round shape.

purser ('pɜːsə*) *nc* an officer who deals with the accounts on a ship and the welfare of passengers.

pursue (pə'sjuː) *vt* 1 follow in order to catch. 2 be always with: *He is pursued by bad luck wherever he goes.* 3 give your attention, interest, etc., to. **pursuit** (pə'sjuːt) 1 *nu* pursuing. 2 *nc* something to which you give your attention, interest, time, etc. **in pursuit of** pursuing.

pus (pʌs) *nu* thick, yellowish matter that comes out of a poisonous wound, etc.

push (pʊʃ) *vt* 1 use force to move (something) away from yourself; press against. 2 urge (someone) to buy (goods), do (something), etc. • *nc* 1 pushing. 2 *nu* the ability to get things done, to get what you want in life, etc. **push button** an electrical switch worked by pressing. **pushing** *adj* being inclined to be ambitious or get yourself noticed.

pussy ('pʊsɪ) *infml nc, pl* **-sies** a cat.

put (pʊt) *vt* move or place (something) into a certain place or position. **put across** teach or do (something) etc., in a way that can be fully understood. **put aside** put (something) down to be dealt with later. **put away** put (something) back into its usual place. 2 delay; move to a later time: *My holiday had to be put back because I was ill.* **put by** save (money) to be used in the future. **put down** 1 place (something) on something else. 2 put an animal to death because of a serious illness. 3 write down. 4 consider: *They put her down as a fool.* 5 suppress; crush: *The rebellion was put down by the army.* 6 humiliate: *He enjoys putting his wife down in public.* **put forward** suggest (an idea, etc.). **put in for** apply for. **put off** 1 delay; move to a later time. 2 upset; confuse: *She was put off by all the shouting.* 3 cause (someone) to lose an appetite for: *The smell put me off my dinner.* **put on** 1 clothe yourself in. 2 pretend. 3 increase or add: *She's put on a lot of weight.* 4 arrange for (something) to happen. **put out** 1 confuse; upset. 2 make angry. 3 switch off (a light); stop a fire burning. **put through** 1 cause (someone) to go through a test, trial, etc. 2 connect by telephone. **put up** 1 build. 2 obtain or provide food and shelter for (someone). 3 increase (prices, fares, etc.). **put up with** behave in a patient way during (difficulties, etc.).

putrid ('pjuːtrɪd) *adj* 1 rotten; having a bad smell. 2 *infml* of very poor quality.

putt (pʌt) *vt* hit (a ball) gently in the game of golf so that it will roll into a hole. • *nc* a gentle hit of the ball in golf.

putty ('pʌtɪ) *nu* a soft substance of white powder and oil, used for fixing glass into windows, filling up cracks, etc.

puzzle ('pʌzəl) *nc* 1 a question or problem that is not easy to understand or answer. 2 a toy specially made to test skill and patience. • *vi* 1 try to solve or work out how to do something. 2 *vt* cause someone to have to think very hard in order to solve or work out how to do something.

pygmy (also **pigmy**) ('pɪgmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** one of a race of very small people, esp. from central Africa.

pyjamas (also **pajamas**) (pə'dʒɑːməz) *n pl* a loose-fitting jacket and trousers worn in bed.

pylon ('paɪlən) *nc* a tall, steel frame for supporting electric wires high above the ground.

pyramid ('pɪrəmɪd) *nc* 1 one of the huge stone buildings in ancient Egypt with four sloping sides that meet at the top, used for the dead bodies of rulers. 2 *mathematics* an object with such a shape: see picture at **shapes.**

pyre ('paɪə*) *nc* a large heap of wood for burning, esp. one on which to burn a dead body.

pyrite ('paɪraɪt) *nu* a common yellow mineral; a compound of iron and sulphur which is often mistaken for gold.

pyromania (ˌpaɪrə'meɪnɪə) *nu* an uncontrollable desire to set things on fire. **pyromaniac** (ˌpaɪrə'meɪnɪˌæk) *nu*

Pythagoras (paɪ'θægərəs) **Pythagoras' theorem** *mathematics* the theorem that the square of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle equals the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

python ('paɪθən) *nc* a large snake that kills by twisting itself round its victim and crushing it.

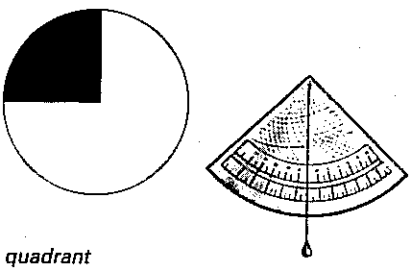
Q

quack[1] (kwæk) *nc* the sound a duck makes. • *vi* make this sound.

quack[2] *nc* a person who pretends to have knowledge, esp. medical knowledge, that they really do not have. • *adj* to do with such a person: *a quack doctor.*

quadrangle ('kwɒˌdræŋgəl) *nc* 1 a flat figure with four sides, esp. a square, or a rectangle. 2 (*infml abbrev.* **quad**) a large, four-sided, open space inside a castle, college, etc. **quadrangular** (kwɒ'dræŋgjʊlə*) *adj* having the shape of a quadrangle.

quadrant ('kwɒdrənt) *nc* 1 a quarter of a circle. 2 a piece of metal shaped like a quarter of a circle, used for measuring the heights of stars: see picture.



quadrant

quadratic (kwɒ'drætɪk) *adj mathematics* (of an equation) containing no unknown number to the power of more than two.

quadrilateral (ˌkwɒdrɪ'lætərəl) *nc, adj* (a flat figure) with four sides.

quadruped ('kwɒdrʊped) *nc* an animal with four legs.

quadruple ('kwɒdrʊpəl, kwɒ'druːpəl) *adj* 1 having four parts. 2 four times as much or as many. • *nc* a number that is four times greater than another. • (kwɒ'druːpəl) *vti* increase or be increased by four times.

quagmire ('kwægmaɪə*, 'kwɒgmaɪə*) *nc* a piece of soft, wet land.

quail[1] (kweɪl) *nc, pl* **quail, quails** a small bird that is shot for food.

quail[2] *vi* draw back in fear.

quaint (kweɪnt) *adj* **-er, -est** attractive in an unusual or old-fashioned way.

quake (kweɪk) *vi* shake; tremble: *The earth quaked; She was quaking with fear.*

Quaker ('kweɪkə*) *nc* a member of the Society of Friends, a Christian group that has informal meetings instead of fixed religious services and is against war.

qualification (ˌkwɒlɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nc* 1 a training, quality, or ability that makes a person suitable for a job, etc. 2 something that qualifies. 3 *nu* qualifying.

qualify ('kwɒlɪfaɪ) *vti* 1 make (yourself) suitable to be chosen for a job, etc., by getting or giving the qualities needed. 2 *vt* make (something said or done) more moderate or less general.

quality ('kwɒlɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 the worth, value, or goodness of something: *She wears clothes of poor quality; different qualities of cloth.* 2 something essential or special in a person or a thing: *the qualities of chemicals; He has many good qualities.*

qualm (kwɑːm) *nc* a feeling of doubt; uncomfortable feeling in the mind, esp. as to whether you are doing right or wrong: *I'm having serious qualms about my new job.*

quantitative ('kwɒntɪtətɪv) *adj* to do with quantity.

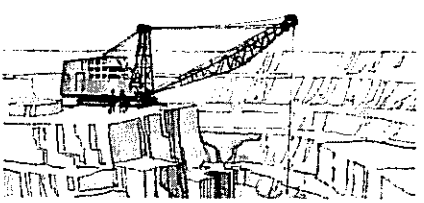
quantity ('kwɒntɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** *nc* 1 a particular amount or number. 2 a large amount or number. 3 *nu* the quality of things that can be weighed, counted, measured, etc.

quantum ('kwɒntəm) *nc, pl* **-ta** (tə) an amount, esp. an exact or fixed one.

quarantine ('kwɒrəntiːn) *nu* (a period of) being kept separate from other people or animals to prevent the spread of disease.

quarrel ('kwɒrəl) *nc* 1 an angry disagreement. 2 a cause for disagreement or complaint: *I have a quarrel with his way of teaching.* • *vi* have a quarrel (with). **quarrelsome** ('kwɒrəlsəm) *adj* likely to quarrel.

quarry[1] ('kwɒrɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where stone, etc., is dug up for building: see picture.



quarry

quarry[2] *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 an animal, bird, or fish that is hunted. 2 anything that is hunted.

quart (kwɔːt) *nc* a measure of capacity: see appendix.

quarter ('kwɔːtə*) *nc* 1 a fourth equal part of anything: *She cut the apple into quarters.* 2 a period of three months: *The gas bill is paid at the end of every quarter.* 3 a district of a town, esp. one lived in by particular people: *the Indian quarter; the industrial quarter.* 4 *US* one fourth of a dollar; twenty-five cents. • *vt* 1 divide into quarters. 2 provide (soldiers) with **quarters. quarter note** *music, US* See **crotchet. quarter past** or **to** fifteen minutes after or before (an hour in the day). **quarterly** ('kwɔːtəlɪ) *adj, adv* (happening, etc.) once every three months: *quarterly payments.* • *nc, pl* **-lies** a paper, magazine, etc., that is printed and sold once every three months.

quarters ('kwɔːtəz) *n pl* a place for someone, esp. a soldier, to live in. **at close quarters** very near or close up: *It's not very pleasant, seen at close quarters.*

quartet (kwɔː'tet) *nc* 1 a group of four singers or musicians. 2 a piece of music for such a group.

quartz (kwɔːts) *nu* a hard, shiny mineral found in many rocks.

quasar ('kweɪzɑː*) *nc* a large star-like object in space that emits a powerful blue light and radio waves.

quash (kwɒʃ) *vt* put an end to, esp. by the power of law.

quaver ('kweɪvə*) *vi* 1 speak or sing with a shaking voice. 2 (of music) tremble; shake. • *nc* a musical note lasting half as long as a crotchet.

quay (kiː) *nc* a place to which ships are tied up for goods to be loaded or unloaded.

queen (kwiːn) *nc* 1 the wife of a king. 2 the woman ruler of a country. 3 a woman thought to be the best of a certain group: *a beauty queen.* 4 the playing-card in each suit carrying the picture of a queen. 5 the chess piece that is able to move in a straight line in any direction over any number of squares.

queer (kwɪə*) *adj* 1 not usual or normal; strange. 2 suspicious; probably not proper or honest: *There's some queer business going on.* 3 (feeling) ill or faint. 4 *slang* homosexual. • *nc slang* a homosexual. • *vt slang* spoil or cause to go wrong.

quell (kwel) *vt* overcome; put an end to; bring under control: *The police quelled the riots.*

quench (kwentʃ) *vt* 1 satisfy (your thirst, desires, etc.). 2 put out (fire or flames).

query ('kwɪərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a question about a particular point: *If you have any queries, please come to me after the class.* • *vt* show doubt or uncertainty about the truth, etc., of (something): *I queried the bill because I thought we'd been overcharged.*

quest (kwest) *nc* a search: *the quest for truth.*

question ('kwestʃən) *nc* 1 a sentence asking for an answer. 2 an affair; matter to be discussed. • *vt* 1 ask a question of (someone). 2 express doubt about. **in question** being discussed or talked about. **out of the question** impossible; not even to be thought about. **question mark** the sign (?) used in writing at the end of a question. **questionable** ('kwestʃənəbəl) *adj* of doubtful truth or honesty.

questionnaire (ˌkwestʃə'neə*) *nc* a list of printed questions put to a number of people in order to collect information.

queue (kjuː) *US* **line** *nc* a line of people, vehicles, etc., waiting to be served in a shop, continue their journey, etc. • *vi* (often followed by **up**) form or wait in a queue.

quibble ('kwɪbəl) *vi* argue about or object to a small, unimportant thing, esp. to avoid a matter. • *nc* such an argument or objection.

quick (kwɪk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (moving) fast; taking a short time. 2 thinking fast; eager: *a quick mind.* • *adv infml* quickly. **quicken** ('kwɪkən) *vti* make or become quick or quicker. **quickly** *adv* **quicksand** ('kwɪksænd) *nc* deep, wet sand that draws things down inside it. **quicksilver** ('kwɪkˌsɪlvə*) *nu* another name for mercury.

quiet ('kwaɪət) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 with little or no noise. 2 with little or no movement or disturbance; calm. 3 secret; private: *I'll have a quiet word with him.* • *nu* the state of being quiet. **quietly** *adv* **quietness** *nu*

quill (kwɪl) *nc* 1 a whole, large feather from a bird's wing or tail. 2 such a feather made into a pen to write with. 3 one of the needle-like parts on the back of some animals, such as a porcupine.

quilt (kwɪlt) *nc* a thick bed-covering made up of two layers filled with wool or feathers. **quilted** *adj* filled with soft material for warmth, comfort, etc.

quinine (kwɪ'niːn) *nu* a sharp-tasting medicine for fevers, made from the bark of a tree.

quintet (kwɪn'tet) *nc* a group of five musicians.

quire ('kwaɪə*) *nc* twenty-four sheets of paper.

quit (kwɪt) *vt* 1 stop ((doing) something). 2

give up: *He quit his job.* 3 go away from.

quite (kwaɪt) *adv* 1 completely; entirely: *You're quite wrong.* 2 almost; to some extent; rather: *He's quite nice.* 3 *chiefly Brit* (used to show complete agreement with a suggestion, etc.): *'I always think that a cup of tea is very refreshing on a hot day.' 'Yes, quite!'*

quiver[1] (ˈkwɪvə*) *vi* tremble; shake: *Her voice quivered with anger; The wind made the leaves quiver.*

quiver[2] *nc* a container for arrows.

quiz (kwɪz) *vt* question (someone) in a thorough way. • *nc* a game, esp. on television or radio, in which players are asked questions to test their knowledge. **quizzical** *adj*

quota (ˈkwəʊtə) *nc* 1 a share that is given out to or received from a person or group. 2 an amount or number fixed by a rule or law: *The college has its full quota of students for this year.*

quotation (kwəʊˈteɪʃən) 1 *nu* quoting. *nc* 2 a sentence or group of words that is quoted. 3 an opinion, reached after some thought, on the cost of work to be done: *We shall get several quotations and choose the lowest.* **quotation marks** the signs (" ") or (' ') used in writing to separate a quotation from a piece of writing.

quote (kwəʊt) 1 *vt* say or write (words) from (a book, poem, etc.) or repeat (words) said by (someone else): *He quoted several writers to support the point he was making.* 2 *vti* (often followed by **for**) give (a price) as a **quotation** (def. 3): *Will you quote for this job, please?*

quoth (kwəʊθ) *vt old-fashioned* (used only with **I, we, he, she,** or **they**) said: *'It was well done,' quoth I.*

quotient (ˈkwəʊʃənt) *mathematics nc* the result of dividing one number into another.

Quran See **Koran.**

R

rabbi ('ræbaɪ) *nc* a Jewish teacher or religious leader.

rabbit ('ræbɪt) 1 *nc* a four-legged wild animal with long ears that lives in a hole in the ground. 2 *nu, adj* the meat of a rabbit eaten as food: *rabbit stew.*

rabble ('ræbəl) *nc* a crowd of people in disorder.

rabies ('reɪbiːz) *nu* a disease that can cause death and is carried esp. by dogs. **rabid** ('ræbəd) *adj*

race[1] (reɪs) *nc* 1 a competition of speed between people, vehicles, horses, etc. 2 any competition: *the arms race.* • *vi* 1 move very quickly. 2 *vt* have a race with. **racecourse** ('reɪskɔːs) *nc* a course where horse-races are run. **racehorse** ('reɪshɔːs) *nc* a horse used for racing on. **racetrack** ('reɪstræk) *nc* a path or road made for racing, esp. one used for cars. **racing** *nu* the practice or hobby of running horses, dogs, or cars in races. **racing-car** ('reɪsɪŋkɑː*) *nc* a car specially built for racing.

race[2] *nc* 1 a group of people of common descent, generally having the same colour eyes, skin, and hair as each other: *the white race.* 2 a group of people having the same language and history. **the human race** all people. **racial** ('reɪʃəl) *adj* to do with the division of human beings into races or with the differences between them: *racial harmony; racial discrimination.* **racialism** ('reɪʃəlɪzəm) or **racism** ('reɪsɪzəm) *nu* 1 believing that your own race is better than all others. 2 unjust behaviour because of this. **racialist** ('reɪʃəlɪst) or **racist** ('reɪsɪst) *nc* a person who believes in or supports racism. • *adj* to do with racialism.

raceme (rə'siːm) *nc botany* a kind of flower with a central axis bearing flowers along its length: *Lupins and foxgloves are racemes.*

rachis ('reɪkɪs) *nc, pl* **-chises, -chides** (kɪˌdiːz) *botany* the main axis of a leaf.

rack (ræk) *nc* a frame for holding things, hanging things on, etc.: *a luggage rack in a train.* • *vt* cause great suffering of the mind or body to: *His whole body was racked with pain.*

racket[1] ('rækɪt) 1 *nu* a loud, confused noise. 2 *infml nc* a dishonest means of getting money.

racket[2] (also **racquet**) ('rækɪt) *nc* a bat used for hitting the ball in games such as tennis.

racy ('reɪsɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** lively; full of energy: *a writer with a racy style.*

radar ('reɪdɑː*) *nu* a device used for finding out the position, speed, etc., of ships, planes, etc.

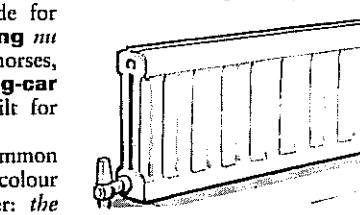
radial ('reɪdɪəl) *adj* to do with the radius of a circle or with a ray.

radiant ('reɪdɪənt) *adj* 1 sending out rays of light or heat without flames. 2 (of a person) happy, healthy, excited, etc. **radiance** ('reɪdɪəns) *nu*

radiate ('reɪdɪeɪt) 1 *vt* (of light or heat) be sent out in rays. *vt* 2 send out (light or heat) in rays. 3 show (happiness, health, excitement, etc.): *Her smile radiated pleasure.*

radiation (ˌreɪdɪ'eɪʃən) 1 *nu* radiating or being radiated. 2 *nc* something that is radiated.

radiator ('reɪdɪeɪtə*) *nc* a device that gives off heat without flames, used for heating a room, cooling an engine, etc.: see picture.



radiator

radical ('rædɪkəl) *adj* 1 forming a very important part of something: *There is a radical difference between them.* 2 affecting the basis or deepest part of something: *radical change.* 3 wanting to see great changes made, esp. in laws and government. • *nc* a **radical** (def. 3) person. **radically** *adv*

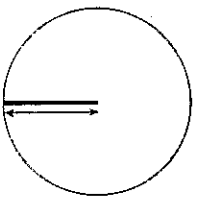
radio ('reɪdɪəʊ) 1 *nu* the passing on of messages, information, news, etc., by means of electrical waves. 2 *nc* a device for sending or receiving messages, etc., by such means. • *vti* send (a message) to (a person or place) by radio.

radioactive (ˌreɪdɪəʊ'æktɪv) *adj* (of a substance) having some of the central parts of its atoms that can change and break up, sending out harmful rays. **radioactivity** (ˌreɪdɪəʊæk'tɪvɪtɪ) *nu*

radish ('rædɪʃ) *nc* a red or white root with a hot taste that is eaten uncooked in salad.

radium ('reɪdɪəm) *nu* a radioactive metal: symbol Ra.

radius ('reɪdɪəs) *nc, pl* **-dii** (dɪaɪ) 1 the straight line from the centre of a circle to its edge: see picture. 2 the length of this line. 3 the outer of the two bones in the forearm. See also **ulna.**



radius

raffia ('ræfɪə) *nu* a straw-like substance from the leaves of a kind of palm-tree, used for making baskets, mats, etc.

raffle ('ræfəl) *nc* a game of luck in which tickets with numbers on are sold and the winners are those whose ticket numbers are drawn by chance.

raft (rɑːft) *nc* several logs of wood tied firmly together to make a flat surface, used as a boat.

rafter ('rɑːftə*) *nc* any of the sloping beams of wood that form the frame of a roof.

rag[1] (ræg) *nc* 1 a piece of cloth, esp. one torn from a garment no longer used. 2 *infml* a newspaper thought to be of little worth.

rag[2] *vt* annoy (someone) playfully by reminding them of a fault or failure.

rage (reɪdʒ) 1 *ncu* (a period of) great anger. 2 *nu* violent movements: *the storm's rage.* • *vi* 1 be greatly angry. 2 be violent in action.

ragged ('rægɪd) *adj* 1 (of clothes) with badly worn edges. 2 wearing ragged clothes. 3 with rough, uneven edges: *a ragged haircut; ragged rocks.*

raid (reɪd) *nc* 1 a sudden attack made by soldiers, police, etc., in order to attack or catch someone by surprise. 2 a sudden attack made in order to steal: *a bank raid.* • *vt* make a raid on (a person or place).

rail (reɪl) *nc* 1 a metal or wooden bar fixed to upright posts as a barrier, support for people walking, etc. 2 a bar, fixed to a wall, on which to hang things: *a picture rail; a towel rail.* 3 one of two metal bars that form a track for a train to run on. 4 *nu* short for **railway:** *Travel by rail.* **railing** ('reɪlɪŋ) *nc* a fence, support, etc., made up of rails. **railway** ('reɪlweɪ) *US* **railroad** ('reɪlrəʊd) *nc* 1 a track made up of rails on which trains run. 2 a whole system of tracks, trains, stations, etc., and the people who organise it.

rain (reɪn) *nu* 1 water falling from the clouds in drops. 2 anything that falls in a large amount: *a rain of arrows.* • *vi* 1 send down rain: *It is raining; It has rained a lot.* 2 fall like rain: *Her tears rained down her face.* 3 *vt* send down like rain: *He rained presents on her.* **rainbow** ('reɪnbəʊ) *nc* a curved band of all the colours that appears in the sky when the sun shines on rain or mist. **raincoat** ('reɪnkəʊt) *nc* a coat made of material that does not let water through. **raindrop** ('reɪndrɒp) *nc* a drop of water falling as rain. **rainfall** ('reɪnfɔːl) *nu* the amount of rain falling in a particular place (in a particular period. **rainforest** ('reɪn,fɒrɪst) *ncu* a large dense forest usually in a tropical region: *The animals and plants of the Brazilian rainforest are being threatened by developers:* see picture. **rainstorm** ('reɪnstɔːm) *nc* a storm with much rain. **rainwater** ('reɪn,wɔːtə*) *nu* soft, pure water that has fallen as rain. **rainy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** with much rain: *rainy days.*

rainforest

raise (reɪz) *vt* 1 move to a higher position. 2 increase in amount, value, etc.: *Prices were raised.* 3 educate; bring up: *They raised seven children.* 4 lift or cause to be in an upright position. 5 cause: *to raise a smile.* 6 bring to attention; cause to be heard: *Serious subjects were raised at the meeting.* 7 cause (animals or plants) to grow. • *nc US* a pay increase; rise.

raisin ('reɪzən) *nc* a dried grape.

rake (reɪk) *nc* a tool with a long handle and teeth like those on a fork, used for gathering leaves into piles, smoothing soil, etc.: see picture at **tools.** • *vt* use a rake to collect, smooth, etc. **rake in** *infml* receive money in large quantities. **rake up** bring up (memories, information, etc., that had been forgotten).

rally ('rælɪ) 1 *vi* (of a group) come together, esp. after being split up, for a common purpose. 2 *vt* cause (a group) to do this. 3 *vi* (of health, strength, courage, etc.) be regained or called up. 4 *vt* regain or call up (health, strength, courage, etc.). • *nc,*

pl **-lies** 1 a large meeting of people for a special purpose. 2 *tennis, etc.* the hitting of a ball backwards and forwards by two players before a point is won by one of them. 3 a car race on public roads.

ram (ræm) *nc* 1 a male sheep. 2 any of several devices for pushing forcefully. • *vt* push suddenly or violently.

Ramadan (ˌræmə'dæn) *nu* the ninth month of the Muslim year when Muslims go without food during daylight.

ramble ('ræmbəl) *vi* 1 go for a quiet, unhurried walk in no particular direction: *rambling in the countryside.* 2 keep changing the subject while speaking. 3 (of a plant) grow in all or changing directions. • *nc* a quiet, unhurried walk taken for pleasure.

ramification (ˌræmɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nc* 1 any of the many parts of a complicated system. 2 a complicated result: *This matter has wide ramifications.*

ramp (ræmp) *nc* a slope that leads from one level surface to another.

rampage (ræm'peɪdʒ) *vi* rush about in an excited, wild, or angry way. • ('ræmpeɪdʒ, ræm'peɪdʒ) *n* **on the rampage** active in rampaging. **rampant** ('ræmpənt) *adj* existing, or growing in an uncontrolled way.

rampart ('ræmpɑːt) *nc* a wall made of earth as a defence round a castle, etc.

ramshackle ('ræmˌʃækəl) *adj* (esp. of a building) badly built or shaky.

ran (ræn) past tense of **run.**

ranch (rɑːnʃ) *nc* a large farm in North America, esp. for cattle.

rancour *US* **rancor** ('ræŋkə*) *nu* a deep feeling of unforgiving hatred; spite.

rand (rænd) *nc* See appendix.

random ('rændəm) *adj* without any definite plan or order. **at random** in an aimless way; not in any particular order.

rang (ræŋ) past tense of **ring²**.

range (reɪndʒ) *nc* 1 a line or row of mountains. 2 the distance between the points, places, values, etc., between which something exists, moves, works, etc.: *a good range of vision; a wide range of prices.* 3 the distance something, esp. a gun or rocket, can shoot or be shot forward. 4 a large iron cooker with one or more ovens and a surface for boiling pans, etc. • *vti* 1 (be) put in a row or in a certain order. *vi* 2 extend over a certain area. 3 vary within a **range** (def. 2): *The price ranges between ten and twenty pounds.* 4 *vt* wander here and there. **ranger** *nc* a person who guards or is in charge of a park, forest, etc.

rank¹ (ræŋk) *ncu* 1 (a) social position. 2 (a) position in a group or class, esp. in an army, etc.: *the rank of Captain.* 3 *nc* a line of people or things: *a taxi rank.* • *vt* 1 put (people or things) in rows or lines. 2 *vti* give or be given a particular position in a group, class, or society: *He ranks among the best tennis players in the world.*

rank² *adj* 1 evil-smelling. 2 complete: *a rank coward.*

ransack ('rænsæk) *vt* 1 make a thorough search of. 2 steal from (a town, etc.), esp. in war.

ransom ('rænsəm) *nc* an amount of money paid in return for a prisoner's being set free. • *vt* pay a ransom for (a prisoner).

rap (ræp) *vti* give a quick, sharp blow (on or to): *Someone rapped at the door.* • *nc* 1 a quick, sharp blow. 2 **take the rap** *infml* take the blame or punishment for someone else: *He took the rap for what his friend did.*

rape¹ (reɪp) *vt* 1 (of a man) have sexual intercourse with (a woman) against her will. 2 rob or spoil (a country, etc.), esp. in war. • *nc* the act of raping.

rape² *nu* a plant fed to animals or grown for its seeds, which are used to make oil.

rapid ('ræpɪd) *adj* fast-moving. **rapidity** (rə'pɪdɪtɪ) *nu* **rapidly** *adv* **rapids** *n pl* part of a river where the water is very fast and violent.

rapier ('reɪpɪə*) *nc* a sword with a point but no cutting edge.

rapture ('ræptʃə*) *nc* great joy or delight. **rapturous** ('ræptʃərəs) *adj* feeling or showing rapture: *They gave him a rapturous welcome.*

rare¹ (reə*) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 unusual; not happening often. 2 of high value because of being uncommon. 3 (of a substance, esp. air) thin: *Air is rare in mountain districts.* **rarely** *adv* not often.

rare² *adj* (of meat) cooked for only a short time so as to keep it red inside: *I like my steak rare.*

rarefy ('reərɪfaɪ) 1 *vt* cause (a substance, esp. air) to become thinner. 2 *vi* (of a substance, esp. air) become thinner.

rarity ('reərɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being unusual or rare. 2 *nc* a rare person or thing.

rascal ('rɑːskəl) *nc* 1 a wicked man. 2 (used playfully) a naughty person, esp. a child.

rash¹ (ræʃ) *adj* acting without thought; too hasty: *a rash promise.* **rashly** *adv*

rash² *nc* 1 a red patch or collection of red spots on the skin. 2 a set of unpleasant events: *a rash of burglaries.*

rasp (rɑːsp) 1 *nc* a metal tool with a rough surface, used for shaping wood, etc. 2 *nu* an unpleasant rough noise. • *vt* 1 scrape

or rub with a rasp. 2 *vi* say something in a rough voice: *'Come back here!' he rasped.*

raspberry ('rɑɪzbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a small, juicy, red fruit containing many seeds: see picture at **fruits.**

rat (ræt) *nc* 1 an animal like a large mouse. 2 *slang* a worthless person. 3 *infml* a person who does not help a friend in trouble or who helps a friend's enemy. • *vi* 1 hunt and kill rats. 2 (usually followed by **on**) give away secrets about (someone): *He ratted on us to the police.*

rate (reɪt) 1 *nc* an amount or number measured in relation to another: *a rate of two dollars to one pound.* 2 *nu* the quality of something when compared with another thing; class: *His work is first-rate.* • *vti* 1 (be) put in a particular place in an order: *We rate as the biggest producer of cars.* 2 consider or be considered to be: *I rate him among my very best friends.* 3 *Brit vt* fix the **rates** to be paid on (property). **at any rate** anyway. **at this** or **that rate** *infml* if this or that continues to happen or is true. **ratepayer** ('reɪt,peɪə*) *Brit nc* a business, or formerly a person, that pays **rates** on buildings and land. **rates** *Brit n pl* a tax on buildings and land paid to the local government.

rather ('rɑɪðə*) *adv* 1 quite: *He's rather nice.* 2 more; better: *This is called a mat rather than a carpet.* **would rather** would prefer.

ratify ('rætɪfaɪ) *vt* agree or settle formally. **ratification** (,rætɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu*

rating ('reɪtɪŋ) *nc* 1 (in some navies) an ordinary sailor without authority. 2 the class into which something is put.

ratio ('reɪʃɪəʊ) *nc* the relation of one thing to another as decided by the number of times one contains the other: *The ratio of men to women in my office is three to one.*

ration ('ræʃən) *nc* (*often pl*) a fixed amount of food, etc., given to a person. • *vt* allow (a person) no more than a ration of (food, etc.).

rational ('ræʃənəl) *adj* 1 to do with reason. 2 having or showing good sense. **rationalise** ('ræʃənəlaɪz) *vt* 1 show something to be, or treat it as if it were, reasonable. 2 make (production, a factory, etc.) more efficient.

rattle ('rætəl) *vti* (cause to) make short, sharp sounds, esp. by shaking or being shaken. • *nc* 1 a sound made by rattling. 2 a musical instrument, baby's toy, or other device that rattles when shaken. **rattlesnake** ('rætəlsneɪk) *nc* a poisonous American snake that shakes its tail to produce a rattling noise.

raucous ('rɔːkəs) *adj* (of a voice, laugh, etc.) loud, harsh, and unpleasant.

ravage ('rævɪdʒ) *vt* destroy or damage: *a country ravaged by war.* • *nu* destruction; damage. **ravages** *n pl* destroying action: *the ravages of time.*

rave (reɪv) *vi* 1 talk wildly when or as if mad or with a high fever. 2 *infml* talk or write very enthusiastically about something, such as a play.

raven ('reɪvən) *nc* a large bird with shiny black feathers and a harsh cry.

ravenous ('rævənəs) *adj* 1 very hungry. 2 greedy for power, money, etc.

ravine (rə'viːn) *nc* a deep, narrow valley: see picture.

ravine

ravish ('rævɪʃ) *vt* **be ravished by something** be filled with delight: *We were ravished by the orchestra's playing of Mozart.*

ravishing ('rævɪʃɪŋ) *adj* very beautiful: *You look ravishing tonight.*

raw (rɔː) *adj* 1 (of food) not cooked. 2 without experience or training. 3 in a natural state; before being treated: *Iron is the main raw material for making steel.* 4 (of the weather) cold and damp. 5 (of the skin, an injury, etc.) painful, esp. where the skin has been scraped off.

ray[1] (reɪ) *nc* 1 a thin beam of light. 2 a small amount: *a ray of hope.*

ray[2] *nc* a large sea-fish with a flat body.

raze (reɪz) *vt* destroy (buildings): *When I got home, my house had been razed to the ground by fire.*

razor ('reɪzə*) *nc* a tool with one or more sharp blades used for shaving off hair, esp. from the face.

re (riː) *prep* (used in letters) with reference to; to do with.

reach (riːtʃ) *vt* 1 arrive at (a place, person, etc.). 2 stretch out the hand for: *Can you reach that book on the top shelf?* 3 *vti* (often followed by **out**) stretch or be stretched out. 4 *vi* apply; have an effect; spread: *Rain will reach across the whole country.* • *nc* 1 an act of stretching out the hand. 2 the distance to which a thing can reach or be stretched. 3 (*often pl*) a part of a river between bends: *the upper*

reaches of the Nile. **out of reach** 1 too far away to reach. 2 not obtainable.

react (rɪ'ækt) *vi* 1 (often followed by **to**) behave or act in a certain way because of the behaviour or action of another person or thing. 2 (often followed by **with**) *chemistry* change when put together: *Acid reacts with metal.* **reaction** (rɪ'ækʃən) *nc* 1 an action or effect that results from something that has happened earlier: *Her tiredness is a reaction to the weeks she spent studying for her examination.* 2 *chemistry* the effect one substance has on another. **reactor** (rɪ'æktə*) *n* **nuclear reactor** a device which produces atomic energy without causing an explosion.

read (ri:d) *vt* 1 look at, understand, (and speak) something written or printed: *I can't read German; Will you read the letter to me?* 2 (of a measuring instrument) indicate; *The thermometer is reading 110.* 3 *vti* study (a subject), esp. at university: *He's reading history at Oxford; Are you reading for a degree?* • *nc* 1 reading. 2 written or printed material for reading: *This book is a very good read.* **readable** ('ri:dəbəl) *adj* 1 (of a book, story, etc.) interesting and easy to read. 2 (of writing or printing) possible to read. **reader** *nc* 1 a person who reads, esp. one who is fond of reading. 2 *Brit* a person who is in a senior position at a university. 3 a book used in teaching. **reading** *nu* 1 the act of a person who reads. *nc* 2 the way in which something said or written is explained or understood. 3 the figure indicated on a measuring instrument.

ready ('redɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 prepared; suitable for use or for doing something: *Are you ready for your journey?* 2 willing to do what is needed, etc. 3 quick: *a ready mind; a ready reply.* 4 near; easily obtained: *ready to hand.* **ready-made** (ˌredɪ'meɪd) *adj* ready for immediate use or wear: *If he complains, I've got a ready-made answer; a ready-made suit.* **ready reckoner** a list of numbers in a book that provide answers, used in business, etc. **readily** *adv* 1 willingly. 2 easily. **readiness** *nu*

real (rɪəl) *adj* 1 being a fact; existing. 2 not false. **reality** (rɪ'ælɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being real. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that is real.

realise ('rɪəlaɪz) *vt* 1 understand; have knowledge of: *Do you realise how much a new car will cost?* 2 change (hopes, dreams, plans, etc.) into facts: *His aim to become a doctor was realised.* 3 sell (belongings) for money. 4 (of belongings) be sold for (money). **realisation** (ˌrɪəlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu*

realism ('rɪəlɪzəm) *nu* 1 looking at things as they really are; rejecting things that are impractical. 2 (in art, literature, etc.) showing things as they are in real, familiar, daily life. **realist** *nc* a person who believes in realism. **realistic** (rɪə'lɪstɪk) *adj* 1 looking like the real thing. 2 to do with realism. **realistically** *adv*

really ('rɪəlɪ) *adv* 1 truly: *I'm really sorry.* 2 in fact: *It's really nothing to do with us.*

realm (relm) *nc* 1 an area of interest, activity, study, etc: *the realms of science.* 2 a country ruled by a king or queen: *the laws of the realm.*

ream (ri:m) *nc* 1 500 sheets of paper. 2 (usually *pl*) *infml* a large quantity, esp. of writing.

reap (ri:p) *vt* 1 cut and gather (corn, etc.) from (a field, etc.). 2 get (a profit or advantage) as a result of your own or other people's actions.

rear[1] (rɪə*) *nc* the back part of anything. • *adj* of or at the rear: *the rear lights of a car.*

rear[2] *vt* 1 care for and bring up (children). 2 grow or produce (plants or animals). 3 cause to be lifted or built up. 4 *vi* (esp. of a horse) rise up on the back legs.

reason ('ri:zən) *nc* 1 a cause for an action. 2 an argument that something is right or reasonable: *I have reason to doubt what you say.* *nu* 3 the power of understanding, thinking, etc. 4 good sense: *He won't listen to reason.* **within reason** sensible: *He'll do anything within reason.* • *vt* 1 think over something and form (an opinion): *He reasoned that it would be better to go now rather than later.* *vti* 2 (often followed by **with**) try to work (something) out or decide (something) by using your powers of understanding and thinking. 3 try to persuade (someone) of something. **by reason of** because of. **reasonable** ('ri:zənəbəl) *adj* 1 having good sense; willing to listen to reason. 2 done, said, etc., according to reason. 3 fair; quite good: *reasonable prices; reasonable weather.*

reassure (ˌri:ə'ʃuə*) *vt* lessen or remove the worries of. **reassurance** *ncu*

rebate ('ri:beɪt) *nc* a small amount of money that is taken off a price or given back after some has been paid.

rebel ('rebəl) *nc* 1 a person who fights against the government. 2 a person who refuses to accept rules, etc., that are generally accepted. • (rɪ'bel) *vi* 1 fight against the government. 2 fight against any power, control, or authority. **rebellion** (rɪ'beljən) *ncu* (an example of) rebelling.

rebellious (rɪ'belɪəs) *adj* behaving like a rebel.

rebirth (ˌriː'bɜːθ) *nc* 1 a total change of a person's religious beliefs. 2 a new beginning for something: *the rebirth of feminism.*

rebound (riː'baʊnd) *vi* 1 spring back after striking something. 2 (of an action) go wrong, so as to harm the person who did it. • ('riːbaʊnd) *ncu* (an example of) rebounding.

rebuff (rɪ'bʌf) *nc* a cold, painful refusal to accept someone's offer of friendship, help, etc. • *vt* give a rebuff to.

rebuke (rɪ'bjuːk) *vt* speak sharply to (someone) for doing something wrong; scold. • *nc* a scolding.

recall (rɪ'kɔːl) *vt* 1 bring back (a memory): *I recall going there once.* 2 order (someone) to return. • (rɪ'kɔːl, 'riːkɔːl) 1 *nu* the ability to remember. 2 *nc* an order to return.

recapitulate (ˌriːkə'pɪtʃʊleɪt) *vt* repeat the main ideas of (something that has been said). **recapitulation** (ˌriːkəˌpɪtʃʊ'leɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) recapitulating.

recede (rɪ'siːd) *vi* 1 go further back. 2 slope back from the front: *His hair is receding.* 3 lessen: *Hopes of peace receded.*

receipt (rɪ'siːt) 1 *nu* the act of receiving or being received. *nc* 2 a written or printed paper showing that something, esp. money, has been received.

receive (rɪ'siːv) *vt* 1 get or accept (something) that is sent, offered, or given to you: *Did you receive my letter?; The matter is receiving attention.* 2 suffer; experience: *He received serious head injuries.* 3 allow (someone) to enter or join something: *She was received into the society.* 4 welcome formally: *The king received his guests at the palace gate.* **receiver** *nc* 1 a person appointed by a court of law to manage esp. a failing company. 2 the part of a telephone that you hold next to your ear.

recent ('riːsənt) *adj* that happened or began not long ago. **recently** *adv* lately.

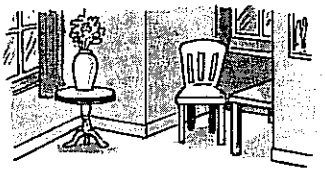
receptacle (rɪ'septəkəl) *nc* a container.

reception (rɪ'sepʃən) 1 *nu* receiving or being received. 2 *nc* a formal party for guests: *a wedding reception.* 3 *nu* the receiving of sounds on a radio or television.

receptive (rɪ'septɪv) *adj* 1 ready to accept new ideas, etc. 2 (of the mind) quick.

receptor (rɪ'septə*) *nc* any of a number of devices that receive information, etc.

recess (rɪ'ses, 'riːses) *nc* 1 a short time during which work is stopped. 2 a part of a room that is set farther back: *a recess with a bed in it*: see picture. 3 a secret place.



recess

recession (rɪ'seʃən) *nc* a time when business, trade, etc., is less active: *Politicians keep trying to tell us that the recession is over.*

recipe ('resɪpɪ) *nc* a list of instructions on how to make a particular food dish.

recipient (rɪ'sɪpɪənt) *nc* a person who receives something.

reciprocal (rɪ'sɪprəkəl) *adj* given by each of two people, etc., to the other: *reciprocal friendship.* • *nc mathematics* the number which, when multiplied by a given number, makes 1: *The reciprocal of 3 is* $\frac{1}{3}$.

reciprocate (rɪ'sɪprəkeɪt) *vti* feel or give in return (for something): *Thanks for your help. I hope I can reciprocate some day.*

recital (rɪ'saɪtəl) *nc* a concert given by one or a small number of musicians: *I have been asked to give a solo violin recital.*

recite (rɪ'saɪt) *vti* 1 speak (a poem, etc.), esp. from memory. 2 tell of (something), including all the details. **recitation** (ˌresɪ'teɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) reciting. 2 *nc* a poem, etc., that is recited.

reckless ('reklɪs) *adj* having or showing no thought for the results of your actions: *reckless driving.* **recklessly** *adv* **recklessness** *nu*

reckon ('rekən) *vt* 1 work with numbers to find out (something). 2 think; be of the opinion: *Do you reckon he'll come?* **reckoning** 1 *nu* counting. 2 *nc* a punishment or suffering for your actions. **reckon on** depend on: *I'm reckoning on everyone's support.* **reckon with** or **without** take or fail to take into account: *I reckon without rain at this time of year.*

reclaim (rɪ'kleɪm) *vt* 1 make (waste land) useful again. 2 make (someone) change from bad to good ways. **reclamation** (ˌreklə'meɪʃən) *nu*

recline (rɪ'klaɪn) *vti* (cause to) lie or lean back in a comfortable position.

recognise ('rekəgnaɪz) *vt* 1 see and remember seeing (someone or something) before. 2 be willing to accept that something is real or that someone has a right: *The college recognises that qualification.* **recognisable** ('rekəgnaɪzəbəl) *adj* able to be recognised. **recognition** (ˌrekəg'nɪʃən) *nu*

recoil (rɪ'kɔɪl) *vi* 1 draw back in fear, disgust, etc. 2 (of a gun) jump back on being fired. • *nc* the backward jump of a gun on being fired.

recollect (ˌrekə'lekt) *vt* remember, esp. after some effort. **recollection** (ˌrekə'lekʃən) 1 *nu* remembering. 2 *nc* something remembered: *recollections of his schooldays.*

recommend (ˌrekə'mend) *vt* 1 speak well of; say to be suitable, etc.: *I can recommend the hotel at which I stayed.* 2 advise: *The doctor recommended this medicine.* **recommendation** (ˌrekəmen'deɪʃən) 1 *nu* recommending. *nc* 2 something that recommends. 3 something that is recommended.

recompense ('rekəmpens) *vt* 1 reward (someone) for work, etc. 2 pay (someone) for a loss, etc. • *nu* a reward.

reconcile ('rekənsaɪl) *vt* 1 cause (people) to become friendly again after a quarrel. 2 make (yourself) accept something unpleasant: *She reconciled herself to her son's death.* 3 make (differing things) match or agree. **reconciliation** (ˌrekənˌsɪlɪ'eɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) reconciling or being reconciled.

reconnoitre *US* **reconnoiter** (ˌrekə'nɔɪtə*) *vt* search (a district) to find out an enemy's position, etc. **reconnaissance** (rɪ'kɒnɪsəns) *ncu* (an example of) reconnoitring.

record (rɪ'kɔɪd) *vt* 1 set down in writing or some other permanent form. 2 (of a measuring instrument) show (information). • ('rekɔɪd) *nc* 1 an account of something kept in a permanent form. 2 the best score, mark, etc., reached or known of, esp. in sport: *the world land speed record; The number of tourists here reached a record last year.* 3 a flat vinyl disc on which sound is recorded. **record-player** ('rekɔɪdpleɪə*) *nc* a machine for playing records (**record** def. 3) on. **recorder** *nc* 1 a pipe-like musical instrument blown at one end. 2 a device that records: *a tape-recorder; a video recorder.* **recording** (rɪ'kɔːdɪŋ) *nc* recorded sound or television pictures.

recount (rɪ'kaʊnt) *vt* tell (a story, your adventures, etc.).

re-count (ˌriː'kaʊnt) *vt* count again: *The votes were re-counted.* • ('riːkaʊnt) *nc* another count.

recourse (rɪ'kɔːs) *nu* a person, action, etc., that is turned to for help. **have recourse to** turn to or use when in need of action or help.

recover (rɪ'kʌvə*) 1 *vt* get back (what was lost, out of use, etc.). 2 *vi* become healthy or calm after an illness, surprise, shock, etc. **recovery** (rɪ'kʌvərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (an example of) recovering.

re-cover (ˌriː'kʌvə*) *vt* cover again.

recreation (ˌrekrɪ'eɪʃən) 1 *nu* play or amusement that exercises the mind and body when you are not working. 2 *nc* anything done to pass the time pleasantly. **recreational** (ˌrekrɪ'eɪʃənəl) *adj*

recrimination (rɪˌkrɪmɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) blaming someone for a fault, crime, etc., after being blamed for this yourself.

recruit (rɪ'kruːt) *nc* 1 a person who has just joined an army. 2 any new member of a group, society, etc. • *vt* take in or obtain (new members), esp. for an army. **recruitment** *nu* recruiting.

rectangle ('rektæŋgəl) *nc* a flat, four-sided figure with four right angles and opposite sides equal: see picture at **shapes.** **rectangular** (rek'tæŋgjʊlə*) *adj* having the shape of a rectangle.

rectify ('rektɪfaɪ) *vt* correct; put right.

rectilinear (ˌrektɪ'lɪnɪə*) *adj* to do with a straight line or straight lines.

rector ('rektə*) *nc* 1 a Church of England priest in charge of a parish. 2 the head of some schools, colleges, or universities. **rectory** ('rektərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** the house provided for a rector to live in.

rectum ('rektəm) *nc, pl* **-tums, -ta** (tə) the lower part of the large intestine, between the end of the colon and the anus.

recuperate (rɪ'kjuːpəreɪt) 1 *vi* become well again after an illness or loss of strength. 2 *vt* get back (something that was lost).

recur (rɪ'kɜː*) *vi* 1 happen again. 2 (of an idea, thought, etc.) come back into your mind. **recurrence** (rɪ'kʌrəns) *ncu* (an example of) recurring. **recurrent** (rɪ'kʌrənt) *adj* happening often.

recycle (ˌriː'saɪkəl) *vt* process (a substance, such as glass or paper) so that it can be used again.

red (red) *adj* **-der, -dest** of the colour of blood or the rising or setting sun. • *ncu* a red colour. **be in the red** owe money to a bank. **Red Cross** an international organisation formed to care for people sick and wounded in war and in terrible accidents such as earthquakes, etc. **catch (someone) red-handed** catch (someone) in the act of doing wrong. **red-hot** (ˌred'hɒt) *adj* 1 very hot. 2 very excited. **red tape** *nu* (esp. in business or an army) unimportant rules that get in the way. **redden** ('redən) *vti* make or become red. **reddish** ('redɪʃ) *adj* quite red.

redeem (rɪ'diːm) *vt* 1 get (something) back

that once belonged to you, esp. by payment. 2 (in Christianity) save from the punishment of sin by Jesus' death. 3 save from being completely bad, ugly, etc.: *Her one redeeming feature is her beautiful eyes.* 4 carry out (a promise, duty, etc.). **redemption** (rɪ'dempʃən) *nu*

redouble (rɪ'dʌbəl) *vti* make or become even greater, stronger, etc.: *The police redoubled their efforts to find the murderer.*

redress (rɪ'dres) *vt* make (something) right that was wrong. • *nu* 1 the setting right of a wrong. 2 something that does this.

reduce (rɪ'dju:s) 1 *vt* make less in size, number, weight, etc. 2 *infml vi* become less in weight: *She's always trying to reduce.* 3 *vt* bring by force or need to a certain action, way of living, etc.: *He became so poor he was reduced to begging.* **reduction** (rɪ'dʌkʃən) *ncu* (an example of) reducing or being reduced.

redundant (rɪ'dʌndənt) *adj* not needed or wanted, esp. in a job; more than is needed. **redundancy** *ncu, pl* **-cies** (an example of) being (made to be) redundant.

reed (ri:d) *nc* 1 a tall, thin grass that grows by or in water. 2 a thin piece of cane or metal in some musical instruments that produces sound when air is blown over it.

reef (ri:f) *nc* 1 a line of rocks near to the surface of the sea. 2 a deposit of ore.

reek (ri:k) *vi* smell strongly and unpleasantly: *The room reeks of cigarette smoke.* • *nu* a strong, unpleasant smell.

reel[1] (ri:l) *nc* 1 a wooden, metal, etc., device on which cotton, string, wire, etc., is wound: *a fishing reel; a reel of film.* 2 a Scottish dance. • *vt* wind (cotton, etc.) onto a reel.

reel[2] *vi* move in an unsteady way.

refectory (rɪ'fektərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a large room in which meals are eaten in a college, etc.

refer (rɪ'fə:*) 1 *vt* hand over (a matter) to someone else to deal with. *vi* (often followed by **to**) 2 make mention of; apply to; concern: *Did that rude remark refer to me?* 3 go to (a person, book, etc.) for information. **referee** (ˌrefə'ri:) *nc* 1 a person from whom an opinion or decision is sought. 2 a person who acts as a judge in various sports. **reference** ('refərəns) *ncu* (an example of) referring: *The book contains many references to the Middle East.* **with reference to** about; to do with. **reference book** a book from which you may obtain information, such as a dictionary.

referendum (ˌrefə'rendəm) *nc, pl* **-dums, -da** (də) a public vote on an important political matter.

refill (ˌri:'fɪl) *vt* fill again. • ('ri:fɪl) *nc* another filling; substance put in the place of one that has been used up.

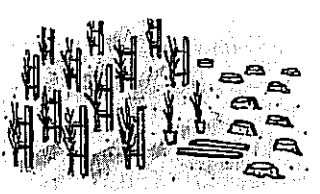
refine (rɪ'faɪn) *vt* 1 make (oil, etc.) pure. 2 cause to improve in tastes, manners, etc. *vi* 3 (of oil, etc.) become pure. 4 improve in tastes, manners, etc. **refinement** 1 *nu* refining or being refined. 2 *nc* an example of purity, improvement in tastes, etc. **refinery** (rɪ'faɪnərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where something is refined: *a sugar refinery.*

reflect (rɪ'flekt) 1 *vt* throw back (light, heat, or sound) from a surface. *vi* 2 (usually followed by **on**) throw honour or dishonour on: *His bad manners reflect badly on his background.* 3 think about something. 4 *vt* show: *Her smile reflected her joy; Television reflects what society is like.* **reflection** 1 *nu* reflecting or being reflected. 2 *nc* something reflected. **reflector** *nc* a device that reflects light, heat, or sound, such as a piece of glass or metal on the back of a vehicle that reflects the lights of a vehicle behind it.

reflex ('ri:fleks) *adj* done without intention: *Coughing and sneezing are reflex actions.*

reflexive (rɪ'fleksɪv) *adj* of a word that shows the object of a sentence is the same as the subject: *In 'He drove himself to the station', the word 'himself' is reflexive.*

reforestation (ri:ˌfɒrɪ'steɪʃən) *nu* the planting of new trees in an area where trees have been burnt or cut down: see picture.



reforestation

reform (rɪ'fɔ:m) *vti* change or be changed for the better. • *nu* 1 reforming. 2 *nc* an improvement made. **reformation** (ˌrefə'meɪʃən) *nu* reforming or being reformed. **the Reformation** a movement in Europe in the sixteenth century to make changes in the Roman Catholic Church. **reformer** *nc* a person who favours or works for reform.

refract (rɪ'frækt) *vt* make a beam of light bend by passing it through a substance. **refraction** (rɪ'frækʃən) *nu*

refrain[1] (rɪ'freɪn) *vi* stop yourself from (doing) something: *Please refrain from smoking; I refrained from singing too loud.*

refrain[2] *nc* a part of a song that is repeated, usually after each verse.

refresh (rɪ'freʃ) *vt* make fresh; make stronger, less weary, less thirsty, etc. **refresh your memory** go back to something learnt once before in order to remember it better. **refreshing** *adj* 1 giving new strength, rest, or relief. 2 different in a pleasing way. **refreshment** 1 *nu* refreshing or being refreshed. 2 (*pl*) food and drink.

refrigerate (rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪt) *vt* make or keep (food) cold to prevent it from going bad. **refrigerator** (rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪtə*) (often shortened to **fridge**) *nc* a machine or room in which food and drink are kept cold.

refuge ('refjuːdʒ) 1 *nu* shelter or protection from trouble, danger, etc. 2 *nc* a place that gives shelter, etc.

refugee (ˌrefjʊ'dʒiː) *nc* a person who has run away from danger or trouble in their own country, etc., to find protection elsewhere.

refund (rɪ'fʌnd) *vt* give back (money) to someone. • ('riːfʌnd) *ncu* (an amount of) money returned.

refuse[1] ('refjuːs) *nu fml* waste matter; rubbish: *refuse collection.*

refuse[2] (rɪ'fjuːz) 1 *vt* say or show that you will not agree, accept, or do something. 2 *vi* say no; not agree to, accept, or allow something. **refusal** (rɪ'fjuːzəl) *ncu* (an example of) refusing. **first refusal** the chance to accept or refuse an offer before it is made to anyone else.

regain (rɪ'geɪn) *vt* get back (something lost, etc.).

regal ('riːgəl) *adj* of, to do with, or suitable for a king or queen; royal.

regard (rɪ'gɑːd) *vt* 1 look at closely. 2 consider. • *nu* 1 a long, close look. 2 opinion; respect. 3 attention. **in** or **with regard to** concerning. **as regards** See **as for** under **as. regards** *n pl* good wishes. **regarding** *prep* concerning. **regardless** *adj* without caring about or taking any notice of.

regatta (rɪ'gætə) *nc* a boat race.

reggae ('regeɪ) *nu* popular music with a strong beat from the Caribbean.

regime (reɪ'ʒiːm) *nc* a way of government or the control of public affairs; social system.

regiment ('redʒɪmənt) *nc* 1 a unit of the army consisting of six or more companies of soldiers. 2 a large number of anything.

region ('riːdʒən) *nc* a part of the country or any surface or space, the limits of which are uncertain. **regional** *adj* of a region.

register ('redʒɪstə*) *nc* 1 a written list; book containing this. 2 the range of the voice or a musical instrument. 3 a machine that stores information, adds numbers, etc.: *a cash register.* • *vt* 1 put down (a person's name, etc.) in a register. 2 (of an instrument) show (an amount, etc.). 3 show (a certain emotion) on your face: *He registered anger.* 4 send (an important letter, etc.) by special post. 5 *infml vi* have an effect; be noticed. **registrar** (ˌredʒɪ'strɑː*) *nc* a person who keeps written registers. **registration** (ˌredʒɪ'streɪʃən) 1 *nu* registering or being registered. 2 *nc* an entry in a register. **registry** ('redʒɪstrɪ) *nc, pl* **-tries** a place where registers are kept. **registry office** *Brit* a place where registers are kept and where marriages take place without a religious service.

regret (rɪ'gret) *vt* 1 feel sorrow for (something you did or did not do). 2 a polite way of saying you are sorry about something: *We regret that the train will be ten minutes late.* • *nu* 1 feeling of sorrow or guilt over something done or not done; grief. 2 (*pl*) sadness, apology, or sorrow about something. **regretfully** (rɪ'gretfʊlɪ) *adv* **regrettable** (rɪ'gretəbəl) *adj* to be regretted.

regular ('regjʊlə*) *adj* 1 happening or done at fixed or steady intervals. 2 even: *regular teeth.* 3 according to usual behaviour or ways of doing things. 4 *grammar* (of a word or its ending) having the usual form. • *nc infml* a person who is a regular customer at a pub, etc. **regularity** (ˌregjʊ'lærɪtɪ) *nu* being regular. **regularly** *adv*

regulate ('regjʊleɪt) *vt* 1 slightly alter (a machine, etc.) to set it right. 2 control, esp. by means of rules. **regulation** (ˌregjʊ'leɪʃən) 1 *nu* regulating or being regulated. 2 *nc* a rule. • *adj* as ordered by a rule.

rehabilitate (ˌriːhə'bɪlɪteɪt) *vt* 1 make almost as new again: *rehabilitate old buildings.* 2 put back to former rank or importance. 3 help (someone who is disabled) to live a normal life. **rehabilitation** (ˌriːhəbɪlɪ'teɪʃən) *nu* rehabilitating.

rehearse (rɪ'hɜːs) *vt* 1 practise (a play) before acting to an audience. 2 repeat aloud from memory. **rehearsal** *ncu* (an instance of) rehearsing.

reign (reɪn) *nc* 1 the time when a king, etc., rules a country. 2 the time when a person or thing is powerful. • *vi* rule as or like a king, etc.

reimburse (ˌriːɪm'bɜːs) *vt* pay back (an amount already spent) to (someone). **reimbursement** *ncu* repayment.

rein (reɪn) *nc* 1 one of the long, leather straps used to control the movements of a horse. 2 something used to control (esp. a person or animal): *Keep your husband on a tight rein—don't let him do as he likes.*

reindeer ('reɪndɪə*) *nc, pl* **reindeer** a kind of large deer with branched horns living in northern parts of Europe: see picture at **animals.**

reinforce (ˌriːɪn'fɔːs) *vt* give extra strength or support to. **reinforcement** 1 *nu* reinforcing or being reinforced. 2 *nc* (usually *pl*) something, esp. soldiers, that reinforces.

reiterate (riː'ɪtəreɪt) *vt* repeat.

reject (rɪ'dʒekt) *vt* 1 refuse to accept or consider. 2 throw out as not being good enough. 3 show no interest in or care for (someone). **rejection** 1 *nu* rejecting or being rejected. 2 *nc* a refusal.

rejoice (rɪ'dʒɔɪs) *vi* feel great joy and gladness. **rejoicing** 1 *nu* joy. 2 *nc* (*pl*) joyful happenings.

rejoin (ˌriː'dʒɔɪn) *vt* 1 join (the company of someone or something) again. 2 put or join together again. 3 (rɪ'dʒɔɪn) *fml* answer quickly, sharply, or humorously.

relapse (rɪ'læps) *vi* fall back (into bad habits, evil ways, illness, etc.). • *nc* such a falling back.

relate (rɪ'leɪt) *vt* 1 tell (a story); give the facts, details, etc., of. 2 show the connection in thought or meaning between (two or more things). 3 understand; sympathise: *I can't relate to him at all.* **be related to** be connected to by family.

relation (rɪ'leɪʃən) *nu* 1 the connection between two or more people or things. 2 the connection between people by family or marriage. 3 *nc* a person connected in this way. 4 (*pl*) connections: *good business relations.* **in** or **with relation to** concerning. **relationship** (rɪ'leɪʃənʃɪp) 1 *nu* the connection between one person or thing and another or others. 2 *nc* an example of this: *The relationship between husband and wife is a happy one.*

relative ('relətɪv) *adj* 1 showing a comparison. 2 being connected in some way. 3 *grammar* of a word or group of words that connect: *'Who' in 'The girl who played with me was kind' is a relative pronoun.* • *nc* a person who belongs to your family. **relatively** *adv* to a certain extent. **relativity** (ˌrelə'tɪvɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the quality of being **relative** (def. 2). 2 *science* the theory dealing with space, time, and movement.

relax (rɪ'læks) 1 *vti* (of muscles, etc.), (cause to) become looser, less stiff, or less tense. 2 *vi* not do work; enjoy yourself in a lazy way. 3 *vt* make less strict. **relaxation** (ˌriːlæk'seɪʃən) *ncu* (an instance of) relaxing; rest.

relay ('riːleɪ) *nc* 1 a race in which members of a team take turns to run, swim, etc. 2 a fresh set of horses or group of men to replace tired ones. 3 *radio* a device that receives messages, programmes, etc., and sends them out again in order to lengthen the distance they travel. • (rɪ'leɪ) *vt* receive and send out (messages etc.).

release (rɪ'liːs) *vt* 1 set free; let go your hold of: *release a prisoner; release your grip on a rope.* 2 make (news, information, etc.) known to the public. • *ncu* (an example of) releasing or being released.

relegate ('relɪgeɪt) *vt* move to a position of less importance: *I'd been relegated to the branch office.*

relent (rɪ'lent) *vi* change your mind and become less harsh or cruel. **relentless** *adj* 1 without mercy. 2 *infml* not stopping: *relentless noise.*

relevant ('relɪvənt) *adj* to do with the subject being discussed. **relevance** *nu* being relevant.

reliable (rɪ'laɪəbəl) *adj* that can be depended on; trustworthy. **reliance** (rɪ'laɪəns) *nu* trust.

relic ('relɪk) *nc* something that has continued to exist from times long past.

relief[1] (rɪ'liːf) *nu* 1 a lessening or removal of worry, fear, etc.; something that brings this about: *What a relief it was to see the ambulance arrive; a sigh of relief.* 2 help given to the poor or those in trouble. 3 something that adds variety to make more interesting: *light relief from a boring task.* 4 a person or thing that takes over another's work for a few hours.

relief[2] *nu* a way of carving or drawing in which designs appear to stand out from the surface; *nc* such a carving or drawing. • *adj* using relief.

relieve (rɪ'liːv) *vt* 1 lessen or remove (worry, fear, pain, etc.). 2 take over (someone's work) for a few hours.

religion (rɪ'lɪdʒən) 1 *nu* the belief in a spiritual power that has created and is in control of the world. *nc* 2 one of a number of groups that believe this and have formed a system of worship. 3 something to which you give time and care (esp. more than is proper). **religious** (rɪ'lɪdʒəs) *adj* of or to do with religion.

relinquish (rɪ'lɪŋkwɪʃ) *vt* give up; let go.

relish ('relɪʃ) *vt* fully enjoy (an experience, taste, etc.). • *nu* 1 eager enjoyment. 2 *nc* something that adds taste or enjoyment, esp. a sauce or pickle.

reluctant (rɪ'lʌktənt) *adj* not eager or willing. **reluctance** *nu* being reluctant. **reluctantly** *adv*

rely (rɪ'laɪ) *v* **rely on** or **upon** depend on; have confidence in: *Don't rely too much on what your friends say.*

remain (rɪ'meɪn) 1 *vi* stay behind or be left after part has gone, been used, etc. 2 *vt* stay; continue to be. **remainder** *nu* a part that is left. **remains** *n pl* 1 the pieces or parts left: *I fed the remains of the dinner to the cat.* 2 the body of a dead person.

remark (rɪ'mɑːk) 1 *fml vt* notice. 2 *vi* speak or write an opinion or thought. • *nu* 1 *fml* notice. 2 *nc* an expression of opinion or thought, esp. not a forceful one. **remark (up)on** express an opinion on. **remarkable** (rɪ'mɑːkəbəl) *adj* attracting notice; unusual. **remarkably** *adv*

remedial (rɪ'miːdɪəl) *adj* of or to do with a cure for an illness, or the setting right of something that is wrong: *remedial treatment.*

remedy ('remɪdɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** anything that cures an illness or puts right what is wrong. • *vt* put right.

remember (rɪ'membə*) *vt* 1 not forget; keep in the memory. 2 do something on the occasion of (a regular event, such as a birthday). 3 not forget to give a tip or present to: *Remember your friends this Christmas!* **remember to** say hello to (someone) from (a friend who is not there): *Remember me to her when you see her again.*

remembrance (rɪ'membrəns) *nu* remembering or being remembered: *in remembrance of the dead.*

remind (rɪ'maɪnd) *vt* cause someone to remember: *Remind me to take my bag; His face reminds me of his mother.* **reminder** *nc* something that helps you to remember something, esp. a letter: *I got a reminder about the gas bill today.*

reminisce (ˌremɪ'nɪs) *vi* think or talk about something that happened in the past. **reminiscence** 1 *nu* reminiscing. 2 (*pl*) some past events or experiences thought or talked about. **reminiscent** *adj* that causes you to remember.

remit (rɪ'mɪt) *vt* send (money, etc.) by post: *I remit ten per cent of my salary to my mother in Kenya.* **remittance** 1 *nu* the remitting of money. 2 *nc* payment sent by post.

remnant ('remnənt) *nc* a small part that is left after the rest has been used, lost, etc.: *She makes all her children's clothes from remnants of material.*

remonstrate ('remənstreɪt) *vi* make a protest; complain. **remonstrance** (rɪ'mɒnstrəns) *ncu* (a) protest.

remorse (rɪ'mɔːs) *nu* 1 a feeling of sorrow and guilt for your wrongdoing. 2 pity. **remorseless** *adj* without remorse.

remote (rɪ'məʊt) *adj* **-r, -st** far away: *a remote village; in the remote past.*

remove (rɪ'muːv) *vt* 1 take or move (your belongings, etc.) to another place. 2 take off. 3 get rid of. **removable** *adj* that can be removed. **removal** *ncu* (an instance of) removing. • *adj* of or for a removal: *a removal van.*

remuneration (rɪˌmjuːnə'reɪʃən) *nu* a payment; reward. **remunerative** (rɪ'mjuːnərətɪv) *adj* that pays well.

renaissance (rə'neɪsəns) *nc* a new direction or interest in something, esp. learning or the arts. **the Renaissance** the time in Europe, about 1300 to 1500, when there was a new birth in art and learning.

renal ('riːnəl) *adj zoology* to do with the kidneys: *renal failure; renal artery.*

render ('rendə*) *fml vt* 1 give what is due: *render payment.* 2 cause to become: *render it useless.* 3 perform: *render services.*

rendezvous ('rɒndɪvuː, 'rɒndeɪvuː) *nc, pl* **rendezvous** 1 a meeting or arrangement to meet at an agreed place. 2 a place where people meet.

renegade ('renɪgeɪd) *nc* a person who deserts their religious faith, the political party they support, etc.; a traitor to their cause.

renew (rɪ'njuː) *vt* 1 make as if new again; bring to a new and fresh condition. 2 replace something used up, worn out, etc. **renewal** *ncu* (an instance of) renewing or being renewed.

renounce (rɪ'naʊns) *vt* say that you will have nothing more to do with (someone or something): *renounce your faith.*

renovate ('renəveɪt) *vt* bring back to a good condition: *renovate old paintings.* **renovation** (ˌrenə'veɪʃən) *ncu* (an instance of) renovating or being renovated.

renown (rɪ'naʊn) *nu* fame. **renowned** *adj* famous or well-known.

rent (rent) *ncu* (an amount of) money paid regularly for the use of a house, flat, land, etc. • *vt* 1 pay rent to live in or use (a house, land, etc.). 2 (of a house, land, etc.) allow to be rented. **rental** ('rentəl) *nc* an amount paid as rent.

renunciation (rɪˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃən) 1 *nu* the giving up of a belief, right, habit, etc. 2 *nc* an act or example of this.

repaid (rɪ'peɪd) past tense and past partici-

ple of **repay**.

repair (rɪ'peə*) *vt* 1 put in a good condition again after damage, much use, etc.: *repair shoes*. 2 *fml* put right (a wrong, etc.). • *nu* 1 a state: *in good repair*. 2 *nc* an act or example of repairing.

repatriate (riː'pætrɪeɪt) *vt* send back (a person) to their own country. **repatriation** (ˌriːpætrɪ'eɪʃən) *nu*

repay (rɪ'peɪ) *vt* 1 pay back (money that has been borrowed) to (the lender). 2 give or do something in return for: *repay kindness*. **repayment** *ncu* (an amount of money for) repaying.

repeal (rɪ'piːl) *vt* stop the effectiveness of (a law, etc.).

repeat (rɪ'piːt) *vt* say or do (something) again: *repeat your words; repeat a poem; repeat an action*. • *nc* anything that is repeated: *a repeat of a radio programme*. **repeatedly** (rɪ'piːtɪdlɪ) *adv* again and again.

repel (rɪ'pel) *vt* 1 drive back (someone or something): *repel an attacker*. 2 cause a feeling of disgust in. **repellent** *adj* causing disgust.

repent (rɪ'pent) *vti* feel sorrow and regret for (a wrong you have done). **repentance** *nu* regret for doing wrong.

repercussions (ˌriːpə'kʌʃənz) *n pl* the effects of an event that happen later and continue for some time.

repertoire ('repətwɑː*) *nc* a set of plays, pieces of music, etc., that an actor, musician, etc., has practised and is ready to perform.

repertory ('repətrɪ) *nu* the system by which a group of actors give performances of plays for several days at a time in the same theatre.

repetition (ˌrepɪ'tɪʃən) *ncu* (an instance of) repeating or being repeated. **repetitive** (rɪ'petɪtɪv) *adj* marked by repetition.

replace (rɪ'pleɪs) *vt* 1 put (something) back in its former place. 2 take the place of.

replenish (rɪ'plenɪʃ) *vt* fill up again.

replica ('replɪkə) *nc* an exact copy, esp. of a work of art.

reply (rɪ'plaɪ) *vti* answer in words or by an action. • *ncu, pl* **-plies** (an) answer.

report (rɪ'pɔːt) 1 *vt* give an account of (something seen or heard). 2 *vi* go to an agreed place for a purpose: *report for duty*. 3 *vt* complain about (someone) to someone in power. • *nc* 1 an account of something seen or heard. 2 a sharp, loud sound: *the report of a gun*. **reported speech** a report of something said or written, giving the meaning but not the exact words. **reporter** *nc* a person who gets news for a newspaper, etc.: *the crime reporter*.

repossess (ˌriːpə'zes) *vt* take something back (from a person who has not paid for it): *The government has repossessed ten thousand houses this year*.

represent (ˌreprɪ'zent) *vt* 1 be a sign or example of. 2 show by a picture (what something is like). 3 act for; speak for. **representation** (ˌreprɪzen'teɪʃən) *ncu* (an instance of) representing or being represented. **representative** (ˌreprɪ'zentətɪv) *adj* being a sign, example, or picture of; typical. • *nc* a person chosen to act for another or others.

repress (rɪ'pres) *vt* keep under control; put down: *repress your anger; repress a rebellion*. **repression** 1 *nu* repressing or being repressed. 2 *nc* a feeling which is being repressed.

reprieve (rɪ'priːv) *vt* 1 put off or delay a punishment: *He was reprieved from hanging*. 2 give a time of relief from something unpleasant. • *nc* 1 an order that puts off or delays a punishment. 2 a delay.

reprint ('riːprɪnt) *nc* a book, etc., published again with no changes made. • (riː'prɪnt) *vt* print again, esp. a new, unchanged copy of (a book or magazine).

reprisal (rɪ'praɪzəl) *ncu* (an instance of) ill-treatment given as repayment for injury done to yourself: *We killed their leader in reprisal for the death of our soldiers*.

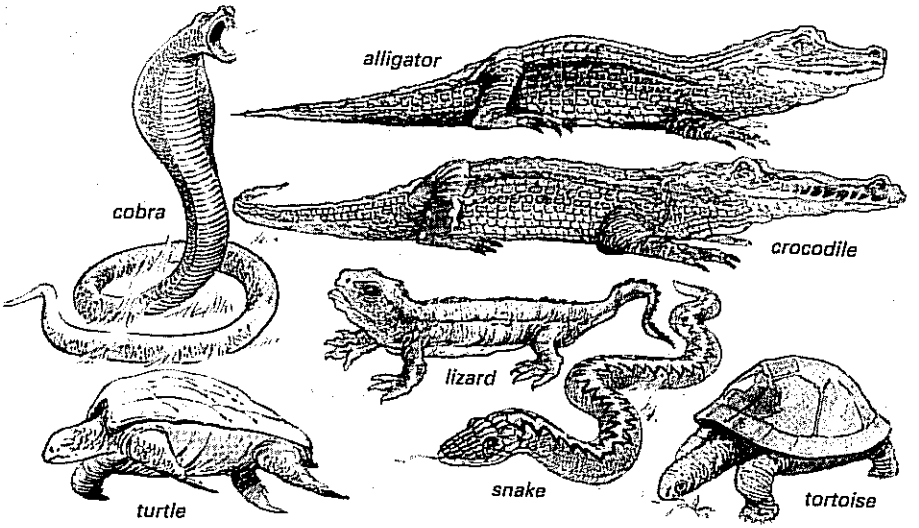
reproach (rɪ'prəʊtʃ) *vt* blame or find fault with (a person) because they have caused you shame or sorrow. • *ncu* 1 (words of) blame. 2 a cause of disgrace. **beyond** or **above reproach** with no faults.

reproduce (ˌriːprə'djuːs) *vt* 1 cause (something) to be seen or heard again: *music reproduced on a record-player*. 2 make an exact copy of. 3 *vti* produce (children, young, or new plants). **reproduction** (ˌriːprə'dʌkʃən) 1 *nu* the act or process of reproducing. 2 *nc* something that is reproduced or copied. **reproductive** (ˌriːprə'dʌktɪv) *adj* of or to do with reproduction.

reproof (rɪ'pruːf) *fml ncu* (an act or expression of) blame.

reprove (rɪ'pruːv) *fml vt* find fault with (someone).

reptile (ˌreptaɪl) *nc* a cold-blooded animal that lays eggs and crawls: *Snakes and lizards are reptiles*: see picture. **reptilian** (rep'tɪlɪən) *adj* of or to do with a reptile.



republic (rɪ'pʌblɪk) *nc* a political system in which the power is held by a government chosen by the people; country with this system. **republican** *adj* of or to do with a republic. • *nc* a person who supports or wishes for such a government.

repudiate (rɪ'pjuɪdɪeɪt) *vt* 1 say that you will have nothing to do with (someone or something). 2 refuse to admit that you owe (a debt) or that you have done (something). **repudiation** *nu*

repulse (rɪ'pʌls) *vt* 1 drive back: *repulse the enemy.* 2 turn away in a cold manner (someone's offer of help, friendship, etc.). **repulsion** *nu* a feeling of disgust. **repulsive** *adj* disgusting.

repute (rɪ'pjuɪt) *nu* reputation: *a person of bad repute.* **reputable** ('repjʊtəbəl) *adj* having a good reputation; trustworthy. **reputation** (ˌrepjʊ'teɪʃən) *nu* the general opinion about the qualities of someone or something: *He had a reputation for being a bad loser.*

request (rɪ'kwest) *vt* ask for. • *ncu* 1 (an instance of) asking or being asked. 2 *nc* a thing that is asked for.

require (rɪ'kwaɪə*) *vt* 1 need; depend upon: *Plants require water and sunshine to survive.* 2 *fml* order or demand: *The government requires that everyone carries an identity card.* **requirement** *nc* something ordered or needed.

requisite ('rekwɪzɪt) *adj* very necessary. • *nc* something that is very necessary.

requisition (ˌrekwɪ'zɪʃən) *nc* a written demand, esp. a formal one.

rescue ('reskjuɪ) *vt* save from danger; set free. • *ncu* (an example of) rescuing or being rescued.

research (rɪ'sɜːtʃ) *ncu* (a) scientific or other investigation to get new information. • *vti* do research (into). **researcher** *nc* a person who is doing research work.

resemble (rɪ'zembəl) *vt* be or look like. **resemblance** 1 *nu* likeness: *a striking resemblance.* 2 *nc* a degree of likeness: *The sisters show a strong resemblance.*

resent (rɪ'zent) *vt* feel bitter or angry about (something bad done to you by someone). **resentful** *adj* feeling or showing resentment. **resentment** *nu* bitterness; anger.

reserve (rɪ'zɜɪv) *vt* 1 put aside or keep back for future use or for another occasion: *reserve your opinion.* 2 obtain a promise of having (something) by special arrangement or by paying in advance: *reserve two seats for the theatre.* • *nc* 1 a supply of something being kept for later use. 2 a piece of land kept for a special purpose, esp. where wild animals are protected by law. 3 *nu* self-control of the feelings; silence. **in reserve** kept back, but ready for use if needed. **reservation** (ˌrezə'veɪʃən) *nc* 1 (*pl*) doubts: *I have reservations about your friend's honesty.* 2 an arrangement for something, such as a table in a restaurant, to be kept for you: *a reservation for the flight to Paris.*

reserved *adj* not saying all that you think or feel; quiet. **reserves** *n pl* extra amount or number, esp. of soldiers, ready for later use.

reservoir ('rezəvwɑː*) *nc* a large container or a lake that is natural or man-made, where water is collected and stored, esp. for the use of a city.

resettle (ˌriːˈsetəl) *vti* (cause someone to) settle in a new place or country.

reside (rɪˈzaɪd) *fml vi* live, stay for a long time, or have your home (in a place). **residence** ('rezɪdəns) 1 *nu* residing. 2 *nc* a place or house where you live. **resident** ('rezɪdənt) *nc* a person who lives or stays in a place. • *adj* residing. **residential** (ˌrezɪˈdenʃəl) *adj* suitable for living in: *a residential part of the town.*

residue ('rezɪdjuː) *nc* a part that is left. **residual** (rɪˈzɪdjʊəl) *adj* of or to do with a residue.

resign (rɪˈzaɪn) *vt* give up (a job, office, right, etc.). **resign yourself to** accept something unpleasant without complaining. **resignation** (ˌrezɪgˈneɪʃən) *nu* 1 the giving up of a job, right, etc.; *nc* an example of this. 2 the acceptance of something unpleasant without complaining.

resilient (rɪˈzɪlɪənt) *adj* (of a person) recovering quickly from illness, trouble, etc.: *a resilient spirit.*

resin ('rezɪn) *ncu* (a) sticky substance obtained from almost all trees and plants and used in making varnishes, plastics, etc., and in medicine.

resist (rɪˈzɪst) *vt* 1 use force in order not to give in to: *resist the enemy.* 2 try not to give in to: *resist temptation; resist disease.* **resistance** *ncu* (an example of) resisting; ability to resist. **resistant** *adj* showing resistance. **resistor** *nc* a device that puts a known amount of resistance in the path of an electrical current.

resolute ('rezəluːt) *adj* firmly decided in purpose. **resolutely** *adv*

resolution (ˌrezəˈluːʃən) 1 *nu* being resolute. 2 *nc* something, esp. a planned change of habit, that is firmly decided on.

resolve (rɪˈzɒlv) 1 *vti* firmly decide on (an action, etc.). 2 *vt* find an answer to (a problem, etc.) or a way of dealing with (a difficulty). • *nc* 1 something that is firmly decided on. 2 *nu* firm decision: *full of resolve.*

resonant ('rezənənt) *adj* 1 (of a sound) large, full, and filling a place: *a resonant voice.* 2 (of a large room or place) sending sound back and making it last longer. **resonance** *nu* the quality of being resonant.

resort (rɪˈzɔːt) *vi* make use of unpopular or unpleasant methods because there is no other way: *The young people resorted to violence because their needs were not being met.* • *nc* a place, esp. near the sea, to which people go for a holiday. **as a** or **in the last resort** as a last effort when everything else has failed.

resound (rɪˈzaʊnd) *vi* 1 (of a large room or place) ring with sound; send back echoes. 2 (of a sound) fill a place. **resounding** *adj* without any doubt; great: *a resounding victory; a resounding success.*

resource (rɪˈzɔɪs, rɪˈsɔɪs) *nc* 1 (often *pl*) the land, goods, wealth, etc., esp. of a country: *natural resources.* 2 something you can turn to for help when needed. **resourceful** *adj* clever at finding ways of doing things.

respect (rɪˈspekt) *nu* 1 honour. 2 proper attention to: *respect for people's feelings.* *nc* 3 a detail; quality: *In many respects the two brothers are very alike.* 4 (*pl*) greetings: *give your respects.* • *vt* have respect for; treat with due attention. **in respect of** or **with respect to** concerning.

respectable (rɪˈspektəbəl) *adj* 1 deserving honour. 2 (of a person or their behaviour) decent. 3 fairly good: *He earns a respectable wage.*

respectful (rɪˈspektfʊl) *adj* showing respect.

respective (rɪˈspektɪv) *adj* belonging to each of several: *We each went our respective ways home.* **respectively** *adv* separately and in the stated order: *He and I got our examination results today, seventy-five per cent and fifty-two per cent respectively.*

respiration (ˌrespəˈreɪʃən) *ncu* 1 (an act of) breathing in and out. 2 *science* the series of chemical changes that occur in all the cells of the body, by which energy is released from food material. **respiratory** (rɪˈspɪrətərɪ) *adj* of breathing.

respite ('respaɪt) *nc* a short time of being free from work, pain, trouble, etc.

respond (rɪˈspɒnd) *vi* 1 answer. 2 be affected by, esp. in a successful way: *The sick man responded to treatment.*

response (rɪˈspɒns) 1 *nc* a reply. 2 *ncu* an effect produced by something: *Did you get much response to your advertisement?*

responsibility (rɪˌspɒnsəˈbɪlɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** 1 the state of being responsible: *The job carries much responsibility.* 2 a duty: *His new job has many responsibilities.*

responsible (rɪˈspɒnsəbəl) *adj* 1 having a duty that must be done for moral or legal reasons. 2 expected to take the blame for mistakes: *I hold you responsible for the breakdown in communications.* 3 trust-

worthy. 4 (followed by **for**) being the cause or reason (of): *Who is responsible for making this mess?*

responsive (rɪ'spɒnsɪv) *adj* replying quickly and readily to (a suggestion, etc.).

rest[1] (rest) 1 *vi* be quiet and still, stopping work, movement, etc., for a short time. *vt* 2 give rest to. 3 put (something) in a position where it is supported or made steady. • *nu* 1 being quiet and still; relief. 2 *nc* a place to support or steady something. **at rest** 1 calm and still. 2 *polite* dead. **restroom** *US* a public lavatory.

rest[2] *n* **the rest** something that remains; remainder.

restaurant ('restərɒŋ, 'restərɒnt) *nc* a place where people are served meals for which they pay.

restful ('restful) *adj* giving rest; calm and peaceful.

restitution (ˌrestɪ'tjuːʃən) *nu* the giving back of something that was lost or stolen.

restive ('restɪv) *adj* restless; not willing or able to stay still; impatient.

restless ('restlɪs) *adj* not willing or able to stay still; anxious.

restore (rɪ'stɔː*) *vt* 1 give back. 2 bring back to a good condition: *restore an old painting; restored to health.* **restoration** (ˌrestə'reɪʃən) *nu* restoring or being restored.

restrain (rɪ'streɪn) *vt* hold back; control. **restrained** *adj* kept under control: *restrained laughter.* **restraint** *nu* restraining or being restrained.

restrict (rɪ'strɪkt) *vt* keep within certain limits. **restriction** *ncu* (an example of) restricting or being restricted. **restrictive** *adj* that restricts.

result (rɪ'zʌlt) *ncu* (the amount or an instance of) something that happens because of an earlier cause or action. • *vi* 1 happen because of an earlier cause: *sadness resulting from disappointment.* 2 end in a certain way: *The game resulted in a victory for us.* **resultant** *adj* happening as a result.

resume (rɪ'zjuːm) 1 *vti* begin (a meeting) again after a short stop. 2 *vt* occupy again; take back (a title, office, etc.): *resume your seat; resume the office of President.* **resumption** (rɪ'zʌmpʃən) *nu* beginning again after a short stop.

résumé ('rezjuːmeɪ) *nc* a summary of the main points of a speech, event, etc.

resurrect (ˌrezə'rekt) *vt* 1 bring back into use or action. 2 bring (someone) back to life again. **resurrection** *nu* being brought back to life, use, or activity.

resuscitate (rɪ'sʌsɪteɪt) *vt* bring (someone) back to consciousness: *We managed to resuscitate her before the ambulance arrived*: see picture. **resuscitation** (rɪˌsʌsɪ'teɪʃən) *nu* the act or method of resuscitating.

resuscitate

retail ('riːteɪl) 1 *vt* sell (goods) in small quantities to customers. 2 *vi* (of goods) be sold: *This jacket retails at thirty pounds.* • *nc* the sale of goods in small quantities. • *adj* of or to do with such selling. **retailer** *nc* a shopkeeper who sells by retail.

retain (rɪ'teɪn) *vt* keep; keep within: *The guerrillas were fighting to retain their independence.*

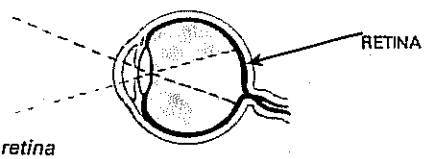
retaliate (rɪ'tælɪeɪt) *vi* do wrong in return for having been done wrong to. **retaliation** (rɪˌtælɪ'eɪʃən) *nu* retaliating.

retard (rɪ'tɑɪd) *vt* delay the progress or development of. **retardation** (ˌriːtɑː'deɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) retarding or being retarded: *The youth suffered from mental retardation.*

retention (rɪ'tenʃən) *nu* retaining or being retained. **retentive** (rɪ'tentɪv) *adj* able to retain or keep, esp. in the mind: *a retentive memory.*

reticence ('retɪsəns) *nu* the keeping of your feelings or thoughts to yourself.

retina ('retɪnə) *nc, pl* **-nas** or **-nae** (niː) the covering at the back of the eye that is sensitive to light: see picture.



retina

retinue ('retɪnjuː) *nc* the servants, assistants, etc., travelling with an important person.

retire (rɪ'taɪə*) *vi* 1 go away; draw back. 2 *fml* go to bed. 3 give up work, esp. on reaching a certain age. 4 *vt* cause (someone) to give up work. **retirement** 1 *nu* retiring or being retired. 2 *nc* an example of this.

retort (rɪ'tɔːt) *vti* answer quickly and sharply. • *nc* a quick, sharp answer.

retrace (rɪˈtreɪs) *vt* go back over (past events or actions) either in your mind or in reality: *retrace your steps.*

retract (rɪˈtrækt) *vt* 1 take back (something said) saying it was not true or right. 2 draw back, esp. a part of your body.

retreat (rɪˈtriːt) *vi* move back or away: *an army retreating from an enemy.* • *nu* 1 the act of moving back, esp. of an army from an enemy. *nc* 2 an example of this. 3 a place to which you go for peace or to rest after an illness.

retribution (ˌretrɪˈbjuːʃən) *nu* punishment for a crime: *divine retribution.*

retrieve (rɪˈtriːv) *vt* 1 get back (esp. something that was lost). 2 bring back to a better or more successful condition.

retrograde (ˈretrəgreɪd) *adj* 1 moving backwards. 2 likely to make conditions worse.

retrospect (ˈretrəspekt) *n* **in retrospect** looking back at the past. **retrospective** (ˌretrəˈspektɪv) *adj* remembering past events, esp. in your own experience.

return (rɪˈtɜːn) 1 *vi* come or go back to a former place or condition: *She returned home yesterday; He has returned to his evil ways.* 2 *vt* give or send back. • *ncu* 1 (an example of) returning or being returned. 2 (an example of) giving or sending back. • *adj* of or to do with a return. **in return for** in payment for; as thanks for. **return ticket** a ticket for a journey able to be used to go and to come back.

reunion (ˌriːˈjuːnɪən) 1 *nu* coming or being brought together again. 2 *nc* a meeting of people, esp. friends, who have not met for a long time.

reveal (rɪˈviːl) *vt* 1 show (something which is usually or has been hidden). 2 make known (a secret, etc.).

revel (ˈrevəl) *vi* 1 have a lively, merry time. 2 (followed by **in**) enjoy very much: *She revels in making me unhappy.* **revelry** *ncu, pl* **-ries** noisy, uncontrolled enjoyment.

revelation (ˌrevəˈleɪʃən) 1 *nu* the making known of something that was secret or hidden. 2 *nc* something made known, esp. that causes surprise.

revenge (rɪˈvendʒ) *vt* punish someone to pay back (a wrong done to yourself, your family, etc.) esp. with the same wrong. • *nu* the punishment given.

revenue (ˈrevənjuː) *nu* money paid by the people for public needs; part of the government that collects this money.

reverberate (rɪˈvɜːbəreɪt) 1 *vi* (of sound) be thrown backwards and forwards: *The music reverberated in the huge hall.* 2 *vt* throw back (sound). **reverberation** (rɪˌvɜːbəˈreɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) reverberating or being reverberated.

revere (rɪˈvɪə*) *fml vt* respect deeply; honour.

reverence (ˈrevərəns) *nu* deep respect: *reverence for the dead.*

reverend (ˈrevərənd) *n* the title of a priest. • *adj* 1 worthy of being treated with deep respect. 2 being a priest.

reverent (ˈrevərənt) *adj* feeling or showing great respect. **reverently** *adv*

reverse (rɪˈvɜːs) 1 *vt* turn something upside-down or inside-out. 2 *vi* (of something) be turned in this way. 3 *vti* move or be moved backwards or in the opposite direction: *reverse your car.* • *nu* 1 the back or opposite of something. 2 *nc* a disappointment. **reversal** 1 *nu* reversing or being reversed. 2 *nc* an example of this. **reversible** *adj* that can be reversed.

revert (rɪˈvɜːt) *vi* go back (to a former condition, subject, etc.).

review (rɪˈvjuː) *vt* 1 examine (something) again: *review the situation.* 2 write an account of (a new book, film, etc.) giving opinions on it for a newspaper, etc. • *ncu* 1 reviewing or being reviewed; an example of this. *nc* 2 a written account, with opinions on a new book, film, etc. 3 a magazine that is published weekly, monthly, etc., with such pieces of writing. **reviewer** *nc* a person who writes reviews.

revise (rɪˈvaɪz) 1 *vt* change or alter. 2 *vti* read carefully (through a subject), esp. before an examination. 3 *vt* correct (a book already printed) for a new edition. **revision** (rɪˈvɪʒən) 1 *nu* revising or being revised. 2 *nc* something revised.

revive (rɪˈvaɪv) 1 *vt* bring (a person or thing) back to life or strength. 2 *vi* (of a person) come back to life or strength. 3 *vti* make or become active or useful again. **revival** (rɪˈvaɪvəl) *ncu* (an example of) reviving or being revived.

revoke (rɪˈvəʊk) 1 *vt* take back or cancel (a law, permission, etc.). 2 *vi* (in card games) break a rule by not playing the right card when able to do so.

revolt (rɪˈvəʊlt) 1 *vi* use violence in an attempt to change a government, etc. 2 *vt* fill with disgust. • *nc* a **revolution** (def. 2). **revolting** *adj* disgusting.

revolution (ˌrevəˈluːʃən) *nc* 1 a turning-round movement in, or as if in, a circle: *the revolutions of a wheel.* 2 a complete change in conditions, esp. on the defeat of a government. **revolutionary** (ˌrevəˈluːʃənərɪ) *adj* of or to do with a complete change in conditions. • *nc* a

person who wants a revolution, esp. a political one. **revolutionise** (ˌrevəˈluːʃənaɪz) *vt* make great changes in: *Computers have revolutionised modern business.*

revolve (rɪˈvɒlv) *vti* (cause to) move round a centre or in a circle: *The earth revolves round the sun.*

revolver (rɪˈvɒlvə*) *nc* a pistol that holds several bullets in a ring that turns round after each one is fired: see picture.

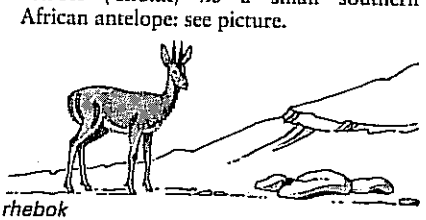
revolver

revue (rɪˈvjuː) *nc* an entertainment in the theatre that consists of short, amusing plays, songs, and dancing, esp. one that makes fun of current events.

revulsion (rɪˈvʌlʃən) *nu* a strong feeling of disgust.

reward (rɪˈwɔːd) *nc* something that is given or received for work or services, or to show gratitude. • *vt* give a reward to.

rhebok (ˈriːbʌk) *nc* a small southern African antelope: see picture.



rhebok

rhetoric (ˈretərɪk) *nu* 1 the art of using words well in writing or in speech. 2 *derogatory* showy use of words, suggesting the speaker is not sincere. **rhetorical question** a question to which the speaker does not expect an answer.

rheumatism (ˈruːmətɪzəm) *nu* a kind of disease causing pain and stiffness of the joints. **rheumatic** (ruˈmætɪk) *adj* of or to do with rheumatism.

rhinoceros (raɪˈnɒsərəs) *nc, pl* **-es** or **rhinoceros** an animal of Africa or Asia with a large, heavy body, thick skin, and one or two horns.

rhizome (ˈraɪzəʊm) *nc botany* a stem growing underground which produces shoots as a way of vegetative reproduction. See also **bulb; corm; tuber.**

rhombus (ˈrɒmbəs) *nc, pl* **-es** or **-bi** (bɪˌ) a figure with four angles, none of which are right angles, and four equal sides: see picture at **shapes. rhomboid** (ˈrɒmbɔɪd) *nc* a rhombus which only has opposite sides and angles equal.

rhubarb (ˈruːbɑːb) *nu* a garden plant with sharp-tasting thick stalks that are usually cooked before being eaten as a fruit.

rhyme (raɪm) 1 *nu* the state produced by two or more words having the same sound or ending sound, esp. at the end of each line of poetry. *nc* 2 a short poem. 3 a word with the same sound as another: *'Cry' and 'sigh' are rhymes.* • *vt* 1 put into the form of rhyme: *You can rhyme 'cry' with 'sigh'.* *vi* 2 write verses with rhymes. 3 be in rhyme.

rhythm (ˈrɪðəm) 1 *nu* the coming of one thing, esp. sound, movement, etc., after another in a regular way: *a dance rhythm.* 2 *nc* a particular kind of rhythm. **rhythmic** (ˈrɪðmɪk) *adj* **rhythmical** *adj* of or to do with rhythm.

rib (rɪb) *nc* 1 one of the several curved bones forming and supporting the chest part of the body. 2 anything like a rib in appearance or action: *the ribs of an umbrella.* • *vt infml* make fun of.

ribbon (ˈrɪbən) 1 *nu* cloth, esp. silk, in a long strip, used for decoration, tying things, etc.; *nc* a piece of this. 2 *nc* a long strip of anything.

riboflavin (ˌraɪbəˈfleɪvən) *nc* a B complex vitamin present in liver, eggs, spinach, etc.

rice (raɪs) *nu* a plant grown in E Asia with a white grain; this grain cooked and eaten.

rich (rɪtʃ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 having much wealth or property. 2 (of food) having a large amount of fat, oil, etc. 3 producing much: *a rich soil.* 4 costly; splendid: *rich silks and furs.* 5 (of colours or sounds) deep and full. 6 large; plentiful: *a rich blood supply.* **the rich** people with much wealth or property. **riches** (ˈrɪtʃɪz) *n pl* wealth. **richly** *adv* in a rich way. **richness** *nu* being rich.

Richter scale (ˈrɪktə*) a scale for measuring the intensity of an earthquake.

rickets (ˈrɪkɪts) *nu* (*with singular or plural verb*) a disease caused by lack of vitamin D and found mainly in children in whom the bones soften.

rickettsia (rɪˈketsɪə) *nc, pl* **-sias, -siae** (sɪˌiː) any of the microorganisms between bacteria and viruses which live in the bodies of arthropods and cause diseases such as typhus.

rickety (ˈrɪkətɪ) *adj* likely to break: *a rickety chair.*

rid (rɪd) *vt* also **get rid of** get free of. • *adj* free: *I'm finally rid of you.*

ridden ('rɪdən) past participle of **ride.**

riddle¹ ('rɪdəl) *nc* 1 an amusing puzzle or difficult question that needs cleverness to solve. 2 a mystery.

riddle² *vt* make full of holes: *the woodwork of a ship riddled by worms; a body riddled with disease.*

ride (raɪd) *vi* 1 sit on a horse and control its movements: *Let's ride today.* 2 sit in a car, public vehicle, etc., and be carried along. *vt* 3 sit on (a horse, bicycle, etc.) and cause to move along. 4 travel over or across, esp. on horseback: *He rode many miles; ride a race.* 5 float: *A boat was riding the waves.* **let it ride** leave it as it is; let it pass. • *nc* a journey on a horse, bicycle, etc., or in a car or public vehicle. **rider** ('raɪdə*) *nc* 1 a person who rides, esp. on a horse, bicycle, or motorbike. 2 *law* a statement added to a decision, law, etc., to give an opinion, recommend change, etc.

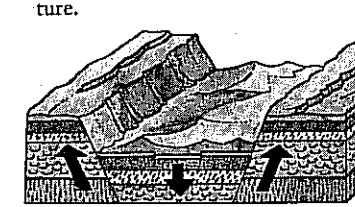
ridge (rɪdʒ) *nc* 1 a long, narrow piece of high land with sloping sides. 2 any long, raised line: *the ridge along the top of a roof.*

ridicule ('rɪdɪkjuːl) *vt* laugh rudely at (someone or something). • *nu* being made or making fun of. **ridiculous** (rɪ'dɪkjuləs) *adj* deserving to be made fun of; stupid.

rifle¹ ('raɪfəl) *nc* a long gun that is put to the shoulder when being fired.

rifle² *vt* search through (something) in order to steal from it: *All the drawers had been rifled by the thief.*

rift (rɪft) *nc* 1 a large crack: *a rift in the ice.* 2 a break or separation caused by disagreement between friends, friendly countries, etc. **rift valley** a long narrow valley with steep sides, formed by the sinking of the land between two parallel faults: see picture.



rift valley

rig (rɪg) *vt* 1 fit (a ship) with sails, ropes, etc. 2 supply with anything that is needed. 3 arrange (something, esp. an election) to get an unfair result. • *nc* a set or system of sails. **rigging** ('rɪgɪŋ) *nu* all the ropes and sails on a ship.

right (raɪt) *adj* 1 true; correct; not wrong: *the right answer.* 2 to do with the side of something facing east when its front faces north. 3 (of behaviour) just; fair: *Try to do what is right.* • *adv* 1 straight: *Go right on until you reach the main road.* 2 all the way: *right to the top of the hill.* 3 completely: *She turned right round to look at it.* 4 correctly: *Do it right this time.* • *nc* 1 a claim that is due to a person by law or because it is just. 2 *nu* the right side or part of anything: *Turn to the right at the end of the road.* **the right** also **the Right** supporters of conservative political parties that are against socialism. • *vt* 1 make correct. 2 put into the correct position: *The boat righted itself.* **right away** immediately. **by rights** if right were done; justly. **go right** 1 turn to the right. 2 go properly. **put right** bring back to a good, correct, etc., condition. **right angle** an angle of 90°. **right-hand** ('raɪthænd) *adj* (used before a noun) to do with the right side: *right-hand drive.* **right-handed** (ˌraɪt'hændɪd) *adj* 1 able to use your right hand for writing, etc., more than your left. 2 to do with the right hand. • *adj, adv* (done) with the right hand. **right-hand rule** *science* a rule used in electricity to show the relation between the direction of the current and the magnetic poles in an electric motor. See also **left-hand rule.** **rightly** *adv* justly; correctly; with good reason. **rights** (raɪts) *n pl* 1 the true facts. 2 something that a person has a just claim to. **right-wing** ('raɪtwɪŋ) *adj* to do with **the right:** *right-wing party.*

righteous ('raɪtʃəs) *adj* being or shown to be morally right; just. **righteousness** *nu* being righteous.

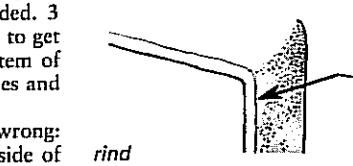
rightful ('raɪtfʊl) *adj* 1 having a legal and just claim: *the rightful owner.* 2 just; proper. **rightfully** *adv*

rigid ('rɪdʒɪd) *adj* 1 that does not bend; stiff. 2 strict: *rigid rules.* **rigidity** (rɪ'dʒɪdɪtɪ) *nu* 1 being stiff. 2 strictness. **rigidly** *adv*

rigour *US* **rigor** ('rɪgə*) *n* 1 *nu* harshness; severity. 2 (usually *pl*) conditions that cause suffering. **rigorous** *adj* harsh.

rim (rɪm) *nc* the edge of something circular, such as a cup. • *vt* form or put a rim on.

rind (raɪnd) *nu* the hard outer covering on some foods and fruit: see picture.



rind

rinderpest ('rɪndəˌpest) *nu zoology* a serious and usually fatal infectious viral disease of cattle.

ring[1] (rɪŋ) *nc* 1 a circular band usually of some precious metal and sometimes with jewels fixed in, worn on the finger: *a wedding ring.* 2 anything that is circular: *rings of smoke from a cigarette.* 3 a circular closed-in space: *a circus ring.* • *vt* form or make a circle round. **ringleader** ('rɪŋˌli:də*) *nc* a person who is responsible for leading others into mischief, trouble, etc. **ringmaster** ('rɪŋˌmɑ:stə*) *nc* the man in charge of activities in a circus ring. **ring road** a road that goes round a town instead of through it.

ring[2] 1 *vt* cause (a bell) to send out a sound. *vi* 2 (of a bell) send out a sound. 3 make a clear, echoing sound like that of a bell: *ringing laughter.* 4 (of a place, building, etc.) echo with sound; be filled with continuing sound. 5 *infml, chiefly Brit vti* telephone. **ring** (or **phone**) **back** make a telephone call to (someone) who has telephoned you earlier. **ring off** end a telephone conversation. **ring** (or **phone**) **up** make a telephone call to (someone). • *nc* 1 an act of ringing; a sound made in this way: *Give the doorbell a ring.* 2 *infml, chiefly Brit* a telephone call: *I'll give you a ring.* 3 *nu* a sound like that of a bell: *the ring of voices singing.*

ringworm ('rɪŋˌwɜɪm) *nu* a contagious skin disease caused by a fungus infection.

rink (rɪŋk) *nc* a place in or outside a building, that has been covered with a layer of ice for skating.

rinse (rɪns) *vt* get rid of soap, etc., from (clothes, hair, etc., just washed) with clear, clean water. • *nc* 1 an act of rinsing. 2 a substance used to colour hair while it is wet. **rinse out** get rid of unwanted substances by rinsing.

riot ('raɪət) *nc* 1 a loud and violent disturbance made by a crowd of people. 2 a spectacular show: *a riot of colour.* 3 (of a person) very amusing, fun to be with: *She's a riot, isn't she?* • *adj* of or to do with a riot: *riot police.* • *vi* take part in a riot. **riotous** ('raɪətəs) *adj* likely to stir up a riot; (of behaviour) without control: *riotous laughter.*

rip (rɪp) 1 *vt* tear (something), esp. in a rough, uneven way. 2 *vi* (of something) be torn in this way. • *nc* a torn place.

ripe (raɪp) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of fruit, grain, etc.) ready to be eaten or used. 2 arising from full development of body or mind: *ripe judgement.* 3 ready; suitable.

ripen ('raɪpən) *vti* make or become ripe: *The apples ripen in the sun.*

ripple ('rɪpəl) *nc* 1 a small wave. 2 a gentle, faintly-heard or felt movement: *a ripple of sound; a ripple of laughter.* • *vti* (cause to) move in ripples.

rise (raɪz) *vi* 1 get up (from a chair, bed, etc.). 2 move up into a higher position or level: *The sun rose; smoke rising from chimneys.* 3 reach a higher rank or position: *He's risen in the world!* 4 increase: *rising prices.* 5 (of land) slope upward. 6 **revolt** (def. 1). • *nc* 1 an increase in something: *a rise in temperature.* 2 a move up in pay, rank, or position. 3 a small hill or sloping ground. **give rise to** cause; suggest. **rise to the occasion** show you are well able to deal with a difficult or unexpected situation, etc.

risen ('rɪzən) past participle of **rise.**

risk (rɪsk) *vt* dare to do something even if it puts (your life, money, etc.) in danger: *He risked everything he had to help us.* • *ncu* (a source of) danger, trouble, etc. **at (a person's) own risk** taking responsibility for yourself, your property, etc., having been warned of certain risks. **take risks** act, even though there are risks in doing so. **risky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** full of risks.

rite (raɪt) *nc* a solemn act or traditional ceremony: *the marriage rite.*

ritual ('rɪtʃuəl) *ncu* actions taken in a particular situation: *African birth and death rituals are different from European ones.* • *adj* of or to do with ritual: *ritual suicide.*

rival ('raɪvəl) *nc* a person who wants the same thing as another or who is taking part in the same race, competition, etc.: *They were rivals for her love.* • *adj* being a rival: *rival teams.* • *vt* be equal to or as good as. **rivalry** ('raɪvəlrɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** active competition.

river ('rɪvə*) *nc* 1 a long, wide, natural stream of water, usually flowing into the sea. 2 any large, steady flow: *A river of people flowed over the border.* **riverbank** ('rɪvəbæŋk) *nc* the land along each side of a river. **river blindness** See **onchocerciasis.**

rivet ('rɪvɪt) *nc* a small metal pin used to fasten pieces of metal together and flattened with a hammer when this is done. • *vt* 1 fasten with rivets. 2 fix firmly: *His eyes were riveted to the film on television.*

rivulet ('rɪvjulɪt) *nc* a small river.

road (rəʊd) *nc* 1 a wide way or large street with a hard man-made surface for the use of traffic. 2 your way or direction: *You're in my road; a road to ruin.* **road-block** ('rəʊdblɒk) *nc* something put across a road to stop traffic. **roadside** ('rəʊdsaɪd) *nc,*

adj (at) the edge of a road: *a roadside café.* **roadworks** ('rəudwɜ:ks) *n pl* a place where the road is being repaired, etc., by workmen. **roadworthy** ('rəud,wɜ:ðɪ) *adj* (of a vehicle) fit to be used on the roads.

roam (rəʊm) 1 *vi* wander. 2 *literary vt* walk about in an aimless way with no fixed purpose: *roam the green hills.*

roar (rɔ:*) 1 *vi* make a loud, deep, rough sound: *The traffic roared along the motorway; He roared in pain.* 2 *vt* say (something) loudly: *He roared an order to the soldiers.* • *nc* a deep, loud, rough sound. **roaring** *adj* quick and active: *roaring trade.* • *adv infml* noisily and greatly: *roaring drunk.*

roast (rəʊst) *vt* 1 cook (meat, etc.) inside an oven or over a hot fire. 2 warm yourself (perhaps too much) in the sun or in front of a hot fire. • *nc* a piece of roasted meat.

rob (rɒb) *vt* 1 steal something from (a person or place), esp. by force: *rob a bank.* 2 take away from (a person) or prevent them from having something that is due to them: *robbed of all pleasure in life by his illness.* **robber** ('rɒbə*) *nc* a person who robs. **robbery** ('rɒbərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (an instance of) robbing.

robe (rəʊb) *nc* 1 a long, loose garment: *a bath robe.* 2 a long, loose garment worn by an important person on a great occasion.

robin ('rɒbɪn) *nc* also **robin redbreast** a small, brown bird marked with red on its breast: see picture at **birds.**

robot ('rəʊbɒt) *nc* 1 a machine built to carry out some human activities: see picture. 2 a person who works or behaves as if without normal feelings. 3 (in South Africa) a traffic light.

robot

robust (rəʊ'bʌst) *adj* 1 strong and healthy. 2 strongly made or built.

rock[1] (rɒk) 1 *ncu* (a type of) a hard mass of stone: *rocks formed by dead sea creatures.* 2 *nc* a large piece of stone separated from a mass: *Rocks fell onto the road.*

rock[2] *vti* (cause to) move from side to side. • *nc* a rocking movement.

rock[3] also **rock-'n'-roll** *nu* popular music with a strong, regular rhythm played esp. on guitars, for dancing to. • *vi* dance to this music.

rocket ('rɒkɪt) *nc* 1 a tube-like device filled with gunpowder, etc., used as a firework, signal, etc. 2 a space vehicle. • *vi* go up high and quickly, like a rocket: *Prices are rocketing again.*

rocky ('rɒkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered in rocks; as hard as rock. 2 *infml* not steady; likely to fall.

rod (rɒd) *nc* a thin, straight stick of wood, metal, etc.: *a fishing rod.*

rode (rəʊd) past tense of **ride.**

rodent ('rəʊdənt) *nc* a small animal with very sharp teeth, such as a mouse or rat.

rodeo ('rəʊdɪəʊ, rəʊ'deɪəʊ) *chiefly US nc* a cowboy show in which wild horses are ridden, cattle caught with long ropes, etc.

roe[1] (rəʊ) *nu* the eggs of a fish.

roe[2] *nc, pl* **roes** or **roe** a small red-brown deer of Europe and Asia.

rogue (rəʊg) *nc* 1 a dishonest person, esp. a man. 2 (playful use) a mischievous person or child. • *adj* very different from others of its kind; behaving strangely.

role (rəʊl) *nc* 1 the part taken by an actor in a play. 2 a person's usual duty or activity: *What is your role in the family?*

roll (rəʊl) 1 *vti* (cause to) move along by turning over and over, round and round, or travelling on wheels. *vt* 2 make, esp. into a ball or cylinder, by turning over and over: *roll a cigarette.* 3 make flat by rolling something heavy over. *vi* 4 move from side to side: *rolling about with laughter.* 5 go smoothly: *rolling along in the car.* • *nc* 1 anything rolled up into the shape of a cylinder: *a roll of camera film; bread roll; sausage roll.* 2 a deep, echoing sound: *a roll of thunder.* 3 an official list of names. 4 a rolling or unsteady movement. **roll in** *infml* come in large quantities or numbers. **roll up** *infml* arrive.

roller ('rəʊlə*) *nc* a device of metal, wood, etc., in the shape of a cylinder, usually as part of a machine: *a paint roller; a garden roller to flatten grass.*

rolling ('rəʊlɪŋ) *adj* rising and falling in gentle slopes: *rolling hills.* **rolling-pin** ('rəʊlɪŋpɪn) *nc* a kitchen tool, often of wood, used for rolling pastry, etc., flat.

Roman ('rəʊmən) *adj* of or to do with Rome. • *nc history* a citizen of the Roman Empire. **Roman Catholic** (often shortened to **Catholic**) *nc* a member of the Christian Church of which the pope is the head. • *adj* of or to do with the Roman Catholic Church. **Roman numeral** a sign used by the Romans, and still sometimes in use today, to stand for a

number: *I, II, III are the Roman numerals for 1, 2, 3.*

romance (rəʊˈmæns) *nc* 1 a love affair between a man and a woman. 2 a story, film, etc., that deals with love and adventure, esp. in a way that is not like real life; *nu* the kind of literature made up of such stories. 3 *ncu* a fanciful idea of something based on imagination, not on truth. • *vi* add untrue details to an account or story to make it more interesting. **romantic** (rəʊˈmæntɪk) *adj* of or to do with romance.

romp (rɒmp) *vi* 1 (esp. of children) play and jump about, esp. in a rather rough way. 2 win or succeed easily: *Our team romped home at five goals to one.* • *nc* a time of romping.

roof (ruːf) *nc* 1 the top outside covering of a building, car, etc. 2 a house: *live under the same roof.* • *vt* provide or cover with a roof. **roofing** (ˈruːfɪŋ) *nu* the material used for building a roof. **rooftop** (ˈruːftɒp) *nc* a roof.

rook[1] (rʊk) *nc* a large black bird: see picture at **birds.**

rook[2] *n* See **castle** (def. 2).

room (ruːm) *n* 1 *nc* one of the parts with walls, a floor, and a ceiling into which a building is divided. *nu* 2 space not already filled: *Is there room for three in your car?* 3 opportunity for action: *There's still room for improvement.* • *vi* live in a room, esp. one that is rented. **roommate** (ˈruːmmeɪt) *nc* a person with whom you share a room or flat.

roomy *adj* **-ier, -iest** with much space: *a roomy house; a roomy cupboard.*

roost (ruːst) *nc* a place, branch, etc., where birds, esp. hens, sit and rest or sleep. • *vi* rest or sleep in this way.

rooster (ˈruːstə*) *chiefly US nc* a male hen; cock.

root[1] (ruːt) *nc* 1 the underground part of a plant or tree that provides it with minerals and water. 2 the most necessary part, cause, or beginning of anything. 3 *grammar* a word from which other words can be made by adding beginnings and endings: *'Change' is the root of 'unchangeable'.* 4 *mathematics* a number which gives another number when multiplied by itself a certain number of times: *4 is the square root of 16.* • *vti* (of plants, etc.), (cause to) send out roots and grow. 2 (of ideas, feelings, etc.), (cause to) be made firm: *It was rooted in his mind that you were evil.* • *adj* having or grown for roots: *a root crop.* **root hair** *botany* one of the fine hairs on the root of a plant which absorbs water, etc., **root nodule** *botany* a swelling on the root of a leguminous plant caused by nitrogen fixing bacteria.

root[2] *vi* 1 search for, moving things about and turning them over. 2 (followed by **out**) find.

rope (rəʊp) *ncu* (a piece of) thick, strong string made esp. of plant fibres or pieces of wire twisted together. • *vt* fasten with a rope. **know the ropes** understand the rules, the way things are done, etc., in a particular activity.

rosary (ˈrəʊzərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** (in the Roman Catholic Church) a set of prayers counted on a string of beads.

rose[1] (rəʊz) past tense of **rise.**

rose[2] 1 *nc* a plant, usually with sharp points on its stem, bearing beautiful sweet-smelling flowers: see picture at **flowers.** 2 *ncu* a (shade of) pinkish-red colour. • *adj* pinkish-red. **rosehip** See **hip**[2].

rosette (rəʊˈzet) *nc* a rose-shaped ornament made of ribbons given as a prize or worn as a badge: see picture.

rosette

rostrum (ˈrɒstrəm) *nc* a raised part of the floor on which a person stands to give a public speech.

rosy (ˈrəʊzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** of a pinkish-red colour.

rot (rɒt) 1 *vti* (cause to) decay from natural causes, becoming rotten or useless: *rotting leaves.* 2 *vi* become weak or come to an end through lack of action, use, etc. • *nu* 1 decay. 2 *Brit, slang* nonsense: *Don't talk such rot!*

rota (ˈrəʊtə) *nc* a list of the names of people who take it in turn to do a certain duty: *a housework rota.*

rotary (ˈrəʊtərɪ) *adj* 1 turning round in a circle. 2 (of a machine) working with such a movement.

rotate (rəʊˈteɪt) *vti* 1 (cause to) turn round in a circle. 2 (cause to) follow one thing after another in order. **rotation** (rəʊˈteɪʃən) 1 *nu* rotating or being rotated. 2 *nc* an example of this movement.

rotor (ˈrəʊtə*) *nc* the part of a machine that turns round and round, esp. a group of such parts fitted together to drive a helicopter.

rotten ('rɒtən) *adj* 1 decayed. 2 *infml* very unpleasant; bad.

rough (rʌf) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of a surface) not smooth; not even. 2 not calm; uncontrolled: *a rough sea; rough, noisy children.* 3 done quickly and without much detail, esp. as a preparation to being done properly: *a rough drawing.* 4 harsh; sharp: *a rough voice; rough manners.* 5 not exact; about right: *Have you a rough idea of the cost?* • *adv* in a rough way. • *vt* make a rough plan or drawing of. **in rough** not exactly. **rough it** *infml* put up with or live under harsh conditions. **roughage** ('rʌfɪdʒ) *nu* the fibre in plants that cannot be digested and helps the bowels to get rid of waste matter. **roughen** ('rʌfən) *vti* make or become rough. **roughly** *adv* 1 in a rough way. 2 about: *roughly a thousand sheep.* **roughness** *ncu* being rough.

round (raʊnd) *adj* 1 having a shape like a circle. 2 with a circular movement. 3 complete. 4 not exactly, but nearly: *a round hundred.* • *prep, adv* a less formal word for **around.** • *nc* 1 a complete, thin, flat piece of bread cut off a loaf of bread. 2 a set of drinks, visits, or activities: *a doctor's round; a round of parties.* 3 one of the parts into which a game, match, etc., is divided: *a boxing round.* 4 a song for several people to sing, each beginning to sing the tune at different times until all are singing. • *vti* 1 make or become round. 2 *vt* go around: *You see it as you round the bend in the road.* **roundabout** ('raʊndəbaʊt) *adj* not direct: *a roundabout route.* • *nc* 1 also **traffic circle** a road junction at which cars go round in a circular direction before turning. 2 See **merry-go-round. round about** 1 on all sides of. 2 very near to: *I'll see you round about six tonight.* **roundly** *adv* thoroughly. **roundness** *nu* being round. **round off** finish off in a satisfactory way. **rounds** *n pl* **go** or **make the rounds** 1 go from place to place making visits. 2 (of news, gossip, etc.) be passed around. **round-trip** *nc* a journey that finishes at the place from which it started. • *adj US* return: *a round-trip ticket.* **round up** bring or collect together. **round-up** *nc* a bringing or collecting together: *a round-up of today's news on the radio.* **roundworm** ('raʊndwɜːm) *nc* a parasitic worm that causes diseases such as river blindness and filariasis.

rounders ('raʊndəz) *Brit n pl* a ball game in which a player hits a ball and tries to run round a marked-out square before the ball is thrown back.

rouse (raʊz) *vt* 1 wake up. 2 stir or excite (someone) into some action.

rout (raʊt) *nc* 1 a complete and disorderly defeat. 2 *old-fashioned or law* a crowd of disorderly people. • *vt* defeat and cause the disorderly flight of: *rout an enemy.*

route (ruːt) *nc* a direction or way taken to get to a place. • *vt* plan the route of; make go: *They routed us around the place where the accident was.*

routine (ruːˈtiːn) *ncu* (an example of) the usual, fixed order of work or doing things: *daily routine.* • *adj* to do with routine.

row[1] (rəʊ) *nc* a number of people or things arranged in a line.

row[2] 1 *vti* move (a boat) forward by using oars. 2 *vt* take (a person or thing) in a boat with oars. • *nc* a journey in such a boat. **rowing** *nu* the sport or activity of rowing a boat with oars.

row[3] (raʊ) *infml* 1 *nc* a noisy quarrel. 2 *nu* a lot of noise. • *vi* make or have a row.

rowdy ('raʊdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** rough and noisy.

royal ('rɔɪəl) *adj* of or to do with a king or queen. **royalist** ('rɔɪəlɪst) *nc* someone who supports a king or queen, or the royal family. **royalty** ('rɔɪəltɪ) *nu* 1 a member of the royal family. 2 the position, power, etc., of a king or queen. 3 *nc, pl* **-ties** (a sum of) a part of the money made on every copy of a book, record, etc., sold which is paid to the author; such a payment to writers of plays, inventors, etc.: *a ten per cent royalty.*

rub (rʌb) 1 *vt* press on (a surface) and move something over, esp. to clean, polish, etc.: *rub your wet face with a towel.* 2 *vti* (of a surface), (cause to) press and move against another surface. • *nc* an act of rubbing. **rub down** 1 make a surface smooth or ready for painting by rubbing. 2 dry with a towel by rubbing. **rub in** 1 spread something with force so that it will be taken in through the surface. 2 *infml* keep reminding someone of (something unpleasant): *I know I made a mistake. You don't need to rub it in.* **rub out** get rid of (marks, esp. pencil marks) by rubbing.

rubber ('rʌbə*) 1 *nu* an elastic substance obtained from a milky liquid produced by some trees and used for car tyres, elastic bands, etc. 2 *nc* a piece of rubber, plastic, etc., for rubbing out pencil marks, etc.

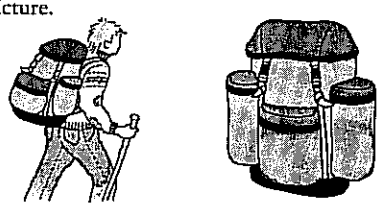
rubbish ('rʌbɪʃ) *nu* 1 waste material; useless, worthless, or unwanted things. 2 *infml* nonsense: *Don't talk such rubbish!*

rubble ('rʌbəl) *nu* pieces of broken stone, rock, etc.: *The house had been knocked down and was now just a pile of rubble.*

rubella (rʊ'belə) *nu* also **German measles** a disease producing fever, a sore throat, and tiny red spots on the skin.

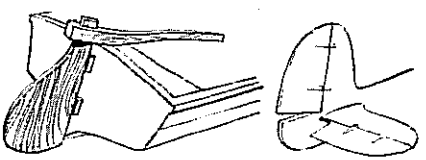
ruby ('ruːbɪ) *nc, pl* **-bies** 1 a precious stone, bright-red in colour. 2 *nu* a bright-red colour. • *adj* bright-red.

rucksack ('rʌksæk) *nc* a large bag carried on the back by means of straps, used for carrying things for a holiday on foot: see picture.



rucksack

rudder ('rʌdə*) *nc* 1 a flat, wooden, or metal device on the back of a boat or ship that is used to control the direction it takes: see picture. 2 a device to control direction on a plane: see picture.



rudder

rude (ruːd) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of behaviour) showing lack of respect; not polite. 2 roughly made: *a rude hut.* 3 in bad taste: *rude jokes.* 4 sudden and shocking: *a rude awakening.* **rudely** *adv* **rudeness** *nu* being rude.

rudimentary (ˌruːdɪ'mentərɪ) *adj* simple; not formed or developed; basic: *a rudimentary language system.*

ruff (rʌf) *nc* 1 a collar of stiff folds of material, worn in the sixteenth century. 2 long, coloured feathers or hair around the necks of some birds and animals.

ruffian ('rʌfɪən) *nc* a wicked, lawless man.

ruffle ('rʌfəl) 1 *vt* disturb (feathers, hair, a person's feelings or temper, etc.). 2 *vi* become disturbed or annoyed. • *nc* material in folds, forming part of a garment at the neck or ends of the sleeves.

rug (rʌg) *nc* 1 a floor covering, usually of wool, and smaller than a carpet. 2 a form of blanket for the legs, etc., when travelling.

rugby ('rʌgbɪ) *Brit nu* also **rugger** a game played between two teams of fifteen or thirteen players using an oval ball that may be kicked or picked up and carried by the players.

rugged ('rʌgɪd) *adj* 1 having sharp points and uneven surfaces: *rugged rocks.* 2 rough; not smooth or even: *a rugged face.*

ruin ('ruɪn) 1 *nu* the state of being completely destroyed or greatly damaged. 2 *ncu* (the cause of) something having been destroyed, damaged, or decayed. • *vt* 1 destroy. 2 take all your money: *He was ruined by the fire.* **ruins** *nu* what is left of a building, town, etc., that has been ruined. **in ruins** in a state of ruin: *The building was in ruins; Her life is in ruins.*

rule (ruːl) *nc* 1 a law or custom that controls the behaviour or activity of someone or something: *school rules; rules of mathematics.* 2 a way of doing something that is usual; habit: *He makes it a rule to take the dog for a walk every day.* 3 See **ruler** (def. 2). 4 *nu* control, esp. by the government. **as a rule** usually. **work to rule** give too much attention to rules on purpose to slow down the amount of work done. • *vti* 1 govern or control (a country, yourself, etc.): *We rule here; He rules his country badly.* 2 (of someone with the power to do so) make a decision, order, or judgement (on something). 3 *vt* make (straight lines) with a **ruler** (def. 2). **rule out** say that something is not possible, cannot be considered, etc. **ruler** *nc* 1 a person who rules (**rule** defs. 1, 2). 2 also **rule** a piece of wood, metal, etc., with a straight edge, used for drawing straight lines or for measuring if marked for this. **ruling** *adj* that rules. • *nc* a decision, judgement, etc., made by someone with the power to do so.

rum (rʌm) *nu* an alcoholic drink made from sugar.

rumble ('rʌmbəl) 1 *vi* make a deep, low sound like thunder. 2 *infml, Brit vt* understand (something that someone tried to keep hidden). • *nc* a sound like thunder: *the rumble of heavy traffic.*

ruminant ('ruːmɪnənt) *nc* zoology one of the group of animals which chews its food twice: *Sheep, goats, and cows are all ruminants.*

rummage ('rʌmɪdʒ) *vi* search, turning things over and causing disorder among them: *rummage through papers.* • *nu* such a search.

rumour ('ruːmə*) 1 *nu* talk, usually unpleasant and untrue, about the future, other people's affairs, etc. 2 *nc* a story, account, etc., that may or may not be true. • *vt* tell or spread rumour.

rump (rʌmp) *nc* 1 the back part of an

animal, nearest the tail. 2 *infml* a person's buttocks.

rumple ('rʌmpəl) *vti* (cause to) wrinkle or become untidy: *This thin material rumples easily; rumpled hair.*

rumpus ('rʌmpəs) *infml nc* a noisy disturbance.

run (rʌn) *vi* 1 move quickly, faster than walking. 2 go from one place to another: *The trains are running late; Rumours ran through the town.* 3 be spread in all directions: *The colours ran when I washed the dress.* 4 escape: *run away; Teacher's coming, we'd better run!* 5 (of an engine, etc.) go smoothly. *vt* 6 control; be in charge of: *His daughter runs the home since his wife died; to run a business.* 7 move over (a distance) by running: *run a race.* 8 *infml* take (someone) in a car: *I'll run you to the shops later.* • *nu* 1 the act of moving quicker than walking. 2 distance moved or travelled: *The town is an hour's run by car; go for a five-mile run. nc* 3 a continuous set of actions: *The play had a long run; a run of luck.* 4 a short journey or visit. 5 a space, usually with a fence, for hens, etc., to move about in: *a chicken run.* 6 *sport* a unit of scoring: *He made twenty runs.* **run across** meet by chance. **run away with** 1 take as true before there is proof: *Don't run away with that idea!* 2 steal; carry off. 3 win. **runaway** ('rʌnəweɪ) *nc* a person that runs away from justice, etc. • *adj* moving fast, esp. out of control: *a runaway train.* **run down** 1 knock down with a vehicle. 2 (of a clock, engine, etc.) come to a stop. 3 say unpleasant things about (someone or something). **run-down** ('rʌndaʊn) *infml nu* information on what has happened. • (rʌn'daʊn) *adj* weak; tired. **run into** 1 meet unexpectedly. 2 come together with force. 3 get into: *run into debt.* **run off** 1 leave hastily. 2 produce, esp. print, quickly. 3 (cause to) flow away. **run out** come to an end. **run out of** use up a supply of something: *run out of food; run out of patience.* **run over** 1 (of a vehicle) knock (a person) down. 2 spill. 3 read through quickly.

rung[1] (rʌŋ) past participle of **ring**[2].

rung[2] *nc* one of the bars that form the steps of a ladder.

runner ('rʌnə*) *nc* 1 a person or animal that runs, esp. in a race. 2 a person who carries messages: *a bank runner.* 3 a long stem of a plant that runs along the ground and puts down roots. **runner-up** (ˌrʌnə-'rʌp) *nc, pl* **runners-up** a person who finishes second in a race.

running ('rʌnɪŋ) *nu* the control or working of: *the running of a business.* • *adj* 1 moving continuously. 2 (of water) flowing. 3 done while moving fast: *a running jump.*

runway ('rʌnweɪ) *nc* a hard level surface for planes to take off from and land on.

rupture ('rʌptʃə*) 1 *ncu* (an example of) bursting or breaking apart. 2 *nc* also **hernia** a medical condition in which a tissue or organ sticks out through the wall of the body cavity that should hold it in. • *vt* 1 cause to break or burst. 2 *vi* be broken or burst.

rural ('rʊərəl) *adj* to do with the countryside.

rush[1] (rʌʃ) 1 *vi* move rapidly. *vt* 2 cause to move rapidly. 3 make a sudden attack on. 4 force (someone) to act quickly: *Don't rush me!* • *ncu* (an example of) rapid movement; sudden movement forward. **rush-hour** ('rʌʃaʊə*) *nc* a time of day when crowds of people are rushing to and from work.

rush[2] *nc* a tall, grass-like plant without leaves that grows in wet places.

rusk (rʌsk) *nc* a kind of hard biscuit; a piece of bread baked until it is brown and hard.

rust (rʌst) *nu* 1 a red-brown coating that forms on iron or steel if allowed to become wet. 2 a plant disease causing red-brown spots. • *vti* (cause to) become coated with rust. **rusty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered with rust. 2 *infml* out of practice; largely forgotten: *My French is rusty.*

rustic ('rʌstɪk) *adj* of or to do with the country or country people: *a rustic lifestyle.*

rustle ('rʌsəl) *vti* (cause to) make a low, gentle sound like dry leaves. • *nc* a sound like this: *the rustle of a heavy silk dress.*

rut (rʌt) *nc* a deep track made by a wheel, esp. in mud. **be in a rut** be in a fixed way of life, boring because it does not vary. • *vt* make ruts in.

ruthless ('ruːθlɪs) *adj* without pity; cruel. **ruthlessly** *adv*

rye (raɪ) *nu* 1 a grass-like plant that produces grain used for making flour and whisky, and as cattle-food. 2 whisky made from rye.

S

Sabbath ('sæbəθ) *nc* (in some religions) a day of worship and rest from work.

sable ('seɪbəl) 1 *nc* a small, meat-eating animal with dark brown fur. 2 *nu* its fur.

sabotage ('sæbətɑːʒ) *nc* the damage done purposely to machines, buildings, etc., by enemies in wartime, by workers not satisfied with conditions, etc. • *vt* damage or destroy in this way. **saboteur** (ˌsæbə'tɜː*) *nc* a person who sabotages.

sabre *US* **saber** ('seɪbə*) *nc* a strong sword with a curved blade.

sac (sæk) *nc* a bag-like membrane in an animal or plant.

sachet ('sæʃeɪ) *nc* a small bag, usually of plastic or waxed paper, for containing some substance: *a sachet of shampoo.*

sack[1] (sæk) *nc* 1 a large bag of strong, rough cloth for containing goods. 2 the amount a sack contains: *two sacks of coal.* • *vt infml* send (someone) away permanently from their employment: *The manager sacked him.* **the sack** *infml* being sent away permanently from your employment: *She's been given the sack; You'll get the sack.*

sack[2] *vt* steal goods, etc., from (a town, etc.) by force and violence, esp. in times of war. • *nc* (of a place) the act of sacking.

sacrament ('sækrəmənt) *nc* a religious ceremony in which it is believed that God gives to those taking part a special favour to do with the spirit: *the sacrament of baptism.*

sacred ('seɪkrɪd) *adj* 1 of or to do with God or religion. 2 solemn; causing great respect.

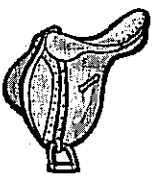
sacrifice ('sækrɪfaɪs) 1 *nu* the offering of something to a god as a sign of worship. 2 *nc* an example of this; person, animal, or thing that is offered. 3 *ncu* the giving up of something you value for a special purpose or worthy reason. 4 *nc* a thing that is given up. • *vti* 1 make an offering (to a god). 2 give up (something) you value. **sacrificial** (ˌsækrɪ'fɪʃəl) *adj*

sacrilege ('sækrɪlɪdʒ) *nu* the wrong or wicked treatment of something that is sacred or worthy of great respect. **sacrilegious** (ˌsækrɪ'lɪdʒəs) *adj*

sacrosanct ('sækrəusæŋkt) *adj* 1 very sacred. 2 *infml* to be treated with respect.

sad (sæd) *adj* **-der, -dest** feeling unhappy; causing such a feeling. **sadden** ('sædən) 1 *vt* make sad. 2 *vi* become sad. **sadly** *adv* **sadness** *nu*

saddle ('sædəl) *nc* 1 a strong, leather seat for riding on a horse: see picture. 2 a seat, usually of leather, on a bicycle, motorbike, etc. 3 a long stretch of high land that slopes at each end to a higher point. • *vt* 1 put a saddle on (a horse, etc.). 2 put a heavy responsibility on (someone): *After the flood, he was saddled with the job of providing shelter for everyone.* **saddlebag** ('sædəlbæg) *nc* a small bag fixed to the saddle of a bicycle, horse, etc.



saddle

sadistic (sə'dɪstɪk) *adj* taking pleasure in being cruel. **sadism** ('seɪdɪzəm) *nu* **sadist** ('seɪdɪst) *nc* a sadistic person.

safari (sə'fɑːrɪ) *ncu* a long journey over one or more countries, esp. to hunt wild animals in Africa.

safe (seɪf) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 protected from danger or harm. 2 not dangerous: *a safe place to swim.* 3 that can be trusted. 4 not hurt. • *nc* a special box in which money or things of value are locked away for safety. **safeguard** ('seɪfgɑːd) *nc* something that gives protection. • *vt* protect. **safely** *adj* **safety** ('seɪftɪ) *nu* being safe; freedom from danger or injury. **safety belt** See **seat belt** under **seat. safety pin** a pin that bends and fastens under a piece of metal that covers the point.

saffron ('sæfrən) *nu* 1 an orange substance obtained from the flowers of the autumn crocus in order to colour food, sweets, etc. 2 an orange colour.

sag (sæg) *vi* 1 sink in, esp. in the middle: *a sagging bed.* 2 hang unevenly. 3 become tired or weak; lose courage: *Her spirits sagged.*

saga ('sɑːgə) *nc* 1 an old, long story of brave actions, esp. of great people in Norway or Iceland. 2 a long story, esp. one told in several books, about a family, etc. 3 *infml* a long account of some experience.

sagacious (sə'geɪʃəs) *adj fml* wise; having good judgement. **sagacity** (sə'gæsɪtɪ) *nu fml* good judgement; ability to see clearly with the mind.

sage[1] (seɪdʒ) *nc* a wise man.

sage[2] *nu* a plant, the grey-green leaves of

which are used in cooking to give more taste to food.

said (sed) past tense and past participle of **say**.

sail (seɪl) *nc* 1 a large piece of strong cloth spread out in a certain position to catch the wind and move a boat, etc., forward. 2 a journey on water, esp. for pleasure. • *vi* 1 travel in a boat, etc. 2 (of a ship) move over water. 3 *vt* control a boat or ship. (**set**) **sail for** start a journey by water. **sailing** *nu* the activity of controlling or travelling in a boat with sails. **sailor** ('seɪlə*) *nc* a seaman; person who sails.

saint (seɪnt *Brit* unstressed as a title sənt) *nc* 1 a holy person, esp. one now dead. 2 *infml* a person deserving praise. **saintly** *adj*

sake (seɪk) *nc* 1 the good, benefit, advantage, or interest (of someone or something). 2 a purpose; aim. **for the sake of** for the advantage or help of; in order to obtain (something): *He would do anything for his sister's sake.*

salaam (sə'lɑːm) *nc* a form of greeting used in countries of the East, esp. by Muslims.

salad ('sæləd) 1 *nu* uncooked vegetables, often flavoured with oil, vinegar, etc., eaten with cold meat, eggs, etc., or with a hot meal. 2 *nc* a dish of this.

salary ('sælərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a fixed payment made, usually each month, to a person in regular, esp. professional, employment.

sale (seɪl) 1 *nu* the act of selling. *nc* 2 an example of this; amount sold. 3 an event when goods are sold at lower prices than usual. 4 a public event when goods are sold to those offering the most money for them. **for** or **on sale** that can be bought. **salesclerk** ('seɪlzklɑːk) (often shortened to **clerk**) *nc US* a shop assistant. **salesman** *nc, pl* **-men, saleswoman** *nc, pl* **-women** a person who sells goods.

saline ('seɪlaɪn) *adj* containing salt.

saliva (sə'laɪvə) *nu* the liquid that is naturally produced in the mouth.

sallow ('sæləʊ) *adj* (of the skin) of an unhealthy, yellow-white colour.

salmon ('sæmən) 1 *nc* a large fish hunted for sport and for food: see picture at **fish.** *nu* 2 its dark pink flesh used for food.

salmonella (sælmə'nelə) *nu* a kind of bacteria that causes disease.

saloon (sə'luːn) *nc* 1 a public room in a ship, hotel, etc. 2 *US* a place where alcoholic drink is sold and drunk.

salt (sɔːlt) *nu* also **sodium chloride** a white, powder-like substance found in seawater and added to food to give it flavour or prevent it from going bad. • *vt* add salt to (food) to give it flavour or to prevent it from going bad. **saltwater** ('sɔːlt,wɔːtə*) *adj* of the sea. **salty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** containing or tasting of salt.

saltpetre (,sɔːlt'piːtə*) *nu* a compound of potassium and nitrogen, used as a fertiliser, or to stop food going bad; potassium nitrate.

salutary ('sæljʊtərɪ) *adj* having a good effect: *salutary advice.*

salutation (,sæljʊ'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* a greeting or welcome. 2 *nc* an action or words used to express a greeting.

salute (sə'luːt) 1 *vt* give (someone) a greeting or welcome. 2 *vi* make a salute. • *nc* 1 an action used in welcome. 2 (of a soldier) an action, such as the raising of the right arm, used to show respect.

salvage ('sælvɪdʒ) *nu* 1 the saving of goods from being destroyed or lost. 2 the goods saved. 3 the payment made for saving goods. • *vt* save from damage or loss.

salvation (sæl'veɪʃən) *nu* 1 saving or being saved. 2 the person or thing that saves. 3 the saving of someone's soul from everlasting punishment. **Salvation Army** a body of people that spreads the Christian religion and helps the poor.

same (seɪm) *adj* 1 not different: *We went back home the same way we had come.* 2 exactly alike. 3 being the one that is mentioned: *The same thing happened again the next day.* • *nu* something that is not different or not changed. • *adj* in the same way. **all** or **just the same** in spite of that; however. **at the same time** 1 together; at once. 2 however; yet. **be all the same to** make no difference to, be of no real importance to. **sameness** ('seɪmnɪs) *nu* 1 being the same. 2 being boring because of always being the same.

sample ('sɑːmpəl) *nc* an example; small part of something meant to show what the rest of it is like. • *vt* take a sample of; try (something) to test it.

sanctify ('sæŋktɪfaɪ) *vt* make sacred or holy.

sanctimonious (,sæŋktɪ'məʊnɪəs) *adj* pretending that you are very holy or very religious.

sanction ('sæŋkʃən) 1 *nu* the right or permission to do something. 2 *nc* the punishment given to a country by others for breaking an international agreement. 3 *nu* the support of certain behaviour, etc., by custom. • *vt* allow; agree to.

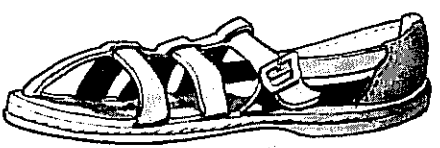
sanctity ('sæŋktɪtɪ) *nu* sacredness; holiness.

sanctuary ('sæŋktjʊərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a holy place. 2 a place that gives protection to people in trouble or danger. 3 *nu* the

protection or freedom given. 4 *nc* a place where, by law, animals can live and breed in safety.

sand (sænd) 1 *nu* a loose substance made up of many tiny pieces of broken rock, found on the seashore, in deserts, etc. 2 also **sands** the wide and open area of the seashore or desert. **sandbag** a sack filled with sand, used with others to form a barrier against flooding, etc. **sandbank** ('sændbæŋk) *nc* a long, raised mass of sand that is usually beneath the surface of the water. **sandpaper** ('sænd,peɪpə*) *nu* strong paper with sand fixed to it, used for rubbing surfaces to make them smooth. • *vt* also **sand** rub or make smooth with sandpaper. **sandstone** ('sændstəʊn) *nu* stone or rock made up of sand grains tightly pressed together. **sandstorm** ('sændstɔːm) *nc* a strong wind that stirs up sand and blows it around. **sandy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered with, containing, or consisting of sand. 2 (esp. of hair) yellow-red.

sandal ('sændəl) *nc* a kind of open shoe held onto the foot with leather straps: see picture.



sandal

sandwich ('sænwɪdʒ) *nc* two pieces of bread, usually buttered, with meat, cheese, etc., between them. • *vt* put or press (someone or something) between two others, leaving hardly any space. **sandwich course** a course of study in which some time is spent at college or university and some at work, in industry or business.

sane (seɪn) *adj* 1 not mad. 2 having or showing good sense.

sang (sæŋ) past tense of **sing.**

sanguine ('sæŋgwɪn) *adj* 1 hopeful; expecting the best. 2 having a red face.

sanitary ('sænɪtərɪ) *adj* 1 clean; free from germs. 2 of or to do with the protection of health. **sanitary towel** a pad of cloth that takes in liquid, worn by a woman during her monthly loss of blood.

sanitation (,sænɪ'teɪʃən) *nu* the planning and putting into practice of ways to protect the health of the public.

sanity ('sænɪtɪ) *nu* 1 being sane. 2 good sense.

sank (sæŋk) past tense of **sink.**

Santa Claus ('sæntə,klɔːz) *n* also **Father Christmas** an imaginary old man with a white beard and red clothes who is believed by children to bring their Christmas presents.

sap[1] (sæp) *nu* the liquid that moves around in a plant keeping it alive and healthy. **sapling** ('sæplɪŋ) *nc* a young tree.

sap[2] *vt* 1 weaken the walls of (a fort, etc.) by digging tunnels underneath them. 2 weaken (a person's strength, beliefs, etc.).

sapele (sə'piːlɪ) *nc* a tree that grows in Africa: (also *nu*) the hard wood of this tree, used to make furniture, etc.

sapphire ('sæfaɪə*) 1 *nc* a bright-blue precious stone. 2 *nu* the bright-blue colour of a sapphire.

sarcasm ('sɑːkæzəm) *nu* words used in order to hurt the feelings, esp. by using a certain tone of voice to show you mean the opposite of what you say. **sarcastic** (sɑː'kæstɪk) *adj* of or using sarcasm. **sarcastically** *adj*

sardine (sɑː'diːn) *nc* a small sea-fish, often packed in tins to be preserved until eaten.

sari ('sɑːrɪ) *nc* the dress of an Indian woman that consists of a long piece of silk or cotton cloth wrapped round the body.

sash[1] (sæʃ) *nc* the frame of a window that opens by sliding over another.

sash[2] *nc* a long, broad strip of silk, etc., worn round the waist or over one shoulder.

sat (sæt) past tense and past participle of **sit.**

Satan ('seɪtən) *n* the Devil.

satchel ('sætʃəl) *nc* a leather or cloth bag with a long strap, esp. for carrying schoolbooks.

satellite ('sætəlaɪt) *nc* 1 a heavenly body moving in a certain line or path round a planet: *the satellites of Jupiter.* 2 a man-made object put into space to move round the earth, etc., for a purpose: *a communications satellite:* see picture.

satellite

satiate ('seɪʃɪeɪt) *vt* 1 fill; satisfy. 2 cause to have too much of something: *satiate yourself with food.*

satin ('sætɪn) *nu* silk material, one side of which is smooth and shiny.

satire ('sætaɪə*) *ncu* a play, novel, etc., that ridicules the foolishness or evil of certain ideas, subjects, etc. **satirical** (sə'tɪrɪkəl) *adj* of or containing satire. **satirist** ('sætərɪst) *nc* a person who writes satire.

satisfaction (ˌsætɪsˈfækʃən) *nu* 1 satisfying or being satisfied; something that satisfies. 2 something done or given to put right a wrong done: *He demanded satisfaction.* **satisfactorily** (ˌsætɪsˈfæktərɪlɪ) *adj* **satisfactory** (ˌsætɪsˈfæktərɪ) *adj* 1 adequate or suitable. 2 that gives pleasure or satisfaction.

satisfy (ˈsætɪsfaɪ) *vt* 1 give (someone) what they want or need. 2 give pleasure or satisfaction to. 3 be accepted as enough or suitable for what you want or need. 4 make free from doubt: *This information satisfies me that the man is guilty.* **satisfied** *adj* pleased; content: *I'm not satisfied with your work.* **satisfying** *adj* that provides what is wanted or needed: *a satisfying meal.*

saturate (ˈsætʃəreɪt) *vt* 1 make completely wet. 2 cause to be filled with or to take in as much as possible: *saturated with knowledge.* **saturation** (ˌsætʃəˈreɪʃən) *nu*

Saturday (ˈsætədɪ) *nc* the seventh day of the week, after Friday and before Sunday.

sauce (sɔːs) *nu* 1 a liquid with a sharp or sweet taste, cooked with or added to food. 2 *nc* an example of this. 3 *nu infml* disrespectful talk or behaviour. **saucy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** disrespectful in a playful way; rude.

saucepan (ˈsɔːspən) *nc* a deep pan with a long handle, and sometimes a lid, in which food is cooked.

saucer (ˈsɔːsə*) *nc* a small, round dish on which a cup is placed.

saunter (ˈsɔːntə*) *vi* walk without hurrying. • *nc* a slow, unhurried walk.

sausage (ˈsɒsɪdʒ) *nc* a tube of skin containing very small pieces of meat mixed with other substances to add taste.

savage (ˈsævɪdʒ) *adj* 1 in an uncivilised state: *a savage tribe.* 2 cruel: *a savage temper.* 3 wild: *savage animals.* • *nc* 1 a person who belongs to a savage tribe. 2 a very cruel person. • *vt* attack and cause injury: *The child was savaged by the dog.* **savagely** *adj* **savagery** (ˈsævɪdʒərɪ) *nu* the state of being savage; savage action.

savanna (also **savannah**) (səˈvænə) *nc* a piece of flat, grassy country with few trees in a hot part of the world.

save[1] (seɪv) *vt* 1 rescue or protect from danger, trouble, or harm. 2 keep (money, etc.) for future use. 3 prevent from being lost or wasted: *He caught the bus instead of walking in order to save time.* 4 (in Christianity) make safe from everlasting punishment for sin. • *nc* the act of preventing a point being made by stopping a kicked ball in football, etc. **savings** (ˈseɪvɪŋz) *n pl* money that has been kept aside for future use.

save[2] *prep fml or old-fashioned* except.

saviour *US* **savior** (ˈseɪvɪə*) *nc* a person who saves or sets free someone or something.

savour *US* **savor** (ˈseɪvə*) *vt* enjoy the taste of, esp. in an unhurried way. • *nc* the taste and smell of something.

savoury *US* **savory** (ˈseɪvərɪ) *adj* 1 pleasing to the taste or smell. 2 salty or spicy; not sweet. • *nc, pl* **-ries** *chiefly Brit* a savoury dish or snack.

saw[1] (sɔː) past tense of **see**[1].

saw[2] *nc* a tool with a blade that has a toothlike edge, used for cutting wood, etc.: see picture at **tools.** • *vt* 1 cut (wood, etc.) with a saw. 2 *vi* (of wood, etc.) be cut with a saw. **sawdust** (ˈsɔːdʌst) *nu* very small bits of wood that fall when it is being sawn. **sawmill** (ˈsɔːmɪl) *nc* a building in which saws are worked by machinery. **saw off** saw (a piece of wood) from a larger piece. **saw up** saw (wood) into pieces.

sawn (sɔːn) past participle of **saw**[2].

saxophone (ˈsæksəfəʊn) (*infml abbrev.* **sax**) *nc* a musical instrument of metal that produces sound when blown.

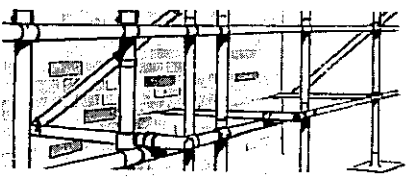
say (seɪ) *vt* 1 speak (a word, etc.). 2 express (an idea, thought, etc.) in words. 3 *vi* give an opinion about something: *I don't want to say. vt* 4 suppose: *It is said to be very old.* 5 show: *The clock says one.* • *nc* a right to speak, give an opinion, take part in a decision, etc.: *The staff should have a say in how the money is spent.* **be hard to say** be difficult to give an opinion. **that is to say** in other words. **saying** (ˈseɪɪŋ) *nc* a well-known expression; group of words commonly used together.

scab (skæb) *nc* a mass of dried blood formed over an injury or sore.

scabbard (ˈskæbəd) *nc* a container for the blade of a sword.

scabies (ˈskeɪbiːz) *nu* a kind of skin disease that causes much itching.

scaffold (ˈskæfəʊld) *nc* 1 a frame put up round a building that is being built or repaired. 2 a raised wooden platform on which criminals used to be put to death. **scaffolding** (ˈskæfəldɪŋ) *nu* the materials used for a frame put round a building being built or repaired: see picture.



scaffolding

scald (skɔːld) *vti* burn with hot liquid or steam. • *nc* a burn on the skin caused by scalding. **scalding** *adj* extremely hot.

scale[1] (skeɪl) *nc* one of the thin, hard plates, each partly over the other, that cover the skin of a fish, snake, etc. **scaly** *adj* covered with scales.

scale[2] *nc* 1 a set of marks at regular spaces for measuring. 2 a tool, ruler, etc., marked in this way. 3 the relation between the real size of something and a map, plan, etc., of it. 4 a system of things arranged in order, in classes, steps, etc.: *the social scale; scale of wages.* 5 a group of musical notes, esp. a set of eight, arranged in order of highness or lowness. 6 a relative amount, step, etc.: *Our house is built on a rather small scale in comparison with theirs.* • *vt* 1 make or draw a copy of (something) in relation to something else. 2 (followed by **up** or **down**) increase or decrease in size, etc., in proportion.

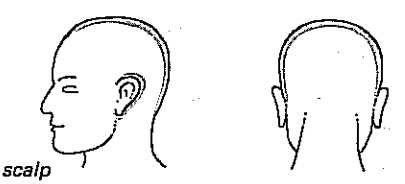
scale[3] *vt* climb up, esp. to the top: *scale a mountain.*

scalene ('skeɪliːn) *adj mathematics* (of a triangle) having all sides of different lengths.

scales (skeɪlz) *n pl* a machine or device for weighing.

scallop ('skɒləp) *nc* a kind of shellfish with a hard, fan-shaped shell.

scalp (skælp) *nc* the skin of the head, from which the hair grows: see picture.



scalp

scalpel ('skælpəl) *nc* a short, sharp knife used by a surgeon.

scamper ('skæmpə*) *vi* (esp. of children and small animals) run quickly.

scan (skæn) *vt* 1 look at very carefully, examining every part: *scan someone's face.* 2 look at quickly and not very carefully: *scan the contents of a book.* 3 examine the beat of (a line of poetry) by dividing it up into units. 4 *vi* (of a line of poetry) be examined in this way. • *nc* an example of scanning or being scanned, esp. by a special machine in a hospital: *a brain scan.*

scandal ('skændəl) 1 *nu* foolish or wrong behaviour that shocks the public. 2 *nc* a shameful action. **scandalise** ('skændəlaɪz) *vt* shock. **scandalous** *adj* that causes shock.

scant (skænt) *adj* almost not enough. **scanty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** small; not large enough.

scapegoat ('skeɪpgəʊt) *nc* a person who takes the blame for another person's wrong behaviour.

scar (skɑː*) *nc* a mark left on the body where there has been an injury in the past; mark left on anything through past damage. • *vt* 1 mark with a scar. *vi* 2 be marked with a scar. 3 form a scar.

scarce (skeəs) *adj* **-r, -st** difficult to get or find, because not enough for everyone: *Fresh vegetables are scarce in the winter.* **scarcely** *adv* only just; not quite. **scarcity** ('skeəsɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the state of being scarce. *nc, pl* **-ties** 2 an example of this. 3 a time when something is scarce.

scare (skeə*) 1 *vt* frighten. 2 *vi* become frightened. • *nc* (something that causes) a sudden feeling of fear. **scarecrow** *nc* a figure made out of sticks and old clothes put in a field to frighten birds away from eating the crop. **scared** *adj*

scarf (skɑːf) *nc* a long, narrow piece of cloth or a square piece of cloth folded diagonally, worn round the neck, head, or shoulders for warmth or decoration.

scarlet ('skɑːlət) *adj* bright-red. • *ncu* a bright-red colour. **scarlet fever** a disease that causes a fever and scarlet marks on the body.

scary ('skeərɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml* causing fear.

scathing ('skeɪðɪŋ) *adj* that makes someone or something seem to be of no value or not worthy of respect: *a scathing remark; a scathing attack.*

scatter ('skætə*) *vt* 1 throw about in various places. 2 send in different directions. 3 *vi* go or be sent in different directions.

scavenger ('skævɪndʒə*) *nc* an animal that feeds on flesh that is going bad or on waste food.

scenario (sɪ'nɑːrɪəʊ) *nc* 1 the story of a film, play, etc. 2 what might happen if a situation develops in a certain way.

scene (siːn) *nc* 1 the place of a real or imaginary action or event. 2 a view; anything spread out to be seen. 3 an outburst of feelings: *The child made a scene when her mother told her to go to bed.* 4 the painted view, picture, etc., at the back of the stage in a theatre. 5 one of the parts into which a play, film, etc., is divided. **behind the scenes** 1 not in front of the audience. 2 not generally known about. **scenery** ('siːnərɪ) *nu* 1 the general, natural appearance of a district. 2 the painted view, furniture, etc., used on the stage in a

play. **scenic** ('si:nɪk) *adj* having scenery or views that are pleasing to look at: *a scenic route.*

scent (sent) 1 *nu* a smell, esp. a pleasant one: *the scent of roses.* *nc* 2 a particular smell. 3 a pleasant-smelling liquid made from flowers, etc.; perfume: *a bottle of scent.* 4 the smell left by an animal that other animals can follow. • *vt* 1 find out, or begin to find out, that something is present or exists: *scent danger.* 2 put perfume on. **scented** ('sentɪd) *adj* having a perfumed smell.

sceptic *US* **skeptic** ('skeptɪk) *nc* a person whose habit is to distrust people and things. **sceptical** *US* **skeptical** ('skeptɪkəl) *adj* doubtful; in the habit of doubting beliefs, etc. **scepticism** *US* **skepticism** ('skeptɪˌsɪzəm) *nu*

sceptre *US* **scepter** ('septə*) *nc* a staff carried by a ruler as a sign of power and used on grand occasions.

schedule ('ʃedju:l *US* 'skedʒʊəl) *nc* a list, esp. one showing at what times events will take place. • *vt* put in a schedule; make a schedule of: *The procession is scheduled to begin at two o'clock.* **ahead of schedule** in front of the planned time. **behind schedule** later than the planned time. **on schedule** at the right, planned time.

scheme (ski:m) *nc* 1 a careful plan for work or an activity. 2 a careful arrangement of parts that go well together. 3 a secret and dishonest plan. • *vi* make a plan, esp. a dishonest one.

schizophrenia (ˌskɪtsəʊ'fri:nɪə) *nu* an illness of the mind in which a person believes that what they imagine is true. **schizophrenic** (ˌskɪtsəʊ'frenɪk) *nc* a person who suffers from schizophrenia. • *adj* of, to do with, or suffering from schizophrenia.

scholar ('skɒlə*) *nc* 1 a person with great learning, esp. in old languages and literature. 2 *old-fashioned* a schoolchild. 3 a student who is chosen, after examination, etc., to receive a scholarship. **scholarly** *adj* showing much learning. **scholarship** ('skɒləʃɪp) 1 *nu* the learning obtained by much studying. 2 *nc* the money given to a student likely to succeed to help them to continue learning. **scholastic** (skə'læstɪk) *adj* of or to do with schools, scholars, or education.

school[1] (sku:l) *nc* 1 a building in which children are educated. 2 one of the several colleges that form part of a university. 3 all the children and teachers of a school: *The whole school is on holiday.* 4 the time during which the children are taught: *School finishes at 4.30.* 5 a group of people who admire or copy a certain painter, etc.; group who have the same ideas, style, etc. • *vt* teach; control. **schoolboy** ('sku:lbɔɪ), **schoolchild** ('sku:ltʃaɪld) *pl* **schoolchildren,** or **schoolgirl** ('sku:lgɜ:l) *nc* a boy or girl at school. **schoolhouse** ('sku:lhaʊs) *nc* 1 a small school building, esp. one in a village. 2 a house joined onto a school building. **schooling** ('sku:lɪŋ) *nu* education. **schoolmaster** ('sku:lˌmɑ:stə*) or **schoolmistress** ('sku:lˌmɪstrɪs) *nc old-fashioned* a man or woman who teaches in a school. **schoolteacher** ('sku:lˌti:tʃə*) *nc* a person who teaches in a school.

school[2] *nc* a large group of fish swimming together.

schooner ('sku:nə*) *nc* a kind of sailing-ship.

sciatic (saɪ'ætɪk) *adj anatomy* 1 of or to do with the hip. 2 of or to do with a nerve that runs down the back of the leg. **sciatica** *nu medicine* very bad pain in the sciatic nerve.

science ('saɪəns) 1 *nu* the knowledge obtained from the discovery, examination, and testing of facts. 2 *ncu* a branch of such knowledge. **science fiction** books, films, etc., dealing with imaginary scientific happenings, esp. in space. **scientific** (ˌsaɪən'tɪfɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with science. 2 making careful use of a knowledge of science. **scientifically** *adj* **scientist** ('saɪəntɪst) *nc* a person who studies or is an expert in science.

scion ('saɪən) *nc* a shoot of a plant that is used in grafting.

scissors ('sɪzəz) *n pl* also **pair of scissors** two crossed blades with ring-shaped handles, joined in the middle, used for cutting paper, fabric, etc.: see picture.

scissors

sclerosis (sklɪə'rəʊsɪs) *nu* the hardening or thickening of one of the parts or tissues of the body, such as the liver or the wall of an artery.

scoff (skɒf) 1 *vi* talk to or laugh at someone with scorn. 2 *vt infml* eat greedily.

scold (skəʊld) *vti* speak angrily and sharply to (someone); find fault with (someone).

scone (skɒn, skəʊn) *nc* a small, flat cake made from flour.

scoop (skuːp) *nc* 1 a deep, spade-like tool with a short handle used for taking up sugar, flour, etc.; deep spoon-like tool with a long handle for taking up liquids, etc. 2 the action of or an action like that of a scoop. 3 *infml* an important piece of news first given in one newspaper, or on one radio or television station, before all the others. • *vt* 1 lift up with or as if with a scoop. 2 make (a hole) with or as if with a scoop.

scooter ('skuːtə*) *nc* 1 a child's toy with two wheels, moved along by pushing one foot against the ground. 2 a kind of motorbike with small wheels.

scope (skəup) *nu* 1 the opportunity to make full use of something. 2 the range of thought, action, or observation (on a subject, etc.): *the scope of an inquiry.*

scorch (skɔːtʃ) 1 *vt* burn the surface of (something) slightly so as to change the colour or cause pain. 2 *vi* (of the surface) be slightly burnt. **scorching** *adj infml* very hot.

score (skɔː*) 1 *vti* win (a point, goal, etc.) in a sport or game. *vt* 2 make cuts or marks in or on (a surface). 3 make a piece of music suitable for particular instruments or voices. • *nc* 1 a point, goal, etc., won in a game or sport. 2 twenty; group of twenty. 3 a cut or mark made on a surface. 4 written or printed music in which the instruments or voices are shown what to play or sing. **on that score** on that particular subject or point. **scoreboard** ('skɔːbɔːd) *nc* a board on which the points, etc., won in a sport are recorded. **scorer** *nc* a person who keeps a record of the points, etc., made in a game or contest.

scorn ('skɔːn) *vt* 1 treat without respect. 2 refuse to do (something), considering it worthless. • *nu* 1 a feeling of disrespect. 2 something or someone considered worthless. **scornful** ('skɔːnful) *adj* feeling or showing scorn. **scornfully** *adv*

scorpion ('skɔːpɪən) *nc* a small creature of the spider group with poison in its tail.

scoundrel ('skaundrəl) *nc* 1 a wicked person; wrongdoer. 2 (playful use) a mischievous child.

scour[1] ('skauə*) 1 *vt* clean (a surface) by rubbing. 2 *vi* (of a surface) be cleaned by rubbing.

scour[2] 1 *vi* go along quickly, esp. looking for something. 2 *vt* search all over.

scourge (skɜːdʒ) *nc* 1 a whip for beating someone as a punishment. 2 someone or something that causes great harm.

scout (skaut) *nc* a person, ship, or plane sent ahead to get information about the enemy. **Scout** *nc* a member of the Scouts, an international organisation that helps boys to develop skills and responsibility. **scout around** search around or look for.

scowl (skaul) *nc* an angry frown. • *vi* frown angrily; look bad-tempered.

scramble ('skræmbəl) *vi* 1 climb, crawl, or move, esp. with haste. 2 struggle with others or take part in a competition to get something. 3 *vt* beat up (eggs) and cook them, esp. with butter and milk. • *nc* 1 a climb, etc., over difficult ground. 2 a struggle with others to get something.

scrap[1] (skræp) 1 *nc* a small piece. 2 *nu* waste material. • *vt* throw away as unwanted or useless. **scrapbook** ('skræpbuk) *nc* a book of blank pages in which to fix pictures, pieces cut from newspapers, etc.

scrap[2] *infml nc* a fight or argument. • *vi* fight; argue.

scrape (skreɪp) *vt* 1 make (a surface) smooth or level by moving a rough or sharp edge over it: *The hungry child scraped his plate clean.* 2 cause a scratch or injury to (a surface): *scrape your knee.* 3 *vi* move near and along something so as to touch it or almost touch it. • *nc* 1 the act or sound of scraping. 2 *infml* a difficult situation. 3 a scraped place. **scraper** *nc* a tool for scraping paint, etc., from a surface. **scrape through** pass (an examination), but only just.

scratch (skrætʃ) *vt* 1 make long, thin marks on (a surface) with something pointed or with nails or claws. 2 scrape (the skin) with the nails to relieve an itch. 3 cause (a part of your body) to be marked with something pointed or rough: *I scratched my hand on the thorns.* • *nc* 1 a mark, sound, or injury made by scratching. 2 *nu* the act of scratching. **start from scratch** start from the very beginning. **up to scratch** of the quality wanted; good enough. **scratch out** draw a line through (a word or words) to cancel them. **scratch the surface** not get deeply into a subject. **scratchy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** that scratches.

scrawl (skrɔːl) *vti* write or draw in a careless or hurried way. • *ncu* (a piece of) careless handwriting.

scream (skriːm) 1 *vi* give a loud, sharp cry to show fear or pain. 2 *vt* speak or shout in a loud, sharp voice. • *nc* a loud, sharp cry or sound.

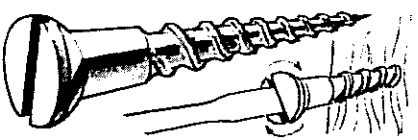
scree (skriː) *nu geography* stones and small pieces of rock at the bottom of a hill: see picture.

scree

screech (skriːtʃ) 1 *vi* make a loud, sharp noise: *screech with laughter*. 2 *vt* scream in a sharp or frightening way. • *nc* such a cry or noise.

screen (skriːn) *nc* 1 a frame, sometimes able to be moved or folded, covered with cloth, paper, etc., used to hide or protect someone or something; anything used to protect or shelter. 2 the surface onto which a cinema film falls or on which a television picture, information from a computer, etc., is seen. 3 a frame with a net put over an opening to keep out insects: *a window screen*. • *vt* 1 hide; protect; shelter. 2 examine (someone's character) to see if they are suitable for a job, etc.

screw (skruː) *nc* 1 a nail-like device with a slotted head and a spiral thread that is fixed into wood, etc., by twisting it round and round: see picture. 2 a twisting movement; turn. • *vt* 1 fasten with a screw. 2 twist round, like a screw: *screw the lid on tightly*. **screwdriver** ('skruːˌdraɪvə*) *nc* a tool with a flat end that fits into the head of a screw to turn it: see picture at **tools.**



screw

scribble ('skrɪbəl) *vti* write in a careless, hurried, or meaningless way. • *ncu* (a piece of) careless or hurried handwriting.

scribe (skraɪb) *nc* a person who wrote out copies of important papers, etc., esp. before printing was invented.

script (skrɪpt) 1 *nu* handwriting, not printing; letters used in writing by hand. 2 *nc* the written text of a play, film, etc.

scripture ('skrɪptʃə*) *nc* a holy book or piece of writing.

scroll (skrəul) *nc* a roll of paper, skin, etc., for writing on; ancient book in such a form. • *vti* move (text) up, down, or across a computer screen.

scrotum ('skrəutəm) *nc* the part of the male body that contains the testicles.

scrounge (skraʊndʒ) *vti infml* (try to) get (something) without having to pay or work for it, esp. by asking someone to give it to you.

scrub[1] (skrʌb) 1 *vt* rub (a surface) hard, esp. with soap, water, and a brush, to clean it: *scrub the floor*. 2 *vi* (of a surface) be cleaned by rubbing hard with a brush, etc. • *nc* 1 an act of scrubbing. 2 a thorough wash: *Give your face a scrub!* **scrubbing brush** a brush for scrubbing floors, etc.

scrub[2] *nu* dry land with trees and bushes not fully or properly grown because of little rain.

scruffy ('skrʌfɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person, their clothes, etc.) dirty and untidy in appearance.

scruple ('skruːpəl) 1 *nu* doubt as to whether something is morally right. 2 *nc* (usually *pl*) such a feeling. • *vi* be uncertain because of scruples. **scrupulous** ('skruːpjʊləs) *adj* 1 very careful to do what is morally right. 2 giving much care and attention to details. **scrupulously** *adv*

scrutinise ('skruːtɪnaɪz) *vt* examine very carefully. **scrutiny** ('skruːtɪnɪ) *ncu, pl* **-nies** a very careful examination.

scuffle ('skʌfəl) *vi* take part in a confused fight. • *nc* such a fight.

sculptor ('skʌlptə*) *nc* a person who makes models of people, animals, and things out of stone, metal, etc.

sculpture ('skʌlptʃə*) 1 *nu* the art of making figures or designs from stone, metal, etc. 2 *nc* an example of such work. • *vt* also **sculpt** (skʌlpt) 1 carve out of stone, etc. 2 *vi* be a sculptor.

scum (skʌm) *nu* dirt that comes to the surface of a liquid, esp. after it has been boiled; dirt on the surface of still water.

scurry ('skʌrɪ) *vi* hurry. • *nu* the act or sound of scurrying.

scurvy ('skɜːvɪ) *nu* a skin condition caused by lack of vitamin C which occurs in fresh fruit and vegetables.

scuttle[1] ('skʌtəl) *nc* also **coal scuttle** a container for coal kept by the fireside.

scuttle[2] *vi* hurry, esp. from trouble or danger.

scuttle[3] *vt* sink (a ship) on purpose by letting in water through openings or cutting holes in the bottom.

scythe (saɪð) *nc* a tool with a curved blade and a long handle used for cutting grass, etc.: see picture at **tools.** • *vt* cut with a scythe.

sea (siː) 1 *nu* the mass of saltwater on most of the surface of the earth; not land or freshwater. 2 *nc* a particular piece of sea.

at sea 1 in a ship, etc., on the sea. 2 in a confused state of mind. **by sea** in a ship, etc. **go to sea** become a sailor. **put to sea** set off on a journey by sea. **seaboard** ('siːbɔɪd) *nc chiefly US* the land that borders the sea; coast. **seafaring** ('siːfeərɪŋ) *adj* working or travelling on the sea. **seafood** ('siːfuːd) *nc* shellfish or sea-fish suitable for eating. **sea-going** ('siː,gəʊɪŋ) *adj* (of ships) built for travelling long distances at sea. **seagull** ('siːgʌl) *nc* a common sea-bird, usually white, with long wings. **sea level** the level of the sea's surface between high tide and low tide. **seaman** ('siːmən) *nc, pl* **-men** 1 an ordinary sailor, not an officer. 2 a person who has much knowledge of ships, etc. **seaport** ('siːpɔːt) *nc* a place from which ships leave and to which they return; town situated at such a place. **seashell** ('siːʃel) *nc* the empty shell of a small sea-animal. **seashore** ('siːʃɔː*) *nc* the land on the edge of the sea. **seasick** ('siːsɪk) *adj* made sick by the movement of a ship, etc., at sea. **seaside** ('siːsaɪd) *nu* a place by the sea, esp. one to visit for a holiday. • *adj* of or to do with the seaside. **sea urchin** a small sea-animal with many sharp points on its shell. **seaward** ('siːwʊd) *adj* towards the sea. **seawater** ('siːwɔːtə*) *nu* water in or from the sea. **seaweed** ('siːwiːd) *ncu* kinds of plants that grow in or near the sea.

seal[1] (siːl) *nc* 1 a piece of wax with a special mark on it used to fasten a letter, packet, etc. 2 any device used to close tightly. 3 an act or event that gives a solemn promise or agreement. • *vt* 1 close (a letter, etc.) with a seal of hot wax. 2 close (an envelope) by sticking down the flap. 3 close tightly, esp. so that no air, water, etc., can enter or leave. 4 make a decision that cannot be changed: *His fate was sealed.* **seal off** close (a piece of land, etc.) so that it cannot be entered.

seal[2] *nc* a large sea-animal that eats fish and is hunted for its skin: see picture at **animals.** **sealskin** ('siːlskɪn) *ncu* the skin of a fur seal.

seam (siːm) *nc* 1 the line where two pieces of cloth, etc., are joined together by stitches. 2 a line of coal, metal, etc., lying between level layers of rock. • *vt* 1 join together (two pieces of cloth) with a seam. 2 cover with lines: *His face was seamed with old age.*

sear (sɪə*) *vt* burn or scorch the surface of (something). **searing** ('sɪərɪŋ) *adj* burning: *a searing pain.*

search (sɜːtʃ) 1 *vt* look carefully through, in, or at (something) to find someone or something. 2 *vi* examine or look closely in order to find. • *ncu* the act of searching. **in search of** looking for; trying to find. **searching** *adj* thorough. **searchlight** ('sɜːtʃlaɪt) *nc* a device that throws out a powerful light in a particular direction. **search party** a group of people who go in search of someone who is missing: *A search party was sent out when the climbers failed to return.*

season ('siːzən) *nc* 1 one of the parts into which the year is divided, according to the weather, such as spring or summer. 2 the time of year when something particular happens: *the football season; rainy season.* • *vt* 1 make (wood, etc.) fit for use. 2 *vi* (of wood, etc.) become fit for use. 3 *vt* add salt, etc., to (food) to make it tastier. **in** or **out of season** (esp. of fruit, vegetables, etc.) able or not able to be obtained. **seasonal** ('siːzənəl) *adj* happening at a certain season of the year. **seasoning** ('siːzənɪŋ) *ncu* salt, pepper, etc., used to add taste to food. **season ticket** a ticket that the owner can use as often as they like on a particular journey for a certain period of time.

seat (siːt) *nc* 1 a piece of furniture made for sitting on; any place on which to sit. 2 the part of the body or of a chair, etc., on which you sit. 3 a place for which you have paid to sit: *two theatre seats.* 4 the place where something is or where something happens: *the seat of government.* • *vt* 1 cause to sit down: *be seated.* 2 have enough seats for: *How many does the bus seat?* **seat belt** also **safety belt** a belt worn in a car or plane to protect from harm if an accident should occur.

sebaceous (sɪ'beɪʃəs) *adj* producing an oily, greasy, or fatty substance: *the sebaceous glands in the skin.*

secede (si'siːd) *vi* (of a person, group, etc.) formally cease to be a member of. **secession** (sɪ'seʃən) *ncu*

seclude (sɪ'kluːd) *vt* keep apart from other people. **secluded** *adj* kept away from other people or other places: *a secluded garden.* **seclusion** (sɪ'kluːʒən) *nu*

second[1] ('sekənd) *adj* 1 the next after the first in order, time, etc. 2 extra; another: *a second chance.* • *nc* 1 a person or thing that comes next after the first. 2 (in a boxing-match, etc.) a person who attends to one of the fighters. **second-best** (,sekənd'best) *adj* of second, not best, quality. **second-class** (,sekənd'klɑːs) *adj* 1 (of a class) second in quality, etc., to the best or first: *a second-class seat in a train.*

2 of poor quality, value, etc. **second-hand** (ˌsekənd'hænd) *adj* owned or known about by someone else first. **secondly** *adv* also. **second-rate** (ˌsekənd'reɪt) not of the best quality. **second thoughts** See **thought²**. **Second World War** See **World War II** under **world.**

second² *nc* 1 one of the sixty parts into which a minute is divided. 2 *infml* a very short time; moment.

second³ (si'kɒnd) *Brit vt* move (a person, such as an army officer) from their usual duty to another one. **secondment** *ncu*

secondary ('sekəndərɪ) *adj* not of the first importance; coming after. **secondary school** a school that children attend after the age of eleven.

secrecy ('siːkrəsɪ) *nu* being secret; not telling about something secret; habit or keeping things secret.

secret ('siːkrɪt) *adj* 1 that is not to be told to others; known only to a few. 2 (of a place) hidden; not known about by many. • *nc* 1 something secret. 2 a reason or explanation that is not easily seen: *the secret of her success.* **in secret** without others knowing. **keep a secret** not tell a secret to others. **secret agent** a person whose business is to try and get secret information about another country. **secretive** ('siːkrɪtɪv) *adj* not telling others about your plans, feelings, etc. **secretly** *adv* **Secret Service** a department of the government that gathers and deals with information about enemies, etc.

secretary ('sekrətərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a person who assists their employer in business affairs by doing office work, typing, arranging meetings, etc. 2 someone who is in charge of the writing and answering of letters, etc., for an organisation. **General Secretary** (in some organisations, esp. the trade unions) the person in charge. **Secretary-General** (in some organisations) the person in charge: *the Secretary-General of the United Nations.* **Secretary (of State)** a person who is head of one of the government departments: *the Secretary of State for Defence; the Foreign Secretary.* **secretarial** (ˌsekrə'teərɪəl) *adj* of or to do with the work of a secretary.

secrete (sɪ'kriːt) *vt* 1 produce (a substance) for use in the body. 2 hide or keep in a secret place. **secretion** (sɪ'kriːʃən) 1 *nu* actions in the body that cause certain substances to be given out. 2 *nc* such a substance.

sect (sekt) *nc* a group of people who have the same religious beliefs that are in some ways different from the usual ones.

section ('sekʃən) *nc* 1 a part of a whole; part that is cut off or separated from the whole. 2 one of the parts of a country, organisation, etc.; the people living or working in such a part. **sectional** *adj* of or to do with a section; made up of several parts.

sector ('sektə*) *nc* 1 the part of a circle between two lines drawn from the centre to the edge. 2 a part, esp. of the business affairs of a society: *the public sector of industry.*

secular ('sekjʊlə*) *adj* 1 to do with the affairs of this world, life, etc., and not with spiritual matters or religion. 2 (of priests, etc.) not living in a monastery.

secure (sɪ'kjʊə*) *adj* 1 safe from danger, anxiety, fear, etc. 2 firmly fixed or fastened; not likely to fail: *Make sure the ladder is secure.* • *vt* 1 make firm, safe, or well-fastened. 2 *fml* obtain, esp. with difficulty. **securely** *adv* **security** (sɪ'kjʊərɪtɪ) 1 *nu* safety; protection. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that makes safe or free from anxiety, fear, etc. 3 *ncu* something of value given to someone as a promise that money they have lent, or a duty done, will be repaid. 4 *nc* a printed paper to show that you own shares, etc.

sedate (sɪ'deɪt) *adj* calm and serious in behaviour. • *vt* give (someone) a sedative. **sedation** (sɪ'deɪʃən) *nu* the use of sedatives to make someone calm: *under sedation.*

sedative ('sedətɪv) *nc* a medicine given to someone who is very nervous in order to make them calm. • *adj* having a calming effect.

sedentary ('sedəntərɪ) *adj* 1 done sitting down: *sedentary work.* 2 in the habit of not taking much exercise. 3 not moving.

sediment ('sedɪmənt) *nu* matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid. **sedimentary** (ˌsedɪ'mentərɪ) *adj* of, like, or containing sediment: *sedimentary rocks.* **sedimentation** (ˌsedɪmen'teɪʃən) *nu* the production of sediment.

seduce (sɪ'djuːs) *vt* 1 persuade (someone) to do something wrong. 2 persuade (someone) to have sexual relations with you. **seduction** (sɪ'dʌkʃən) *ncu* **seductive** (sɪ'dʌktɪv) *adj* seducing; tempting. **seductively** *adv*

see¹ (siː) 1 *vi* use your eyes: *A blind man cannot see. vt* 2 notice (someone or something) by using your eyes: *Can you see him in the crowd?* 3 understand: *I see what you mean.* 4 visit: *He came to see us yesterday.*

5 meet in order to talk: *Have you seen your lawyer about it yet?* 6 *vi* find out from something written or printed: *He saw from the newspaper that the bad weather was expected to continue.* 7 *vti* (often followed by **to it**) make sure: *She saw (to it) that the door was properly locked.* 8 *vt* know or experience. **see about** 1 deal with. 2 inquire into. **seeing that** as; because: *Seeing that it's raining, we'll stay at home.* **see off** say goodbye to (someone) about to leave on a journey. **see through** 1 not be deceived by. 2 continue with (something) until it is finished. **see to** deal with.

see² *nc* the district under the control of a bishop in the Christian Church.

seed (siːd) *nc* the part of a plant that produces new plants. • *vt* 1 put or plant in the ground. 2 remove seeds from (fruit, etc.). 3 *vi* (of a plant) produce seeds. **seedling** ('siːdlɪŋ) *nc* a very young plant.

seek (siːk) *vt* 1 look for; try to find. 2 ask for; ask to be told: *seek help; seek information.* **seeker** *nc* a person who seeks.

seem (siːm) *vi* appear to be; look or sound as if: *He seems to be a very nice man.* **seeming** *adj* appearing to be real or true but perhaps not so. **seemingly** *adv* **seemly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of behaviour) suitable or proper.

seen (siːn) past participle of **see¹**.

seep (siːp) *vi* (of a liquid) pass slowly into, through, or out of.

seesaw ('siːsɔː) 1 *nc* a board supported in the middle with a seat at each end, for riding up and down. 2 *nu* an up-and-down movement. • *vi* move like this.

seethe (siːð) *vi* 1 boil. 2 (of a person) be very excited or disturbed: *seethe with anger.*

segment ('segmənt) *nc* a part, esp. one that is cut off or separated from the whole; portion. • *vti* (seg'ment) divide into segments.

segregate ('segrɪgeɪt) *vt* separate one (group) from another. **segregation** (ˌsegrɪ'geɪʃən) *nu*

seismic ('saɪzmɪk) *adj* of or to do with earthquakes. **seismograph** ('saɪzməˌgrɑːf) *nc* an instrument that shows the qualities and the distance away of an earthquake. **seismology** (saɪz'mɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of earthquakes.

seize (siːz) *vt* 1 get hold of suddenly and quickly. 2 take possession of by law. *vi* 3 understand clearly and quickly: *She seized on his idea.* 4 suddenly and eagerly make use of: *He seized on the unexpected event as an opportunity to escape.* **seizure** ('siːʒə*) 1 *nu* seizing or being seized. *nc* 2 an example of this. 3 a sudden attack of illness causing the loss of the power to feel or think.

seldom ('seldəm) *adv* not often.

select (sɪ'lekt) *vt* choose (one) as being more suitable than another. • *adj* 1 carefully chosen. 2 for specially chosen people; not for everyone. **selection** 1 *nu* the act of selecting or being selected. 2 *nc* a group of things that have been selected. **selective** (sɪ'lektɪv) *adj* careful in choosing.

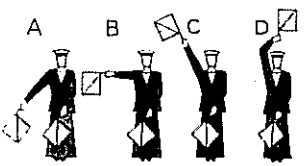
self (self) *ncu, pl* **selves** (selvz) 1 a person's nature or character; your own character. 2 your own interests, happiness, or wishes: *Always considering the needs of others, he has no thought of self.* **self-confident** (ˌself'kɒnfɪdənt) *adj* believing in yourself and in your abilities. **self-conscious** (ˌself'kɒnʃəs) *adj* being uncomfortable in the company of others. **self-contained** (ˌselfkən'teɪnd) *adj* 1 keeping your feelings to yourself. 2 (of a flat) complete in itself, not having to share a bathroom, etc., with people living in other flats. **self-control** (ˌselfkən'trəʊl) *nu* the control over your feelings or behaviour. **self-defence** (ˌselfdɪ'fens) *nu* the defence of your own body or property against attack. **self-determination** ('selfdɪˌtɜːmɪ'neɪʃən) *nu* being able to make your own decisions. **self-employed** (ˌselfɪm'plɔɪd) *adj* offering your own services for money; having your own business. **self-evident** (ˌself'evidənt) *adj* clear and plain, without need of proof. **self-governing** (ˌself'gʌvənɪŋ) *adj* 1 (of the government of a country) being controlled by the people. 2 having control of your feelings or behaviour. **self-help** (ˌself'help) *nu* the use of your own powers to get something done. **self-interest** (ˌself'ɪntrest) *nu* your own advantage or profit. **selfish** ('selfɪʃ) *adj* thinking mainly of your own needs, and not caring much for the needs of others. **selfishly** *adv* **selfishness** *nu* **selfless** ('selflɪs) *adj* having little care for your own needs. **self-made** (ˌself'meɪd) *adj* having made a success in life by your own efforts. **self-pity** (ˌself'pɪtɪ) *nu* caring too much for your own troubles. **self-respect** (ˌselfrɪ'spekt) *nu* the proper feeling that your own behaviour will cause no shame to yourself. **self-righteous** (ˌself'raɪtʃəs) *adj* thinking that you are better or more right than others. **self-same** ('selfseɪm) *adj* very same: *We both had the self-same idea!* **self-service** (ˌself'sɜːvɪs) *adj* (of a shop, restaurant, etc.) one in which people serve themselves.

self-sufficient (ˌselfsəˈfɪʃənt) *adj* not depending on help from others. **self-supporting** (ˌselfsəˈpɔːtɪŋ) *adj* able to earn enough to take care of yourself.

sell (sel) *vt* 1 give (goods) in return for money. 2 offer (goods, etc.) in return for money: *We sell all kinds of clothes. vi* 3 gain a sale; gain satisfactory sales: *Her books sell very well.* 4 (followed by **at** or **for**) have a certain price: *The car sells at £10,000.* **seller** (ˈselə*) *nc* 1 a person who sells. 2 something that is sold: *So many copies of that book have been sold that it is now a best-seller.* **sell off** sell (goods) cheaply. **sold out** having sold all your supply (of goods).

semantics (sɪˈmæntɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of the meaning of words and sentences. **semantic** *adj*

semaphore (ˈseməfɔː*) *nu* a system of sending messages by moving the arms (sometimes holding flags) to various positions, each one representing a letter: see picture.



semaphore

semblance (ˈsembləns) *nu* a likeness; appearance.

semen (ˈsiːmən) *nu* the fluid from a man or male animal that contains the sperm, which helps to produce young.

semester (sɪˈmestə*) *nc chiefly US* either of the two divisions of a university, college, etc., year.

semi-circle (ˈsemɪˌsɜːkəl) *nc* one half of a circle. **semi-circular** (ˌsemɪˈsɜːkjulə*) *adj* having the shape of a semi-circle.

semi-colon (ˌsemɪˈkəʊlən) *nc* the mark (;) used in writing and printing to separate those parts of a sentence where a longer pause is needed than that marked by a comma.

semiconductor (ˌsemɪkənˈdʌktə*) *nc* a substance that conducts electricity better when it is heated; device made of this.

semi-detached (ˌsemɪdɪˈtætʃt) *adj* (of a house) joined on one side to another house.

semi-final (ˌsemɪˈfaɪnəl) *nc* the match or round that comes just before the final one.

seminar (ˈseminɑː*) *nc* a meeting of a small group of students to discuss a subject with a teacher.

semitone (ˈsemɪˌtəʊn) *nc music* the interval between the notes B and C, or E and F; one half of a **tone** (def. 4).

senate (ˈsenət) *nc* 1 (in ancient Rome) a body of people with the highest power chosen to manage affairs of government. 2 the governing body in some universities. 3 also **Senate** a body of people chosen as lawmakers in some countries, such as Canada and the USA. **senator** (ˈsenətə*) *nc* a member of a senate.

send (send) *vt* 1 cause (someone or something) to go to some place. 2 post (a letter, etc.). 3 cause to move quickly: *The crash sent me through the car window.* 4 cause to become: *His words sent me wild with anger.* 5 pass (good wishes) to someone: *Send her my regards.* **sender** (ˈsendə*) *nc* a person or thing that sends. **send for** ask for or order (someone or something) to come. **send in** 1 cause (someone or something) to go in or enter. 2 enter (someone or something) for a competition, etc. **send off** 1 post (a letter, etc.). 2 cause (someone or something) to leave. 3 be present at the departure of (someone) to wish them a good journey, etc. **send-off** (ˈsendɒf) *nc* 1 a good beginning to an event. 2 the act of being present at someone's departure to wish them well: *They gave her a good send-off.* **send on** 1 send (something) so that it will reach a place before yourself. 2 change the address on (a letter) and post it again: *His mother sent on all his letters to his university.* **send out** 1 cause (someone) to leave, esp. a room. 2 give out; produce.

senile (ˈsiːnaɪl) *adj* weak in mind or body because of old age. **senility** (sɪˈnɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

senior (ˈsiːnɪə*) *adj* older; higher in rank. • *nc* a senior person. **seniority** (ˌsiːnɪˈɒrɪtɪ) *nu*

senna (ˈsenə) *ncu* a plant of which the dried leaves and fruit pods are used to make a laxative.

sensation (senˈseɪʃən) 1 *ncu* feeling. 2 *nu* sudden excitement: *The news caused a sensation.* 3 *nc* something that causes this excitement. **sensational** *adj* 1 causing strong feelings. 2 *infml* very good.

sense (sens) 1 *nc* one of the body's special powers—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. *nu* 2 a feeling: *a sense of warmth.* 3 a feeling in the mind or heart: *a sense of joy.* 4 use or purpose: *He saw no sense in going on.* 5 *nc* meaning: *a different sense of the word.* 6 *nu* good judgement. • *vt* feel; become aware; have the impression (that). **make sense** be able to be understood. **make sense of** understand.

senseless *adj* 1 foolish. 2 without feeling of the mind or body, as if asleep.

sensibility (ˌsensɪˈbɪlɪtɪ) *nu* the power of feeling. **sensibilities** *n pl* delicate feelings.

sensible (ˈsensɪbəl) *adj* having good judgement; not foolish; wise; useful: *the most sensible thing to do.* **sensibly** *adv*

sensitive (ˈsensɪtɪv) *adj* 1 easily affected or irritated: *a sensitive skin that burns in the sun.* 2 (of the feelings) easily hurt. 3 easily noting very small changes: *a sensitive measuring instrument.* **sensitivity** (ˌsensɪˈtɪvɪtɪ) *nu*

sensor (ˈsensə*) *nc* a device that can react to heat, light, etc., in order to give a signal, switch something on or off, etc.

sensory (ˈsensərɪ) *adj* of the senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch; of the feelings.

sensual (ˈsensjʊəl) *adj* of the pleasures of the bodily feelings, esp. sexual ones.

sensuous (ˈsensjʊəs) *adj* pleasing to, noticed by, or affecting the senses.

sent (sent) past tense and past participle of **send.**

sentence (ˈsentəns) *nc* 1 a group of words, including a verb, that together make a statement, ask a question, give an order, etc. 2 a punishment decided by a judge in a law court. • *vt* give a punishment: *The judge sentenced the man to three years' imprisonment.*

sentiment (ˈsentɪmənt) 1 *nc* a feeling of the mind, opinion, or thought on a matter. 2 *nu* a (perhaps too) tender feeling. 3 *nc* an expression of feeling. **sentimental** (ˌsentɪˈmentəl) *adj* 1 of or to do with the feelings. 2 causing, having, or showing too much feeling: *a sentimental tune.* **sentimentality** (ˌsentɪmenˈtælɪtɪ) *nu*

sentry (ˈsentrɪ) *nc, pl* **-tries** a soldier who guards a place.

sepal (ˈsepəl) *nc biology* one of the green parts on the outside of a flower bud, or under the petals of an open flower.

separate (ˈsepərət) *adj* not joined; not shared with another; apart: *separate interests; sleep in separate beds; problem with three separate parts.* • (ˈsepəreɪt) *vti* 1 (often followed by **into**) divide: *We were separated into groups.* 2 (often followed by **from** or **by**) be or make apart: *The two countries are separated from each other by a wide river.* **separately** *adv* **separation** (ˌsepəˈreɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of separating or being separated. 2 *nc* an example of this. **separatist** (ˈsepərətɪst) *nc* a member of a group in favour of separation from an organisation or country.

sepsis (ˈsepsɪs) *nu medicine* the condition of being septic.

September (sepˈtembə*) *n* the ninth month of the year, after August and before October.

septic (ˈseptɪk) *adj* of or to do with poison in the body: *a septic injury; The cut went septic.* **septic tank** a tank in which waste matter from houses, etc., is broken down by bacteria.

septicaemia (ˌseptɪˈsiːmɪə) *nu medicine* a disease caused when bacteria, etc., enter the bloodstream; blood poisoning.

sequel (ˈsiːkwəl) *nc* 1 that which results from something happening earlier. 2 a story, film, etc., that follows on with the same story from an earlier one.

sequence (ˈsiːkwəns) 1 *nu* the coming of one thing after another. 2 *nc* a series of things that follow each other: *a sequence of numbers; a sequence of events.*

sequin (ˈsiːkwɪn) *nc* a small, round, shiny piece of plastic or metal used to decorate clothes, etc.

serenade (ˌserəˈneɪd) *nc* a piece of music to be played or sung outside in the evening, esp. by a lover. • *vt* play or sing a serenade to (someone).

serene (sɪˈriːn) *adj* peaceful and calm: *a serene smile.* **serenely** *adv* **serenity** (sɪˈrenɪtɪ) *nu*

sergeant (ˈsɑːdʒənt) *nc* 1 an army officer. 2 a police officer.

serial (ˈsɪərɪəl) *nc* a story, play, etc., appearing in parts in a magazine, on television, etc. • *adj* of or to do with a series. **serialise** (ˈsɪərɪəˌlaɪz) *vt* make (a book, etc.) into a serial.

series (ˈsɪəriːz) *nc* a group of things, events, etc., each connected in some way to the other and usually arranged in order: *a television series on politics.*

seringa (səˈrɪŋgə) *nc* a tree that grows in Africa, with graceful branches and poisonous berries.

serious (ˈsɪərɪəs) *adj* 1 thoughtful; solemn: *a serious person.* 2 needing careful thought: *a serious problem.* 3 important because dangerous: *a serious illness; in serious trouble.* 4 sincere. 5 lacking a sense of humour or fun. **seriously** *adv* **seriousness** *nu*

sermon (ˈsɜːmən) *nc* a speech that teaches on religious matters, esp. one given by a Christian priest in church.

serpent (ˈsɜːpənt) *nc literary* snake.

serrated (səˈreɪtɪd) *adj* having tooth-like cuts on the edge, like a saw.

serum (ˈsɪərəm) *nu* 1 the clear, yellowish, liquid part of the blood. 2 this liquid, taken from the blood of an animal that

has been made free from a disease, put into a person to prevent them getting the disease seriously by giving them a weak form of it.

servant ('sɜːvənt) *nc* 1 a person who is paid to do housework in the home of their employer. 2 someone who works for a government or other public organisation: *a public servant.* 3 a person who uses their work as an opportunity to serve others.

serve (sɜːv) *vti* 1 deal with customers in a shop, restaurant, etc., by selling them goods, taking their orders, bringing their food, etc. 2 be suitable or useful for: *This car no longer serves my needs. vt* 3 work as a servant to. *vi* 4 be a servant. *vti* 5 work for, esp. give your loyalty to: *serve your country.* 6 (often followed by **out** or **up**) prepare (a meal) and give it out: *Breakfast in this hotel is served between 7 and 9 a.m.* 7 (often followed by **up**) offer (food) that has been prepared in a particular way: *The apple-pie was served up with ice cream.* **it serves (someone) right** it is someone's own fault and they do not deserve any sympathy: *He failed the exam.—It serves him right, he did hardly any work for it.* **serving** *nc* a portion of food.

service ('sɜːvɪs) *nc* 1 an act done to help others. 2 a system that supplies a public need: *a bus service.* 3 a government department; people who work for this department: *the Civil Service.* 4 a fixed form of religious worship: *a burial service.* 5 a complete set of dishes: *a dinner service.* 6 (esp. of a car, aircraft, etc.) a general repair or making fit for further use. *nu* 7 the way of dealing with customers: *poor service.* 8 being a servant; position and work of a servant: *She was in service for many years.* 9 working for an organisation, etc.; being in the army, navy, or air force. **the Services** the army, navy, and air force. • *vt* repair or make fit for use; *service a car.* **at your service** ready to help you. **serviceable** ('sɜːvɪsəbəl) *adj* 1 strong and solid: *a pair of serviceable boots.* 2 useful. **service charge** the money paid for help given, added to the bill at a restaurant, etc. **service station** a place that provides petrol and often repair work, etc., for road vehicles.

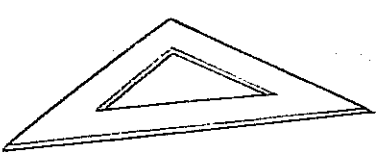
servitude ('sɜːvɪtjuːd) *nu* the condition of being a slave; being forced to work for others.

sesame ('sesəmɪ) *nc* a plant that is grown for its seeds, which are used to make oil and to add flavour to bread: *sesame seeds; sesame oil.*

session ('seʃən) *nc* 1 a meeting of a court of law, parliament, etc.; set of such meetings. 2 any single meeting of a group of people for some purpose. 3 *chiefly US* a university term.

set (set) 1 *vt* put into a place or condition: *set food on the table.* 2 *vi* (of the sun, etc.) go down in the evening. 3 *vti* turn from a liquid state to a solid state. *vt* 4 cause (someone or something) to be in a certain condition: *The house was set on fire.* 5 (make a clock, etc.) show the right time. 6 put back or fix in the right position: *set a broken leg; have your hair set.* 7 show; offer: *The quality of his work set an example to everyone.* 8 *vi* be put back or fixed into the right position. • *nc* 1 a number of people or things that belong together or are grouped together: *He is in the top set for science; set of tools; tea set.* 2 a device that sends or receives radio waves, etc.: *a television set.* 3 the furniture, background, etc., used for a play, film, etc.; scenery. 4 fixing of the hair by a hairdresser. • *adj* fixed: *set ideas.* **all set (to)** quite ready (to). **set about** 1 start. 2 attack. **set back** 1 place away from. 2 move back. 3 delay. **setback** ('setbæk) *nc* something that gets in the way of progress. **set down** 1 put down. 2 write down. **set in** be likely to continue: *The rain seems to have set in for the night.* **set off** 1 begin a journey. 2 (esp. of events, explosions, etc.) cause. **set out** 1 (often followed by **for**) start on a journey. 2 arrange (things) in order to show to others: *The food was beautifully set out on the table.* 3 (often followed by the infinitive) have as a main or first aim. **set to** 1 begin working. 2 start to quarrel or fight. **set up** 1 start (a business, etc.). 2 build or place (something) in position. **set-up** ('setʌp) *nc infml* the way in which something, esp. an organisation, is arranged.

set-square ('setskweə*) *nc* a thin, flat piece of plastic or wood in the shape of a triangle, used in drawing plans for technical work: see picture.



set-square

settee (se'tiː) *nc* a long, comfortable seat with a back and arms, for two or more people.

setting ('setɪŋ) *nc* 1 a scene; the surroundings in which something is placed: *a house in a beautiful woodland setting.* 2 the furniture, etc., used on the stage in a play.

settle ('setəl) *vti* 1 decide to live in a place, usually permanently: *He settled in London.* 2 agree; decide: *That's settled; After much discussion, they settled on a plan of action.* 3 make or become calm and not likely to change: *settled weather.* 4 *vi* sink to the bottom or come down onto a surface: *Dust had settled on the furniture.* 5 *vti* (sometimes followed by **up**) pay (a bill, etc.). 6 (followed by **for**) agree to have or accept something when that which is better cannot be obtained: *He had to settle for the less well-paid of the two jobs.* **settled** *adj* decided; fixed; not likely to change. **settle down** 1 make your home, usually permanently, in a place. 2 become calm and peaceful after some activity. **settle in** or **into** start to get used to (a new home, job, etc.). **settlement** ('setəlmənt) 1 *nu* the ending of a quarrel, etc. 2 *nc* an example of this. 3 *nu* the making of a new life in a new country. *nc* 4 a place, esp. in a new country, where people settle. 5 the land, goods, etc., given to someone for use in their lifetime. 6 a legal, printed paper giving such rights. **settler** *nc* a person who moves to a new country in order to live there permanently.

seven ('sevən) *determiner, n* the number 7. **seventh** ('sevənθ) *determiner, n, adv* **seventeen** (ˌsevən'tiːn) *determiner, n* 17. **seventeenth** (ˌsevən'tiːnθ) *determiner, n, adv* **seventy** ('sevəntɪ) *determiner, n* 70. **seventieth** ('sevəntɪəθ) *determiner, n, adv* **Seventh Day Adventist** a member of a Christian group that believes Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be soon.

sever ('sevə*) *vt* 1 cut off: *The rope had been severed.* 2 break off: *sever a friendship.* 3 *vi* be parted or broken.

several ('sevrəl) *determiner* more than two but less than many. • *adj* separate. • *pron* a few: *Several of them began to laugh.*

severe (sɪ'vɪə*) *adj* 1 without much pity for others; stern. 2 dangerous: *a severe illness.* 3 hard to do; needing much effort. 4 very plain in dress, etc. **severely** *adv* **severity** (sɪ'verɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being severe. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** an example of this.

sew (səʊ) *vti* fasten or decorate (pieces of cloth, etc.) with a needle and thread. **sewing-machine** ('səʊɪŋməˌʃiːn) *nc* a machine for sewing.

sewage ('sjuːɪdʒ) *nu* waste matter from houses or other buildings that is carried away in pipes.

sewer ('sjuːə*) *nc* a pipe, esp. one under the ground, or tunnel that takes waste matter away from a city, etc. **sewerage** ('sjuːərɪdʒ) *nc* a system of sewers.

sewn (səʊn) past participle of **sew.**

sex (seks) 1 *nu* being male or female. 2 *nc* either of the two groups, males or females. *nu* 3 (matters to do with) the physical activity between two people or two animals that can result in the production of young. • *adj* to do with sex. **sexism** ('seksɪzm) *nu* treating (a member of) one sex better or worse than (members of) the other sex; believing that one sex is better or worse than the other. **sexist** *nc, adj* **sexual** ('seksjʊəl) *adj* of the sexes or **sex** (def. 3). **sexual intercourse sex** (def. 3), esp. between a man and a woman. **sexy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml* causing or trying to cause sexual desire.

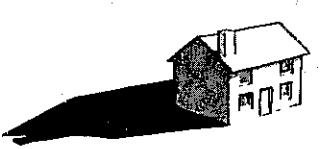
sextant ('sekstənt) *nc* an instrument used in order to set the course of a ship.

shabby ('ʃæbɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (esp. of clothes) much worn and faded. 2 wearing such clothes. 3 (of behaviour) mean.

shack (ʃæk) *nc* a small, poor, roughly-made hut.

shackle ('ʃækəl) *nc* 1 one of two metal rings on a chain for fastening a prisoner round the wrists or ankles. 2 anything of the mind or body that prevents the freedom to act. • *vt* prevent an escape or action.

shade (ʃeɪd) *nu* 1 slight darkness caused by the shutting out of some light. 2 a place made darker in this way: *He sat in the shade of a tree. nc* 3 something that shuts out some light: *a lamp-shade.* 4 strength or weakness of colour; a colour that is lighter or darker than usual. • *vt* 1 protect from direct or too much light. 2 make darker by the use of some device. 3 *vi* (of colour, etc.) be gradually made darker. 4 *vt* make (colour, etc.) gradually darker.

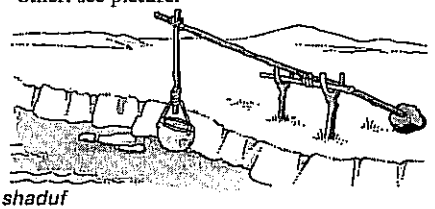


shadow

shadow ('ʃædəʊ) *nc* 1 a slightly dark place. 2 the dark shape of something thrown onto a surface when something cuts off direct light: see picture. 3 *nu* the condition of being protected from direct light. • *vt* 1 darken. 2 follow (someone)

secretly. **shadowy** *adj* 1 having a shadow or shadows. 2 not clearly seen; like a shadow.

shaduf (ʃə'du:f) *nc* a device that is used to raise water, consisting of a long pole with a bucket at one end and a weight at the other: see picture.



shaduf

shady ('ʃeɪdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 in the shade; giving shade from the sun. 2 *infml* dishonest or seeming so.

shaft (ʃɑ:ft) *nc* 1 the long, main part of an arrow, etc. 2 the long handle of a hammer or other tool. 3 one of two wooden poles by which a horse is fastened to a cart, etc. 4 a long, narrow passage for going down into a mine or for a lift in a building. 5 a long, narrow line of light.

shaggy ('ʃægɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of hair) rough; untidy. 2 having rough hair.

shah (ʃɑ:) *nc* a former ruler of Iran.

shake (ʃeɪk) 1 *vt* move (someone or something) quickly up and down or from side to side: *She shook the tablecloth to get rid of the crumbs.* 2 *vi* (of someone or something) be moved in this way. 3 *vti* tremble or cause to tremble. 4 *vt* make weaker or less firm: *shake someone's courage.* • *nc* shaking or being shaken. **shake hands** greet someone by holding their hand and shaking it. **shake off** get rid of. **shake up** 1 move (something) quickly in order to mix it well. 2 cause (someone) to be stirred up, become more active, or have a shock. 3 make very great changes in (an organisation, etc.). **shake-up** ('ʃeɪkʌp) *nc* 1 an example of having a shock or being made more active or stirred up. 2 a big reorganisation. **shaky** ('ʃeɪkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 not steady in movements. 2 unsure.

shaken ('ʃeɪkən) past participle of **shake.**

shale (ʃeɪl) *nu* a dark, soft rock formed of thin sheets of earth.

shall (ʃæl unstressed ʃəl) *v* 1 (used esp. with **I** or **we** to express the future tense): *I shall see you soon.* 2 (used with **you, he, she, it,** or **they** to express the speaker's determination): *You shall do as I say!* 3 (used in questions, esp. making a suggestion): *shall I shut the door?*

shallow ('ʃæləʊ) *adj* 1 not deep: *a shallow dish; shallow water.* 2 not going deeply into ideas, subjects, etc.: *a shallow conversation; a shallow mind.*

sham (ʃæm) *vti* pretend to be, have, or feel. • *nc* 1 a person who shams. 2 *nu* pretended behaviour. • *adj* pretended; false.

shame (ʃeɪm) *nu* 1 a feeling of sorrow, disgust, loss of self-respect, etc., caused by wrong, dishonour, failure, etc. 2 dishonour. 3 a person or thing that causes shame. 4 the power of feeling shame: *He has no sense of shame.* • *vt* cause such a feeling to (someone). **what a shame!** how disappointing! **shamefaced** (ˌʃeɪm'feɪst) *adj* looking ashamed. **shameful** *adj* deserving or causing shame. **shamefully** *adj* **shameless** *adj* without shame; not pure in behaviour, etc. **shamelessly** *adv*

shampoo (ʃæm'pu:) 1 *ncu* the washing of the hair with special soap, liquid, etc. 2 *nc* this special soap or liquid, etc. • *vt* wash (the hair).

shank (ʃæŋk) *nc* 1 the part of the leg between the knee and the ankle. 2 the part of a tool between the working end and the handle.

shan't (ʃɑ:nt) *v* shall not.

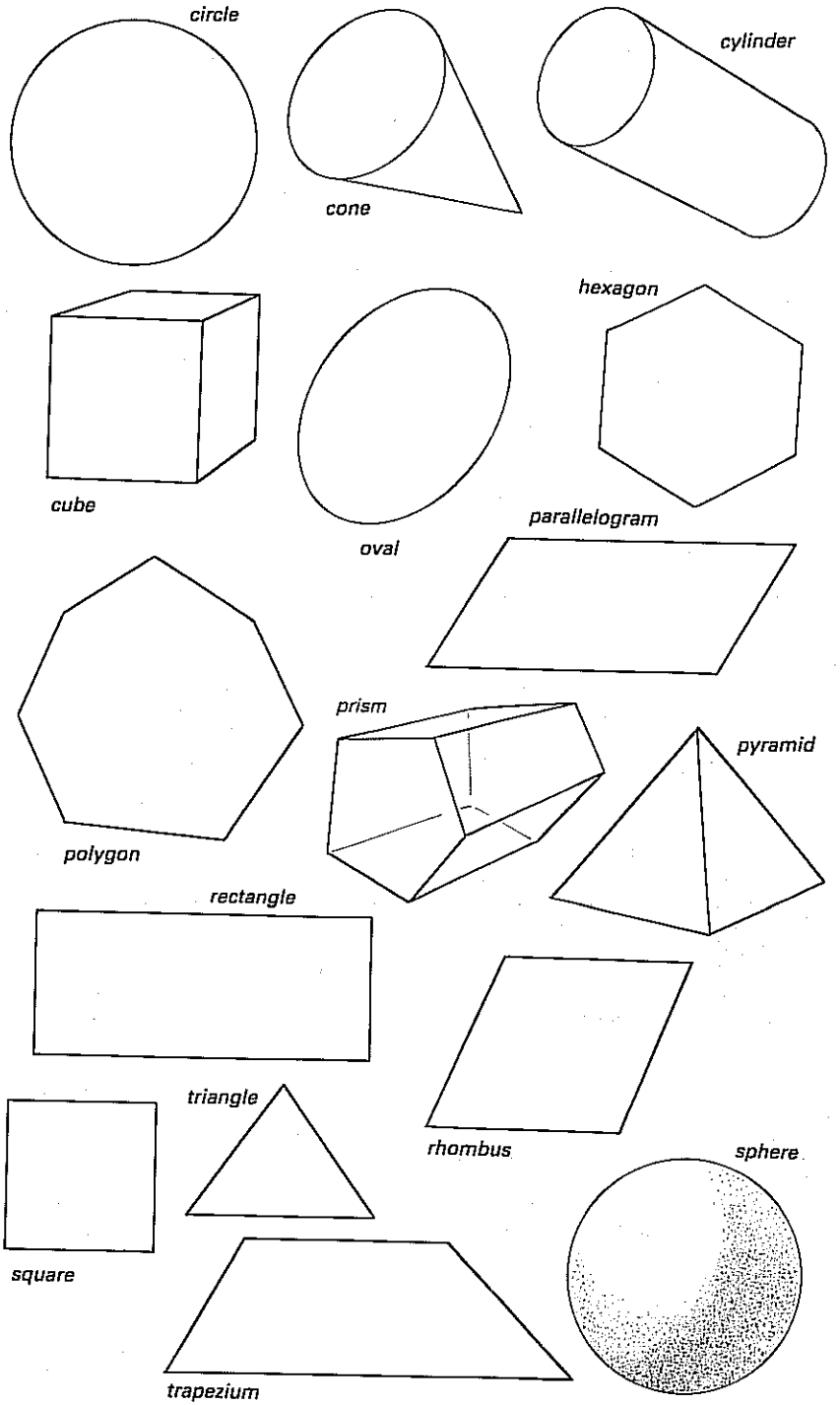
shanty ('ʃæntɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** 1 a roughly-made hut. 2 a song sung by sailors while working. **shanty town** a group of roughly-made huts where people live.

shape (ʃeɪp) *ncu* 1 form; outward appearance; outline: see picture. 2 *infml* condition. • *vt* give form to. **out of shape** 1 in an unhealthy condition. 2 not in the right shape. **take shape** become clear and certain in form: *Our plans are taking shape.* **shapeless** ('ʃeɪplɪs) *adj* without shape. **shapely** *adj* **-ier, -iest** pleasing in shape.

share (ʃeə*) *nc* 1 a part of something given or received: *I have done my share of the work.* 2 an equal part in the owning of a business company with the right to an equal share in the profits: *He owns 500 shares in the company.* • *vt* 1 give out or divide among a group of people; give away part of: *He shared his lunch with me.* 2 *vti* (often followed by **in**) give or receive a part: *We all shared in his happiness.* **shareholder** ('ʃeəˌhəʊldə*) *nc* an owner of one or more shares in a company. **share-out** ('ʃeəraʊt) *nc* giving each person, etc., a share of profits, something stolen, etc.

sharia (ʃə'ri:ə) *nu* a set of rules, etc., about the way Muslims should live.

shark (ʃɑ:k) *nc* 1 a large, fierce sea-fish. 2 a person who cheats others out of money.


circle
cone
cylinder
cube
oval
hexagon
parallelogram
polygon
prism
pyramid
rectangle
rhombus
triangle
square
sphere
trapezium

sharp (ʃɑːp) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 with an edge that cuts: *a sharp knife.* 2 coming to a fine point: *a sharp needle.* 3 stern; harsh: *sharp words.* 4 quick to see, hear, or notice: *sharp ears.* 5 changing direction suddenly: *a sharp bend in the road.* 6 giving a feeling as if you are being cut: *a sharp pain.* 7 almost sour: *a sharp apple.* 8 with clear edges; clearly marked: *This photograph isn't sharp because you moved the camera.* 9 *music* raised above the true or natural note. 10 (of a sound) on a high note: *a sharp cry of pain.* 11 not honest or fair: *sharp business practice.* • *nc music* a note that is one semitone above the natural note. • *adv* 1 exactly: *Come at six o'clock sharp.* 2 sharply: *Turn sharp left.* **sharpen** *vti* make or become sharp. **sharpener** *nc* something that sharpens: *a pencil sharpener.* **sharply** *adj* **sharpness** *nu*

shatter (ʃætə*) 1 *vti* break or be broken suddenly and violently into pieces. 2 *vt* destroy: *Our hopes were shattered.* **shattered** *adj infml* very tired.

shave (ʃeɪv) 1 *vti* cut (hair) from (the face, etc.) with a razor: *He shaved off his beard.* *vt* 2 cut (thin pieces) off (something, esp. wood) to make it smooth. 3 go very close to without touching. • *nc* shaving the face. **a close** or **narrow shave** a lucky escape from harm, danger, etc. **shaven** ('ʃeɪvən) *adj* having had hair removed from the face, etc.: *clean-shaven.* **shaver** *nc* an electric razor. **shavings** *n pl* very thin pieces of wood, cut off when making it smooth.

shawl (ʃɔːl) *nc* a piece of cloth or material worn round the shoulders or head by women.

she (ʃiː unstressed ʃɪ) *pron* 1 (used of a female person or animal): *My mother said she felt ill.* 2 (sometimes used of a ship, country, machine, etc.)

sheaf (ʃiːf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) a bundle of things tied or held together, esp. corn after being gathered from the field.

shear (ʃɪə*) *vt* cut (the wool) off (a sheep). **shears** *n pl* also **pair of shears** any of several tools like large scissors, used for shearing sheep, cutting cloth, etc.: see picture at **tools.**

sheath (ʃiːθ) *nc* a cover that fits closely, esp. one for the blade of a weapon or tool.

sheathe (ʃiːð) *vt* put into a sheath.

shed[1] (ʃed) *nc* a building made esp. of wood, used for storing things or doing work in: *a garden shed.*

shed[2] *vt* 1 let drop off or fall: *Trees shed their leaves; He shed tears of sorrow.* 2 send out (light, heat, etc.).

she'd (ʃiːd) she had or she would.

sheen (ʃiːn) *nu* being shiny; brightness: *the sheen of silk.*

sheep (ʃiːp) *nc* an animal kept for its wool and its meat. **sheepish** ('ʃiːpɪʃ) *adj* feeling foolish because of doing something wrong, stupid, etc. **sheepskin** ('ʃiːpskɪn) *nc* a sheep's skin with the wool on it, esp. made into a coat, rug, etc.

sheer (ʃɪə*) *adj* 1 very steep. 2 (of cloth) fine enough to be almost seen through. 3 complete: *You are talking sheer nonsense!*

sheet (ʃiːt) *nc* 1 a large piece of cloth, esp. cotton, used on a bed. 2 a thin, flat piece of some material: *a sheet of paper.* 3 a rope tied to a bottom corner of a sail and used to control its position.

sheik (also **sheikh**) (ʃeɪk) *nc* an Arab chief or ruler.

shelf (ʃelf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) 1 a narrow, flat board, sheet of glass, etc., fixed to a wall, etc., and used for putting things on. 2 a step-like piece of rock under water or sticking out from the side of a cliff, etc.

shell (ʃel) *nc* 1 the hard outside covering of an egg, a nut, or some small animals, such as a snail or crab. 2 the frame of a building, ship, etc., that is being built or has been destroyed inside. 3 a metal container of material that explodes after being fired from a big gun. • *vt* 1 take out of a shell or other seed-container: *to shell peas.* 2 fire shells at. **shellfish** ('ʃelfɪʃ) *nc* any of several kinds of small animal covered with a hard shell, mostly living in water.

she'll (ʃiːl) she will.

shelter ('ʃeltə*) 1 *nu* being protected, covered, etc.: *We found shelter under a tree when it rained.* 2 *nc* something, esp. a building, that gives shelter. • *vt* 1 protect; be a shelter to: *The tree sheltered us from the storm.* 2 *vi* take cover, shelter, etc.

shelve (ʃelv) *vt* 1 put off dealing with (a problem, plan, etc.) until another time. 2 put (a book, etc.) on a shelf.

shepherd ('ʃepəd) *nc* a man who guards and looks after sheep. • *vt* take care of; guide or show the way: *The children were shepherded across the road.* **shepherdess** ('ʃepədɪs) *nc* a woman who guards and looks after sheep.

sheriff ('ʃerɪf) *nc* 1 (in England and Wales) the chief officer in a county. 2 (in the USA) the elected chief law officer in a county.

sherry ('ʃerɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** (a type or a drink of) a strong yellow or brown wine.

she's (ʃiːz) she is or she has.

shied (ʃaɪd) past tense and past participle of **shy**[2].

shield (ʃiːld) *nc* 1 a mainly flat piece of

metal, plastic, leather, etc., held in front of you for protection when fighting. 2 anything that protects in a similar way, by being placed between the source of danger and the person or thing protected. • *vt* protect in this way: *to shield your eyes from the sun.*

shift (ʃɪft) 1 *vti* move from one place to another. 2 *vt* change (gear) in a car, etc. • *nc* 1 a movement. 2 a change. 3 a period of time for which someone works in turn with others. 4 a group of such workers who start work as another group finish: *I'm on the night shift.* **shifty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** not to be trusted.

Shiite ('ʃiːaɪt) *nc* a member of one of the two branches of the Islamic religion. See also **Sunni.**

shimmer ('ʃɪmə*) *vi, nc* (shine with) an unsteady or weak light: *the shimmer of moonlight on the water.*

shin (ʃɪn) *nc* the front of the leg between the knee and the ankle.

shine (ʃaɪn) *vi* 1 give out or reflect light: *The sun was shining.* 2 be bright: *His face shone with joy.* 3 (past tense and past participle **shined**) *vt* make bright, esp. by polishing. • *nu* brightness; polish. **shiny** *adj* **-ier, -iest** having a shine; polished.

shingle (ʃɪŋgəl) *nu* small round pebbles on a beach.

Shinto ('ʃɪntəʊ) *n* Japanese religion that honours nature and the earlier members of a family.

ship (ʃɪp) *nc* a very large boat that can cross any sea. • *vt* take or send (passengers or goods), esp. by ship. **shipbuilding** ('ʃɪp,bɪldɪŋ) *nu* the business of building ships. **shipment** ('ʃɪpmənt) *nc* an amount of goods sent on a ship. **shipper** *nc* a person or company that ships goods. **shipping** *nu* ships: *Here is a warning to all shipping.* **shipwreck** ('ʃɪprek) *nc* the destroying or sinking of a ship. **be shipwrecked** be in a ship that is destroyed or sunk. **shipyard** ('ʃɪpjɑːd) *nc* a place where ships are built.

shirk (ʃɜːk) *vt* avoid doing (something) because of laziness, fear, etc.: *Do not shirk your duty.* **shirker** *nc* a person who shirks, esp. because of laziness.

shirt (ʃɜːt) *nc* a garment for the top part of the body and the arms, worn with trousers or a skirt.

Shiva ('ʃiːvə) *n* a Hindu god.

shiver ('ʃɪvə*) *vi* tremble with cold or fear. • *nc* the act of shivering.

shoal[1] (ʃəʊl) *nc* a large group of fish swimming together.

shoal[2] *nc* 1 a place where water is shallow. 2 a sandbank that is covered by water for most of the time.

shock (ʃɒk) *nc* 1 a sudden blow; violent shaking, esp. by an explosion. 2 (the reason for) a sudden upset of the mind or feelings: *The news of his death came as a shock.* 3 the effect of electricity passing through the body: *an electric shock.* 4 *nu* a state in which the body does not work normally because of cold, pain, etc. • *vt* fill with horror, fear, disgust, etc.: *I was shocked by his behaviour.* **shocking** *adj* 1 very bad: *shocking manners.* 2 causing feelings of horror, fear, disgust, etc.

shod (ʃɒd) past tense and past participle of **shoe.**

shoddy ('ʃɒdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** badly made or done: *a shoddy piece of work; shoddy material.*

shoe (ʃuː) *nc* a tough covering for the foot, esp. made chiefly of leather. • *vt* provide with shoes, esp. (a horse) with horseshoes. **shoelace** ('ʃuːleɪs) *nc* a piece of string, cord, etc., used to tie a shoe over the front of the foot. **shoemaker** ('ʃuː,meɪkə*) *nc* a person who makes boots and shoes. **shoestring** ('ʃuɪstrɪŋ) *nc* shoelace. **on a shoestring** *infml* with very little money: *living on a shoestring.*

shone (ʃɒn) past tense and past participle of **shine** (defs. 1, 2).

shoo (ʃuː) *interj* (used to make people or animals go away.) • *vt* make (someone or something) go away by calling 'shoo'.

shook (ʃʊk) past tense of **shake.**

shoot (ʃuːt) *vt* 1 fire (something) from (a gun, etc.). 2 hit, and esp. kill, with something fired from a gun, etc. 3 photograph; film. 4 *vti* (cause to) move quickly: *The dog shot across the road.* 5 *vi* (of a gun, etc.) be fired. 6 *vti* (in a game such as football) hit or kick (the ball, etc.) towards the right place to win a point. 7 *vi* (of a plant) put out a shoot or shoots. • *nc* a new young part growing on a plant. **shooting star** a small star rushing towards the earth and becoming bright as it burns up.

shop (ʃɒp) *nc* 1 a room or building in which goods are shown and sold to customers. 2 a place where goods are made or repaired: *I work in the paint shop of a car factory.* • *vi* buy goods in shops: *Let's go shopping.* **talk shop** talk about work, business, etc. **shop assistant** a person who works in a shop. **shop floor** the part of a factory where the goods are made; the people who work there. **shopkeeper** ('ʃɒp,kiːpə*) *nc* a person who owns a shop. **shoplifter** ('ʃɒp,lɪftə*) *nc* a person who steals things from a shop.

shoplifting ('ʃɒp,lɪftɪŋ) *nu* **shopping** *nu* goods bought at a shop or shops: *My shopping is heavy.* **shopping centre** a group of shops, often where cars are not allowed. **shop steward** a worker chosen by other workers to represent them when dealing with their employer.

shore[1] (ʃɔː*) *nc* the land at the edge of a sea or lake.

shore[2] *nc* a support for a wall, a ship that is being built or repaired, etc. **shore up** support (something).

shorn (ʃɔːn) past participle of **shear.**

short (ʃɔːt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not tall or long. 2 not enough: *Time is short.* 3 (of a person) using few words; not polite: *He was short with me.* 4 (of pastry) containing a lot of fat for the amount of flour, and therefore easily broken. • *adv* suddenly: *stop short.* **in short** in a few words, esp. expressing the main points. **in the short run** over a short period of time. **short for** (of a word, name, etc.) a shortened form of the full word or name: *We call her Jo, short for Joanne; the word 'exam' is short for 'examination'.* **short of** 1 except for; apart from: *Nothing short of complete success is good enough.* 2 lacking; missing: *We seem to be short of a chair.* **shortage** ('ʃɔːtɪdʒ) *nc* a lack; not having enough: *food shortages.* **short circuit** a fault in an electrical circuit which usually causes the fuse to melt and cut off the supply of electricity. **short-circuit** *vti* (cause to) have a short circuit. **shortcoming** ('ʃɔːt,kʌmɪŋ) *nc* a failure to do or be what is expected. **short cut** 1 a way of going somewhere that is shorter than the usual way. 2 a way of doing something that is quicker than the usual way. **shorten** ('ʃɔːtən) *vti* make or become shorter. **shortening** *nu* fat used in making pastry, cake, etc. **shorthand** ('ʃɔːthænd) *nu* a system of writing at great speed using special signs instead of letters. **shortly** *adv* 1 soon. 2 in a few words. 3 rudely. **shorts** *n pl* trousers with legs that reach no lower than the knees. **short-sighted** (,ʃɔːt'saɪtɪd) *adj* 1 unable to see distant things clearly. 2 unable to think and prepare for the future. **short story** a story that is shorter than a normal book. **short-term** (,ʃɔːt'tɜːm) *adj* for or happening in a short period of time: *the short-term borrowing of money.* **short wave** a radio wave with a wavelength of between 10 and 100 metres, used for sending radio over long distances.

shot[1] (ʃɒt) *nc* 1 the firing of a gun. 2 *infml* an attempt to do something: *Have a shot at solving this problem.* 3 a single photograph or an uninterrupted part of a moving film. 4 *nu* a number of small metal balls, fired from a gun at a bird or small animal. **shotgun** ('ʃɒtgʌn) *nc* a gun used for firing shot over short distances.

shot[2] past tense and past participle of **shoot.**

should (ʃʊd unstressed ʃəd) *v* 1 ought to; have it as a duty to: *You should say you are sorry.* 2 shall or will probably: *He should be there by now.* 3 (used to form a conditional verb with **I** or **we**): *I should go if I were you.* 4 (used to show what is possible, esp. with **if**): *If that should be so, I shall know what to do.*

shoulder ('ʃəʊldə*) *nc* the part of the body where either arm is joined on. **shoulder blade** the flat bone at the back of the shoulder. • *vt* 1 put or carry on the shoulder or shoulders: *He shouldered the heavy sack.* 2 take (blame, responsibility, etc.) on yourself. 3 push with the shoulder or shoulders: *He shouldered me to one side.*

shouldn't ('ʃʊdənt) *v* should not.

should've ('ʃʊdəv) *v* should have: *You should've checked that the door was locked.*

shout (ʃaʊt) *nc* a loud cry. • *vti* call or say loudly: *He shouted with joy; She shouted a warning.*

shove (ʃʌv) 1 *vti* push violently. 2 *vt infml* put: *Shove your books in the cupboard.* • *nc* a violent push.

shovel ('ʃʌvəl) *nc* a broad, flat tool with a long handle, used for picking up and moving coal, snow, etc. • *vt* move with a shovel.

show (ʃəʊ) 1 *vti* (allow or cause to) be seen. *vt* 2 use actions to explain (something) to (someone): *I'll show you what to do.* 3 guide: *The visitors were shown round the city.* 4 prove: *This shows that I am right.* • *nu* 1 showing or being shown. *nc* 2 a collection of things put out for the public to see: *a motor show; a flower show.* 3 an entertainment such as a play or a musical. 4 *nu* an appearance: *When he was being watched he made a great show of working hard.* **on show** put somewhere to be seen. **show business** the business of entertaining people in the theatre, on television, etc. **showcase** ('ʃəʊkeɪs) *nc* a fixed container with glass sides for showing things in a shop, exhibition, etc. **showdown** ('ʃəʊdaʊn) *nc infml* a final decision or argument at which everything is made known. **show-jumping** ('ʃəʊ,dʒʌmpɪŋ) *nu* riding a horse over fences, hedges, etc., in a competition. **show off** 1 allow

(something) to be seen so as to invite admiration: *He's glad to show off his paintings to other people.* 2 try to attract attention by your behaviour. **show-off** ('ʃəʊɒf) *nc* a person who shows off (**show off** def. 2). **showroom** ('ʃəʊrʊm) *nc* a room in which goods can be looked at. **show up** 1 (cause to) be easily seen. 2 *infml* arrive; appear. **showy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** likely to attract attention, but often tasteless.

shower ('ʃaʊə*) *nc* 1 a light, short fall of rain, snow, etc. 2 (a room containing) a device with small holes through which water comes down over a person for washing. 3 the act of washing in a **shower** (def. 2): *to have or take a shower.* 4 a number of things coming or falling together: *a shower of letters; a shower of blows.* • *vti* 1 send, come, or fall in a **shower** (def. 4): *He showered presents on me.* 2 *vi* take a **shower** (def. 3).

shown (ʃəʊn) past participle of **show.**

shrank (ʃræŋk) past participle of **shrink.**

shrapnel ('ʃræpnəl) *nu* small pieces of metal from a bomb or shell that has exploded.

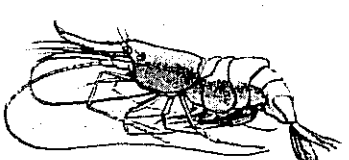
shred (ʃred) *nc* 1 a small piece of something that has been torn or cut off: *His shirt was torn to shreds.* 2 a small amount: *without a shred of comfort.* • *vt* tear or cut into shreds.

shrewd (ʃruːd) *adj* **-er, -est** having good powers of judgement, esp. in business matters. **shrewdly** *adv*

shriek (ʃriːk) *nc* a high, loud cry. • *vi* 1 give a shriek. 2 *vt* say in a shriek: *She shrieked her answer.*

shrill (ʃrɪl) *adj* **-er, -est** (of a sound) high and sharp: *a shrill whistle.*

shrimp (ʃrɪmp) *nc* a small sea-animal with a hard shell, used for food: see picture.



shrimp

shrine (ʃraɪn) *nc* a place or building honoured for its connection with a holy person, etc.

shrink (ʃrɪŋk) *vti* (cause to) become smaller: *My dress shrank in the wash.* **shrink from** draw back from (something) or from (doing something) because of fear, disgust, etc. **shrinkage** ('ʃrɪŋkɪdʒ) *nu* 1 shrinking. 2 the amount by which something shrinks.

shrivel ('ʃrɪvəl) *vti* (cause to) become smaller and wrinkled because of heat, dryness, old age, or frost: *shrivelled skin.*

shroud (ʃraʊd) *nc* 1 a cloth put round a dead person. 2 something that covers and hides: *A shroud of mist hid the mountain from view.* • *vt* 1 cover (a dead body) with a shroud. 2 cover and hide.

shrub (ʃrʌb) *nc* a plant like a small tree that has branches near the ground; bush. **shrubbery** ('ʃrʌbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a group of shrubs.

shrug (ʃrʌg) *vt* raise (your shoulders) for a moment to show you do not know, are not interested, etc. • *nc* such a movement of the shoulders: *He answered with a shrug.* **shrug off** put (something) out of your mind as not being important.

shrunk (ʃrʌŋk) past tense and past participle of **shrink. shrunken** ('ʃrʌŋkən) *adj* having been shrunk: *a shrunken head from South America.*

shudder ('ʃʌdə*) *vi* shake suddenly and quickly from fear, disgust, etc. • *nc* such a sudden, quick shake.

shuffle ('ʃʌfəl) 1 *vi* walk slowly, dragging the feet. *vt* 2 slide (your feet) around while standing or sitting. 3 mix (things) up so that their positions are changed, esp. (playing-cards) on purpose. • *nc* the act of shuffling.

shun (ʃʌn) *vt* avoid; keep away from: *You shun responsibility; After his crime he was shunned by society.*

shunt (ʃʌnt) *vt* move (a train, etc.) onto another track.

shush (ʃʊʃ) *interj* be quiet! • *vt* make (someone) be quiet by saying 'shush'.

shut (ʃʌt) 1 *vt* move (a door, lid, etc.) to cover an opening. 2 *vi* (of a door, lid, etc.) move so as to cover an opening. *vti* 3 bring or be brought into a closed state: *Shut your book and listen.* 4 stop business (at): *The shop shuts at five every day.* 5 *vt* keep (someone or something) in a place by shutting a door, etc.: *We shut the dog outside.* **shut down** (cause to) stop working: *The factory where I work is being shut down.* **shut-down** ('ʃʌtdaʊn) *nc* the closing of a factory, etc. **shut up** *infml* stop talking.

shutter ('ʃʌtə*) *nc* 1 a door-like cover put outside a window to keep thieves or light out. 2 a device in a camera that opens to let light onto the film. • *vt* put shutters over (a window).

shuttle ('ʃʌtəl) *nc* 1 a tool with pointed ends, used for carrying thread across and back again in making cloth. 2 a bus, train, plane, etc., that takes people between two places, esp. as often as needed: *There's a*

shuttle service between the city and the airport. • *vi* travel as a **shuttle** (def. 2).

shy[1] (ʃaɪ) *adj* **-er, -est; shier, shiest** 1 uncomfortable in the company of other people; not wanting to attract attention. 2 (of an animal) easily frightened. **shyly** *adv* **shyness** *nu*

shy[2] *vi* (of a horse) turn away in sudden fear.

sial ('saɪəl) *nu* the rocks of the top part of the earth's crust, such as granite. See also **sima.**

Siamese twin ('saɪə,mitz) one of two babies born at the same time and partly joined together.

sick (sɪk) *adj* **-er, -est** not well; ill. **be sick** bring food back up from the stomach and through the mouth. **feel sick** feel that one is about to be sick. **the sick** (all) sick people. **sicken** ('sɪkən) 1 *vi* begin to be ill. 2 *vti* (cause to) feel sick or be disgusted. **sickening** ('sɪkənɪŋ) *adj* disgusting. **sickly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 often ill; not healthy: *a sickly child.* 2 causing a feeling of sickness: *a sickly smell.* **sickness** 1 *ncu* (an) illness; disease. 2 *nu* being or feeling sick.

sickle ('sɪkəl) *nc* a tool with a curved blade and a short handle for cutting corn, grass, etc.: see picture at **tools.**

side (saɪd) *nc* 1 a surface of an object: *A cube has six sides.* 2 the place near an edge: *Cross to the other side of the road.* 3 a line forming an edge: *A square has four sides.* 4 one of two groups of people who are playing, fighting, arguing, etc., against each other; team. 5 a surface that is (roughly) upright: *the side of a mountain.* 6 the left or right half of something, esp. a body. 7 a way of looking at something: *Try to see my side of the problem.* 8 a family line: *a relation from my mother's side of the family.* **on all sides** all round. **side by side** close together. **take sides** (start to) support one team, political party, etc. **sideboard** ('saɪdbɔɪd) *nc* a piece of furniture with drawers and cupboards, kept in a dining-room. **side-effect** *nc* an effect, esp. an unpleasant one, other than the main one of a medicine, etc. **sideline** ('saɪdlaɪn) *nc* something that is not the main business, job, product, etc., of a person or company. **sidestep** *vt* avoid dealing with (a problem, question, etc.). **sidetrack** ('saɪdtræk) *vt* turn (someone) away from what they intended to do, say, etc. **sidewalk** ('saɪdwɔːk) *n US* See **pavement** under **pave. sideways** ('saɪdweɪz) *adv, adj* moving or facing towards one side: *A train won't go sideways; a sideways look.* **side with** support (one side of an argument, etc.). **siding** *nc* a short railway track leading off a main one, used for storage, etc.

sidle ('saɪdəl) *vi* walk in a nervous way or as if you do not want to be noticed: *He sidled up to me.*

siege (siːdʒ) *nc* a method used by an army to capture a town by surrounding (and attacking) it. **lay siege to** try to capture (a town) by means of a siege.

sieve (sɪv) *nc* a tool with a wire net through which liquids, etc., are passed, leaving solid matter behind. • *vt* put through a sieve.

sift (sɪft) *vt* 1 put through a sieve. 2 examine carefully: *We must sift all the arguments.*

sigh (saɪ) *vi* take in and let out a loud breath showing that you are sad, tired, bored, relieved, etc. • *nc* the act of sighing.

sight (saɪt) *nu* 1 the power of seeing: *He lost his sight.* 2 seeing or being seen. 3 the distance you can see: *Wait till they come within sight. nc* 4 *infml* a person or thing that is untidy, ugly, etc.: *She looked a sight!* 5 something seen, esp. something worth seeing. 6 a device for guiding the eye when you fire a gun, look through a telescope, etc. • *vt* 1 see or notice. 2 observe the position of (a star, etc.). **catch** or **lose sight of** begin or no longer be able to see. **in** or **out of sight** able or not able to be seen. **sights** *n pl* the most attractive or interesting parts of a town, etc., to be visited. **sightseeing** ('saɪt,siːɪŋ) *nu* visiting sights. **sightseer** ('saɪt,siːə*) *nc*

sign (saɪn) *nc* 1 a mark or object used to represent something. 2 an action or movement giving information, an order, etc. 3 something that points out or makes something known; indication: *Her face showed signs of grief.* 4 a board giving directions, information, etc.: *Can you see a sign to the car park?* • *vt* 1 write your name on (a letter, cheque, etc.) to show that you formally approve it. 2 make (something) known by a movement of the hand, head, etc. **sign language** a means of communication used by or to deaf people, in which (movements of) the fingers, hands, etc., are used to represent letters and words.

signal ('sɪgnəl) *nc* 1 any sign giving information, an order, etc., esp. to someone far away. 2 an event that causes an action: *The shooting was a signal for general disturbances.* 3 a movement of electricity or set of radio waves carrying information.

• *vt* make a signal sending (information, an order, etc.) to (someone). **signal box** *nc* a building from which signals to railway trains are controlled.

signatory ('sɪgnətərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a person, state, country, etc., that signs an agreement.

signature ('sɪgnɪtʃə*) *nc* someone's name written by that person when signing a letter, etc.

signet ('sɪgnɪt) *nc* a small metal stamp, esp. part of a ring for a finger, used for pressing into hot wax, etc., to indicate your approval of a letter, etc. **signet ring** such a ring.

significance (sɪg'nɪfɪkəns) *nu* 1 importance. 2 having (a) meaning. **significant** *adj* **significantly** *adv*

signify ('sɪgnɪfaɪ) 1 *vt* indicate; mean; be a sign of. 2 *vi infml* be of importance.

signpost ('saɪnpəʊst) *nc* a sign, esp. where roads meet, with arms showing the names of places and pointing in the direction of each one.

silage ('saɪlɪdʒ) *nu* a food, such as grass, for cattle, kept good without drying.

silence ('saɪləns) *nu* 1 being quiet; being without sound. 2 not speaking. • *vt* make silent. **in silence** without a sound; without speaking. **silencer** *nc* a device that makes a car engine, gun, etc., quieter. **silent** *adj* 1 quiet; with no sound. 2 saying nothing or very little. **silently** *adv*

silhouette (ˌsɪluː'et) *nc* 1 the outline of someone or something seen against the light. 2 a picture like this, esp. in black on white: see picture. • *vt* show or cause to be seen as a silhouette.

silica ('sɪlɪkə) *nu* a compound of silicon and oxide that is found in rocks as quartz and is used to make glass, etc.

silhouette

silicon ('sɪlɪkən) *nu* a chemical element that is not a metal, found, for example, in sand: symbol Si. See also **chip** (def. 5).

silicone ('sɪlɪkəʊn) *nu* a substance containing silicon and oxygen, which is used to protect against water, heat, cold, etc.

silicosis (ˌsɪlɪ'kəʊsɪs) *nu medicine* an illness of the lungs caused by breathing in dust containing silica, etc.

silk (sɪlk) *nu* (cloth made from) the fine, soft thread made by silkworms: *a silk scarf.* **silken** ('sɪlkən) *adj literary* 1 made of silk. 2 like silk. **silkworm** ('sɪlkwɜːm) *nc* an insect that makes a covering of silk to protect itself. **silky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** like silk; soft and shining: *silky hair.*

sill (sɪl) *nc* a narrow shelf of wood or stone at the bottom of a window.

silly ('sɪlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 foolish. 2 pointless; useless. **silliness** *nc*

silo ('saɪləʊ) *nc* a tower or a hole in the ground in which silage is stored.

silt (sɪlt) *nu* sand, mud, etc., left at the mouth of a river, on the bottom of a lake, etc. **silt up** become blocked or filled with silt.

silver ('sɪlvə*) *nu* 1 a chemical element; bright, light grey, valuable metal used for coins, ornaments, etc.: symbol Ag. 2 coins made of silver or of a metal or mixture of metals with the colour of silver. 3 knives, plates, etc., made of silver. 4 the colour of silver. • *adj* 1 made of silver. 2 having the colour of silver. • *vt* 1 cover with silver. 2 *vti* (cause to) become silver in colour. **silver paper** *infml* very thin metal, esp. aluminium, used for wrapping chocolate, etc. **silversmith** ('sɪlvəsmɪθ) *nc* a person who makes things out of silver. **silverware** ('sɪlvəweə*) *nu* plates or knives made out of silver. **silvery** *adj*

sima ('saɪmə) *nu* the rocks of the earth's crust below the oceans, such as basalt. See also **sial.**

similar ('sɪmɪlə*) *adj* alike; of the same kind: *That pen is similar to mine.* **similarity** (ˌsɪmɪ'lærɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being similar. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a way in which things are similar. **similarly** *adv*

simile ('sɪmɪlɪ) *nc* an expression comparing one thing to another, such as 'as green as grass' or 'like a horse' in 'He eats like a horse'.

simmer ('sɪmə*) *vi* 1 (of food, water, etc.) be almost boiling; boil gently. 2 control your anger, laughter, etc., so that it is not seen. 3 *vt* cause (food, water, etc.) to simmer. **simmer down** *infml* become less angry, excited, etc.

simple ('sɪmpəl) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 easy to do or understand. 2 plain; without (much) decoration: *simple cooking.* 3 foolish. 4 not connected to others; with only a few parts: *a simple machine.* 5 without difficulties or complicated things: *the simple life.* **simple interest** money paid for borrowing money, worked out only on the actual amount borrowed. See also **compound interest** under **compound**[1]. **simpleton** ('sɪmpəltən) *nc* a foolish, easily

deceived person. **simplicity** (sɪm'plɪsɪtɪ) *nu* **simplify** ('sɪmplɪfaɪ) *vt* make simple or simpler. **simplification** (ˌsɪmplɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu* **simply** *adv*

simulate ('sɪmjʊleɪt) *vt* pretend to be: *a film of a simulated attack.* **simulation** (ˌsɪmjʊ'leɪʃən) *ncu*

simultaneous (ˌsɪməl'teɪnɪəs) *adj* happening or done at the same time. **simultaneously** *adv*

sin (sɪn) 1 *ncu* (an example or way of) breaking the laws of God. 2 *nc infml* an act against good taste or good sense. • *vi* 1 break God's laws. 2 do wrong.

since (sɪns) *prep* for or during the time after: *I haven't been home since yesterday.* • *conj* 1 since the time when. 2 because; as. • *adv* since then.

sincere (sɪn'sɪə*) *adj* 1 (of feelings) true; not pretended. 2 (of a person) honest; truthful; not pretending. **sincerely** *adv* **yours sincerely** (used before your name at the end of a letter, usually to someone you have met.) **sincerity** (sɪn'serɪtɪ) *nu*

sine (saɪn) *nc mathematics* (of one of the acute angles of a right-angled triangle) the ratio of the length of the side opposite to the angle to the length of the hypotenuse. See also **cosine.**

sinew ('sɪnjuː) *nc* 1 a tough, string-like part of the body that joins a muscle to a bone; tendon. 2 (*pl*) *literary* muscles; strength of the body.

sinful ('sɪnful) *adj* wrong; evil.

sing (sɪŋ) 1 *vti* produce (words, a song, etc.) as a tune. *vi* 2 (of a bird, etc.) make a tuneful sound. 3 make a humming, whistling, ringing, etc., sound: *The noise has set my ears singing.* **singer** *nc* **singing** *nu*

singe (sɪndʒ) 1 *vti* burn or be burnt slightly. 2 *vt* burn off the ends of (hair, etc.).

single ('sɪŋgəl) *adj* 1 one only. 2 for the use of one person only: *a single bed.* 3 not married. • *nc* 1 also **single ticket** a ticket for a journey to a place but not back again. 2 (*pl*) a game, such as tennis, with only one person on each side. **single file** a line of people, cars, etc., one behind the other: *We had to walk in single file along the narrow path.* **single-handed** (ˌsɪŋgəl'hændɪd) *adj, adv* (done) alone or without help: *He captured the town single-handed.* **single-minded** (ˌsɪŋgəl-'maɪndɪd) *adj* with your mind on one purpose only. **single out** choose a person or thing from a group and give them special treatment. **singly** ('sɪŋglɪ) *adv* one by one; separately.

singular ('sɪŋgjʊlə*) *adj* 1 (of a noun, verb, etc.) used in writing or speaking of only one person or one thing. 2 odd; unusual. • *nc* a singular word: *'Foot' is the singular of 'feet'.* **singularly** *adv* oddly; unusually.

sinister ('sɪnɪstə*) *adj* looking evil or as if evil is intended.

sink (sɪŋk) *vti* (cause to) go slowly down, esp. below a surface: *The sun is sinking; The ship was sunk by the enemy.* • *nc* a fixed container of stone, steel, etc., with a pipe for carrying away dirty water, used for washing dishes in a kitchen.

sinner ('sɪnə*) *nc* a person who sins.

sinuous ('sɪnjʊəs) *adj* with many twists and bends.

sinus ('saɪnəs) *nc* a space in the bones of the head behind the nose.

sip (sɪp) *vt* drink in small mouthfuls. • *nc* a small mouthful of a drink.

siphon (also **syphon**) ('saɪfən) *nc* 1 a curved tube used to draw liquid up and out of a container. 2 See **soda siphon** under **soda.**

sir (sɜː* unstressed sə*) *n* a polite and respectful way of speaking to a man. **Sir** *nc* 1 (used to begin a formal letter to a man): *Dear Sir.* 2 a title put before the name of a knight: *Sir Seretse Khama.*

sire (saɪə*) *nc* the father of an animal, esp. a horse. • *vt* (of an animal, esp. a horse) become the father of.

siren ('saɪərən) *nc* a device that makes a loud, long sound to give a warning, etc., as on a police car.

sirloin ('sɜːlɔɪn) *nc* beef from the back of the animal above the back legs.

sisal ('saɪsəl) *nu* (a plant with large leaves that provide) a strong fibre used to make rope, mats, etc.

sissy ('sɪsɪ) *nc, pl* **-sies,** *adj* (a) weak, cowardly, or woman-like (boy or man).

sister ('sɪstə*) *nc* 1 a female child of the same parents as another child. 2 *Brit* a nurse in charge of others in a hospital. 3 one of a group of women living a religious life together; nun. **sisterhood** ('sɪstəhʊd) 1 *nu* the state of being a sister or sisters. 2 *nc* a society of religious sisters. **sister-in-law** ('sɪstərɪnlɔː) *nc, pl* **sisters-in-law** 1 your brother's wife. 2 your wife's or husband's sister. **sisterly** ('sɪstəlɪ) *adj* like or to do with a sister.

sit (sɪt) *vi* 1 (often followed by **down**) (lower the body so as to) rest your bottom on a chair, the ground, etc. 2 (of a bird) settle or rest on a branch or nest. 3 (of clothes) fit: *The jacket sits badly on your shoulders.* *vt* 4 put in a sitting position: *She sat the baby on her knee.* 5 do (an examination). **sit down** have a seat. **sit for** 1

hold the body in a particular position while (an artist) paints (a picture) of you. 2 be a member of a parliament for (a town or district). **sit-in** ('sɪtɪn) *nc* an action by workers, students, etc., who occupy a building to protest against something. **sitter** *nc* a person having their picture painted. **sitting-room** ('sɪtɪŋrʊm) *nc* a room for entertaining and general use. **sit up** 1 move from a lying position to a sitting position. 2 delay going to bed at night. 3 sit with a straight back.

site (saɪt) *nc* 1 a piece of land on which a building, town, etc., stood, is standing, or is about to be built. 2 a place where something happened, is happening, or will happen: *the site of a battle.*

situated ('sɪtjʊeɪtɪd) *adj* 1 placed: *Our house is situated on top of a hill.* 2 (of a person) in a particular state: *He's been badly situated since he lost his job.* **situation** (ˌsɪtjʊ'eɪʃən) *nc* 1 the position or place where a town, building, etc., is. 2 the state a person or thing is in: *a difficult situation.* 3 a position or job.

six (sɪks) *determiner, n* the number 6. **sixth** (sɪksθ) *determiner, n, adv* **sixteen** (ˌsɪks'tiːn) *determiner, n* 16. **sixteenth** (sɪks'tiːnθ) *determiner, n, adv* **sixty** ('sɪksti) *determiner, n* 60. **sixtieth** ('sɪkstɪɪθ) *determiner, n, adv*

size (saɪz) 1 *nu* the bigness or amount of something. 2 *nc* one of the fixed measures of the size of something: *These shoes come in several sizes.* **sizable** ('saɪzəbəl) *adj* quite large. **size up** form an opinion of, esp. quickly.

sizzle ('sɪzəl) *infml vi, nu* (make) a sound like that of water falling on a hot surface or of something cooking in hot fat.

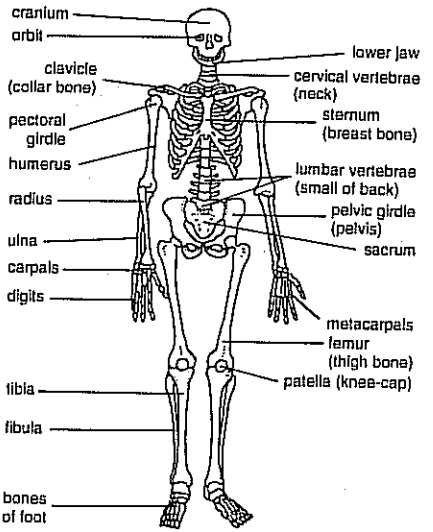
sjambok ('ʃæmbɒk) *nc* a type of whip made from the skin of a rhinoceros.

skate (skeɪt) *nc* (a steel blade fastened to) a boot that is used for sliding over ice. • *vi* slide on skates. **skateboard** *nc* a small board on wheels that children ride on for fun. **skater** *nc* **skating** *nu* **ice skating** See under **ice.**

skeleton ('skelɪtən) *nc* 1 the complete bones of a human or animal. 2 the framework or most important part of a building, idea, plan, etc.: see picture. **skeletal** ('skelɪtəl) *adj* 1 of, like, or to do with a skeleton. 2 very thin.

skeptic ('skeptɪk) *US n, adj* See **sceptic.**

sketch (sketʃ) *nc* 1 a rough drawing with few details. 2 a short account or description. • *vt* give or draw a sketch of. **sketching** *adj* not detailed, thorough, or complete.



skeleton

skewer ('skjuːə) *nc* a long, thin metal rod with a point at the end, used in cookery to hold food, esp. pieces of meat, together. • *vt* push a skewer into; hold or fasten with a skewer.

ski (skiː) *nc* one of two long, flat pieces of wood, plastic, metal, etc., fastened to boots and worn for sliding over snow. • *vi* slide over the snow wearing skis. **skier** *nc* **skiing** *nu*

skid (skɪd) *vi* 1 (of a wheel of a car, etc.) slide without turning. 2 (of a car, etc.) slide out of control. • *nc* an instance of skidding.

skies (skaɪz) plural of **sky.**

skill (skɪl) *nc* 1 an ability to do something well. 2 an activity needing skill. **skilful** *US* **skillful** ('skɪlfʊl) or **skilled** *adj* having or needing skill. **skillfully** *adv*

skim (skɪm) *vt* 1 take floating matter from the top of (a liquid), esp. cream from (milk). 2 move smoothly over (a surface) without touching it. 3 *vti* (when *vi*, usually followed by **through**) read quickly and not completely: *He skimmed the pages of the newspaper.*

skimp (skɪmp) *vti* use less of something, such as time or money, than is needed: *If you skimp on the cream, the dish won't taste right.*

skin (skɪn) 1 *nu* the outer covering of a human or animal body. *nc* 2 the skin of an animal made into leather, esp. with the fur or wool on. 3 the outer covering of a fruit. 4 a layer that forms on top of boiled milk.

• *vt* 1 take the skin off. 2 lose skin from. **by the skin of your teeth** *infml* only just: *I caught the train by the skin of my teeth.* **skinny** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a person) very thin.

skip (skɪp) *vi* 1 jump about lightly. 2 jump over a piece of rope which is swung under the feet and over the head. 3 *vt* miss out (a meal, part of a book, etc.). • *nc* a skipping movement.

skipper ('skɪpə*) *nc* 1 the person in charge of a ship; captain. 2 the leader of a sports team; captain. • *vt* be captain of.

skirmish ('skɜːmɪʃ) *nc* 1 a small, short, esp. unexpected fight. 2 an argument that is soon over. • *vi* take part in a skirmish.

skirt (skɜːt) *nc* 1 a one-piece women's garment hanging from the waist. 2 the part of a dress or long coat below the waist. • *vt* be on or go round the edge of: *The woods skirt the town.* **skirting-board** ('skɜːtɪŋbɔɪd) *US* **baseboard** *nc* a wooden board fixed to the bottom of a wall inside a building.

skit (skɪt) *nc* an amusing piece of writing that shows the faults or foolishness of a person, society, etc.

skulk (skʌlk) *vi* move secretly or hide, esp. because of cowardice or in order to do wrong, avoid work, etc.

skull (skʌl) *nc* the bony case around the brain.

skunk (skʌŋk) *nc* a small, black and white, furry, bushy-tailed American animal that gives off a nasty smell when in danger.

sky (skaɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ies** the space above the earth that contains clouds and the sun, moon, and stars. **skylark** ('skaɪlɑːk) *nc* a small bird that sings as it flies high. **skyline** ('skaɪlaɪn) *nc* the shape of buildings, hills, etc., seen against the sky. **skyscraper** ('skaɪˌskreɪpə*) *nc* a very tall building.

slab (slæb) *nc* a flat, broad, esp. square-cornered piece of stone, cake, wood, etc.

slack (slæk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 loose; not tight. 2 lazy or careless. 3 (of trade or business) not active. • *vi* work without care or effort: *Stop slacking!*

slacken ('slækən) *vti* (often followed by **off**) make or become slower, looser, less active, etc.: *Slacken your belt; Business is slackening off.*

slacks (slæks) *n pl infml* trousers.

slag (slæg) *nu* 1 waste matter left when metal has been obtained from rock. 2 waste matter left when coal has been dug out of the ground.

slain (sleɪn) past participle of **slay.**

slake (sleɪk) *vt fml or literary* satisfy or lessen (your thirst, revenge, etc.).

slam (slæm) *vti* 1 (cause to) shut hard and loudly: *He slammed the door angrily.* 2 force, be forced, throw, or be thrown hard against something: *The car slammed into the wall.* • *nc* the noise of something slamming or being slammed.

slander ('slɑːndə*) *ncu* something untrue said in order to harm someone's reputation. • *vt* speak slander about (someone). **slanderous** *adj*

slang (slæŋ) *nu* words, meanings, etc., in common use but not thought suitable for formal or good writing. • *vt* use rude or bad language to (someone).

slant (slɑːnt) *vti, nc* ((cause to) have) a lean or slope: *Your writing slants.* **slanting** *adj*

slap (slæp) *vt* 1 hit with the open hand or something flat. 2 bring (the open hand or something flat) down hard onto something: *He slapped the money down on the table.* • *nc* the noise or act of slapping. **slap-dash** ('slæpˌdæʃ) *adj* done quickly and carelessly.

slash (slæʃ) *vt* 1 make long cuts in. 2 greatly lower (a price). • *nc* a long cut.

slat (slæt) *nc* one of a number of long, thin strips of wood or plastic set in a door or window to allow the movement of air in between them.

slate (sleɪt) 1 *nu* a blue-grey stone that breaks easily into thin sheets. *nc* 2 a sheet of slate used in a roof. 3 a sheet of slate framed in wood, once used for writing on. • *vt* 1 cover (a roof) with slates. 2 *infml* find much fault with.

slaughter ('slɔːtə*) *nu* 1 the killing of animals for food. 2 the killing of people in large numbers. • *vt* 1 kill (an animal) for food. 2 kill (people) in large numbers. **slaughter-house** ('slɔːtəhaʊs) *nc* also **abattoir** a place where animals are killed for food.

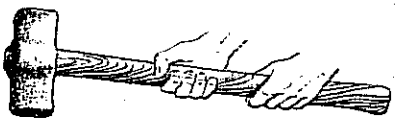
slave (sleɪv) *nc* 1 a person who is owned by another and has no freedom. 2 a person under the control of another or some other influence: *a slave to fashion.* • *vi* work very hard. **slavery** ('sleɪvərɪ) *nu* 1 being a slave. 2 *infml* very hard, unpleasant work.

slay (sleɪ) *vt often literary or humorous* kill; murder.

sleazy ('sliːzɪ) *adj* dirty and unpleasant: *a sleazy restaurant.*

sledge (sledʒ) *nc* also **sled** a vehicle with two long strips of wood or metal underneath, used for travelling over snow. • *vti* go or take in a sledge.

sledgehammer ('sledʒˌhæmə*) *nc* a large, heavy hammer with a long handle: see picture.



sledgehammer

sleek (sliːk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of hair, fur, etc.) smooth and shiny; well-brushed. 2 too eager to please: *sleek manners.*

sleep (sliːp) 1 *nu* a state of complete rest of the body and mind, as in bed every night. 2 *nc* a period of sleep: *She often has a sleep in the afternoon.* • *vi* 1 be in a state of sleep. 2 *vt* have beds, etc., for: *Our room sleeps three.* **go to sleep** go into a state of sleep. **sleeper** *nc* 1 a person who sleeps. 2 *chiefly Brit* a heavy piece of wood that supports the rails on a railway track. 3 (a part of) a train with beds in. 4 a bed on a train. **sleepily** *adv* **sleepiness** *nu* **sleeping bag** a long, warm bag, usually made of padded cloth with a zip up the side, that you can sleep in, for example when camping. **sleeping-car** ('sliːpɪŋkɑː*) *nc* a part of a train with beds in it. **sleeping sickness** a disease that is caught from tsetse flies and causes tiredness, fever, etc. **sleepless** *adj* not able to sleep; without sleep: *a sleepless night.* **sleepy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 feeling tired. 2 with little activity: *a sleepy town.*

sleet (sliːt) *nu* partly frozen rain.

sleeve (sliːv) *nc* 1 a part of a garment that covers the arm or part of it. 2 a cover for a record. **sleeveless** *adj*

sleigh (sleɪ) *nc* a sledge, esp. one pulled by a horse.

sleight (slaɪt) *n* **sleight of hand** cleverness in using the hands, esp. doing magic tricks.

slender ('slendə*) *adj* 1 small in width; slim: *a girl with a slender waist.* 2 not enough; small in amount: *slender hopes.*

slept (slept) past tense and past participle of **sleep.**

slew (sluː) past tense of **slay.**

slice (slaɪs) *nc* 1 a thin, flat piece cut off bread, meat, etc. 2 a piece or share: *a slice of the profits.* • *vt* cut into slices.

slick (slɪk) *adj* **-er, -est** acting or done in a quick, smooth, but perhaps insincere, way. • *nc* a layer of oil on the ground or the sea.

slid (slɪd) past tense and past participle of **slide.**

slide (slaɪd) 1 *vti* (cause to) move smoothly along: *Don't slide on the ice.* 2 *vi* go from one state, thing, etc., to another without really noticing: *to slide into bad habits.* • *nc* 1 an instance of sliding. 2 a slope built for esp. children to slide down. 3 See **transparency** (def. 1).

slight (slaɪt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 looking as if not strongly made; slender: *a slight figure.* 2 not serious; small: *She had a slight cold.* • *vt* be rude to, esp. by avoiding. **slightly** *adv*

slim (slɪm) *adj* **-mer, -mest** 1 narrow; quite thin. 2 small: *a slim hope.* • *vti* make or become slim, esp. by eating less. **slimmer** *nc* a person who is trying to become slim.

slime (slaɪm) *nu* soft mud or other slippery, wet matter. **slimy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** like or covered with slime.

sling (slɪŋ) *vt* 1 throw with force. 2 support with a **sling** (def. 1). • *nc* 1 a belt, strip of material, etc., put under and round something to support it: *She had her broken arm in a sling.* 2 a strip of leather held in a loop for throwing stones with.

slink (slɪŋk) *vi* move in a quiet, secret way from guilt or shame.

slip (slɪp) *vi* 1 (nearly) fall over. 2 go quietly without being noticed: *Let's slip away.* 3 escape, fall, etc., because not easy to hold: *The soap slipped out of my hand.* 4 make a mistake through being careless. *vt* 5 put quickly: *He slipped the money into his pocket.* 6 escape from: *I forgot to go—it slipped my mind.* • *nc* 1 an instance of slipping. 2 a mistake caused by being careless. 3 a small piece of paper. 4 a woman's garment like a sleeveless dress or a skirt, worn under a dress or skirt. **let slip** 1 miss (a chance). 2 make known (a secret, etc.) by mistake. **slip on** pull on (a garment, etc.) with a quick, sliding movement. **slipped disc** a condition in which one of the flat layers of cartilage between the bones of the spine presses on a nerve and causes severe pain in the back. **slip up** *infml* make a mistake. **slip-up** *nc infml* a mistake.

slipper ('slɪpə*) *nc* a soft, loose shoe worn in the house.

slippery ('slɪpərɪ) *adj* 1 smooth, wet, etc.; easy to slip on: *slippery roads.* 2 (of a person) not to be trusted.

slipshod ('slɪpʃɒd) *adj* 1 (of a person) untidy. 2 (of work) careless.

slit (slɪt) *nc* a long, narrow opening or cut. • *vt* make a slit in: *to slit open an envelope.*

slither ('slɪðə*) *vi* slide in a slippery way.

sliver ('slɪvə*) *nc* a long, thin piece of wood, glass, etc. • *vti* break or be broken into slivers.

slog (slɒg) 1 *vt* hit (a ball, etc.) hard, esp.

without control. 2 *vi infml* work hard and long: *He's always slogging away.* • *nc* a period of hard work: *It was a real slog.*

slogan ('sləʊgən) *nc* an easily remembered expression advertising something or used by a group, party, etc., to state its purpose.

sloop (sluːp) *nc* a sailing boat with one mast.

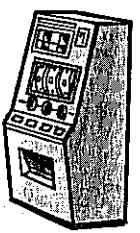
slop (slɒp) 1 *vi* (of a liquid) fall over the side of a container. 2 *vt* cause (a liquid) to slop. • *nc* a quantity of slopped liquid. **slops** *n pl* kitchen waste, esp. fed to pigs.

slope (sləʊp) *nc* 1 a position that is between being flat and being upright. 2 a part of the ground that is in such a position: *mountain slopes.* • *vti* (cause to) have a slope. **sloping** *adj*

sloppy ('slɒpɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 wet with dirty pools of rain or water. 2 *infml* acting or done without care or thought: *a sloppy piece of work.* 3 *infml* foolish; without deep feeling: *sloppy talk.* **sloppiness** *nu*

slosh (slɒʃ) 1 *vi* (of a liquid) be poured or thrown. *vt* 2 pour or throw (a liquid). 3 *slang, Brit* hit. **sloshed** *adj slang, chiefly Brit* drunk.

slot (slɒt) *nc* a narrow opening, into which something is dropped, fitted, or put. • *vt* 1 make a slot in. 2 put into a slot. **slot-machine** ('slɒtmə,ʃiːn) *nc* a machine that provides something, such as cigarettes, tickets, etc., when a coin is put into it: see picture.



slot-machine

sloth (sləʊθ) 1 *nu* laziness. 2 *nu* a furry South American animal that moves very slowly and hangs from the branches of trees. **slothful** ('sləʊθful) *adj* lazy.

slouch (slaʊtʃ) *vi* move, stand, or sit in a lazy, awkward way. • *nc* a slouching way of moving.

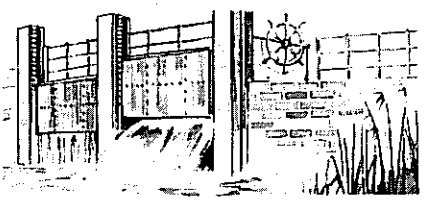
slovenly ('slʌvənlɪ) *adj* (of a person, their work, etc.) very untidy, dirty, or careless.

slow (sləʊ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not quick in movement. 2 not quick to understand. 3 rather boring: *What a slow game!* 4 (of a watch or clock) behind the right time: *My watch is ten minutes slow.* • *adv* slowly. • *vti* (often followed by **down** or **up**) make or become slower. **slowly** *adv* **slow motion** action that is slower than normal, as in a slowed-down film. **slowness** *nu*

slug (slʌg) *nc* a small, soft animal that moves slowly and is like a snail without a shell.

sluggish ('slʌgɪʃ) *adj* slow in movement; lazy: *a sluggish stream; a sluggish person.*

sluice (sluːs) *nc* a way for a flood of water to flow, controlled by a gate: see picture. • *vt* 1 send or pour water over. 2 wash out or wash away with water. 3 *vi* (of water) rush.



sluice

slum (slʌm) *nc* (usually *pl*) an area of a city in which the houses are in a very bad condition and, usually, in which too many people live.

slumber ('slʌmbə*) *literary vi, nc* sleep.

slump (slʌmp) *vi* 1 fall or drop down heavily: *He slumped into a chair.* 2 (of prices, business activity, etc.) drop suddenly. • *nc* a drop in prices, business, trade activity, etc.

slung (slʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **sling.**

slunk (slʌŋk) past tense and past participle of **slink.**

slur (slɜː*) *vt* run (words) into one another in a careless way so that your speech is unclear. • *nc* something said or done that harms someone's reputation.

slush (slʌʃ) *nu* any watery substance, such as melting snow.

slut (slʌt) *nc* a dirty, untidy woman.

sly (slaɪ) *adj* **-er, -est; slier, sliest** deceiving in a clever way. **slyly** *adv* **slyness** *nu*

smack[1] (smæk) *nc* 1 a blow given by the front of the hand. 2 the sound made in doing this. • *vt* hit with the front of the hand.

smack[2] *nu* something that can only just be tasted, felt, etc.: *The food had a smack of spice in it.* • *vi* (followed by **of**) taste or show the presence or influence of: *This whole business smacks of dishonesty.*

small (smɔːl) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not large; little. 2 not important: *a small problem.*

small-holding ('smɔːl,həʊldɪŋ) *nc Brit* a small piece of land used as a farm. **smallness** *nu* **small-scale** ('smɔːlskeɪl) *adj* (of a model or map) made in a size that is small when compared to the real size. **small talk** talk about unimportant things.

smallpox ('smɔːlpɒks) *nu* a disease that spreads to other people, causing fever and spots that damage the skin.

smart (smɑːt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 neat; tidy; well-kept. 2 clever; sharp: *a smart answer.* 3 quick; lively. • *vi* feel a sharp, lasting pain in the body or the mind: *She smarted with anger; My finger is smarting where I burnt it.* • *nu* a smarting pain. **smarten up** make or become more **smart** (def. 1). **smartly** *adv* **smartness** *nu*

smash (smæʃ) *vti* 1 break or be broken violently into pieces. 2 (cause to) crash: *The car smashed into the back of a lorry.* • *nc* an instance of smashing. **smashing** *adj infml* very good, attractive, enjoyable, etc.

smattering ('smætərɪŋ) *nu* a small amount (of knowledge, information, etc.).

smear (smɪə*) *vt* 1 spread (something dirty, sticky, etc.) over (something): *His face was smeared with oil.* 2 spoil the reputation of. • *nc* 1 something smeared on something else. 2 words that **smear** (def. 2) a person.

smell (smel) 1 *nu* noticing by means of the nose. 2 *nc* something noticed by the nose, pleasant or unpleasant: *the smell of cooking.* • *vt* 1 notice a smell of (something). 2 *vi* give out a smell: *The flowers smell lovely.* **smelly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** with an unpleasant smell.

smelt[1] (smelt) *vt* get (metal) out of (rock) by melting the metal.

smelt[2] past tense and past participle of **smell.**

smile (smaɪl) 1 *vi* turn up the ends of the mouth to show you are pleased, happy, amused, etc. 2 *vt* show (your feelings) by smiling: *She smiled a welcome.* • *nc* the act of smiling.

smirk (smɜːk) *vi* smile because you are satisfied with yourself. • *nc* a smile of this kind.

smith (smɪθ) *nc* a person who makes things from metal, esp. iron. **smithy** ('smɪðɪ) *nc, pl* **-thies** the place of work of a smith who uses iron.

smock (smɒk) *nc* a loose-fitting outer garment.

smog (smɒg) *nu* very thick mist mixed with smoke.

smoke (sməʊk) 1 *nu* cloud-like matter produced by something burning. 2 *nc* the act of smoking a cigarette, pipe, etc. • *vi* 1 give out smoke or something like it. *vt* 2 breathe in and breathe out the smoke from (a cigarette, etc.). 3 dry and keep (meat, fish, etc.) good with smoke. **smokeless** *adj* (of coal, etc.) that produces no smoke. **smoker** *nc* a person who smokes cigarettes, etc. **smokestack** ('sməʊkstæk) *nc* a tall chimney. **smoky** ('sməʊkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

smooth (smuːð) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 with a surface that is even and not rough: *a smooth skin.* 2 (of movement) without being shaken about: *a smooth journey by sea.* 3 (of a person, their manner, etc.) calm and polite but not always sincere. • *vti* make or become smooth. **smoothly** *adv* **smoothness** *nu*

smother ('smʌðə*) *vt* 1 kill by keeping the air from or by covering the nose and mouth to prevent breathing. 2 put out (a fire) by covering it. 3 cover: *She smothered him with kindness.*

smoulder *US* **smolder** ('sməʊldə*) *vi* 1 burn with smoke but without flames. 2 (of feelings) exist without being known or seen: *smouldering hatred.*

smudge (smʌdʒ) *nc* a dirty mark, esp. one made by rubbing: *an ink smudge.* • *vt* make a smudge on or with.

smug (smʌg) *adj* **-ger, -gest** over-satisfied with yourself. **smugly** *adj* **smugness** *nu*

smuggle ('smʌgəl) *vt* take secretly and unlawfully into or out of a country. **smuggler** *nc* **smuggling** *nu*

smut (smʌt) *nc* 1 a small piece of dirt. 2 *nu agriculture* a disease of crops, caused by a fungus.

snack (snæk) *nc* a small meal, esp. one eaten in a hurry. **snack bar** a place where such a meal is bought and eaten.

snag (snæg) *nc* an unexpected difficulty. • *vt* cause to become caught or torn on something rough or sharp.

snail (sneɪl) *nc* a small, soft animal with a shell that moves slowly and lives on land or underwater.

snake (sneɪk) *nc* any of several kinds of long, thin animals without legs, some of which have a poisonous bite: see picture at **reptiles.**

snap (snæp) *vti* 1 break or be broken sharply, esp. with a noise. 2 (cause to) shut with a sharp noise: *I snapped the box shut.* 3 *vi* try to seize something with the teeth: *The dog snapped at his leg.* 4 *vt infml* take a photograph of. • *nc* 1 the act or sound of snapping. 2 *infml* a photograph. **snappy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml* quick; lively. **snapshot** ('snæpʃɒt) *nc* a photograph taken quickly. **snap up** buy or take quickly and eagerly.

snare (sneə*) *nc* 1 a trap for catching birds or small animals. 2 something that tempts and often leads to failure, loss, etc. • *vt* catch in a snare.

snarl (snɑ:l) 1 *vi* (of an animal such as a dog) show the teeth and make an angry noise. 2 *vti* (of a person) say (something) angrily. • *nc* the act or sound of snarling.

snatch (snætʃ) *vt* take eagerly and suddenly. • *nc* 1 the act of snatching. 2 a short period of something: *I heard snatches of their conversation.*

sneak (sni:k) *vi* 1 move in a quiet and secret manner. 2 *schoolchildren slang, Brit* tell the teacher what someone else has done wrong. • *nc schoolchildren slang, Brit* a child who sneaks. **sneaking** *adj* 1 secret. 2 slight but lasting: *a sneaking suspicion.*

sneakers ('sni:kəz) *n pl chiefly US* also **pair of sneakers** cloth shoes with soft rubber underneath.

sneer (snɪə*) *vi* show your disrespect by words or an unpleasant smile. • *nc* sneering words or a sneering smile.

sneeze (sni:z) *nc* a sudden pushing out of air through the nose and mouth making a short noise. • *vi* give a sneeze.

sniff (snɪf) 1 *vi* draw air in loudly through the nose, esp. to stop it running, or to show disrespect. 2 *vt* smell: *The dog sniffed the ball.* • *nc* the act of sniffing.

snigger ('snɪgə*) *vi* laugh in a quiet and secret way, esp. at something that is not proper, or to show disrespect. • *nc* such a laugh.

snip (snɪp) *vt* cut with short, quick cuts, • *nc* a short, quick cut.

snipe (snaɪp) *vti* shoot (at) from a place where you are hidden. **sniper** *nc*

snob (snɒb) *nc* 1 a person with too much respect for wealth, fashionable people and behaviour, etc. 2 a person who thinks they are better than other people. **snobbery** *nu* **snobbish** ('snɒbɪʃ) *adj*

snooker ('snu:kə*) *nu* a game played with long sticks, fifteen red balls, six balls of other colours, and one white ball on a table with cushions and holes round the edge.

snoop (snu:p) *vi* look secretly into other people's affairs.

snooty ('snu:tɪ) *adj derogatory* (said or done by a person) who thinks they are better than other people.

snooze (snu:z) *vi, nc* (have) a short sleep, esp. in the daytime.

snore (snɔ:*) *vi* breathe in a noisy way while asleep. • *nc* the act of snoring.

snorkel ('snɔ:kəl) *nc* a device for supplying a submarine or diver with air from above the water: see picture.

snorkel

snort (snɔ:t) *vi* force air out through the nose with a small noise, showing anger, refusal to believe something, etc. • *nc* an instance of snorting.

snout (snaʊt) *nc* the pointed nose of an animal such as a pig.

snow (snəʊ) 1 *nu* frozen water falling from the sky in small, white, delicate pieces. 2 *nc* a fall of snow. • *vi* (of snow) fall from the sky: *It's snowing heavily.* **snowball** ('snəʊbɔɪl) *nc* an amount of snow pressed into a hard ball for throwing in a game. **snowdrift** ('snəʊdrɪft) *nc* a large amount of snow piled up by the wind. **snowed under** having more work, etc., than you can cope with: *We were snowed under with requests for help.* **snowflake** ('snəʊfleɪk) *nc* a single piece of snow. **snowman** ('snəʊmæn) *nc, pl* **-men** a figure of a man made of snow by children. **snowplough** ('snəʊplaʊ) *nc* a device for clearing roads or railways of snow. **snowshoe** ('snəʊʃu:) *nc* one of a pair of devices strapped to the foot for walking on snow without sinking in. **snowstorm** ('snəʊstɔ:m) *nc* a heavy fall of snow, usually with wind. **snowy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered with snow. 2 pure white.

snub (snʌb) *vt* insult (someone) on purpose. • *nc* an instance of snubbing. • *adj* (of a nose) turned up at the end.

snuff[1] (snʌf) *nu* powdered tobacco breathed up the nose.

snuff[2] *vt* (often followed by **out**) 1 put out (a flame, candle, etc.). 2 put an end to: *His hopes were snuffed out.*

snug (snʌg) *adj* **-ger, -gest** 1 warm and comfortable: *snug in bed.* 2 (of clothes) fitting closely and neatly. **snugly** *adv*

snuggle ('snʌgəl) *vi* lie or move close to someone or something for warmth and comfort: *The boy snuggled up to his mother.*

so (səʊ) *adv* 1 to such an amount, point, extent, etc.: *He felt so ill that he stayed in bed.* 2 in this or that way: *Do it so.* 3 also: *I passed and so did you.* 4 very: *You're so kind!* • *conj* 1 therefore: *He wanted a*

newspaper, so he went to the shop. 2 (used to express surprise, horror, pain, etc.): *So you're not coming after all!* **and so on** and other things of the same kind. **or so** See under **or. so as to** See under **as. so far as** See under **far. so long as** See under **long¹. so-called** ('səukɔ:ld) *adj* so named but perhaps wrongly: *I don't like this so-called improvement.* **so-so** *adj infml* neither good nor bad; average. **so that** 1 in order that. 2 with the result that.

soak (səuk) *vt* 1 make very wet. 2 (usually followed by **up**) draw in (a liquid). 3 *vi* (usually followed by **in** or **into**) (of a liquid) be drawn in by a solid: *The wine soaked into the carpet.* 4 *vti* leave or remain in water for a long time, esp. in order to make dirt easier to remove. • *nc* an instance of being soaked: *Give the dirty clothes a good long soak.*

soap (səup) 1 *nu* a substance made from fat or oil, used with water for washing. 2 *nc infml* a soap opera. • *vt* put soap on. **soap opera** a television or radio serial about the everyday life of a group of people. **soapstone** *nc* a type of soft rock that is used for carving, etc. **soapy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

soar (sɔ:*) *vi* 1 fly high in the air. 2 rise: *Prices have soared.*

sob (sɒb) *vi* take quick, sharp breaths, esp. when crying. • *nc* an instance of sobbing.

sober ('səubə*) *adj* 1 not drunk. 2 reasonable; serious. 3 (of a colour) plain; dull. • *vti* (usually followed by **up**) make or become sober. **sobriety** (sə'braɪɪtɪ) *nu*

soccer ('sɒkə*) *n* See **association football** under **associate.**

sociable ('səuʃəbəl) *adj* liking the company of other people; friendly.

social ('səuʃəl) *adj* 1 living in groups, not apart. 2 to do with human society. 3 (of an activity, etc.) that involves meeting and being with other people for pleasure, rather than for work or business purposes. • *nc* an informal gathering of people in a club, etc. **socialise** *vi* meet, mix with, and talk to other people, esp. at a social gathering; be sociable. **socially** *adv* **social security** money given by the government to poor people. **social services** services provided by the government, such as education, health, and housing. **social work** the job of a social worker. **social worker** a person employed by a government to help the poor, the old, people with social problems, etc.

socialism ('səuʃəlɪzəm) *nu* the belief that a government should produce, own, and control the wealth that comes from its industries, land, transport, etc., and that this wealth should be fairly divided. **socialist** *adj* to do with socialism. • *nc* a person who believes in and supports the doctrine of socialism.

society (sə'saɪətɪ) 1 *nu* the way of life, customs, etc., of a group of people living in one place, district, or country. *nc, pl* **-ties** 2 such a group of people. 3 a group of people coming together with the same purpose or interest; club. *nu* 4 being together with other people, esp. your friends: *I always enjoy her society.* 5 fashionable and wealthy people.

sociology (ˌsəusɪ'ɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of human societies. **sociological** (ˌsəusɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **sociologist** (ˌsəusɪ'ɒlədʒɪst) *nc*

sock (sɒk) *nc* a covering, esp. of wool or cotton, for the foot and part of the leg.

socket ('sɒkɪt) *nc* a hollow place for something to turn round in or fit into: *an eye socket; an electric socket.*

sod (sɒd) *nc* a piece of earth with grass and its roots growing in it.

soda ('səudə) *nu* a white substance used in making soap, glass, etc. **soda siphon** a glass or metal container for making and keeping soda water in, and from which soda water is forced out by the gas inside when the handle is pressed. **soda water** water filled with gas to make it bubble, drunk esp. mixed with an alcoholic drink, etc.

sodden ('sɒdən) *adj* made completely wet.

sodium ('səudɪəm) *nu* a chemical element; silver-white metal found in soda, salt, etc.: symbol Na. **sodium bicarbonate** also **bicarbonate of soda** a mixture of sodium, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide, which is used to make drinks fizzy, to make cakes rise, etc. **sodium chloride** See **salt. sodium hydroxide** also **caustic soda** a mixture of sodium, oxygen, and hydrogen, which is used in cleaning substances, etc.

sofa ('səufə) *nc* a comfortable seat, with a back and arms, for two or more people.

soft (sɒft) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not hard; easily pressed into a different shape: *a soft bed.* 2 not rough to touch; smooth: *soft hair; soft fur.* 3 gentle; having sympathy for others: *soft words; a soft heart.* 4 *infml* foolish: *He's gone soft over his new girlfriend.* 5 not loud: *soft music.* 6 (of water) good for washing and cooking because it does not contain substances out of the ground. 7 (of light and colours) not too bright. **soft drink** a sweet drink without alcohol. **soften** ('sɒfən) *vti* make or become soft.

soft-hearted *adj* kind; sympathetic. **softly** *adv* **softness** *nu* **software** ('sɒftweə*) *nu* computer programs. See also **hardware** (def. 2).

soggy ('sɒgɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** soft because very wet.

soil (sɔɪl) *ncu* (a type of) the top part of earth in which plants grow. • *vti* make or become dirty.

solace ('sɒlɪs) *fml* 1 *nu* comfort when you are in trouble. 2 *nc* something that gives solace. • *vt* give solace to.

solar ('səʊlə*) *adj* to do with the sun. **solar plexus** ('pleksəs) (the nerves of) the part of the stomach between the diaphragm and the abdomen. **solar system** the sun and the planets, such as earth, that move round it.

sold (səʊld) past tense and past participle of **sell.**

solder ('sɒldə*) *nu* a mixture of metals that is easily melted, used to join other metals together. • *vt* join with solder. **soldering-iron** *nc* a heated tool used to join such metals.

soldier ('səʊldʒə*) *nc* a person in an army.

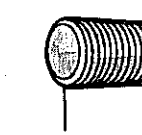
sole[1] (səʊl) *nc* the underneath part of a foot, shoe, sock, etc. • *vt* put a sole on a shoe, boot, etc.

sole[2] *adj* one and only. **solely** ('səʊllɪ) *adv* alone; only.

sole[3] *nc* a flat sea-fish used for food.

solemn ('sɒləm) *adj* 1 done with seriousness and respect. 2 very serious; (pretending to be) very important. **solemnity** (sə'lemnɪtɪ) 1 *nu* being solemn. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** a solemn event or practice. **solemnly** *adv*

solenoid ('səʊlɪˌnɔɪd) *nc science* a coil of wire through which electricity is passed to produce a magnetic field: see picture.



solenoid

solicit (sə'lɪsɪt) *fml* 1 *vt* invite; ask (someone) for (something): *I shall solicit his help.* 2 *vi* (followed by for) ask for.

solicitor (sə'lɪsɪtə*) *nc* 1 *Brit* a lawyer who gives advice on the law and prepares cases for barristers. 2 *US* a person who goes about asking for votes, orders for goods, etc.

solid ('sɒlɪd) *adj* 1 not a liquid or gas. 2 firm; strong: *solid rock.* 3 not hollow. 4 that can be depended on: *a man of solid character.* 5 going on without a break: *He slept for eight solid hours.* • *nc* a solid substance or object. **solidity** *nu* **solidly** *adv*

solidarity (ˌsɒlɪ'dærɪtɪ) *nu* being united by the same interests or purpose.

solidify (sə'lɪdɪfaɪ) *vti* make or become solid.

soliloquy (sə'lɪləkwɪ) *nc, pl* **-quies** a speech in a play that is spoken by an actor or actress alone on the stage.

solitary ('sɒlɪtrɪ) *adj* 1 living or being on your own. 2 lonely. 3 only one.

solitude ('sɒlɪtjuːd) *nu* being on your own.

solo ('səʊləʊ) *nc* 1 a piece of music played, sung, or danced to by one person. 2 anything special done by one person. • *adj, adv* done by one person: *a solo voyage.* **soloist** ('səʊləʊɪst) *nc* a person who plays, sings, or dances a solo.

soluble ('sɒljʊbəl) *adj* able to be dissolved in a liquid. **solubility** (ˌsɒljʊ'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

solute ('sɒljuːt) *nc chemistry* a substance that dissolves in a solvent to form a solution.

solution (sə'luːʃən) 1 *nc* the explanation of a problem, puzzle, etc.; answer. *nu* 2 the finding of an answer, explanation, etc. 3 the change of a solid or gas into a liquid by adding it to a liquid. 4 *nc* a substance that results from this.

solvate ('sɒlveɪt) *vti chemistry* (cause to) form a solution by combining with another chemical substance.

solve (sɒlv) *vt* find the answer to (a problem, puzzle, etc.).

solvent ('sɒlvənt) *adj* 1 having enough money to pay your debts. 2 being a solvent. • *nc* a liquid in which something will dissolve.

somatic (səʊ'mætɪk) *adj biology* of or to do with any of the cells of a plant or animal except the reproductive cells.

sombre ('sɒmbə*) *adj* sad; miserable; dark in colour: *sombre clothes; a sombre winter's day.*

some (sʌm unstressed səm) *determiner, pron* 1 (an) unknown or unnamed: *Some kind person mended it for me; Some of you know what I mean.* 2 an unknown or unnamed number or amount (of): *I have bought some apples.* 3 a little: *Do make some effort!* • *determiner* 1 a large number or amount: *some days ago; some distance away.* 2 about: *some ten people.*

somebody ('sʌmbədɪ) also **someone** *pron* some person. • *nc, pl* **-dies** a person of importance: *You might have been somebody if you had worked harder.*

somehow ('sʌmhaʊ) *adv* by some means or another.

someplace ('sʌmpleɪs) *adv infml, US* somewhere.

somersault ('sʌməsɔːlt) *nc, vi* (make) a jump or fall, turning the body completely over before landing on your feet again.

something ('sʌmθɪŋ) *pron* some thing: *Have you lost something?* **have something to do with** be connected with: *I don't know what his job is exactly, but it has something to do with teaching.* **something like** 1 about: *It's something like five miles to the nearest town.* 2 rather like.

sometime ('sʌmtaɪm) *adv* at some time in the past or future: *I saw him sometime last year.*

sometimes ('sʌmtaɪmz) *adv* at some times; occasionally.

somewhat ('sʌmwɒt) *adv* rather: *His clothes are somewhat old.*

somewhere ('sʌmweə*) *adv* in, at, or to some place.

son (sʌn) *nc* someone's male child. **son-in-law** ('sʌnɪnlɔː) *nc, pl* **sons-in-law** the husband of someone's daughter.

sonar ('səʊnɑː*) *nu* a device or equipment that uses sound waves to find something underwater or to measure the depth of water.

sonata (sə'nɑːtə) *nc* a piece of music for one or two instruments, such as a piano and violin, divided into three or four parts.

song (sɒŋ) 1 *nc* a piece of music with words to be sung to it. 2 *nu* singing: *the song of a bird.*

sonic ('sɒnɪk) *adj* to do with sound: *a sonic boom.*

sonnet ('sɒnɪt) *nc* a poem with fourteen lines arranged in a certain pattern.

soon (suːn) *adv* 1 in a short time: *We'll be home soon.* 2 early: *Why did you come so soon?* **as soon as** at the moment that; not later than: *I'll come as soon as I can.* **sooner** *adj* 1 earlier. 2 rather; as a preference: *I'd sooner walk than take the bus.* **no sooner ... than** at the very moment that: *No sooner had I sat down than the telephone rang.* **sooner or later** at some future time.

soot (sʊt) *nu* a black powder left by smoke. **sooty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 covered with soot. 2 as black as soot.

soothe (suːð) *vt* 1 calm (a person who is troubled). 2 lessen (pain). **soothing** *adj*

sophisticated (sə'fɪstɪkeɪtɪd) *adj* 1 with highly developed tastes and habits. 2 (of a machine, etc.) complicated; highly developed. **sophistication** (sə,fɪstɪ'keɪʃən) *nu*

soprano (sə'prɑːnəʊ) 1 *nu* the highest female or boy's singing voice. 2 *nc* a person with such a voice.

sorcerer ('sɔːsərə*) *nc* a man who can do magic tricks, helped by evil spirits. **sorceress** *nc* a female sorcerer. **sorcery** *nu* the practices of a sorcerer.

sordid ('sɔːdɪd) *adj* 1 dirty and unpleasant: *a sordid district of the town.* 2 (of a person, behaviour, etc.) shameful; mean.

sore (sɔː*) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 painful when touched; hurting: *a sore throat.* 2 feeling annoyance: *He's very sore about failing to get the job.* • *nc* a tender, painful place on the body. **sorely** *adv* greatly. **soreness** *nu*

sorghum ('sɔːgəm) *nu* a grass grown for its seeds, which are eaten, and for hay.

sorrow ('sɒrəʊ) 1 *nu* sadness; grief. 2 *nc* a cause of grief or sadness. **sorrowful** *adj* **sorrowfully** *adv*

sorry ('sɒrɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 feeling sad because of loss, sympathy, for doing wrong, etc.: *I'm sorry to hear that you've been ill; It was her fault, but she said she was sorry.* 2 pitiful: *What a sorry mess he's in!* • *interj* 1 (used to say no or to show disagreement or apology.) 2 *Brit* (used to ask someone to say something again.)

sort (sɔːt) *nc* a kind, type, or group of people or things that are alike in some way. • *vt* arrange (people or things) into groups of the same type. **sort out** 1 solve (a problem, etc.). 2 make (a mess, etc.) tidy. 3 separate (something) from a group.

SOS (,esəʊ'es) *nc* a signal sent by someone in urgent need of help.

soufflé ('suːfleɪ) *nc French* a baked dish made mainly of eggs, with the whites beaten stiff.

sought (sɔːt) past tense and past participle of **seek.**

souk (suːk) *nc* a market-place in a Muslim country.

soul (səʊl) *nc* 1 the spiritual part of a person that is believed to live for ever. 2 the true nature of a person: *He hated war with all his soul!* 3 a person: *I didn't see a soul.* **soulful** ('səʊlful) *adj* having or seeming to have deep feelings: *soulful eyes.* **soulless** *adj* with no noble or deep feelings.

sound¹ (saʊnd) 1 *ncu* something that can be heard; (a) noise: *the sound of voices.* 2 *nu* the effect made on the mind by something said or read: *I don't like the sound of it.* • *vti* 1 (cause to) give out a noise: *It sounds as if it's raining.* 2 *vt* feel or examine by tapping and listening. 3 *vi* (of something said or read) give a particular impression; seem: *That sounds like fun!; It sounds as if she's already made up her*

mind. **sound effects** sounds, other than those of speech and music, made for a film, play, etc. **sound-track** ('saʊndtræk) *nc* the track at the side of a cinema film on which sound is recorded. **sound-wave** ('saʊndweɪv) *nc* a wave-like movement in the air, etc., by which sound is carried.

sound[2] *adj* **-er, -est** 1 healthy; not injured or rotten: *a sound body; sound fruit.* 2 showing or having good sense: *sound ideas.* **sound asleep** in a complete, deep sleep. **soundly** *adv* **soundness** *nu*

sound[3] *vt* measure the depth of (the sea, etc.). **sounding** *nc* a measurement of depth. **sound out** try, in a careful way, to find out the ideas, feelings, etc., of (a person) about something.

sound[4] *nc* a long, narrow strip of water that joins two larger bodies of water.

soup (suːp) *nu* a liquid food made by cooking meat, vegetables, etc., in water.

sour (saʊə*) *adj* 1 having a sharp taste: *a sour apple.* 2 (of milk, etc.) gone bad. 3 having a bad temper. • *vti* make or become sour.

source (sɔːs) *nc* 1 the point from which a river starts. 2 the place from which something comes or is obtained.

south (saʊθ) *n* **the south** the direction that is on the right of a person facing the east. **the South** 1 the southern part of a country, etc. 2 the poorer countries of the world. • *adj* 1 in or towards the south. 2 (of the wind) coming from the south. • *adv* towards the south. **south-east** (ˌsaʊθˈiːst) *n* the direction halfway between south and east. • *adj* 1 in or towards the south-east. 2 (of the wind) coming from the south-east. • *adv* towards the south-east. **southerly** ('sʌðəlɪ) *adj* in or from the south. **southern** ('sʌðən) *adj* in or to the south. **southernmost** ('sʌðənməʊst) *adj* (of a place) the furthest (towards the) south. **southward(s)** ('saʊθwəd(z)) *adj, adv* towards the south. **south-west** (ˌsaʊθˈwest) *n* the direction halfway between south and west. • *adj* 1 in or towards the south-west. 2 (of the wind) coming from the south-west. • *adv* towards the south-west.

souvenir (ˌsuːvəˈnɪə*) *nc* something kept, given, or bought to remind you of a person, place, or event.

sovereign ('sɒvrɪn) *nc* a chief ruler, esp. a kind, queen, or emperor. • *adj* having the highest power: *a sovereign state.* **sovereignty** ('sɒvrəntɪ) *nu* complete or the highest power.

sow[1] (saʊ) *nc* a grown-up female pig.

sow[2] (səʊ) *vt* put (seeds) in the earth in order to grow plants, etc. **sower** *nc*

sown (səʊn) past participle of **sow**[2].

soya ('sɔɪə) *nu* a plant grown for its seeds. **soya bean** one of these seeds, which are eaten or made into oil or flour.

space (speɪs) 1 *nu* that in which everything exists and through which everything moves, esp. the region beyond the earth. 2 *nc* the distance between objects. *nu* 3 a length of time: *in the space of two weeks.* 4 a place that has or might have nothing in it; room: *Is there enough space in your car for five people?* • *vt* set out with regular spaces between. **spacecraft** ('speɪskrɑːft) or **spaceship** ('speɪsʃɪp) *nc* a vehicle for travelling in space. **space shuttle** a spacecraft that can be used more than once, as for journeys between earth and another planet.

spacious ('speɪʃəs) *adj* having plenty of room: *a spacious house.*

spade (speɪd) *nc* 1 a tool with a long handle and a broad metal blade, used for digging: see picture at **tools.** 2 a playing-card with a black shape like a painted leaf on it.

spaghetti (spəˈgetɪ) *nu Italian* long, thin strings made from flour, eggs, and water that are boiled and eaten.

span[1] (spæn) *nc* 1 the distance between the end of the little finger and the end of the thumb when stretched out. 2 the distance between two supports, esp. of a bridge. 3 a distance in time, from the beginning to the end. • *vt* 1 stretch from one side to another of: *Many bridges span the river.* 2 (of a life, memory, etc.) extend across. 3 measure with the hand stretched out.

span[2] past tense of **spin.**

spangled ('spæŋgəld) *adj* covered with many tiny, round, shiny decorations or other sparkling objects.

spaniel ('spænjəl) *nc* a kind of dog with short legs, long hair, and long ears.

spank (spæŋk) *vt* punish (esp. a child) by hitting on the bottom with the front of the hand. • *nc* a slap on the bottom.

spanner ('spænə*) *nc* a tool used for turning nuts on screws, etc.: see picture at **tools.**

spar[1] (spɑː*) *nc* a strong pole used on a ship for supporting a sail or for keeping it stretched out.

spar[2] *vi* make movements with the hands as if boxing.

spare (speə*) *adj* 1 extra; not in use but there if needed: *a spare wheel for a car.* 2 not used for work: *spare time.* • *vt* 1 hold yourself back from hurting, killing, etc.:

Spare my life; Spare his feelings. 2 do without: *I can't spare the time.* 3 protect from; not cause to suffer: *I'll spare you the trouble.* **to spare** extra; left over: *We arrived with ten minutes to spare.* **spare part** a part of a machine used to replace one that is damaged or worn out. **sparing** *adj* careful in the spending of money, time, etc. **sparingly** *adv*

spark (spɑːk) *nc* 1 a tiny piece thrown off from something burning or produced when metal is struck on stone. 2 a flash of bright light produced when electricity jumps through air. 3 a small sign that something exists: *a spark of life; He hasn't a spark of wit in him.* • *vi* give off sparks of fire or electricity. **sparking-plug** (ˈspɑːkɪŋplʌg) *nc* a device in a petrol engine that makes a **spark** (def. 2), which causes the petrol to explode. **spark off** cause (something) to happen: *The police raid sparked off a riot.*

sparkle (ˈspɑːkəl) *vi* give out flashes of light; shine: *Her eyes sparkled with happiness.* • *nc* a flash of light. **sparkling** *adj* 1 (of a drink, esp. wine) containing or made fizzy with bubbles of gas. 2 brilliant; very good: *a sparkling performance.*

sparrow (ˈspærəʊ) *nc* a small brown or grey bird found in many parts of the world: see picture at **birds.**

sparse (spɑːs) *adj* **-r, -st** not many or much: *a sparse population; a sparse meal.* **sparsely** *adv*

spartan (ˈspɑːtən) *adj* (of a way of life) having no comforts or luxuries.

spasm (ˈspæzəm) *nc* 1 a sudden tightening of the muscles. 2 a sudden burst of pain, excitement, etc. **spasmodic** (spæzˈmɒdɪk) *adj* done or happening occasionally. **spasmodically** *adv*

spastic (ˈspæstɪk) *adj* having spasms; of or like a spasm. • *nc* a person who suffers from an illness that makes it difficult for them to control their movements.

spat (spæt) past tense and past participle of **spit.**

spate (speɪt) *nc* 1 a flood in a river. 2 a sudden large amount: *a spate of complaints.*

spatial (ˈspeɪʃəl) *adj* to do with space.

spatter (ˈspætə*) 1 *vt* throw drops of (water, mud, etc.) onto (something): *His coat was spattered with blood.* 2 *vti* (of water, mud, etc.) be thrown in drops (onto): *Rain spattered the window.* • *nc* something spattered: *a spatter of mud.*

spatula (ˈspætjʊlə) *nc* a flat tool with a broad blade, used for mixing or spreading substances: see picture.

spatula

spawn (spɔːn) *nu* the eggs of a fish or some other water animals, such as frogs. • *vt* 1 produce (eggs). 2 produce; cause.

speak (spiːk) *vi* 1 use your voice to talk, not sing: *Don't speak so fast!* 2 talk to a person: *I'll speak to him about the matter.* 3 make a speech. *vt* 4 be able to use a language that is not your own: *He speaks several languages.* 5 make known; say: *He always speaks the truth.* **speaker** *nc* 1 a person who makes a speech. 2 short for **loudspeaker. speak for** speak as a representative of. **speak up** 1 speak louder. 2 give your opinion.

spear (spɪə*) *nc* a weapon made from a long stick with a metal point at the end. • *vt* push a spear or other pointed object into something.

special (ˈspeʃəl) *adj* 1 of a particular sort: *There is a special tool for this job.* 2 particularly good: *Special qualities are needed for this important job.* 3 particularly important: *a special occasion.* **specially** *adv*

specialise (ˈspeʃəlaɪz) 1 *vi* (often followed by **in**) give all your attention, time, study, etc., to a particular subject. 2 *vt* make suitable for a special use. **specialisation** (ˌspeʃəlaɪˈzeɪʃən) *ncu*

specialist (ˈspeʃəlɪst) *nc* a person who specialises in a certain type of study, work, etc., esp. medicine: *a heart specialist.*

speciality (ˌspeʃɪˈælɪtɪ) *US* **specialty** (ˈspeʃəltɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** an interest, activity, etc., in which someone or something specialises.

species (ˈspiːʃiːz) *nc* a similar type of animal or plant: *The lion and tiger are different species of cat.*

specific (spɪˈsɪfɪk) *adj* 1 having to do with one particular thing, subject, etc.: *a disease specific to humans.* 2 exact; particular: *Could you be a bit more specific—what type of car is it?* **specifically** *adv* **specific gravity** the ratio of the density of a substance to that of water.

specify (ˈspesɪfaɪ) *vt* give exact details of. **specification** (ˌspesɪfɪˈkeɪʃən) 1 *nu* specifying. 2 *nc* details of something to be done.

specimen (ˈspesɪmɪn) *nc* a part of something, member of a group, etc., taken to

represent the whole thing: *a blood specimen.*

specious ('spiːʃəs) *adj* seeming to be right or true but actually wrong or false: *a specious argument.*

speck (spek) *nc* a tiny spot, mark, piece of dirt, etc. **speckled** ('spekəld) *adj* covered with tiny marks or spots.

spectacle ('spektəkəl) *nc* 1 a special public event, procession, etc. 2 something seen, esp. something splendid. **spectacles** *n pl* also **pair of spectacles** a device containing two pieces of glass worn in front of the eyes to correct your sight or protect the eyes; glasses.

spectacular (spek'tækjulə*) *adj* splendid; striking: *a spectacular view.*

spectator (spek'teɪtə*) *nc* a person who watches a sports match, public show, etc.

spectroscope ('spektrəˌskəʊp) *nc* an instrument that is used to produce, examine, or record a spectrum.

spectrum ('spektrəm) *nc, pl* **-tra** (trə) a set of bands of different-coloured light formed when white light is divided up.

speculate ('spekjuleɪt) *vi* 1 form an opinion before knowing all the facts; guess. 2 take risks in business in the hope of making profits later. **speculation** (ˌspekju'leɪʃən) *ncu* **speculative** ('spekjulətɪv) *adj* **speculator** *nc*

sped (sped) past tense and past participle of **speed.**

speech (spiːtʃ) 1 *nu* the power of speaking. *nc* 2 a talk given in public. 3 a group of lines spoken by a character in a play. **speechless** *adj* unable to speak because of some deep feeling such as anger, disappointment, etc.

speed (spiːd) 1 *nu* fast movement. 2 *nc* a distance travelled measured against the time taken: *The car was travelling at a speed of forty kilometres an hour.* • *vti* (cause to) go quickly. **speed-boat** ('spiːdbəʊt) *nc* a boat with an engine, built to go fast. **speeding** *nu* driving a car or other vehicle faster than allowed by law on a particular road. **speedometer** (spiː'domɪtə*) *nc* a device that shows how fast a vehicle is travelling. **speed up** (cause to) go or work faster: *The engine speeded up.* **speedy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** quick.

spell[1] (spel) *vt* 1 say or write letters to form (a word): *How do you spell 'politician'?* 2 (of letters) form (a word): *C-A-T spells cat.* **spelling** *nc* the way a word is spelt. **spell out** 1 manage to read (words) letter by letter. 2 explain clearly.

spell[2] *nc* a set of words believed to have magic power. **spellbound** ('spelbaʊnd) *adj* with all the interest or attention held, as if by magic words.

spell[3] *nc* a period of time, esp. short.

spelt (spelt) past tense and past participle of **spell.**

spend (spend) *vt* 1 pay out (money). 2 pass (time): *Where did you spend your holiday?* **spendthrift** ('spendθrɪft) *nc* a person who is in the habit of wasting money.

spent (spent) past tense and past participle of **spend.**

sperm (spɜːm) *ncu* (a cell from) the liquid of a man or male animal that causes a female to produce young.

spermicide ('spɜːmɪˌsaɪd) *ncu* a substance that kills sperm, used as a contraceptive.

spew (spjuː) *vti* 1 bring back (food, etc.) from the stomach and out through the mouth. 2 send or be sent out in a violent stream.

sphere (sfɪə*) *nc* 1 an object shaped like a ball: see picture at **shapes.** 2 a star; planet. 3 the interests, activities, etc., of a person. **spherical** ('sferɪkəl) *adj* shaped like a ball.

sphinx (sfɪŋks) *nu* a stone figure with a woman's head, a lion's body, and wings: see picture.

sphinx

spice (spaɪs) 1 *nc* a sweet-smelling or sharp-tasting plant substance used in food to give it more taste. 2 *nu* something that adds excitement, interest, etc. • *vt* add spice to. **spicy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of food) with spice added. 2 exciting.

spider ('spaɪdə*) *nc* a small animal with eight legs that makes a web in which to catch flying insects for food. **spidery** *adj* (esp. of handwriting) thin and with sharp corners.

spied (spaɪd) past tense and past participle of **spy.**

spike (spaɪk) *nc* a sharp point, esp. of metal. • *vt* 1 put on a spike. 2 provide with spikes: *spiked shoes.* **spiky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** having sharp points.

spill (spɪl) *vt* 1 allow (liquid, etc.) to run out of its container accidentally. 2 *vi* (of liquid, etc.) run out of its container accidentally. • *nc* a fall from a horse, etc. **spillage** *ncu*

spilt (spɪlt) past tense and past participle of **spill.**

spin (spɪn) *vt* 1 make (threads) by twisting (wool, cotton, silk, etc.). 2 (of a spider) make (a web) to catch insects in. 3 *vti* (cause to) move round like a wheel. • *nc* 1 a turning movement. 2 *infml* a short ride in a car, on a bicycle, etc. **spin-dryer** (ˌspɪnˈdraɪə*) *nc* a machine for drying washed clothes, etc., by spinning them round and forcing the water out. **spinner** *nc* **spinning-wheel** (ˈspɪnɪŋwiːl) *nc* a simple machine used for spinning. **spin out** make (something) last longer: *Try to spin out your money until you get your wages.*

spinach (ˈspɪnɪdʒ) *nu* a green vegetable with leaves that are cooked and eaten.

spinal (ˈspaɪnəl) *adj* to do with the spine. **spinal cord** the nerves that run down the middle of the **spine** (def. 1), leading from the brain to all the other nerves of the body.

spindle (ˈspɪndəl) *nc* a bar that turns round or on which something, such as a wheel, turns. **spindly** (ˈspɪndlɪ) *adj* long and thin: *spindly legs.*

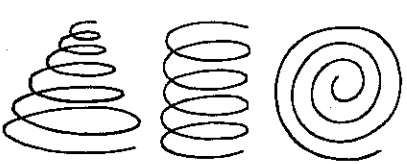
spine (spaɪn) *nc* 1 the line of bones that go down the middle of the back. 2 one of the needle-like parts of some plants and animals. 3 the narrow part of a book's cover that is seen when in a row on a shelf. **spineless** *adj* 1 having no spine. 2 not having enough power of the mind to decide things. **spiny** *adj* **-ier, -iest** having needle-like parts.

spinneret (ˈspɪnəˌret) *nc* one of the parts of a spider where the threads that form the web are produced; a similar part of some insects, such as the silkworm.

spinster (ˈspɪnstə*) *nc* a woman who has not married.

spiracle (ˈspaɪərəkəl) *nc* a small hole used for breathing in some insects, fish, etc.

spiral (ˈspaɪərəl) *nc* a shape or line that curves round and round while moving away from a point: see picture. • *adj* in the shape of a spiral. • *vi* have the shape of or move in a spiral.



spiral

spire (ˈspaɪə*) *nc* a tall, pointed part of a building, esp. on a church tower.

spirit (ˈspɪrɪt) 1 *nu* the soul. *nc* 2 the soul of a person without the body: *the spirits of the dead.* 3 a liquid obtained from another by boiling it off and collecting it, such as a strong alcoholic drink. 4 a person's real nature or qualities. *nu* 5 the quality of courage, energy, liveliness, etc.: *men of fine spirit.* 6 the real meaning behind the words, esp. of a law: *obey the spirit of the law.* **spirited** *adj* lively. **spirits** *n pl* 1 a state of mind: *She's in high spirits.* 2 strong alcoholic drinks, such as whisky and brandy. **spiritual** (ˈspɪrɪtjʊəl) *adj* of the soul, religion, or the church; caring for things of the soul. **spiritualist** *nc* a person who believes that they can communicate with the spirits of the dead. **spiritually** *adv*

spit[1] (spɪt) 1 *vi* throw out liquid from the mouth. *vt* 2 throw out (something unpleasant) from the mouth. 3 say violently or angrily: *She spat out her hatred of him. vi* 4 (of a fire) throw out tiny pieces. 5 rain very lightly. • *nu* liquid spat from the mouth. **spit out** *infml* say quickly (what you want to say).

spit[2] *nc* 1 a long, thin, metal bar on which meat is fixed to be cooked over a fire. 2 *geography* a long strip of low land that sticks out into the sea.

spite (spaɪt) *nu* a strong wish to harm someone's feelings or reputation; hatred. **in spite of** not paying any attention to: *He went out in spite of being ill.* **spiteful** *adj* having or showing feelings of spite.

splash (splæʃ) 1 *vt* cause (water, mud, etc.) to fly about or onto (someone or something). *vi* 2 (of water, mud, etc.) fly about over someone, the floor, etc. 3 fall or move in water causing it to fly about: *The child was splashing about in the pool.* • *nc* 1 a noise or mark made by splashing: *splashes of mud on my coat.* 2 a small patch of colour. **splash out** *infml* spend (a lot of) money, esp. on something that is not essential: *We decided to splash out on a new car.*

splendid (ˈsplendɪd) *adj* 1 fine, esp. to look at. 2 greatly to be admired: *What a splendid idea!* **splendidly** *adv*

splendour*US* **splendor** (ˈsplendə*) 1 *nu* the quality of being splendid. 2 *nc* a splendid quality: *the splendours of the royal palace.*

splint (splɪnt) *nc* a piece of wood, etc., tied to a broken arm, leg, etc., to keep it in the right position.

splinter (ˈsplɪntə*) *nc* a small, sharp piece of wood, glass, etc., broken off a larger piece: *get a splinter in your finger.* • *vti* break or be broken into splinters. **splinter group** a number of people who have

left a larger organisation to form their own organisation, usually because of disagreement.

split (splɪt) 1 *vti* break or be broken apart: *The wood split down the middle.* 2 *vt* divide into parts: *Let's split the money between us.* • *nc* 1 splitting. 2 a tear caused by bursting open or splitting. 3 a disagreement, esp. one that causes an organisation to divide into groups. **split hairs** make too much of unimportant or small points in an argument, etc. **split second** a very short period of time. **split up** (of two or more people) stop being together, travelling together, etc.

splutter ('splʌtə*) *vt* speak quickly and unclearly because of excitement, etc.

spoil (spɔɪl) *vt* 1 make (someone's enjoyment) less; make useless: *Our holiday was spoilt by heavy rain.* 2 harm (someone's) character by letting them have their own way too often: *a spoilt child.* 3 *vi* (of food, etc.) go bad. **spoils** *n pl* stolen goods; goods taken by force in war.

spoilt (spɔɪlt) past tense and past participle of **spoil.**

spoke[1] (spəʊk) past tense of **speak.**

spoke[2] *nc* one of the bars coming from the centre of a wheel to its outer edge.

spoken ('spəʊkən) past participle of **speak.**

spokesman ('spəʊksmən) *nc, pl* **-men, spokeswoman** *nc, pl* **-women,** also **spokesperson** a person chosen to speak for or represent others.

sponge (spʌndʒ) *nc* 1 a kind of simple sea-animal that is soft and yellow, with a structure full of holes able to take in water easily. 2 a piece of this, or something made like it, used for washing, cleaning, etc. • *vt* clean with a sponge. **spongy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** soft, like a sponge.

sponsor ('spɒnsə*) *nc* 1 a person who promises to be responsible for another person. 2 a person who puts forward a plan, idea, etc., and promises to support it. 3 a person, business, etc., that offers to pay for a radio or television programme if their goods are advertised on it. 4 a person who promises to pay money, esp. for charity, if another person succeeds in doing something such as walking a certain distance. • *vt* be a sponsor for. **sponsorship** *nu*

spontaneous (spɒn'teɪnɪəs) *adj* done or happening without being planned or suggested by anyone or anything. **spontaneity** (ˌspɒntə'neɪɪtɪ) *nu* **spontaneously** *adv*

spool (spuːl) *nc* a small device on which thread, wire, film, tape, etc., is wound.

spoon (spuːn) *nc* a tool with a cup-shaped part on the end of a handle, used for eating, stirring, etc. **spoonfeed** ('spuːnfiːd) *vt* 1 feed (a baby, an ill person, etc.) with a spoon. 2 give (someone) too much help. **spoonful** ('spuːnful) *nc* as much food, etc., as will fill a spoon. **spoon out** serve (food) with a spoon.

sporadic (spə'rædɪk) *adj* happening only occasionally. **sporadically** *adv*

spore (spɔː*) *nc* a seed by which a plant without flowers increases itself.

sport (spɔːt) 1 *ncu* a (type of) game or activity done for amusement and exercise, usually outside, such as running or football. 2 *nu* amusement: *We did it for sport.* **sporting** *adj* 1 to do with or interested in sports. 2 with a risk of losing: *a sporting chance.* **sports** *n pl* a meeting of people taking part in outdoor games. **sports car** a small car built to go very fast. **sportsman** ('spɔːtsmən) *nc, pl* **-men, sportswoman** *nc, pl* **-women** a person who is fond of sports. **sportsmanship** ('spɔːtsmənʃɪp) *nu*

spot (spɒt) *nc* 1 a small mark: *a blue skirt with white spots.* 2 a stain; dirty mark: *spots of mud on her coat.* 3 a place: *Here's a good spot to park the car.* 4 a small, red mark on the skin: *Her face is covered in spots.* • *vt* 1 mark or stain with spots. 2 see or recognise (someone or something). **spotless** ('spɒtlɪs) *adj* very clean. **spotlight** ('spɒtlaɪt) 1 *nc* a lamp that gives a strong light pointed at a particular person or place, esp. in a theatre. 2 *nu* a place or person to which everyone's attention is given: *He loves to be in the spotlight.* **spotted** ('spɒtɪd) *adj* marked with spots: *a spotted scarf.* **spotty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** covered with spots, esp. on the skin.

spouse (spaʊz, spaʊs) *nc fml* a husband or wife.

spout (spaʊt) 1 *vt* throw out (liquid). 2 *vi* (of liquid) be thrown out: *Blood spouted from his wound.* 3 *vti infml* speak as if making a speech, instead of talking in a usual manner. • *nc* 1 a pipe, etc., through which liquid is poured: *the spout of a kettle.* 2 a stream of water thrown out with force.

sprain (spreɪn) *vt* twist (one of the joints of the body) so that damage and pain is caused. • *nc* such an injury.

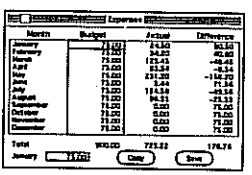
sprang (spræŋ) past tense of **spring.**

sprawl (sprɔːl) *vi* 1 sit with the arms and legs loosely and ungracefully spread out. 2 spread out in an untidy manner: *a sprawling town.* • *nc* 1 a sprawling manner of sitting, etc. 2 a sprawling movement.

spray[1] (spreɪ) 1 *nu* water, etc., flying about in small drops: *sea spray.* 2 *ncu* liquid forced out of a small device, in the form of a fine mist: *a spray of scent.* 3 *nc* a device used for producing this fine mist. • *vt* throw or sprinkle (water, etc.) in the form of a spray.

spray[2] *nc* a small branch of a tree or plant, used as an ornament.

spread (spred) 1 *vt* cover the surface of (something) with (something): *Spread the table with a cloth; Spread butter on the bread.* 2 *vi* (cause to) cover a large surface. 3 *vti* (cause to) pass from person to person. • *nc* 1 a measurement from one side to the other side: *the spread of a bird's wings.* 2 *nu* spreading to a larger area, greater number of people, etc.: *the spread of knowledge.* *nc* 3 a food made for spreading on bread. 4 a table laid out with food: *What a lovely spread!* **spreadsheet** *nc* a computer program used esp. for tasks involving figures and calculations, such as the accounts of a business: see picture.



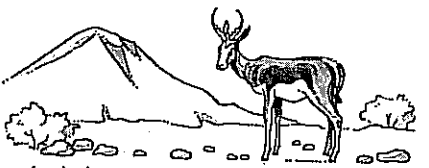
spreadsheet

spree (spriː) *nc* a lively, happy time: *a shopping spree.*

sprig (sprɪg) *nc* a very small branch of a tree or plant with leaves, flowers, etc.

sprightly ('spraɪtlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** lively and active.

spring (sprɪŋ) *vi* 1 jump up suddenly from the ground: *The cat sprang onto the wall.* 2 move suddenly: *He sprang out of bed.* 3 *vt* cause or produce suddenly when not expected: *to spring a surprise on someone.* • *nc* 1 the season between winter and summer in which flowers, leaves, etc., appear. 2 a piece of coiled metal wire that goes back to its normal shape after being pulled, pressed down, etc.: *the springs of a bed.* 3 a flow of water coming up from the earth; place where this happens. 4 a jump up. **springboard** ('sprɪŋbɔːd) *nc* 1 a board, easily bent without breaking, from which someone jumps. 2 a point from where to start off: *This job will be a springboard to your future.* **springbok** ('sprɪŋˌbʌk) *nc* an African deer-like animal that jumps high into the air as it runs: see picture. **spring from** come from suddenly: *Where did you spring from?* **springtime** ('sprɪŋtaɪm) *nu* the season of spring. **spring up** grow or appear suddenly; arise: *Another problem has sprung up.* **springy** ('sprɪŋɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** that goes back to its normal shape after being pressed, pulled, etc.



springbok

sprinkle ('sprɪŋkəl) *vt* throw (something) all around in small drops or pieces: *Sprinkle sugar over the fruit.* **sprinkler** ('sprɪŋklə*) *nc* a device for sprinkling water onto a lawn, etc., or fixed in a building for putting out a fire. **sprinkling** *nc* a small amount.

sprint (sprɪnt) *vi* run a short distance as fast as possible. • *nc* a short, fast run. **sprinter** *nc*

sprout (spraʊt) *vti* (cause to) begin to grow. • *nc* a new growth on a plant.

spruce[1] (spruːs) *adj* **-r, -st** smart and neat in appearance. **spruce yourself up** make yourself look neat and smart.

spruce[2] *nc* a kind of fir-tree; (also *nu*) the wood of this tree.

sprung (sprʌŋ) past participle of **spring.**

spry (spraɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** quick-moving; lively: *a spry old man.*

spun (spʌn) past tense and past participle of **spin.**

spur (spɜː*) *nc* 1 one of a pair of sharp devices worn on a rider's boots to make the horse go faster. 2 something that urges a person on to do things with greater effort. 3 a sharp, hard point on a male bird's leg. 4 a line of hills or mountains. • *vt* (often followed by **on**) urge on (a person or a horse) to try harder, do better, go faster, etc. **on the spur of the moment** on a sudden desire to act.

spurn (spɜːn) *vt* refuse with contempt: *She spurned his offer.*

spurt (spɜːt) *vi* 1 (of water, blood, etc.) flow out suddenly with force. 2 make a sudden, extra effort, esp. in running a race. • *nc* 1 a sudden flow. 2 a sudden, harder effort.

sputum ('spjuːtəm) *nu* matter that is spat from the mouth, esp. after coughing.

spy (spaɪ) *nc, pl* **-ies** 1 a person who goes into other countries to get secret information, esp. in times of war. 2 a person who secretly watches the activities of other

people. • *vt* 1 see, by looking carefully: *He spied someone in the garden.* 2 *vi* work as a spy.

squabble ('skwɒbəl) *vi, nc* (have) an unimportant, noisy quarrel.

squad (skwɒd) *nc* a small group of people being trained together or employed for the same purpose.

squadron ('skwɒdrən) *nc* a group of warships or warplanes.

squalid ('skwɒlɪd) *adj* dirty and uncared for. **squalor** ('skwɒlə*) *nu*

squall (skwɔːl) *nc* a sudden burst of wind and rain.

squander ('skwɒndə*) *vt* waste (esp. money or time).

square (skweə*) *nc* 1 a figure with four equal sides and four equal angles: see picture at **shapes.** 2 anything with this shape. 3 an open space with four sides in a town, in which trees and grass are planted, or round which are buildings. 4 the result of a number when it is multiplied by itself: *The square of three is nine.* 5 *slang* an old-fashioned person. • *adj* **-r, -st** 1 having the shape of a square. 2 (of accounts, debts, etc.) attended to and settled. 3 honest; fair: *I'll be square with you.* • *vt* 1 make square. 2 multiply a number by itself: *Three squared is nine.* **square deal** *infml* a fair piece of business. **squarely** *adj* 1 honestly. 2 straight. **square root** a number whose **square** (def. 4) is a number that is mentioned: *Three is the square root of nine.* **square up** pay what is owing; settle an account, etc. **square up to** face (something) bravely.

squash (skwɒʃ) 1 *vt* make flat by pressing; press into too small a space. 2 *vi* become pressed flat. 3 *vt* crowd in a very small space. • *nu* 1 a crowd of people squashed together: *It was a bit of a squash in our small car.* 2 also **squash rackets** a game played with rackets and a rubber ball in a place with walls on all sides. *nc* 3 a sweet fruit drink. 4 a fruit, eaten as a vegetable.

squat (skwɒt) *vi* 1 sit on the ground on your heels or with your legs drawn up near to your body. 2 occupy public land, an empty building, etc., without permission. • *adj* **-ter, -test** short and thick. **squatter** *nc* 1 a person who squats (**squat** def. 2). 2 *Australian* a sheep-farmer.

squawk (skwɔːk) *vi, nc* (esp. of a bird) (give) a loud, sharp cry of pain or fear.

squeak (skwiːk) *vi, nc* (give) a short, high cry as of a mouse, or a noise like this as of a door that needs oiling. **squeaky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** giving squeaks.

squeal (skwiːl) *nc* a long, high cry, louder than a squeak, showing great fear or pain. • *vi* 1 give a squeal. 2 *vt* say (something) with a squeal. 3 *vi slang* give information to the police, esp. about someone who has broken the law.

squeamish ('skwiːmɪʃ) *adj* 1 easily made to feel sick or afraid: *I'm too squeamish to be a doctor—I can't stand the sight of blood.* 2 too easily feeling disgust.

squeeze (skwiːz) *vt* 1 press tightly: *He squeezed my hand.* 2 press tightly in order to get (water, etc.) out of (something): *Squeeze the juice out of an orange.* 3 *vti* push (someone or yourself) into a small space: *We squeezed into the lift.* • *ncu* (an instance of) squeezing or being squeezed.

squelch (skweltʃ) *vi, nc* (make) the sucking noise heard when you walk through soft, wet mud, etc.

squid (skwɪd) *nc* a sea-animal with ten long, thin arms on the head.

squint (skwɪnt) *vi* 1 look with each eye pointing in a different direction. 2 look sideways or with the eyes half-shut. • *nc* 1 a position of the eyes that is not normal. 2 *infml* look: *Let's have a quick squint at it.*

squirm ('skwɜːm) *vi* twist the body with small movements because of feeling uncomfortable, ashamed, shy, etc.

squirrel ('skwɪrəl) *nc* a small, tree-climbing animal like a rat with grey or red fur and a thick tail.

squirt (skwɜːt) 1 *vt* force out a thin stream of (water, powder, etc.). 2 *vi* (of water, powder, etc.) be forced out in a thin stream. • *nc* 1 a thin stream of water, powder, etc. 2 a device that forces out liquid, etc.

stab (stæb) *vt* wound with a sharp-pointed weapon. • *nc* 1 a blow from a sharp-pointed weapon. 2 *infml* a try.

stable[1] ('steɪbəl) *nc* a building in which horses are kept.

stable[2] *adj* 1 firm in position; not changing. 2 (of a person) faithful; not likely to change. **stabilise** ('steɪbɪlaɪz) *vt* make firm or steady. **stability** (stə'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

stack (stæk) *nc* 1 a pile or heap of anything, esp. neatly arranged. 2 *infml* a large amount: *a stack of work.* 3 a pile of stored hay, etc., with a pointed top. 4 a number of chimneys together. • *vt* pile up; put one on top of another.

stadium ('steɪdɪəm) *nc, pl* **-diums, -dia** (dɪə) a sports ground with rows of seats, one behind and higher than another, for people to watch games, competitions, etc.

staff (stɑːf) *nc* 1 a strong stick used as a support when walking or climbing. 2 a

group of people working together under a manager, head, etc.: *school staff.* 3 a group of army officers who organise the army. • *vt* provide with **staff** (def. 2).

stag (stæg) *nc* a male deer with branch-like horns.

stage (steɪdʒ) *nc* 1 the raised part in a theatre where the acting takes place. 2 a certain point in progress or development: *Our baby is just at the crawling stage.* 3 a distance between two stopping places on a journey. • *vt* 1 put (a play) on the theatre stage. 2 arrange (an event, esp. a sudden or exciting one). **the stage** the activity of acting in plays. **stagecoach** ('steɪdʒkəʊtʃ) *nc* a vehicle with horses that used to take passengers at fixed times from one stopping place on a journey to another.

stagger ('stægə*) 1 *vi* walk very unsteadily, moving from one side to another, because of being drunk, carrying something heavy, etc. *vt* 2 greatly shock, surprise, etc. 3 arrange (holidays, times of work, etc.) so that not everyone's are the same: *We staggered our work so that the office was never empty.* • *ncu* (an instance of) staggering. **staggering** *adj* very surprising or shocking.

stagnant ('stægnənt) *adj* 1 (of water) not flowing. 2 (of business, etc.) not busy; not changing. **stagnate** (stæg'neɪt) *vi* 1 (of water, etc.) be or become without movement. 2 (of a person, business, etc.) be or become slow-moving or dull because of lack of change, activity, etc. **stagnation** *nu*

staid (steɪd) *adj* (of a person) serious; not liking change.

stain (steɪn) *vt* 1 change the colour of; make a dirty mark on: *clothes stained with blood; Smoking can stain the fingers.* 2 colour (wood, etc.) with a special substance that goes into it. 3 *vi* (of material) become dirty or have its colour spoiled. • *nc* 1 a liquid used for colouring wood. 2 a dirty mark. **stained glass** coloured glass, esp. used in church windows. **stainless** *adj* without a stain, esp. on your reputation. **stainless steel** steel that will not rust.

stair (steə*) *n* one of a set of fixed steps in a building. **stairs** *n pl* also **staircase** ('steəkeɪs) or **stairway** ('steəweɪ) a set of stairs.

stake[1] (steɪk) *nc* 1 a strong stick with a sharp point driven into the ground as part of a fence, as a support for a young tree, etc. 2 a piece of wood to which a person was tied and burnt to death as a punishment. • *vt* 1 mark out (a place) with stakes. 2 support with a stake.

stake[2] *nc* an amount of money risked on the result of some future race, event, etc. • *vt* risk (money, etc.) on some future event, etc. **at stake** at risk: *There is a lot at stake here.*

stalactite ('stæləktaɪt) *nc* a natural, long, pointed object hanging from the roof of a cave, formed by water falling in drops: see picture.

stalactite

stalagmite ('stæləgmaɪt) *nc* a natural, long, pointed object on the floor of a cave, formed by water falling in drops: see picture.

stalagmite

stale (steɪl) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of food) not fresh; dry: *stale bread.* 2 not interesting because already heard, known, etc.; *stale news.* • *vi* become stale. **stalemate** ('steɪl,meɪt) *nu* a point reached in a game, competition, argument, discussion, etc., when neither side can win and no further progress can be made.

stalk[1] (stɔːk) *nc* the part of a plant that supports the leaves, flowers, fruits, etc.

stalk[2] 1 *vi* walk in a stiff, proud, etc., manner. 2 *vt* follow slowly and carefully in order to catch or kill.

stall[1] (stɔːl) *nc* 1 one of the divisions of a stable, etc., in which a horse, cow, etc., is kept. 2 a small shop, esp. in a market. 3 *Brit* (usually *pl*) one of the seats nearest to the stage in a theatre. 4 a wooden seat with a back and sides in a church. • *vi* 1 (of a vehicle or its engine) stop moving because of lack of power. 2 *vt* cause (a vehicle or engine) to stall.

stall[2] *vi* delay answering a question in order to have more time to think of an answer.

stallion ('stæljən) *nc* a male horse, esp. used for the producing of young.

stalwart ('stɔːlwət) *adj* showing no fear; firm; *stalwart supporters.* • *nc* a stalwart person.

stamen ('steɪmən) *nc* the male part of a flower containing the yellow powder called pollen: see picture.

stamen

stamina ('stæmɪnə) *nu* strength of body and mind that enables a person to work for a long time, etc.

stammer ('stæmə*) *vi* speak in a hesitating way often repeating a word or sound, as in 'M-m-may I g-go h-h-home?' • *nc* a habit of doing this.

stamp (stæmp) 1 *vti* bring (the foot) down with force. 2 *vi* stamp while walking: *He stamped out of the room.* *vt* 3 press or print (something) on (a surface). 4 prepare (a letter, parcel, etc.) for posting by putting a postage stamp on it. **stamp out** get rid of; put an end to: *an attempt to stamp out crime.* • *nc* 1 the act of stamping with the foot. 2 a device for printing a mark, etc., on a surface: *a date stamp.* 3 **postage stamp** See under **postage**.

stampede (stæm'piːd) *nc* a sudden rush made by people or animals esp. because of fear. • *vti* (cause to) take part in a stampede.

stance (stɑːns) *nc* 1 a way of standing. 2 an opinion or attitude: *What is your stance on the treatment of prisoners?*

stand (stænd) 1 *vti* (often followed by **up**) (cause to) be or become upright: *I stood up when they came in; I'll stand the brush up against the wall.* *vi* 2 be in a certain condition: *This is how the situation stands.* 3 be in a certain place: *The house stands in a large garden.* 4 *vt* bear: *She can't stand pain.* • *nc* 1 a piece of furniture on which something can be held or supported: *a hat stand; a music stand.* 2 a shelter-like place where something is sold: *a newspaper stand.* 3 a structure on which people sit or stand to watch sports, etc. **stand back** move away from something. **stand by** 1 watch something without interfering: *I won't stand by and see them go hungry.* 2 be ready for when help, action, etc., is needed. **standby** ('stændbaɪ) *nc* a person or thing that can be used if another does not arrive, work, etc. **stand for** 1 put up with; support: *I won't stand for cruelty to animals.* 2 *Brit* try to be chosen for a particular office: *He is standing for Parliament.* 3 be a sign of; mean: *In this dictionary, 'n' stands for 'noun'.* **standin** ('stændɪn) *nc* a person who takes the place of another, esp. an actor. **stand in (for)** take the place of; represent. **standing** *nu* 1 the length of time that something lasts or has existed. 2 a person's reputation or place in society. • *adj* fixed, remaining unchanged: *a standing rule.* **stand out** be easily noticed or seen. **stand-up** ('stændʌp) *adj* 1 (of a meal) eaten while you are standing. 2 (of a fight) violent. **stand up for** support. **stand up to** 1 face bravely. 2 (of a thing) stay in good condition in spite of (much use, etc.).

standard ('stændəd) *nc* 1 an accepted or approved size, quality, etc., with which others are compared. 2 a special flag: *the royal standard.* • *adj* of the accepted or approved size, quality, etc.: *the standard weight.* **standardise** ('stændədaɪz) *vt* make standard.

standpipe ('stænd,paɪp) *nc* an upright pipe through which water can be drawn from an underground supply.

standpoint ('stændpɔɪnt) *nc* a way of looking at a question, situation, etc.: *He takes the standpoint that an election is necessary.*

standstill ('stændstɪl) *nu* an end; short stop: *The project has come to a standstill.*

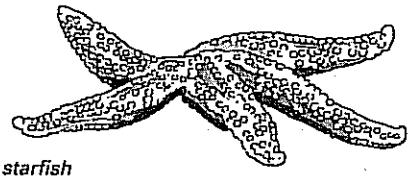
stank (stæŋk) past tense of **stink.**

stanza ('stænzə) *nc* a division of a poem consisting of a fixed number of lines.

staple¹ ('steɪpəl) *nc* a piece of metal wire in a U-shape with pointed ends, used for fastening wood, paper, etc., by hammering or pressing it in. • *vt* fasten with a staple. **stapler** ('steɪplə*) *nc* a device for pushing staples into paper.

staple² *adj, nc* (the) most important or chief (goods, food, etc., produced): *Rice is the staple food of India.*

star (stɑː*) *nc* 1 one of the many round bodies seen shining in the sky at night. 2 a shape with five or more points coming out from it, such as (*). 3 a famous actor, actress, singer, etc. • *vt* 1 decorate or mark with a **star** (def. 2). *vi* 2 take one of the main parts in a film, play, etc. **stardom** ('stɑːdəm) *nu* fame as an actor, actress, singer, etc. **starfish** ('stɑːfɪʃ) *nc* a sea-animal shaped like a star, with five or more arms: see picture. **starlight** ('stɑːlaɪt) *nu* light from the stars.


starfish

starboard ('stɑːbəd) *nu, adj* (on) the right-hand side of a ship or plane when a person faces the front.

starch (stɑːtʃ) *nu* 1 a white food substance without smell or taste, found in potatoes, corn, etc. 2 this substance as a powder used for making clothes, etc., stiff. • *vt* make stiff with starch. **starchy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a food) containing starch. 2 (of a person) rather formal in manner.

stare (steə*) *vi* look steadily with the eyes wide open: *She stared at him in surprise; It's rude to stare!* • *nc* a steady, wide-eyed look.

stark (stɑːk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 deserted-looking; bare: *That wall is very stark without a picture on it.* 2 complete: *stark madness.* • *adv* completely: *stark naked.*

starling ('stɑːlɪŋ) *nc* a small European bird with bright, black feathers that often lives near buildings.

starry ('stɑːrɪ) *adj* **-ier, iest** covered with or shining like stars: *a starry night; starry eyes.*

start (stɑːt) 1 *vti* (cause to) begin, come into being, or begin to move: *I've started the clocks; When does school start?* 2 *vi* make a sudden movement from surprise: *He started at the loud noise.* • *nc* 1 a beginning. 2 a sudden movement from surprise, fear, etc. **start off** begin to move. **start out** 1 *infml* begin something with a particular intention: *He started out wanting to become rich.* 2 *chiefly US* begin a journey. **start up** 1 get up suddenly, esp. from your seat. 2 (cause to) begin to work: *Get the engine started up.* **starter** *nc* 1 a person who gives the signal for a race to begin. 2 a horse or person taking part in a race. 3 a device for starting up an engine. 4 *chiefly Brit* the first course of a meal, eaten before the main course.

startle ('stɑːtəl) *vt* surprise (someone), esp. so that they **start** (def. 2). **startling** *adj*

starve (stɑːv) *vti* 1 (cause to) die from hunger. 2 (cause to) eat too little food. 3 *vi infml* be very hungry. 4 *vt* cause to lack something important: *The engine is being starved of air.* **starvation** (stɑː'veɪʃən) *nu* **starving** *adj*

state (steɪt) *nc* 1 the condition in which something is; what something is like: *a happy state of mind; Your room is in a very untidy state!* 2 also **State** (a part of) a country with its own political government: *the United States of America.* 3 *nu* ceremony: *the Queen travels in state.* • *vt* say, esp. clearly and firmly: *He stated his opinion on the matter.* **stately** *adj* **-ier, -iest** serious; grand.

statement ('steɪtmənt) *nc* 1 something stated. 2 a piece of paper that shows how much money has been paid, how much is owed, etc.: *a bank statement.*

statesman ('steɪtsmən) *nc, pl* **-men, stateswoman** *nc, pl* **-women** 1 a person who takes an important part in managing state business. 2 a respected politician. **statesmanship** ('steɪtsmənʃɪp) *nu* cleverness in dealing with state business or public affairs.

static ('stætɪk) *adj* not moving. • *nu* 1 also **static electricity** electric sparks, etc., produced when things rub together. 2 unwanted radio noise.

station ('steɪʃən) *nc* 1 a place where a public service is provided: *a fire station; a police station.* 2 a building where trains or buses stop. 3 a person's place in society. 4 *Australian* a large sheep or cattle farm. • *vt* put in position; send (someone) to work in a particular place: *I was stationed in Hong Kong for two years.*

stationary ('steɪʃənrɪ) *adj* 1 not intended to be moved about. 2 not moving: *a stationary vehicle.*

stationery ('steɪʃənrɪ) *nu* writing materials, such as paper, envelopes, pens, etc. **stationer** ('steɪʃənə*) *nc* a person or shop that sells stationery.

statistics (stə'tɪstɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the study of facts in the form of numbers. **statistic** *nc* such a fact. **statistical** *adj* **statistically** *adv* **statistician** (ˌstætɪs'tɪʃən) *nc* a person who deals with statistics.

statue ('stætʃuː) *nc* a figure of a person or animal made out of stone, wood, etc.

stature ('stætʃə*) *nu* 1 a person's height. 2 a person's quality or greatness.

status ('steɪtəs) *nu* a person's place in society or in relation to others. **status quo** (kwəʊ) *Latin* an unchanged state or position. **status symbol** something thought to be a sign of high position, wealth, success, etc., such as owning a car.

statute ('stætjuːt) *nc* a written law examined and accepted by a law-making body, esp. a parliament.

statutory ('stætjʊtərɪ) *adj* fixed, done, or demanded by law: *your statutory duty.*

staunch (stɔːntʃ) *adj* **-er, -est** loyal; firm:

a staunch supporter. • *vt* hold back or stop (a flow, esp. of blood).

stave (steɪv) *nc* 1 one of the curved pieces of wood forming the sides of a barrel. 2 *music* a set of five lines on and between which notes are written. **stave off** keep off; prevent: *We staved off an attack.*

stay[1] (steɪ) *vi* 1 remain: *stay at home.* 2 pass a short time in or at a place, esp. as a guest: *We stayed with friends; He's staying in London for the weekend. vt* 3 continue to be: *She stays happy whatever happens.* 4 stop; hold back; keep off: *to stay your hunger.* • *nc* a period spent at a place, esp. as a guest: *a short stay in London.* **stay in** remain at home; not go outside: *I'll stay in to watch television.* **stay out** remain outdoors or away from home: *Don't stay out late.* **stay put** remain where put: *My hat won't stay put.* **stay up** not go to bed: *We stayed up till midnight.*

stay[2] *nc* 1 a support: *His daughter has been the stay of his old age.* 2 a line supporting a ship's mast.

stead (sted) *n* **in someone's stead** in someone's place: *I'll go in your stead.* **stand someone in good stead** be useful to someone when needed.

steadfast ('stedfɑːst) *adj* firm; never changing; loyal.

steady ('stedɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 not shaking; still: *a steady hand.* 2 regular, not changing, etc.: *a steady flow of traffic.* • *vti* make or become steady. **steadily** *adv* **steadiness** *nu*

steak (steɪk) *nc* a thick piece of meat or fish.

steal (stiːl) *vt* 1 take away secretly and unlawfully (something that belongs to someone else). 2 get by surprise; do in secret: *to steal a kiss; She stole a glance at herself in the mirror.* 3 *vi* move quietly or secretly: *He stole away.*

stealth (stelθ) *nu* secret action. **stealthily** *adv* **stealthy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

steam (stiːm) *nu* 1 the gas into which water is changed when boiled. 2 *infml* energy; force. • *vi* 1 give out steam: *The kettle was steaming away.* 2 move (as if) by the power of steam: *The ship steamed down the river; Our plans steamed ahead.* 3 *vt* cook (food) by steam: *steamed fish.* **steamboat** ('stiːmbəʊt) *nc* a boat driven by a steam-engine. **steam-engine** ('stiːm,endʒɪn) *nc* a railway engine or a fixed engine driven or worked by steam. **steamer** *nc* 1 a ship driven by a steam-engine. 2 a cooking pot for steaming food. **steamroller** ('stiːm,rəʊlə) *nc* a large, heavy vehicle used to flatten the surface of a road. **steamship** ('stiːmʃɪp) *nc* a ship driven by a steam-engine. **steam up** become covered with tiny drops of water: *The window has steamed up—I can't see out.* **steamy** *adj* **-ier, iest.**

steel (stiːl) *nc* a hard metal made of iron, carbon, and sometimes another metal, used for making knives, tools, machinery, etc. • *vt* make (yourself) determined or fixed in purpose: *He steeled himself for action.* **steel band** a group of people who play music on metal drums.

steep[1] (stiːp) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 having a very sharp slope: *a steep hill.* 2 *infml* too much; too great: *steep prices.* **steeply** *adv*

steep[2] 1 *vti* (cause to) become and stay full of liquid for a time; soak. 2 *vt* take in or fill with as much as possible: *a town steeped in history.*

steeple ('stiːpəl) *nc* the tall, pointed part on the roof of a church tower.

steer[1] ('stɪə*) 1 *vt* guide (a ship, vehicle, etc.) in the right direction. 2 *vi* (of a ship, vehicle, etc.) allow to be guided in the right direction. **steering-wheel** ('stɪərɪŋwiːl) *nc* a wheel, turned by the driver, for guiding the course of a ship, car, etc.

steer[2] a young castrated male of the cattle family.

stem[1] (stem) *nc* 1 the main, central part of a plant that carries the flowers, leaves, etc. 2 anything that is shaped like a stem, such as the long, narrow part of a glass or pipe. 3 *grammar* the main part of a word on which other forms of that word are built: *'Time' is the stem of 'timetable'.* **stem from** come from; be caused by.

stem[2] *vt* control or stop (the flow of a liquid).

stench (stentʃ) *nc* a strong, unpleasant smell.

stencil ('stensəl) *nc* a piece of paper, metal, etc., in which patterns or letters are cut, through which ink is put onto a surface as a form of printing. • *vt* make a pattern, words, etc., with a stencil.

stenographer (stɪ'nɒgrəfə*) *nc chiefly US* a person who writes very quickly by using signs to represent words.

step (step) *vi* move one foot and then the other forward, as in walking. • *nc* 1 such a movement of the foot; a distance moved in stepping. 2 one of a set of actions, stages, etc., coming one after the other. 3 a short distance up or down; place for the foot when going up or down. 4 a sound made by stepping. **in** or **out of step** 1 putting or not putting the correct foot down when dancing, marching, etc., with

others. 2 behaving or not behaving like other people in a group. **step aside** move to one side. **step by step** gradually. **step down** give up your job or position, esp. to someone else. **step in** come forward to help sort out an argument, etc.; busy yourself with. **stepladder** ('step,lædə*) *nc* a ladder, with wide, flat steps, that folds up when not in use. **stepping-stone** ('stepɪŋstəʊn) *nc* 1 one of several flat stones put in a small stream, etc., and used as a path across it. 2 something that helps towards your purpose, ambition, etc. **steps** *n pl* a stepladder.

steppe (step) *nc* (usually *pl*) a flat land without trees, esp. in Russia.

stereo ('sterɪəʊ) *adj* short for **stereophonic.** • *nc* a stereophonic record-player, tape-recorder, etc. **stereophonic** (,sterɪə'fɒnɪk) *adj* (of broadcast and recorded sound) making sound seem to come from all directions by using two or more loudspeakers. **stereotype** ('sterɪətaɪp) *nc* a fixed idea about a person or thing: *the stereotype of a naughty little boy.* • *vt* use or have fixed ideas about.

sterile ('steraɪl) *adj* 1 unable to produce crops, seeds, or young. 2 without new ideas or progress: *a sterile business meeting.* 3 free from germs that cause disease. **sterilisation** (,sterɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu* sterilising. **sterilise** ('sterɪlaɪz) *vt* make sterile. **sterility** (ste'rɪlɪtɪ) *nu* being sterile.

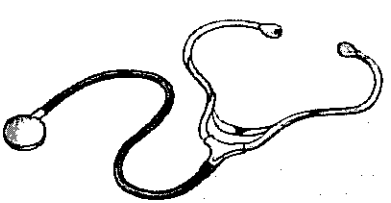
sterling ('stɜ:lɪŋ) *adj* 1 (to do with gold and silver) of fixed value; pure. 2 honest and good: *a man of sterling qualities.* • *nu* the sort of money used in Britain.

stern[1] (stɜ:n) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 expecting obedience. 2 firm and harsh in manner. **sternly** *adv*

stern[2] *nc* the back end of a boat or ship.

steroid ('sterɔɪd) *nc* 1 a type of drug that is used to treat rheumatism, etc. 2 a compound that occurs naturally in the body: *The sex hormones are steroids.*

stethoscope ('steθəskəʊp) *nc medicine* an instrument for listening to sounds inside the body, esp. those of the heart: see picture.



stethoscope

stew (stju:) *vti* (of meat and vegetables) cook slowly in liquid in a closed pan. • *ncu* (a type of) stewed meat and vegetables.

steward ('stju:əd) *nc* 1 a person whose job is to wait on passengers in a ship, plane, or train. 2 a person in charge of another person's large house, etc. 3 a person in charge of a public event, such as a dance, etc. **stewardess** (,stju:ə'des) *nc* a female **steward** (def. 1).

stick[1] (stɪk) *nc* 1 a thin branch cut or broken off a tree. 2 anything shaped like a stick. 3 a branch cut into a special shape or used for a special purpose: *a walking-stick.*

stick[2] *vt* 1 push (something pointed) into something. 2 fix or fasten, esp. with glue, etc.: *stick a poster on a wall.* 3 *infml* put: *Stick your book in my bag.* 4 *infml* put up with: *I can't stick the way he looks at her.* *vi* 5 be fastened or fixed, esp. with glue. 6 be fixed in by its point: *He had a feather sticking in his hat.* **stick at** continue doing something, esp. with an effort. **sticker** *nc* a sticky label, sign, etc., often with a printed message. **stick out** be easily seen among others. **stick out for** demand (something) and refuse to give way until you get it. **stick to** keep to (your promise, etc.). **stick together** *infml* stay loyal or friendly with each other. **stick up** be in an upright position. **stick up for** *infml* speak in support of. **sticky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 that sticks or may stick. 2 *infml* difficult or awkward: *a sticky situation.*

stiff (stɪf) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not easily bent: *stiff card; a stiff neck.* 2 difficult: *a stiff examination.* 3 great or strong: *a stiff wind.* 4 (of a person or behaviour) formal. **stiffen** *vti* (cause to) become stiff. **stiffly** ('stɪflɪ) *adv* **stiffness** *nu*

stifle ('staɪfəl) 1 *vti* (cause someone to) find it difficult to breathe. 2 *vt* hold back; prevent from being seen or heard: *stifle a cough.* **stifling** *adj* very hot and airless.

stigma ('stɪgmə) *nc* 1 a mark of disgrace. 2 the top of the seed-producing part of a flower.

stile (staɪl) *nc* a step or set of steps for climbing over a fence or wall.

still[1] (stɪl) *adv, adj* **-er, -est** not moving: *still water.* • *adj* 1 peaceful: *a still night.* 2 (of wine, etc.) without bubbles. • *nu* 1 the state of being peaceful. *nc* 2 a set of devices and containers for making strong alcohol. 3 a photograph made from one frame of a cinema film. • *vt* make still. **stillborn** ('stɪl,bɔɪn) *adj* (of a baby) born dead. **stillness** *nu*

still[2] *adv* 1 even up till now or then: *I'm still hoping to work abroad; Do you still work at the same place?* 2 even; yet: *Still more strikes are expected.* 3 in spite of that: *I don't want to go ... still, I promised, so I must.*

stilt (stɪlt) *nc* 1 one of two long poles with foot supports to make the user appear taller: *Stilts are used by circus clowns.* 2 one of a number of long poles used to support a house, etc., built above the level of the ground.

stilted ('stɪltɪd) *adj* (of speech, conversation, etc.) that does not flow smoothly and naturally.

stimulant ('stɪmjʊlənt) *nc* 1 a drink, medicine, etc., that increases activity of the body or mind. 2 something that encourages a person.

stimulate ('stɪmjʊleɪt) *vt* excite; stir into activity. **stimulating** *adj* **stimulation** (ˌstɪmjʊ'leɪʃən) *nu*

stimulus ('stɪmjʊləs) *nc, pl* **-li** (liː) something that stimulates.

sting (stɪŋ) *vti* 1 (be able to) cause a wound by forcing poison through the skin of (a person or animal). 2 cause pain to the body or mind of (someone). 3 *vt infml* ask for money, esp. too much, from. • *nc* 1 a wound, often poisonous, caused by being stung. 2 the part of a bee, etc., that causes this. 3 *ncu* (a) pain in the body or mind.

stingy ('stɪndʒɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml* mean; not giving freely, esp. money.

stink (stɪŋk) *vi* give out a strong, unpleasant smell. • *nc* a strong, unpleasant smell.

stint (stɪnt) *vt* keep (yourself) within a certain small amount: *There's plenty of food, so don't stint yourself!* • *nc* an amount or period of work, etc.

stipulate ('stɪpjʊleɪt) *vt* say that (certain conditions, etc.) must be met before something can be done. **stipulation** (ˌstɪpjʊ'leɪʃən) *ncu*

stir (stɜː*) 1 *vti* (cause to) move slightly: *The baby stirred in its sleep. vt* 2 move (liquid) round with a tool to mix it: *stir your tea with a spoon; stir a pot of paint.* 3 excite or move (feelings, etc.): *stir up trouble.* • *nc* 1 an act of stirring. 2 a fuss. **stirring** *adj* exciting.

stirrup ('stɪrəp) *nc* one of two supports hanging from the leather seat on a horse for the feet of the rider.

stitch (stɪtʃ) 1 *nc* (in sewing) an amount of thread seen on cloth after the passing in and out of a needle through it. 2 *ncu* (a type of) stitching. *nc* 3 (in knitting) a loop of wool over the needle. 4 a loop of thread, etc., used to hold the sides of a wound together. 5 *nu* a pain in the side caused by too much activity. • *vt* sew with stitches.

stock (stɒk) *nu* 1 the goods kept by a shop or business. 2 the starting-point in times past from which a family has begun: *She's of Welsh stock.* 3 juice made by boiling meat, bones, vegetables, etc., in water, used for cooking. *ncu* 4 (an amount of) money lent to a government. 5 (a number of) shares in the money owned by a company. *nc* 6 an amount of something kept in good supply for future use. 7 the handle of a tool, etc.: *the stock of a whip.* • *vt* keep or provide with (goods). • *adj* usual and rather boring: *a stock response.* **in** or **out of stock** (of goods) available or not available for purchase from a shop or business.

stockade (stɒ'keɪd) *nc* a tall fence round something as a defence. • *vt* put a stockade around.

stockbroker ('stɒkbrəʊkə*) *nc* a person whose job is to buy and sell shares.

stock exchange also **stock market** a place where shares are bought and sold.

stockholder ('stɒkhəʊldə*) *nc chiefly US* a person who owns shares.

stocking ('stɒkɪŋ) *nc* one of a pair of nylon, wool, etc., garments fitting closely over the foot and leg.

stockist ('stɒkɪst) *nc* a person who owns a supply of certain goods for sale.

stockpile ('stɒkpaɪl) *nc* a large supply of important goods kept in store for future use. • *vt* build up and keep a stockpile of.

stockroom ('stɒkrʊm) *nc* a room in a shop, school, factory, etc., where a supply of goods is kept.

stockstill (ˌstɒk'stɪl) *adv* without any movement: *stand stockstill.*

stock-taking ('stɒkteɪkɪŋ) *nu* the examining and making of a list of goods that are available in a shop, etc.

stocky ('stɒkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (esp. of a person) short and broad.

stoical ('stəʊɪkəl) *adj* able to bear pain, trouble, etc., without complaining. **stoically** *adv*

stoke (stəʊk) *vt* put coal, etc., onto (a fire) in a building, engine, etc.

stole[1] (stəʊl) past tense of **steal.**

stole[2] *nc* a woman's loose scarf-like garment worn round the shoulders with each end hanging down at the front.

stolen ('stəʊlən) past participle of **steal.**

stoma ('stəʊmə) *nc, pl* **-mata** (mətə) a small opening in a leaf, or in certain small animals.

stomach ('stʌmək) *nc* a bag-like part of

the body where food goes after being swallowed, to be broken down by acid juices. • *vt* put up with without feeling ill, angry, etc.: *She can't stomach all that rubbish he talks.* **stomach-ache** *nc* a pain in the stomach or abdomen.

stone (stəʊn) 1 *nu* a hard substance in the ground; rock. *nc* 2 a small piece of rock, broken off the main rock. 3 a jewel: *precious stones.* 4 something hard and round, esp. the large seed in the centre of a fruit. 5 a measure of weight: see appendix. • *vt* 1 throw small rocks at. 2 take out stones from (fruit). **Stone Age** a time before history was written down when weapons, etc., were made of stone. **stone cold** very cold. **a stone's throw** a short distance: *Our house is a stone's throw from the station.* **stony** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having many stones: *a stony road.* 2 cold and hard: *a stony stare.*

stood (stʊd) past tense and past participle of **stand.**

stool (stu:l) *nc* a small, backless seat, with three or four legs.

stoop (stu:p) *vi* 1 bend the body forward and downward, esp. from the waist. 2 (followed by **to**) behave in a way so as to be less deserving of respect: *I would not stoop to violence.* • *nc* a bending of the body.

stop (stɒp) *vt* 1 put an end to the movement of (a person or thing). 2 fill up (a hole, etc.). 3 cause to cease for a time: *His wages have been stopped.* 4 prevent: *You can't stop me from running away. vi* 5 come to an end; cease moving: *My watch has stopped.* 6 remain; stay: *stop at home.* • *nc* 1 an example of stopping or being stopped. 2 a place where a public vehicle waits for people to climb on and off: *a bus stop.* 3 the sign (.) used in writing, esp. at the end of a sentence; full stop. **stopcock** ('stɒpkɒk) *nc* a device in a pipe that controls the flow of liquid or gas going through it. **stopgap** ('stɒpgæp) *nc* a person or thing filling the place of another person or thing for a short time only. **stop off** break a journey for a short time. **stop over** break a journey for one or two days. **stop-over** ('stɒpəʊvə) *nc* a break in a journey. **stop press** the latest news added to a newspaper after the printing of it has begun. **stopwatch** ('stɒpwɒtʃ) *nc* a watch that can be stopped and started, used for measuring the time taken in races, etc.

stoppage ('stɒpɪdʒ) 1 *ncu* (an example of) stopping or being stopped. 2 *nc* something that makes movement or action difficult or impossible.

stopper ('stɒpə*) *nc* a cork, etc., fitted in the top of a bottle, etc., to keep the contents in.

store (stɔ:*) *vt* 1 put away for future use. 2 provide; supply: *a mind stored with information.* • *nc* 1 a supply of something kept for future use. 2 (*pl*) such goods. 3 a large shop which sells a great variety of goods: *a department store.* 4 *chiefly US* a shop. **in store** going to happen: *Nobody knows what's in store for them.* **set (great) store by** think of as important or of great value. **storage** ('stɔ:ridʒ) *nu* storing: *We need more storage space.* **storehouse** ('stɔ:haʊs) *nc* a place where goods are kept. **storekeeper** ('stɔ:ki:pə*) *nc* 1 a person who owns or is in charge of a storehouse. 2 *chiefly US* a person in charge of a shop. **storeroom** ('stɔ:rʊm) *nc* a room where supplies are kept.

storey *US* **story** ('stɔ:rɪ) *nc* (all the rooms on) a floor or level of a building: *The hotel was eight storeys high.*

stork (stɔ:k) *nc* a large bird that has very long legs and walks about in water.

storm (stɔ:m) *nc* 1 a period of heavy rain, strong winds, etc. 2 a show of very strong feeling: *a storm of protest.* • *vi* 1 show very strong feelings: *He stormed out of the room in anger.* 2 *vt* attack and capture (a place). **stormy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of weather) showing violence. 2 full of strong feelings: *a stormy meeting.*

story ('stɔ:rɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 an account of a set of events told in a book, etc.: *Some stories are true, some are imaginary.* 2 *infml* an untrue account. **storybook** ('stɔ:rɪbʊk) *nc* a book of imaginary happenings, esp. for children. • *adj* convenient and pleasing, but unlikely: *a storybook ending to their troubles.* **storyteller** ('stɔ:rɪ,telə*) *nc* 1 a person who tells stories. 2 a person who tells lies. **storytelling** ('stɔ:rɪ,telɪŋ) *nu*

stout (staʊt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 strongly made: *a pair of stout shoes.* 2 rather fat: *a stout woman.* 3 brave. • *nu* beer of the strongest kind. **stoutly** *adv* **stoutness** *nu*

stove (stəʊv) *nc* a device heated by gas, electricity, etc., for warming a room or cooking food.

stow (stəʊ) *vt* put (things) away, usually closely packed together. **stowaway** ('stəʊəweɪ) *nc* a person who hides on a ship or a plane in order to make a journey without paying.

straddle ('strædəl) *vt* sit on or stand over something with your legs wide apart: *He straddled his horse.*

straggler ('strægləˣ) *nc* a person who goes so slowly as to be left behind the others in a group.

straight (streɪt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 without a bend or bends: *a straight line.* 2 honest. 3 placed in an upright or level position. 4 in good order; tidy. • *adv* directly; in a straight line: *The children were told to come straight home.* • *nc* a straight part of a racetrack. **go straight** stop being a criminal. **keep a straight face** not smile or laugh. **straight away** at once; immediately; without doing anything else first.

straighten ('streɪtən) *vti* make or become straight.

straightforward (ˌstreɪt'fɔːwəd) *adj* 1 honest. 2 easily understood: *a straightforward question.*

strain (streɪn) *vt* 1 stretch by pulling tightly. 2 stretch (your powers) too much, esp. damaging part of the body: *to strain your eyes by reading in a weak light.* 3 *vi* make a great effort (to do something). 4 *vti* (of a liquid) pass through a wire framework or cloth to remove any solid matter. • *ncu* 1 (an example of) being strained. *nc* 2 anything that strains your powers. 3 (*pl*) music: *the strains of a guitar heard through an open window.* 4 a natural tendency in a person's character: *a strain of weakness in the family.* 5 *nu* great tiredness of body or mind. **strainer** *nc* a device through which liquid is passed to remove solid matter.

strait (streɪt) *nc* 1 a narrow piece of sea between two larger seas. 2 (*pl*) great difficulty or need: *in desperate straits.*

strand *nc* one of several threads of string, wire, etc., that are twisted together to form a rope, cable, etc.

stranded (strændɪd) *adj* 1 (of a ship) stuck in shallow water. 2 helpless because of being left without money, transport, etc.

strange (streɪndʒ) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 unknown; foreign: *a strange noise; in a strange land.* 2 unusual: *What a strange man!* **strangely** *adv* **strangeness** *nu* being strange. **stranger** *nc* 1 a person you do not know. 2 a person in a place that is unknown to them.

strangle ('stræŋgəl) *vt* kill by tightly pressing the throat of.

strap (stræp) *nc* a thin strip of leather or of a material easily bent, used for fastening, holding, etc.: *a watch strap; handbag with a shoulder strap.* • *vt* 1 fasten or hold with a strap. 2 use a strap to beat (someone).

strapping ('stræpɪŋ) *adj* tall, strong, and showing good health: *a strapping lad.*

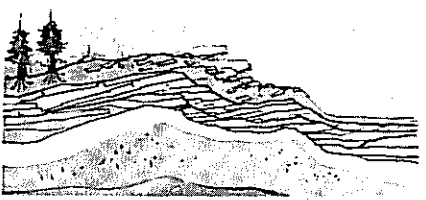
stratagem ('strætədʒəm) *nc* a plan or trick to deceive, esp. an enemy.

strategy ('strætɪdʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** 1 *ncu* (a plan made by) the art of planning the positions of armies and their likely behaviour, etc., in war. 2 *nu* the art of using plans or stratagems in business, etc. **strategic** (strə'tiːdʒɪk) *adj* of or to do with strategy, esp. to gain an advantage. **strategically** *adv*

stratify ('strætɪfaɪ) *vti* form into layers: *stratified rock.* **stratification** (ˌstrætɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu* arrangement in layers.

stratosphere ('strætəsfɪəˣ) *nc* a layer of mixed gases lying above the surface of the earth.

stratum ('strɑːtəm) *nc, pl* **-ta** (tə) 1 a layer of rock in the earth's surface: see picture. 2 a group in society that is of the same class.



stratum

straw (strɔː) 1 *nu* dried stalks of wheat, etc., used for making hats, baskets, etc., and as food for cattle. *nc* 2 one of these stalks. 3 a thin, hollow tube for sucking up liquid into the mouth.

strawberry ('strɔːbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** (a plant producing) a juicy, red fruit with small, yellow seeds on its surface: *strawberry jam:* see picture at **fruits.**

stray (streɪ) *vi* 1 wander away from the rest of a group or from the right path. 2 wander away from the main subject when speaking. • *nc* a person or animal who has wandered away. • *adj* seen, heard, etc., occasionally.

streak (striːk) *nc* 1 a long, thin line of something: *a streak of light.* 2 a quality in someone's character. • *vi* 1 move very quickly. 2 *vt* mark with streaks.

stream (striːm) *nc* 1 a very small river. 2 a continual movement in one direction of people or things: *a stream of traffic.* 3 *chiefly Brit* a group of children separated by level of ability from others of the same age in a school: *There are three streams in the first year–stream A is for the cleverest.* • *vi* 1 flow or move continually in one direction: flow steadily: *Blood streamed*

from his nose. 2 flow or move freely. 3 *vt* divide into streams (**stream** def. 3). **streamer** *nc* a long, thin, coloured strip of paper. **streamline** ('strɪːmlaɪn) *vt* 1 give a shape to (a vehicle, plane, etc.) that makes it move more efficiently. 2 *business* make (a system) smoother by removing unnecessary activities, etc. **streamlined** *adj* 1 having a shape that allows air, etc., to flow over surfaces more easily. 2 smooth in operation.

street (strɪːt) *nc* a road in a town or village with buildings on both sides.

strength (streŋθ) *nu* 1 the quality of being strong in mind or body. 2 someone or something that gives help or power. 3 the full or total power of a group of people: *The army was below strength.* **strengthen** ('streŋθən) *vti* make or become stronger.

strenuous ('strenjʊəs) *adj* needing or using much effort or strength: *a strenuous game.* **strenuously** *adv*

stress (stres) 1 *ncu* (an example of) force put on a word or part of a word to make the meaning stronger or more important; force placed on anything for this purpose: *He laid yet more stress on the importance of justice.* 2 *nu* pressure or great influence; time or conditions of difficulty: *Stress because of too much work caused his illness.* • *vt* put stress on. **stressful** *adj* causing **stress** (def. 2).

stretch (stretʃ) *vt* 1 make tight, straight, and longer or larger by pulling. 2 *infml* make something include more than is really right or true: *stretch the rules. vi* 3 become longer, etc., by being pulled. 4 spread out between two points or from one point: *The road stretches a long way.* • *ncu* 1 (an example of) stretching or being stretched. 2 *nc* a length of time or piece of country, etc., that is uninterrupted. **stretcher** *nc* a frame of two poles with strong cloth between for carrying a sick or injured person. **stretch out** lie flat and spread out your body. **stretchy** *adj*

strew (struː) *vt* spread (esp. small things) in various directions over a surface.

strewn (struːn) past participle of **strew.**

striated (straɪˈeɪtɪd) *adj* marked with stripes or ridges. **striated muscle** a type of muscle that is attached to the bones of the skeleton and used in movement.

stricken ('strɪkən) *adj* (of a person) much affected (by): *stricken with grief.*

strict (strɪkt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 expecting to be obeyed; firm. 2 exact; total: *the strict truth.* **strictly** *adv* **strictness** *nu*

stridden ('strɪdən) past participle of **stride.**

stride (straɪd) *vi* walk with long steps, esp. as when in a hurry. • *nc* a long step; distance covered in such a step. **take (something) in your stride** do (something) without any difficulty; accept without complaint.

strident ('straɪdənt) *adj* (of a sound, voice, etc.) loud and harsh.

strife (straɪf) *nu* quarrelling; violent argument.

strike (straɪk) *vt* 1 hit: *The ball struck him on the arm.* 2 enter suddenly into the mind of: *It struck me that I'd seen him before somewhere.* 3 find (something, esp. oil). 4 make (a coin, etc.). *vti* 5 (of a match), (cause to) light by scraping against something hard. 6 (cause to) sound: *The clock struck three.* 7 *vi* (of employees) stop working for an employer as a protest against something, in order to get better wages, etc. • *nc* 1 a stoppage of work. 2 an example of striking oil, etc. 3 an attack, esp. by planes. **be (out) on strike** be taking part in a **strike** (def. 1). **strike down** cause to be very ill or die: *He was struck down by a serious illness.* **strike off** remove (esp. a name) from (a list). **strike out** 1 cross out, as with a pen. 2 begin something new. **strike up** 1 begin to play (music). 2 start (a new friendship). **striker** *nc* 1 a person who strikes (**strike** def. 7). 2 *sport* an attacking player. **striking** *adj* getting much attention or interest; impressive. **strikingly** *adv*

string (strɪŋ) 1 *ncu* (a piece of) strong thread used for tying, hanging, etc. *nc* 2 a tightly stretched piece of wire, etc., on a musical instrument. 3 a set of things arranged on a thread: *a string of beads.* 4 any set of people or things in a line or connected in some way: *a string of insults; string of cars; string of racehorses.* 5 (usually *pl*) a musical instrument with strings, which is played in an orchestra. • *vt* 1 put (beads, etc.) on a string. 2 hang (something) on a string. **with no strings attached** without conditions. **string along** accompany someone. **stringy** ('strɪŋɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** thin or tough, like string.

stringent ('strɪndʒənt) *adj* 1 that demands obedience: *stringent rules.* 2 lacking in money, esp. public money.

strip (strɪp) 1 *vt* remove the covering of (something): *strip a bed and put on clean sheets.* 2 *vti* take off (someone's) clothes. • *nc* a long, narrow piece of something: *a strip of land.* **strip (someone) of (something)** take away (possessions, rights, etc.) from (someone).

stripe (straɪp) *nc* 1 a long, narrow band of colour that is different from the colour of the cloth or surface that surrounds it. 2 a thin band, worn esp. on the sleeve, to show rank. **striped** (straɪpt) *adj* marked with stripes.

strive (straɪv) *vi* work hard for some purpose or aim; make much effort.

striven ('strɪvən) past participle of **strive.**

stroboscope ('strəubə,skəup) *nc* a device that produces a flashing light.

strode (strəud) past tense of **stride.**

stroke (strəuk) *nc* 1 a blow: *a stroke of the whip; a hammer stroke.* 2 one of a set of movements in writing, drawing, etc.: *a stroke of the pen.* 3 something that happens suddenly, by an effort or by chance: *a stroke of luck.* 4 the sign (/) used in writing, esp. as in a fraction or instead of the word 'or'. 5 a sudden attack that damages the brain. 6 one of a set of movements in sport: *a good tennis stroke.* 7 a sound made by a clock striking, esp. on the hour. • *vt* move the hand gently, slowly, and frequently over a surface: *stroke the cat; stroke your beard.*

stroll (strəul) *vi* walk without haste. • *nc* a walk: *go for a stroll in the park.*

strong (strɒŋ) *adj* **stronger** ('strɒŋgə*), **strongest** ('strɒŋgɪst) 1 having great power of body or mind. 2 difficult to break. 3 with a powerful taste or smell: *strong coffee; Onions have a strong smell.* **stronghold** ('strɒŋhəuld) *nc* a place, such as a fort, that is made to be defended. **strongly** *adv*

strove (strəuv) past tense of **strive.**

struck (strʌk) past tense and past participle of **strike.**

structure ('strʌktʃə*) 1 *nu* the way in which something is built or made up. 2 *nc* a building. • *vt* give order or form to. **structural** ('strʌktʃərəl) *adj* of a structure or its most important parts.

struggle ('strʌgəl) *vi* 1 make great efforts, esp. under difficulties. 2 fight. 3 try to get free: *the fish struggling in the net.* • *nc* an instance of struggling.

strum (strʌm) *vt* play (a musical instrument) in a careless, esp. unskilled, way.

strung (strʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **string.**

strut (strʌt) *vi* walk about with your head held in a proud way, as if you were very important. • *nc* a long piece of wood, metal, etc., used to support something.

strychnine ('strɪknɪn) *nu* a white substance that is obtained from a type of plant and is very poisonous.

stub (stʌb) *nc* 1 the end of something that is almost used up: *the stub of a pencil.* 2 anything short and not pointed: *a stub of a tail.* 3 the part of a ticket, cheque, etc., remaining after the rest has been used. • *vt* 1 knock (your toe) against something. 2 put out (a cigarette) by pressing its end down on a surface.

stubble ('stʌbəl) *nu* the short ends of wheat, etc., remaining after a field has been cut; anything that looks like this: *a stubble of beard.*

stubborn ('stʌbən) *adj* 1 not easily changing your opinion or giving in. 2 difficult to treat or deal with. **stubbornly** *adv* **stubbornness** *nu*

stubby ('stʌbɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** short and thick.

stuck (stʌk) past tense and past participle of **stick²**.

stud¹ (stʌd) *nc* 1 a button-like device that passes through two holes to fasten a shirt collar, etc. 2 a nail, pin, etc., with a large head, esp. used as an ornament on something. • *vt* decorate or cover with studs or as if with studs: *a sky studded with stars.*

stud² *nc* a group of horses kept for mating and producing young; place where such horses are kept.

student ('stjuːdənt) *nc* a person who studies, esp. at college, university, etc.

studio ('stjuːdɪəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 a large room used for work that needs light and space: *an artist's studio.* 2 a room or set of rooms, esp. very large, where television programmes and films are made.

studious ('stjuːdɪəs) *adj* 1 in the habit of studying. 2 done carefully and on purpose.

study ('stʌdɪ) *ncu, pl* **-dies** 1 (an example of) learning about a subject, esp. by reading: *the study of English literature; How are your studies going at school? nc* 2 a room in which you study, read, etc. 3 something drawn or played on an instrument as a form of practice. • *vt* 1 learn about (a subject), esp. by reading about it. 2 look at carefully. 3 *vi* give your attention to study.

stuff (stʌf) *nu* 1 the cloth or substance of which something is made. 2 any substance that is worthless or the name of which is unknown: *What's this sticky stuff in your pocket?* • *vt* 1 pack (things) very tightly into (something) until very full. 2 fill (a dead animal's empty skin) with material to make it look as it did alive. 3 prepare (a chicken, piece of meat, etc.) for cooking by putting herbs, etc., into it. 4 *infml vti* (cause to) eat too much. **stuffing** *nu* a substance that is used to stuff something.

stuffy *adj* **-ier, iest** 1 lacking fresh or free-flowing air. 2 uninteresting; old-fashioned.

stumble ('stʌmbəl) *vi* 1 almost fall when walking or running by making a wrong step or tripping. 2 walk in an unsure and unsteady way. 3 get your words mixed up, make mistakes, etc., when speaking. **stumbling block** *nc* something that causes difficulty or gets in the way of progress.

stump (stʌmp) *nc* 1 the part of a tree left in the ground after it has fallen or been cut down; anything similarly left after the main part has been removed by some means. 2 *cricket* one of the three upright sticks that form part of the wicket. • *vt* 1 *infml* puzzle: *This question stumps me!* 2 *vi* walk in a heavy way. **stumpy** *adj* short and thick; like a stump.

stun (stʌn) *vi* 1 make unconscious, esp. by a blow on the head or a fall. 2 cause great surprise to; shock. **stunning** *adj* very attractive, impressive, or surprising.

stung (stʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **sting.**

stunk (stʌŋk) past participle of **stink.**

stunt (stʌnt) *vt* cause (the growth or development) of (someone or something) to go slowly or stop. • *nc* something done to get public attention, esp. something dangerous, exciting, or skilful. **stunted** *adj*

stupefy ('stjuːpɪfaɪ) *vt* make unable to think clearly.

stupendous (stjuː'pendəs) *adj* very great in size or in importance.

stupid ('stjuːpɪd) *adj* **-er, -est** slow to understand; foolish. **stupidity** (stjuː'pɪdɪtɪ) *ncu* being stupid; something done that is stupid. **stupidly** *adv*

stupor ('stjuːpə*) *ncu* a state almost like sleep caused by shock, drugs, too much alcohol, etc.

sturdy ('stɜːdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** strong; healthy: *a sturdy little boy.*

stutter ('stʌtə*) *vi* have difficulty in making the sound of a word when speaking; stammer. • *nc* (an instance or habit of) stuttering.

sty¹ (staɪ) *n* See **pigsty** under **pig.**

sty² *nc, pl* **sties** a septic place on the edge of the eyelid.

style (staɪl) *ncu* 1 (a) way of doing things, writing, speaking, etc.: *furniture in the modern style; I like the style of the book he has written.* 2 (a) fashion in clothes and hairdressing. 3 *nu* the quality of being different or behaving in a superior or fashionable way: *You may not like him, but you've got to agree he has style!* 4 *nc* the part joined to the seed container in a plant. • *vt* arrange or design. **stylish** ('staɪlɪʃ) *adj* fashionable; different in a superior or fashionable way. **stylistic** (staɪ'lɪstɪk) *adj* of style in writing or art.

stylus ('staɪləs) *nc* a needle-like device used for picking up sound from a record.

sauve (swɑːv) *adj* **-r, -st** (of a person or their speech or manners) very polite, sometimes in a false way.

sub (sʌb) *n infml* short for **submarine** or **subscription.**

subaquatic (ˌsʌbə'kwætɪk) *adj biology* that grows partly in water and partly on land.

subatomic (ˌsʌbə'tɒmɪk) *adj science* of or to do with part of an atom: *a subatomic particle.*

subconscious (ˌsʌb'kɒnʃəs) *adj* (of a thought, etc.) so deep in the mind that you are unaware of its presence. • *nu* the part of the mind containing such thoughts, etc. **subconsciously** *adv* without active thought.

subcontinent (ˌsʌb'kɒntɪnənt) *nc* a large mass of land that is not big enough to be called a continent.

subdivide (ˌsʌbdɪ'vaɪd) *vti* divide (something already divided) into still smaller parts. **subdivision** 1 (ˌsʌbdɪ'vɪʒən) *nu* subdividing. 2 ('sʌbdɪvɪʒən) *nc* one of the parts, etc., obtained by subdividing.

subdue (səb'djuː) *vt* 1 bring under control. 2 make lower in spirits; make (a colour or sound) quieter or softer.

subequatorial (sʌbˌekwə'tɔːrɪəl) *adj geography* of or to do with places that are near the equator.

subject ('sʌbdʒɪkt) *adj* under the control of a person or thing. • *nc* 1 any person, except the ruler, belonging to a country: *a British subject.* 2 a person or matter being talked or written about, studied, etc.: *Keep to the subject!* 3 *grammar* the part of a sentence that does the action: *'He' is the subject of 'He told us what to do'.* See also **object.** • (səb'dʒekt) *vt* 1 cause (someone) to undergo something. 2 bring (a country, person, etc.) under your control. **subjection** (səb'dʒekʃən) *nu* bringing under control or being brought under control. **subject to** 1 likely to do or to suffer something. 2 on the condition that.

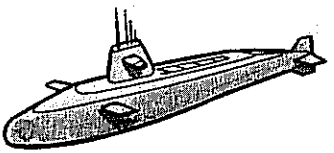
subjective (səb'dʒektɪv) *adj* based on feelings. **subjectively** *adv* See also **objective.**

subjunctive (səb'dʒʌnktɪv) *grammar adj, nc* (to do with) the form of a verb that is used to show wishes or situations that might happen, for example 'were' in 'I wish he were here'.

sublime (sə'blaɪm) *adj* **-r, -st** of the most noble kind; causing feelings of honour, admiration, etc.

subliminal (sʌb'lɪmɪnəl) *adj* that has an effect of which a person is not aware: *subliminal advertising.*

submarine (ˌsʌbmə'riːn, 'sʌbmərɪn) (*infml abbrev.* **sub**) *nc* a boat that is able to travel under water, used esp. in war: see picture.



submarine

submerge (səb'mɜːdʒ) 1 *vt* put under water; cover with water. 2 *vi* (of something lying on the surface) go under water.

submit (səb'mɪt) 1 *vti* give (yourself, someone, or something) over to the control or power of someone or something. 2 *vt* put forward for people to think about, discuss, etc.: *submit your opinion; submit an examination paper.* 3 *vi* give in: *submit to temptation.* **submission** (səb'mɪʃən) *ncu* **submissive** (səb'mɪsɪv) *adj* easily giving in to the power or control of someone or something.

subnormal (sʌb'nɔɪməl) *adj* less than normal: *subnormal temperatures; of subnormal intelligence.*

subordinate (sə'bɔːdɪnət) *adj* less important in value, position, etc. • *nc* a person in a less important position, and esp. under your command. • (sə'bɔːdɪneɪt) *vt* make or treat as less important.

subscribe (səb'skraɪb) *vti* 1 (followed by **to**) agree with (a general opinion, etc.). 2 join in with others by paying (money) for something or for a cause. **subscriber** *nc* a person who joins with others to pay money for something. **subscription** (səb'skrɪpʃen) 1 *nu* subscribing or being subscribed. 2 (*infml abbrev.* **sub**) *nc* an amount of money paid to join a club, receive a magazine, for a cause, etc.

subsequent ('sʌbsɪkwənt) *adj* coming later in time or order and esp. as a result: *Subsequent events showed the foolishness of his earlier actions.* **subsequently** *adv*

subset ('sʌbset) *nc mathematics* a set of things of the same kind within a larger set.

subside (səb'saɪd) *vi* 1 (of water or land) sink to a lower or normal level. 2 (of strong feelings, storms, etc.) become calmer and quieter. **subsidence** ('sʌbsɪˌdəns, səb'saɪdəns) *nu* (of land) sinking to a lower level.

subsidiary (səb'sɪdjərɪ) *adj* not of first importance but a useful support to someone or something that is. • *nc* a subsidiary thing, esp. a business.

subsidise ('sʌbsɪdaɪz) *vt* (esp. of the government, a society, etc.) give money as a help towards (a person or a cause).

subsidy ('sʌbsɪdɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** money that the government, a society, etc., pays to help a cause or to keep down the prices of goods sold to the public.

subsistence (səb'sɪstəns) *nu* existence; way of keeping yourself alive or earning your living, esp. at the lowest possible level. **subsistence farming** farming that provides food for the people living on the farm, rather than produce to be sold.

subsoil ('sʌbsɔɪl) *nu* the soil that lies just below the soil on the surface.

subsonic (sʌb'sɒnɪk) *adj* slower than the speed at which sound travels.

substance ('sʌbstəns) 1 *ncu* (an example of) the matter of which something is made. *nu* 2 the real or main points of a subject, etc. 3 weight; firmness: *an idea without substance.* 4 property; wealth: *a man of substance.*

substandard (ˌsʌb'stændəd) *adj* of a lower quality than is usual or wanted.

substantial (səb'stænʃəl) *adj* 1 well and solidly made: *a substantial house.* 2 (of a person) rather rich. 3 large: *a substantial difference; a substantial meal.* **substantially** *adv* largely; a lot.

substantiate (səb'stænʃɪeɪt) *vt* support (something said, claimed, etc.) by giving further facts.

substitute ('sʌbstɪtjuːt) *nc* a person or thing put in the place of another. • *vt* 1 put or use (someone or something) in the place of another. 2 *vi* be a substitute for. **substitution** (ˌsʌbstɪ'tjuːʃən) *nu*

subtend (səb'tend) *vt geometry* be opposite to (an angle, side, etc.).

substratum (sʌb'strɑːtəm) *nc, pl* **-ta** (tə) a layer that lies below another.

subtemperate (sʌb'tempərɪt) *adj geography* of or to do with colder parts of the temperate regions of the world.

subterfuge ('sʌbtəfjuːdʒ) 1 *nc* an excuse, lie, or trick used to avoid blame, discovery, or trouble. 2 *nu* the use of such deception.

subterranean (ˌsʌbtə'reɪnɪən) *adj* under the surface of the ground: *subterranean caves.*

subtitle ('sʌbtaɪtəl) *nc* 1 a second title coming after the main title of a book. 2

(usually *pl*) words printed on a film made in a foreign language, giving the meaning of the words spoken in it.

subtle ('sʌtəl) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 not easily noticed because delicate or slight: *a subtle smell; subtle changes.* 2 clever. **subtlety** ('sʌtəltɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties. subtly** ('sʌtlɪ) *adv*

subtract (səb'trækt) *vt* take away (a number or a quantity) from a larger one. **subtraction** (səb'trækʃən) *ncu*

subtropical (sʌb'trɒpɪkəl) *adj geography* of or to do with places that lie between the tropical and temperate regions of the world.

suburb ('sʌbɜ:b) *nc* an outer district of a town or city, esp. where people live. **suburban** (sə'bɜ:bən) *adj* 1 of or to do with a suburb. 2 having fixed interests; unchanging and dull. **suburbia** (sə'bɜ:bɪə) *nu* the suburbs of a town or city.

subvert (səb'vɜ:t) *vt* overthrow (a government, religion, etc.) by causing people to lose trust or faith in it. **subversion** (səb'vɜ:ʃən) *nu* **subversive** (səb'vɜ:sɪv) *adj* likely or planned to overthrow a government, etc.

subway ('sʌbweɪ) *nc* 1 a tunnel built underground for people to get from one side of a road to the other. 2 *US* See **underground.**

succeed (sək'si:d) 1 *vi* do what you have wanted to do; do very well. 2 *vti* come next in order to and take the place of (someone or something). 3 *vi* (followed by **to**) have (a title, money, etc.) when the owner dies. **succeeding** *adj* coming next in order.

success (sək'ses) 1 *nu* a result that you have hoped or planned for: *success in life.* 2 *nc* someone or something that succeeds. **successful** *adj* having success. **successfully** *adv*

succession (sək'seʃən) *nu* 1 the coming of one thing or person after another in time or in order; *nc* an example of this. 2 having a title, money, etc., when the owner dies. **in succession** one after the other. **successive** *adj* coming one after the other. **successively** *adv* **successor** (sək'sesə*) *nc* a person or thing that comes after another and takes his, her, or its place.

succinct (sək'sɪŋkt) *adj* (capable of) saying much in a very few words. **succinctly** *adv*

succulent ('sʌkjulənt) *adj* 1 (esp. of fruit or meat) full of juice; having a pleasant taste. 2 (of plants) having thick, fleshy leaves and stems. • *nc* a succulent plant.

succumb (sə'kʌm) *vi* 1 give way (to temptation, etc.). 2 die.

such (sʌtʃ) *determiner* 1 of the same kind or degree: *Such languages as French and German are taught in schools; Such beauty as hers is not often seen.* 2 of a kind already mentioned or known about: *He wanted to see it but had no such luck.* 3 (adding force to); very: *We had such fun!* **as such** 1 in itself or in themselves: *A beautiful face as such isn't certain to bring happiness.* 2 in a particular position already mentioned or known of: *A teacher as such doesn't know everything.* **such a** so great; so much of, etc.: *I had such a shock!; in such a hurry.* **such as** 1 of a kind that or like that. 2 for example. **such ... that** so great; to so high a degree: *It was such a hot day that we had to sit down and rest.*

suck (sʌk) *vti* 1 draw (liquid) through the mouth by making a small hole with the lips. 2 take in (ideas, knowledge, etc.). 3 draw (liquid) from (something): *a baby sucking a bottle; suck a sweet; Plants suck moisture from the soil.* • *nc* an act of sucking. **sucker** *nc* 1 a device, usually of rubber, with a surface that clings to another surface by suction. 2 *infml, chiefly US* a person silly enough to trust someone or something not worthy of trust. 3 a new shoot of a plant growing out from a root.

suckle ('sʌkəl) *vti* feed (a baby or young animal) on milk from the breast.

sucrose ('su:krəʊz) *nu* the sweet substance obtained from sugar beet or sugar cane; sugar.

suction ('sʌkʃən) *nu* 1 the action of sucking. 2 the holding together of two surfaces because of removal of the air between them.

sudden ('sʌdən) *adj* happening quickly and with no warning: *sudden death.* **all of a sudden** without warning. **suddenly** *adv* **suddenness** *nu*

suds (sʌdz) *n pl* (bubbles on top of) soapy water.

sue (su:) *vti* make a claim against (someone) in a law court.

suede (sweɪd) *nu* a soft leather with one rough or brushed surface. • *adj* of suede: *a suede jacket.*

suet ('su:ɪt) *nu* hard fat from the insides of sheep and cattle, used in cooking.

suffer ('sʌfə*) *vi* 1 feel pain, grief, etc. 2 get worse or less in quality: *When you hurry, the work suffers.* *vt* 3 undergo (something causing) (pain, sadness, etc.). 4 *fml or old-fashioned* allow to happen; put up with.

sufferer ('sʌfərə*) *nc* a person who suffers, esp. from an illness. **suffer from** have (an illness, tendency, etc.): *suffering from rheumatism; She suffers from a fear of high places; He suffers from an inability to make decisions.* **suffering** *nu* pain, grief, etc.

sufferance ('sʌfərəns) *n* **on sufferance** being allowed or put up with, but without being wanted or liked.

suffice (sə'faɪs) *vti fml* be enough to satisfy.

sufficient (sə'fɪʃənt) *adj* enough. **sufficiency** (sə'fɪʃənsɪ) *nu* a sufficient amount or quantity. **sufficiently** *adv*

suffix ('sʌfɪks) *nc grammar* a group of letters joined to the end of a word in order to change its meaning: *The suffix '-ly' is used to form adverbs from adjectives.*

suffocate ('sʌfəkeɪt) *vti* 1 (cause to) die by stopping breathing. 2 (cause to) have difficulty in breathing. **suffocation** (ˌsʌfə'keɪʃən) *nu*

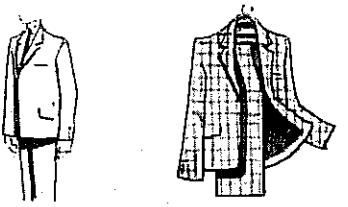
suffrage ('sʌfrɪdʒ) *nu* the right to vote in political elections.

sugar ('ʃugə*) *nu* a sweet substance found in many plants and used to give a sweet taste to food. • *vt* make sweet by adding or mixing with sugar. **sugar beet** or **cane** *nu* plants from which sugar is obtained.

suggest (sə'dʒest) *vt* 1 mention (an idea, plan, etc.) to be thought about or discussed. 2 show; cause to come into the mind: *Her red face suggested that she was guilty.* **suggestion** (sə'dʒestʃən) *nc* 1 an idea, plan, etc., that is suggested. 2 a small sign: *a suggestion of a smile.* **suggestive** (sə'dʒestɪv) *adj* 1 that brings ideas, memories, etc., into the mind. 2 that suggests something likely to shock or embarrass.

suicide ('suːɪsaɪd) *nu* 1 the killing of yourself; *nc* an example of this or a person who does this. 2 any act in which you ruin or put an end to your own interests or chances for future success. **suicidal** (ˌsuɪ'saɪdəl) *adj* 1 of or likely to lead to suicide. 2 wanting to commit suicide.

suit (suːt, sjuːt) *nc* 1 a set of clothes of the same material made to be worn together: see picture; any set of clothes or piece of clothing, for a special purpose: *a swimsuit.* 2 See **lawsuit** under **law.** 3 one of the four sets of playing-cards in a pack. • *vt* 1 satisfy; be all right for: *Your plan suits me.* 2 *vti* look well on: *I like your dress, blue suits you.* 3 *vt* make right for the purpose. **suited** *adj* suitable; having the right qualities: *Is he suited for the job?*



suit

suitable ('suːtəbəl) *adj* right or fitting for the purpose. **suitability** *nu* **suitably** *adv*

suitcase ('suːtkeɪs) (often shortened to **case**) *nc* a flat-sided case with a handle, for carrying clothes when travelling.

suite (swiːt) *nc* 1 a set of rooms in a hotel. 2 a set of pieces of furniture designed to go well together. 3 a piece of music consisting of several parts.

suitor ('suːtə*) *nc* 1 *old-fashioned* a man who tries to win the love of a woman so that she will marry him. 2 *fml* a person making a claim in a court of law.

sulfur ('sʌlfə*) *n US* See **sulphur.**

sulk (sʌlk) *vi* be bad-tempered in a silent way. **sulky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** silent and unfriendly because bad-tempered.

sullen ('sʌlən) *adj* 1 bad-tempered and not willing to talk. 2 dark and unpromising: *a sullen sky.*

sulphate ('sʌlfeɪt) *nc* a salt of sulphuric acid; chemical substance in which sulphur and oxygen are combined with another element.

sulphur *US* **sulfur** ('sʌlfə*) *nu* an element that is not metal and that burns with a blue flame and a strong smell: symbol S. **sulphur dioxide** a strong-smelling gas produced when sulphur burns. **sulphuric acid** (sʌl'fjuərɪk) a strong acid used in fertilisers, explosives, etc.

sultan ('sʌltən) *nc* a ruler of a Muslim country. **sultanate** ('sʌltəˌneɪt) *nc* a country ruled by a sultan.

sultana (səl'tɑːnə) *nc* 1 a small, dried, seedless fruit used in cooking. 2 a wife of or woman connected with a sultan.

sultry ('sʌltrɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of the weather) hot and uncomfortable.

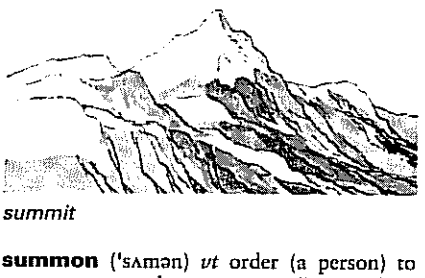
sum (sʌm) *nc* 1 the total obtained when numbers, etc., have been added together. 2 *arithmetic* a problem involving numbers to be added, subtracted, multiplied, or divided. 3 an amount of money. **sum up** 1 make a total of by adding together. 2 give, in a few words at the end of a speech, trial, etc., the main points again. 3 form an opinion of.

summary ('sʌmərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** the main points of a speech, book, etc., given in a

few words. • *adj* 1 giving the main points. 2 done quickly without thinking about it properly; done without delay. **summarise** ('sʌməraɪz) *vt* make or be a summary of.

summer ('sʌmə*) *nc* the season between spring and autumn, in which the temperature is at its highest. **summer time** the time when clocks are made to show one hour ahead of normal time so that darkness falls later. **summertime** ('sʌmətaɪm) *nu* the season of summer.

summit ('sʌmɪt) *nc* 1 a pointed top: *the summit of a mountain:* see picture. 2 the highest point or aim: *the summit of her hopes and ambition.* **summit conference** a very important meeting of those people with the highest power.



summit

summon ('sʌmən) *vt* order (a person) to come or attend. **summons** ('sʌmənz) *nc* (*with singular verb*) 1 a written order to come to or attend a court of law. 2 an order to do or attend something. • *vt* order (a person) to attend at a court of law. **summon up** gather together (courage, energy, etc.), esp. with difficulty: *I couldn't summon up the strength to resist.*

sumptuous ('sʌmptjʊəs) *adj* splendid; expensive and beautiful.

sun (sʌn) *nu* 1 the nearest star, that gives out heat and light to the earth. 2 heat and light from the sun: *sit outside in the sun.* 3 *nc* any fixed star with smaller bodies moving round it. • *vt* put (yourself) into the sunshine. **sunbathe** ('sʌnbeɪð) *vi* uncover part or all of your body and enjoy the sun's warmth. **sunbeam** ('sʌnbiːm) *nc* a line or ray of light from the sun. **sunburn** ('sʌnbɜːn) *nu* the state of having let too much sun onto the skin, making it very red and sore; part of the skin where this has happened. **sunburnt** *adj* **sundial** ('sʌndaɪəl) *nc* a device on which the time can be read when a bar on its surface casts a shadow during times of sunlight. **sunflower** ('sʌnflaʊə*) *nc* a very tall plant with a large, yellow flower: see picture at **flowers.** **sunglasses** ('sʌnˌglɑːsɪz) *n pl* glasses with dark lenses, worn to protect the eyes from the sun. **sunlight** ('sʌnlaɪt) *nu* the light coming from the sun. **sunrise** ('sʌnraɪz) 1 *nc* the daily rising of the sun. 2 *nu* the time when this happens. **sunset** ('sʌnset) or **sundown** ('sʌndaʊn) 1 *nc* the daily going down of the sun below the horizon. 2 *nu* the time when this happens. **sunshine** ('sʌnʃaɪn) *nu* the light or warmth from the sun. **sunspot** ('sʌnspɒt) *nc* one of the dark spots that sometimes appear on the sun's surface. **sunstroke** ('sʌnstrəʊk) *nu* an illness caused by being in the sun for too long. **suntan** ('sʌntæn) (often shortened to **tan**) *nc* a brown colour on the skin due to its being uncovered in sunlight. **suntanned** *adj* **sunny** ('sʌnɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having bright sunlight. 2 cheerful.

sundae ('sʌndeɪ) *nc* an ice cream with fruit, nuts, etc., and a sweet sauce and whipped cream on top.

Sunday ('sʌndɪ) *nc* the first day of the week, before Monday.

sundry ('sʌndrɪ) *adj* various.

sung (sʌŋ) past participle of **sing.**

sunk (sʌŋk) past tense and past participle of **sink. sunken** ('sʌŋkən) *adj* below the usual level or surface: *sunken eyes.*

Sunni ('sʌnɪ) *nc* a member of one of the two branches of the Islamic religion. See also **Shiite.**

super ('suːpə*) *adj infml* 1 very good: *What a super idea!* 2 of the best quality.

superb (suˈpɜːb) *adj* 1 extremely good: *He's a superb singer.* 2 very grand in appearance; splendid.

supercilious (ˌsuːpəˈsɪlɪəs) *adj* showing scorn because you think you are better than others.

superconductivity (ˌsuːpəˌkɒndʌkˈtɪvɪtɪ) *nu physics* the state of having almost no electrical resistance at very low temperatures, close to absolute zero. **superconductive** (ˌsuːpəkənˈdʌktɪv) *adj* **superconductor** *nc* a superconductive substance.

superficial (ˌsuːpəˈfɪʃəl) *adj* 1 on or of the surface only. 2 without deep thought, feeling, learning, etc. **superficially** *adv*

superfluous (suːˈpɜːflʊəs) *adj* more than is needed or wanted; not needed.

superhuman (ˌsuːpəˈhjuːmən) *adj* (of a power, strength, effort, etc.) greater than that of an ordinary person.

superimpose (ˌsuːpərɪmˈpəʊz) *vt* put (something) directly over and onto (something else).

superintendent (ˌsuːpərɪnˈtendənt) *nc* 1 a person who is in charge of a place or

controls people at work, etc. 2 a police officer in a middle rank.

superior (suːˈpɪərɪə*) *adj* 1 better than usual in quality or level. 2 greater in number. 3 higher; higher in social or official position. 4 *often derogatory* considering that you are better in some way than everyone else. • *nc* a person who is higher in position or better than another or others. **superiority** (suːˌpɪərɪˈɒrɪtɪ) *nu* **superior to** 1 better than. 2 higher in official or social position.

superlative (suːˈpɜːlətɪv) *adj* of the highest degree, amount, or quality. • *nc, adj* (to do with) the form of an adjective or adverb meaning 'most': *'Best' and 'slowest' are the superlatives of 'good' and 'slow'.* See also **comparative.**

supermarket (ˈsuːpəˌmɑːkɪt) *nc* a large store selling a variety of goods, usually food, which customers collect as they walk round and pay for as they leave: see picture.

supermarket

supernatural (ˌsuːpəˈnætʃərəl) *adj* of events, etc., that are outside the natural or normal way of things and cannot be explained by the laws of nature. **the supernatural** *nu* such events, etc.

supernova (ˌsuːpəˈnəʊvə) *nc, pl* **-vas, -vae** (viː) a star that explodes and becomes extremely bright for a short time, then gives off light, X-rays, etc., for hundreds of years.

supersede (ˌsuːpəˈsiːd) *vt* take the place of; put or be used in the place of.

supersonic (ˌsuːpəˈsɒnɪk) *adj* faster than the speed at which sound travels: *a supersonic plane.*

superstition (ˌsuːpəˈstɪʃən) 1 *nu* belief in magic, the unknown, etc., based on fear or ignorance and not on reason. 2 *nc* an instance of this. **superstitious** (ˌsuːpəˈstɪʃəs) *adj* 1 of or to do with superstition. 2 believing in superstition.

supervise (ˈsuːpəvaɪz) *vt* be in charge of or watch and control (a person, people, or what they are doing). **supervision** (ˌsuːpəˈvɪʒən) *nu* supervising or being supervised: *work under supervision.* **supervisor** (ˈsuːpəvaɪzə*) *nc* a person who supervises. **supervisory** (ˈsuːpəˈvaɪzərɪ) *adj* supervising.

supper (ˈsʌpə*) *nc* the last meal of the day.

supplant (səˈplɑːnt) *vt* take the place of; supersede.

supple (ˈsʌpəl) *adj* **-r, -st** bending or moving easily: *a supple body.*

supplement (ˈsʌplɪmənt) *nc* 1 something added to give extra information or to improve. 2 extra pages or a magazine added to a newspaper. • (ˈsʌplɪment) *vt* add to. **supplementary** (ˌsʌplɪˈmentərɪ) *adj* being a supplement.

supplication (ˌsʌplɪˈkeɪʃən) *ncu* a humble but urgent request.

supply (səˈplaɪ) *vi* give, sell, etc. (what is wanted or needed). • *nc, pl* **-plies** 1 something supplied. 2 (*pl*) a store of food, etc., for an activity, need, or journey. 3 an amount of something for use or for sale; stock. 4 *nu* the availability of supplies: *in short supply, so hard to obtain.* **supplier** (səˈplaɪə*) *nc* a person or business that supplies goods. **supply and demand** *economics* the relationship between the availability of goods and the number of people who are willing and able to buy them.

support (səˈpɔːt) *vt* 1 carry the weight of; hold up. 2 give help for someone or something to continue: *support a political party.* 3 provide the necessary things of life for. • *nu* 1 supporting or being supported. 2 *nc* someone or something that supports. **supporter** (səˈpɔːtə*) *nc* a person that supports (**support** def. 2).

suppose (səˈpəʊz) *vt* 1 take to be true before knowing for sure; imagine: *Let us suppose that you have passed your examination, what are your future plans?* 2 believe; think: *I don't suppose he'll be late.* 3 *fml* require that (something) exists: *Guilt supposes an awareness of crime.* • *conj* (used to suggest something): *Suppose I told you I was lying—would you believe me?* **be supposed to** 1 be expected to: *You're supposed to be in bed by nine.* 2 be allowed to: *You're not supposed to stay out after nine.* **supposedly** (səˈpəʊzɪdlɪ) *adv* according to what people say or think, but not known for certain: *He supposedly spent the night at his sister's house.* **supposing** (səˈpəʊzɪŋ) *conj* if. **supposition** (ˌsʌpəˈzɪʃən) 1 *nu* supposing. 2 *nc* something expected or put forward as likely.

suppress (səˈpres) *vt* 1 put an end to with force or power: *suppress a riot.* 2 prevent from happening or being seen: *suppress a laugh.* **suppression** (səˈpreʃən) *nu*

suppurate ('sʌpjʊˌreɪt) *vi* (of a wound, etc.) produce pus.

supreme (sʊ'priːm) *adj* highest in importance, power, or quality. **supremacy** (sʊ'preməsɪ) *nu* being supreme; highest power. **supremely** *adv*

surcharge ('sɜːtʃɑːdʒ) *nc* an amount of money added to the basic price.

sure (ʃʊə*) *adj* 1 without doubt; feeling certain. 2 that can be depended on or trusted. 3 steady; not shaking: *sure steps.* **be sure to** 1 be certain to. 2 don't forget to. **make sure** make certain; check: *Make sure the door is locked.* **surely** *adv* 1 certainly; steadily. 2 (used to express hope that something is or is not true): *Surely you didn't believe him!*

surety ('ʃʊərətɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** 1 (a person) promising to pay the debt or bear any blame for the behaviour of another person. 2 a (written) formal agreement that something will be done.

surf (sɜːf) *nu* waves with many white bubbles breaking on the seashore: see picture. **surfboard** ('sɜːfbɔːd) *nc* a long, narrow board used for standing on while allowing waves, esp. large, to carry you toward the shore. **surfing** ('sɜːfɪŋ) *nu* the sport of riding on a surfboard.

surf

surface ('sɜːfɪs) *nc* 1 the top of a liquid; outside of anything: *The sea's surface was calm; A cube has six surfaces.* 2 what is seen on the outside only: *He appears to be happy on the surface, but deep down he is not.* • *adj* of the surface only. • *vt* 1 put a surface on: *a path surfaced with cement.* 2 *vi* rise to the surface. **surface tension** *science* the forces acting near the surface of a liquid that make it seem to have an invisible skin.

surfeit ('sɜːfɪt) *nc* too much of anything, esp. eating and drinking. • *vt* cause to have too much of anything.

surge (sɜːdʒ) *vi* move or rush forward like a wave in the sea: *The crowd surged onto the street.* • *nc* a movement or rush forward: *a surge of anger; surge of waves onto the shore.*

surgeon ('sɜːdʒən) *nc* a doctor who cuts into the body to cure a disease.

surgery ('sɜːdʒərɪ) 1 *nu* the treatment of injuries and disease by cutting into the body. 2 *nc, pl* **-ries** the room in which you ask for advice or get treatment from a doctor or dentist.

surgical ('sɜːdʒɪkəl) *adj* of or to do with **surgery** (def. 1).

surly (sɜːlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** bad-tempered and rude.

surmise (sə'maɪz) *fml vti* make a guess (about). • *nc* a guess.

surmount (sə'maʊnt) *vt* 1 overcome (difficulties, problems, etc.). 2 climb up and over the other side of. 3 lie on top of.

surname ('sɜːneɪm) *nc* a family name.

surpass (sə'pɑːs) *vi* 1 be better, greater, etc., than. 2 go further than.

surplus ('sɜːpləs) *nc* an amount of something left over that is more than is needed. • *adj* more than is needed or used: *surplus to requirements.*

surprise (sə'praɪz) 1 *nu* the feeling caused by something sudden or unexpected. 2 *nc* a sudden or unexpected event, gift, etc. • *adj* unexpected; sudden. • *vt* 1 cause a feeling of surprise to. 2 make a sudden attack on; come upon suddenly. **surprised** *adj* feeling surprise. **surprising** *adj* causing surprise. **surprisingly** *adv*

surreal (sə'rɪəl) *adj* also **surrealistic** strange and dream-like. **surrealism** *nu* a form of art or literature that uses surreal images.

surrender (sə'rendə*) *vti* 1 give up (yourself or something) to someone else's control: *surrender the city to the enemy.* 2 give in to (feelings, a habit, influence, etc.): *She surrendered to grief and killed herself.* 3 *vt fml* give (something) up through force, influence, or necessity: *Please surrender your ticket as you leave.* • *ncu* (an example of) surrendering.

surreptitious (ˌsʌrep'tɪʃəs) *adj* done secretly, in a way that nobody else notices: *He took a surreptitious look at what she was writing.* **surreptitiously** *adv*

surround (sə'raʊnd) *vt* be or come all round or on all sides of something: *The pretty girl was surrounded by admirers; a town surrounded by the enemy.* • *nc* something that surrounds. **surrounding** *adj* that is all around. **surroundings** *n pl* everything that is round and about a person or place: *He woke and began to notice his surroundings.*

surveillance (sɜː'veɪləns) *nu* a very careful watch kept on someone, esp. someone believed to have done or be doing wrong.

survey (sə'veɪ) *vt* 1 take a general look at: *He surveyed the beautiful scene before him.* 2 measure and make a map of (a

piece of land). 3 examine (a building) to find out its condition and value. • ('sɜːveɪ) *nc* 1 a general view. 2 a map or report resulting from surveying. **surveyor** (sə'veɪə*) *nc* a person whose job is to survey land or buildings.

survive (sə'vaɪv) 1 *vt* continue to live after the death of (someone else). 2 *vti* continue to live after (an accident, war, etc.). **survival** (sə'vaɪvəl) 1 *nu* (the skill of) surviving. 2 *nc* a person or thing that seems to belong to the past but has continued to survive. **survivor** (sə'vaɪvə*) *nc* a person who has survived: *There were no survivors of the plane crash.*

susceptible (sə'septəbəl) *adj* easily influenced, esp. by your feelings. **susceptible to** likely to be troubled or affected by: *susceptible to bad colds.*

suspect (sə'spekt) *vt* 1 feel (something unpleasant) to be possible or probable. 2 have doubt about the truth or honesty of. 3 believe (someone) to be guilty of something. • ('sʌspekt) *nc* a person suspected of wrongdoing. • *adj* causing doubt, because possibly untrue, dishonest, etc.

suspend (sə'spend) *vt* 1 hang up. 2 cause to stay still or float in air, a liquid, etc. 3 delay; stop for a certain length of time. 4 stop (someone) from attending school, doing their duties, etc., for a time, as a punishment. **suspenders** *n pl* 1 *Brit* devices that hang from a belt to fasten on and hold up women's stockings; a similar device hanging from a band round the leg to hold up men's socks. 2 *US* See **brace** (def. 2).

suspense (sə'spens) *nu* an anxious or impatient feeling caused by uncertainty.

suspension (sə'spenʃən) *nu* 1 suspending or being suspended. 2 the parts in a car that stop passengers being shaken about when driving over rough ground. 3 *nc* a liquid with very small pieces floating evenly in it. **suspension bridge** a bridge that is hung between two towers by steel ropes: see picture.

suspension bridge

suspensory (sə'spensərɪ) *adj anatomy* (of a ligament, etc.) that supports or holds a part of the body in position.

suspicion (sə'spɪʃən) 1 *nu* a feeling of doubt about someone or something; feeling that something is wrong. *nc* 2 an example of this. 3 a small amount. **suspicious** (sə'spɪʃəs) *adj* having or causing suspicion. **suspiciously** *adv*

sustain (sə'steɪn) *vt* 1 *fml* hold up; keep from falling. 2 help to continue in some way: *Her courage sustained her when her husband died.* 3 keep up; keep going: *sustain an argument.* 4 suffer (a loss, etc.). 5 *law* agree with; hold to be right. **sustained** *adj* long; lasting. **sustenance** ('sʌstɪnəns) *nu often humorous* 1 food and drink. 2 the ability of food and drink to sustain a person.

suture ('suːtʃə*) *nc* the thread, etc., used to stitch together the sides of a wound, etc.

swab (swɒb) *nc* 1 a small piece of cloth used for cleaning a wound or other medical purpose. 2 a cloth, etc., tied to a long handle for cleaning floors. • *vt* clean or wipe with a swab.

swagger ('swægə*) *vi* walk or behave in a proud, important way. • *nc* a proud kind of walk or behaviour.

swallow[1] ('swɒləʊ) *vt* 1 put (food) into your mouth and allow it to go down the throat. 2 hold back (esp. your feelings): *swallow your pride.* 3 *infml* believe (something): *How could you swallow such a story!* 4 use up: *wages swallowed up by debts to be paid.* 5 *vi* make a movement in the throat as if swallowing food, esp. because anxious. • *nc* an act of swallowing.

swallow[2] *nc* a small, fast-flying bird with long wings and a V-shaped tail, that flies to a warmer country for the winter: see picture at **birds.**

swam (swæm) past tense of **swim.**

swamp (swɒmp) 1 *nu* very wet, soft ground. 2 *nc* a piece of land like this. • *vt* (of water) flood into (a boat, house, etc.). **be swamped with** be given too much to do or deal with: *be swamped with work.* **swampy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** like a swamp.

swan (swɒn) *nc* a large bird with a long neck and (usually) white feathers, living on or near water.

swap (also **swop**) (swɒp) *infml vti* give (something) and receive (something else in its place): *I swapped one of my sandwiches for her apple; We swapped seats.* • *nc* 1 such an exchange. 2 something exchanged.

swarm (swɔːm) *nc* 1 a large group (of insects, esp. bees, etc.) moving about together. 2 a large crowd of people when moving. • *vi* move in large numbers; crowd around.

swarthy ('swɔːðɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of a

person or their face, etc.) having a dark skin.

swat (swɒt) *vt* hit (an insect etc.) with a quick movement.

swathe (sweɪð) *vt literary* wrap round with cloth: *swathed in bandages.*

sway (sweɪ) *vti* 1 move in different directions, esp. from one side to the other. 2 influence or be influenced. • *nu* 1 swaying movement. 2 power; influence: *under the sway of.*

swear (sweə*) *vti* 1 say or promise (something) very seriously. 2 (cause to) make a promise using a sacred name or object to strengthen it. 3 *vi* use sacred or sexual words in a wrong way to show strong, esp. angry feelings. **swearword** *nc* a sacred or sexual word used in the wrong way when swearing (**swear** def. 3).

sweat (swet) *nu* 1 the liquid given off by the body through the skin, esp. after great activity or when you are hot. 2 similar drops of liquid on the surface of anything. • *vi* 1 give out sweat. 2 *vti* (cause to) work hard. **sweatshirt** *nc* a cotton garment like a sweater, with a soft, brushed surface on the inside, worn during or after sports, etc. **sweaty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** causing, wet with, or smelling of sweat.

sweater ('swetə*) *nc* a knitted garment, esp. of wool, pulled over the head and covering the top part of the body: see picture.

sweater

sweep (swi:p) *vt* 1 clean up (dust, dirt, etc.) from (a place) with a brush: *sweep the floor; sweep dead leaves from the garden.* 2 take off or away with a strong movement: *The wind swept her hat off.* 3 move quickly over and esp. touch gently. *vi* 4 stretch in a curve that is unbroken: *a huge garden sweeping down to a river.* 5 move in a smooth and continuous way: *She swept out of the room.* • *nc* 1 an act of sweeping. 2 an example of removal with or as if with a brush. 3 a sweeping movement: *with a sweep of his arm.* 4 a stretch of unbroken country, river, etc., esp. in a curve. **sweeper** *nc* a person or device that sweeps. **sweeping** *adj* 1 far-reaching: *sweeping changes.* 2 including much, but with not enough attention to details: *He makes sweeping statements about bad laws, but never suggests how they should be changed.*

sweet (swi:t) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 having or being like the taste of sugar. 2 pleasant; nice: *a sweet smile; sweet music.* 3 fresh: *the sweet smell of clean sheets.* • *nc Brit* 1 a small piece of boiled sugar, a piece of chocolate, etc. 2 a sweet dish served as a part of a meal. **sweeten** ('swi:tən) *vti* make or become sweet or sweeter. **sweetener** *nc* a substance used instead of sugar to sweeten food or drink: *artificial sweeteners.* **sweetheart** ('swi:thɑ:t) *nc* a person who is loved by another. **sweetly** *adv* **sweetness** *nu* being sweet. **sweet potato** the yellow root of a plant, eaten as a vegetable.

swell (swel) *vti* 1 (cause to) become larger in size, amount, force, etc. 2 (cause to) become fuller or blown out with air, etc.: *boat sails swelled by the wind.* • *nu* 1 the increasing loudness of a musical instrument. 2 the rising and falling of waves: *The heavy swell made everyone in the boat feel sick.* • *adj infml, US* good. **swelling** ('sweliŋ) 1 *nc* a swollen place on the body. 2 *nu* swelling or being swollen.

swelter ('weltə*) *vi* be hot and uncomfortable: *a sweltering day.*

swept (swept) past tense and past participle of **sweep.**

swerve (swɜ:v) *vti* turn to one side suddenly from the direct or usual direction: *The car swerved to avoid hitting the child.* • *nc* such a movement.

swift[1] (swift) *adj* **-er, -est** fast; done without delay. **swiftly** *adv* **swiftness** *nu*

swift[2] *nc* a kind of small bird with long wings, that eats insects.

swill (swil) 1 *vti* drink greedily. 2 *vt* wash out with clean water. • *nc* 1 a washing out. 2 *nu* waste food, esp. in liquid form, for pigs.

swim (swim) 1 *vi* move through water by movements of the body: *They swam in the sea; Fish swim.* 2 *vt* cross (a distance of water) in this way. *vi* 3 feel as if everything is turning round and round: *His head swam with the noise.* 4 be too full or be flowing over with liquid: *eyes swimming with tears.* • *nc* an act of swimming. **swimmer** *nc* a person who swims. **swimming** *adj* flowing over with or too full of liquid. • *nu* the sport of swimmers. **swimming-bath** or **pool** *nc* an indoor or outdoor pool for swimming in: *In Britain, swimming-baths are public places for swimming, but a swimming-pool is often in someone's private garden.* **swimming costume** a garment worn,

esp. by women and girls, for swimming. **swimming trunks** a short garment worn by men and boys for swimming. **swimsuit** (swɪmsjuːt) *nc* a swimming costume.

swindle ('swɪndəl) 1 *vt* cheat (a person) out of money. 2 *vi* get money by deceiving. • *nc* 1 a dishonest plan. 2 something that is of much less value than it is claimed to be. **swindler** *nc*

swine (swaɪn) *nc* 1 a pig. 2 *slang* a nasty person.

swing (swɪŋ) *vti* 1 move backwards and forwards, or with a curving movement; sway. 2 turn quickly, in a curving movement: *He swung round to see who was behind him.* 3 *vi* move in an easy, loose way: *swinging along the road.* • *nc* 1 a swinging movement. 2 a seat hanging by ropes or chains for a child to swing on.

swipe (swaɪp) *vt infml* 1 hit very hard. 2 steal.

swirl (swɜːl) *vti* move in a circular, twisting way. • *nc* such a movement: *a swirl of smoke.*

swish (swɪʃ) 1 *vt* move (a stick, etc.) quickly through the air making a hissing sound. 2 *vi* move with or make such a sound. • *nc* a sound of something being swished: *the swish of a whip.*

switch (swɪtʃ) *nc* 1 a device for turning an electric current on or off. 2 a change: *a sudden switch in our plans.* • *vt* 1 turn (an electric current) on or off. 2 change or turn suddenly. 3 exchange. **switchboard** *nc* a board with several electrical switches, esp. one where telephone calls are received and connected.

swivel ('swɪvəl) *nc* a device that connects two things, allowing each to move freely and on its own: *a swivel chair.* • *vti* move by means of a swivel.

swollen ('swəʊlən) past participle of **swell.** • *adj* having become greater in size.

swoon (swuːn) *literary vi* faint. • *nc* a sudden attack of fainting.

swoop (swuːp) *vi* come down with a sudden rush. • *nc* such a movement.

swop (swɒp) *v* See **swap.**

sword (sɔːd) *nc* a weapon with a long, steel blade fixed in a short handle: see picture.

sword

swore (swɔː*) past tense of **swear.**

sworn (swɔːn) past participle of **swear.**

swum (swʌm) past participle of **swim.**

swung (swʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **swing.**

sycamore ('sɪkəmɔː*) *nc* a large tree grown for its wood and its beauty: see picture at **trees;** (sometimes *nu*) valuable wood of this tree.

sycophant ('sɪkəfənt) *nc* a person who flatters and shows too much respect for powerful people, hoping for favours. **sycophantic** (ˌsɪkə'fæntɪk) *adj*

syllable ('sɪləbəl) *nc* a set of sounds that form a part of a word, each part containing a vowel: *'Marvellous' has three syllables.*

syllabus ('sɪləbəs) *nc, pl* **-es** or **-bi** (baɪ) a list of things arranged, esp. of work to be done or a course of subjects to be taught.

syllogism ('sɪlədʒɪzəm) *nc* a way of reasoning in which a result is reached from two strong ideas that have something in common.

symbiosis (ˌsɪmbɪ'əʊsɪs) *nu* a relationship between different animals, plants, etc., that depend on each other for survival.

symbol ('sɪmbəl) *nc* something that is a sign, mark, example, or picture of something else, esp. an idea: *A lion is sometimes used as a symbol for strength or bravery.* **symbolic** (sɪm'bɒlɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with a symbol. 2 acting as a symbol. **symbolise** ('sɪmbəlaɪz) *vt* be a symbol of. **symbolism** ('sɪmbəlɪzəm) *nu* the showing of ideas, etc., by the use of symbols.

symmetry ('sɪmɪtrɪ) *nu* the similarity of two halves of something; beauty that is a result of this; exact agreement in design, size, etc., of all parts with each other. **symmetrical** (sɪ'metrɪkəl) *adj* having symmetry. **symmetrically** *adv*

sympathetic (ˌsɪmpə'θetɪk) *adj* having or showing sympathy. **sympathetically** *adv*

sympathise ('sɪmpəθaɪz) *vi* share the feelings of other people; feel pity. **sympathiser** ('sɪmpəθaɪzə*) *nc* a person who sympathises: *He found there were many sympathisers for his cause.*

sympathy ('sɪmpəθɪ) *ncu, pl* **-thies** 1 ability to share the feelings of other people. 2 a feeling of pity for or agreement with another's similar feeling. 3 (*pl*) feelings of sympathy or support.

symphony ('sɪmfənɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** a long piece of music to be played by a large group of musicians with a variety of musical instruments.

symptom ('sɪmptəm) *nc* a sign showing

that something is present, esp. a change in the body showing illness: *A high temperature is a symptom of fever; There were symptoms of trouble before the strike.* **symptomatic** (ˌsɪmptəˈmætɪk) *adj* being a symptom.

synagogue (ˈsɪnəɡɒɡ) *nc* a building in which Jews meet to pray and in which religion is taught.

synchronise (ˈsɪŋkrənaɪz) *vti* (cause to) happen at the same time, agree as to time, etc.: *We synchronised our watches.*

syncopation (ˌsɪŋkəˈpeɪʃən) *nu music* a rhythm that has strong beats where the weak beats usually are.

syndicate (ˈsɪndɪkət) *nc* a group of people or businesses joined together for a common purpose, esp. one needing a large amount of money. • (ˈsɪndɪkeɪt) *vt* 1 form into a syndicate. 2 publish (stories, pictures, etc.) in several newspapers at the same time.

syndrome (ˈsɪndrəʊm) *nc* a condition or problem in which a certain set of symptoms, etc., occur together.

synonym (ˈsɪnənɪm) *nc* a word that has the same or almost the same meaning as another, such as 'light' and 'lamp'. **synonymous** (sɪˈnɒnɪməs) *adj*

synopsis (sɪˈnɒpsɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (siːz) a short account of the main points of a book, etc.

syntax (ˈsɪntæks) *nu* rules for the proper arrangement of words in a sentence.

synthesis (ˈsɪnθəsɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (siːz) 1 *nu* a way of joining up parts, substances, etc., into a whole. 2 *nc* a whole produced by doing this. **synthesise** (ˈsɪnθəˌsaɪz) *vt* produce by synthesis.

synthetic (sɪnˈθetɪk) *adj* made by synthesis; not natural: *synthetic drugs.* • *nc* a substance or material made artificially, not occurring naturally.

syphilis (ˈsɪfɪlɪs) *nu* a disease that is spread by sexual intercourse.

syphon (ˈsaɪfən) *n* See **siphon.**

syringa (sɪˈrɪŋgə) *nc* also **mock orange** a type of shrub that has white flowers like orange blossom.

syringe (sɪˈrɪndʒ) *nc* also **hypodermic** a device for taking in liquid and pushing it out through a needle into something, such as medicine into the body.

syrup (ˈsɪrəp) *nu* a thick, sweet liquid made from sugar, used in cooking, sweetening fruit, etc.

system (ˈsɪstəm) *nc* 1 a group of parts, facts, ideas, etc., that together form a whole: *a system of government.* 2 a number of things arranged to work well together: *the post-office system; system of the human body.* 3 *nu* being carefully arranged and in good order: *You can't work well without some system.* **systematic** (ˌsɪstəˈmætɪk) *adj* done with order. **systematically** *adv* **systems analysis** the designing of a computer system to fit a particular task. **systems analyst** a person whose job is to design such a system.

systemic (sɪˈstemɪk) *adj* (of a disease, poison, etc.) that affects or spreads through all parts of the body, a plant, etc.

T

ta (tɑː) *interj infml, Brit* thank you.

tab (tæb) *nc* a small piece of cloth fixed to a coat, etc., for hanging it up or to show who it belongs to; any small flap. **keep tabs on** keep a careful watch on (someone or something).

table ('teɪbəl) *nc* 1 a piece of furniture with a flat surface standing on (usually) four legs. 2 a list of numbers, words, facts, etc., usually arranged in columns. • *vt fml* put forward or offer for discussion. **tablecloth** ('teɪbəlklɒθ) *nc* a cloth spread over the surface of a table, esp. for meals. **tablespoon** ('teɪbəlspuːn) *nc* a large spoon used for serving food. **table tennis** a game like tennis but played on a table with small bats and a light ball.

tablet ('tæblɪt) *nc* 1 a small, hard piece of medicine; pill. 2 a small piece of substance: *a tablet of soap*. 3 a piece of stone, wood, etc., on which words are carved.

tabloid ('tæblɔɪd) *nc* a newspaper that has smaller pages, more photographs, and fewer serious articles than other newspapers.

taboo (tə'buː) *ncu* something that is forbidden to speak of, touch, do, etc., because of religious reasons or because it is not the custom. • *adj* forbidden.

tabulate ('tæbjuleɪt) *vt* arrange (numbers, facts, etc.) into lists. **tabulation** (ˌtæbjʊ'leɪʃən) *nu* **tabulator** ('tæbjʊˌleɪtə*) *nc* a device on a typewriter or computer keyboard that arranges text in columns, puts a space at the beginning of a paragraph, etc.

tacit ('tæsɪt) *adj* meant or understood without any words being spoken.

taciturn ('tæsɪˌtɜːn) *adj* (of a person) who does not say very much.

tack (tæk) *nc* 1 a short nail with a flat head. 2 a long, loose stitch made in sewing, to hold cloth together for a short time. • *vt* 1 fasten pieces of cloth together. 2 *vi* sail a boat into the wind (and turn, esp. several times) so that the wind is on the opposite side.

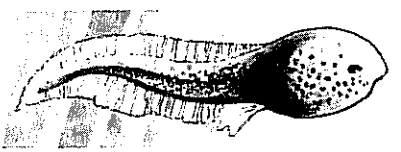
tackle ('tækəl) 1 *ncu* ropes, chains, etc., for use on a ship. 2 *nu* the things needed for a particular purpose: *fishing tackle*. 3 *nc* (in football, etc.) an attempt to get the ball from another player. • *vt* 1 deal with (something) and try to overcome it: *tackle a problem*. 2 seize and stop (someone).

tact (tækt) *nu* the understanding of other people's feelings, and being careful not to upset them. **tactful** *adj* having tact. **tactless** *adj* without tact.

tactics ('tæktɪks) *nu* (*with singular or plural verb*) the ability to organise the movements of armies for or during a battle; any plans that need skill. **tactical** ('tæktɪkəl) *adj* to do with tactics.

tactile ('tæktaɪl) *adj* of or to do with the sense of touch.

tadpole ('tædpəʊl) *nc* the form a frog takes between coming out of the egg and becoming fully grown: see picture.



tadpole

tag (tæg) *nc* a small piece of paper, card, etc., fastened at one end to something as a label: *a price tag*.

tail (teɪl) *nc* 1 the part of an animal, bird, fish, etc., at and beyond the lower end of its body, that moves. 2 anything like a tail in shape or position: *the tail of an aircraft*. 3 (usually *pl*) the side of a coin opposite to the side with the head of a ruler. • *vt* secretly follow (someone). **tail-light** ('teɪllaɪt) *nc chiefly US* a light at the back of a vehicle. **tail off** become less in sound, number, size, etc.

tailor ('teɪlə*) *nc* a person who makes or repairs clothes. • *vt* 1 make (clothes). 2 make (something) fit its purpose: *tailor a course to students' needs*. **tailoring** ('teɪlərɪŋ) *nu* the act or business of making or repairing clothes. **tailor-made** *adj* (of clothes) made to fit exactly.

taint (teɪnt) *vt* make bad, esp. by adding something undesirable; spoil. • *nc* an example of tainting; something that taints.

take (teɪk) *vt* 1 grasp; seize: *Take the knife in your hand*. 2 make use of; use: *If you're in a hurry, do take my car*. 3 carry: *The bus will take you to town*. 4 go with: *Take the children for a walk*. 5 be affected by; cause to be made: *He's been taken ill with a fever*. 6 (followed by **it**) understand; suppose: *I take it that you've heard the news?* 7 accept: *Can't you take a joke?* 8 photograph (someone or something): *take a picture*. 9 write down or copy (something): *take notes*. 10 allow yourself to have: *take*

a walk; take a holiday. 11 steal: *Someone has taken my pen!* 12 need or require: *It will take about a week to finish the work.* 13 obtain by force; make a prisoner of: *We took many prisoners during the battle.* 14 regularly buy and read: *I take three newspapers every day.* **take after** be like someone else in appearance or in behaviour. **take apart** separate into parts. **take away** remove. **take back** say that something you said was not meant or was not true. **take down** 1 pull or tear down. 2 write down. **take for** consider to be. **take in** 1 understand. 2 deceive. 3 include. 4 alter (a dress, etc.) by making it smaller. 5 give accommodation to (lodgers, etc.). **take off** 1 remove (a garment). 2 (of a plane) leave the ground. 3 imitate, esp. to make others laugh. **take-off** ('teɪkɒf) *nc* an imitation of someone's behaviour to make others laugh. **take on** 1 agree to do. 2 employ. **take out** 1 remove. 2 obtain: *take out insurance.* **take it out of (someone)** make (someone) feel weak and tired: *Too much hard work has taken it out of him.* **take over** (begin to) take control in the place of someone else. **take-over** ('teɪk,əʊvə*) *ncu* (an example of) taking control of a government, business, etc., in the place of someone else. **take place** happen. **take to** like or begin to like (someone or something). **take to pieces** 1 divide (something) into its parts. 2 find much fault with. **take up** 1 start to interest yourself in: *take up a new hobby.* 2 fill (time, space, etc.). 3 continue with. 4 lift up. **takings** ('teɪkɪŋz) *n pl* money earned by a shop, business, etc.

taken ('teɪkən) past participle of **take.**

talc (tælk) *nu* also **talcum powder** ('tælkəm) a pleasant-smelling powder made from a natural substance, used for dusting on the skin.

tale (teɪl) *nc* 1 a story. 2 an account of something seen, done, heard, etc. 3 a piece of talk, often unpleasant, about someone else.

talent ('tælənt) 1 *nu* the ability to do something very well, esp. an ability you are born with. 2 *nc* an example of this. **talented** *adj* having (a) talent or talents.

talk (tɔːk) *vi* 1 speak; say something: *talk with a friend.* 2 have the power of speech: *The baby has started to talk.* 3 *vt* discuss: *talk politics.* • *nu* 1 conversation; discussion. 2 *nc* an example of this. 3 *nu* conversation about other people that is often worthless or unpleasant. 4 *nc* a speech or lecture. **talk back** reply in a rather rude or disobedient way. **talk down to** speak to (someone) as if they are not so clever as you. **talking-point** *nc* a subject likely to be discussed and cause argument. **talk into** or **out of** persuade (someone) to do or not to do something. **talk over** discuss.

talkative ('tɔːkətɪv) *adj* fond of talking a lot.

tall (tɔːl) *adj* 1 high: *a tall building.* 2 (of a person) of more than the average height. **a tall order** something difficult to do. **a tall story** a story that is difficult to believe or is untrue.

tallow ('tæləʊ) *nu* the hard fat, chiefly obtained from animals, used for making soap, candles, etc.

tally ('tælɪ) *nc, pl* **-lies** a record of a score, debt, etc.: *Keep a tally of what we have spent.* • *vi* be in agreement.

Talmud ('tælmʊd) *nc* a full account of Jewish law.

talon ('tælən) *nc* one of the sharp, hooked points on the foot of a bird that kills and eats animals or other birds.

tamarind ('tæmərɪnd) *nc* a tree that has yellow flowers and an acid fruit that you can eat.

tambourine (ˌtæmbə'riːn) *nc* a small drum with metal rings round the edge that make a ringing sound when it is hit and shaken.

tame (teɪm) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 (of animals) used to living with humans; not wild or fierce. 2 dull; not exciting or interesting: *a tame football match; a tame sort of man.* • *vt* make (animals) used to living with humans.

tamper ('tæmpə*) *v* **tamper with** interfere with (something) without the right or lawful power to do so.

tampon ('tæmpɒn) *nc* a firm roll of cotton wool used by women to absorb their monthly flow of blood.

tan (tæn) *adj* yellow-brown. • *ncu* 1 a yellow-brown colour. 2 See **suntan** under **sun.** • *vt* 1 make (an animal's skin) into leather. 2 cause (the skin) to go brown in the sun. 3 *vi* (of the skin) go brown in the sun. **tanner** *nc* a person who makes animal skins into leather.

tandem ('tændəm) *nc* a bicycle with two sets of pedals and two seats, one behind the other, for two people to ride on.

tang (tæŋ) *nc* a strong taste or smell: *a tang of the sea.* **tangy** *adj*

tangent ('tændʒənt) *nc mathematics* 1 (of one of the acute angles of a right-angled triangle) the ratio of the length of the side opposite to the angle to the length of the

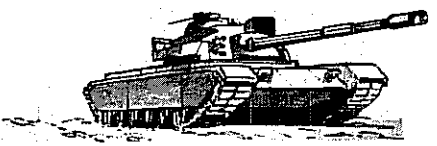
side adjacent to the angle. See also **cotangent.** 2 a straight line touching a curve at one point but not going through it.

tangible ('tændʒəbəl) *adj* 1 that can be touched or felt; of real substance. 2 that is able to be clearly understood.

tangle ('tæŋgəl) *nc* a mass of wool, string, etc., in disorder: *The wind blew her hair into tangles.* • *vti* (cause to) become disordered or confused.

tango ('tæŋgəʊ) *nc* a dance with long, slow steps and sudden stops, for two people.

tank (tæŋk) *nc* 1 a large container for liquid or gas. 2 a large vehicle covered in metal for protection and which has guns: see picture. **tanker** (tæŋkə*) *nc* a large ship or lorry that carries oil, petrol, or other liquid.



tank

tantalise ('tæntəlaɪz) *vt* make (someone) hope for something that is unlikely to become a fact. **tantalising** *adj*

tantamount ('tæntə,maʊnt) *adj* **tantamount to** almost the same as: *Borrowing something without permission is tantamount to theft.*

tantrum ('tæntrəm) *nc* an outburst of bad temper, esp. from a child.

Taoism ('taʊɪzəm) *nu* a Chinese system of religion based on the teachings of Lao-tse. **Taoist** *nc* a person who believes in the teachings of Lao-tse.

tap[1] (tæp) 1 *vt* strike lightly. 2 *vi* strike a light blow or blows: *He tapped on the door.* • *nc* a light blow.

tap[2] *US* **faucet** *nc* a device fitted to a pipe, used to control the flow of liquid or gas. **taproot** ('tæp,ruːt) *nc* the large main root of certain plants.

tape (teɪp) 1 *nu* a strip of material for stitching to clothes, carpets, etc., to prevent the edges being pulled into loose threads. *ncu* 2 (a piece of) any similar strip for fastening, tying, etc. 3 a long, plastic strip that is made magnetic and used to record sound or vision. See also **videotape** under **video.** • *vt* 1 tie, fasten, strengthen, measure, etc., with tape. 2 also **tape-record** record sounds on magnetic tape. **tape-measure** *nc* a strip of metal or cloth marked out in millimetres, inches, etc., for measuring with. **tape-recorder** *nc* an electrical device for recording sounds and playing them back on **tape** (def. 3). **tapeworm** ('teɪpwɜːm) *nc* a kind of long, flat worm that lives in the stomach and bowels of people and animals.

taper ('teɪpə*) *vti* make or become slowly narrower or smaller towards one end. • *nc* a long, thin strip of wood, etc., used to light a candle, fire, etc.

tapestry ('tæpəstrɪ) *pl* **-ries** 1 *nu* the art of making a picture or design by weaving cloth with different coloured wools. 2 *nc* a picture or design made in this way: *The walls were hung with beautiful tapestries.*

tar (tɑː*) *nu* a black, sticky substance obtained from coal, wood, etc., used in road-making or to protect wooden fences, etc.

tarantula (tə'ræntjʊlə) *nc* a kind of large, hairy, poisonous spider of southern Europe.

tardy ('tɑːdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 coming later than expected or hoped for: *tardy payments.* 2 slow in moving or developing.

target ('tɑːgɪt) *nc* 1 something to be aimed at with a gun or an arrow; anything you are aiming for. 2 a person or thing that is being found fault with. • *vt* aim or direct (something) at (someone, esp. a particular group of people): *Her remarks were targeted at those who had arrived late.*

tariff ('tærɪf) *nc* 1 a list of prices, esp. for food and rooms, at a hotel. 2 a list of taxes on goods brought into the country, and sometimes on goods going out.

Tarmac ('tɑːmæk) *nu Trademark* a mixture of tar and crushed stone, used for making road surfaces, etc.

tarnish ('tɑːnɪʃ) *vti* (cause to) lose its shine: *tarnished silver; tarnished reputation.*

tarpaulin (tɑː'pɔːlɪn) 1 *nu* a strong, heavy cloth treated with tar to keep out water, used for tents, boat sails, etc. 2 *nc* a sheet of this.

tarsus ('tɑːsəs) *nc, pl* **-si** (saɪ) the bones of the ankle and heel of a human being, or the corresponding parts of other animals. **tarsal** *adj*

tart[1] (tɑːt) *nc* a baked pastry with fruit, jam, etc., on top or inside.

tart[2] *adj* 1 sharp to the taste. 2 sharp and unpleasant: *a tart remark.*

tartar ('tɑːtə*) *nu* a hard substance formed by food, dirt, etc., left on teeth.

task (tɑːsk) *nc* a piece of work that is to be done, esp. one that is hard or unpleasant.

tassel ('tæsəl) *nc* a bunch of threads tied together at one end and hanging loosely as an ornament: see picture.

tassel

taste (teɪst) 1 *nc* the sense by which we notice the quality of what we eat. 2 *ncu* this quality: *This milk has a sour taste.* 3 *nc* a small amount of something to eat or drink. 4 *ncu* a liking for one thing more than or rather than another. 5 *nu* good judgement in what is beautiful or not, in how to behave, etc. 6 *nc* a sensation; experience: *He's having his first taste of responsibility.* • *vt* 1 learn or recognise the taste of a substance. 2 *vi* have a taste: *This tea tastes good.* 3 *vt* test the taste of: *The cook tasted the food.* **taste buds** the parts of the tongue with which you taste things. **tasteful** *adj* having or showing good judgement or good quality. **tasteless** *adj* 1 (of food) having no taste. 2 without good judgement or good quality. **tasty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** (of food) having a pleasant taste.

tatters ('tætəz) *n pl* torn pieces, esp. of cloth: *Her clothes were in tatters.*

tattoo¹ (tə'tuː) *nc* 1 a public show of music and marching given by soldiers, usually at night. 2 a beating on a drum calling soldiers back to camp.

tattoo² *nc* a picture made on the skin by making tiny holes in it and putting in colours that cannot be removed. • *vt* mark (someone) in this way.

tatty ('tætɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** not or no longer in good condition: *a tatty pair of jeans.*

taught (tɔːt) past tense and past participle of **teach.**

taunt (tɔːnt) *vt* find fault with or make fun of (someone) in a disrespectful, sneering way. • *nc* a sneering remark.

taut (tɔːt) *adj* 1 tightly stretched: *a taut rope.* 2 not relaxed: *taut nerves.*

tawny ('tɔːnɪ) *adj* (of a colour) yellow-brown.

tax (tæks) 1 *nu* money to be paid to the government for public needs. *nc* 2 a certain amount of this money. 3 something that weakens your nerves, strength, etc., or that is difficult to bear. • *vt* 1 put a tax on; make (a person) pay a tax. 2 be a strain on. **taxable** ('tæksəbəl) *adj* that can be taxed. **taxation** (tæk'seɪʃən) *nu* the obtaining of money for public needs by taxes; money to be paid as taxes. **taxpayer** *nc* a person who pays taxes.

taxi ('tæksɪ) *nc* also **taxi cab** a car for hire with a driver and a device for measuring the distance travelled and the money to be paid. • *vi* (of aircraft) slowly move along the ground.

taxonomy (tæk'sɒnəmɪ) *nu* the classification of animals, plants, etc., into groups of similar animals, plants, etc.; branch of biology concerned with this.

tea (tiː) 1 *nu* (the leaves of) an evergreen plant of Asia, Africa, etc.; drink made by pouring boiling water onto these leaves: *a cup of tea. ncu* 2 *Brit* a light meal in the afternoon when tea is drunk. **teabag** ('tiːbæg) *nc* a small, sealed paper bag containing tea leaves, used to make a drink of tea. **teacup** ('tiːkʌp) *nc* a cup from which tea is drunk. **teapot** ('tiːpɒt) *nc* a container with a handle and a short spout in which tea is made and from which it is poured. **teaspoon** ('tiːspuːn) *nc* a small spoon for stirring tea in the cup.

teach (tiːtʃ) 1 *vt* try to make (someone) learn or show (someone) how to do something. 2 *vi* give lessons in a subject, esp. at school. **teacher** *nc* a person whose job is to teach, esp. by giving lessons at school. **teaching** 1 *nu* the skill or work of teaching. 2 *nc* (often *pl*) something that is taught.

teak (tiːk) 1 *nc* a tall evergreen Indian tree. 2 *nu* the hard wood of this tree, used for making furniture, building ships, etc.

team (tiːm) *nc* 1 a group of people on the same side in a game: *a football team.* 2 any group of people working together. 3 two or more horses, etc., pulling a cart, etc. **team-mate** ('tiːmmeɪt) *nc* a person in the same team as yourself. **team up with** work together with. **teamwork** ('tiːmwɜːk) *nu* the work done together by a team.

tear¹ (tɪə*) *nc* a drop of saltwater coming from the eye, esp. as a sign of sorrow. **in tears** crying. **teardrop** ('tɪədrɒp) *nc* a tear. **tearful** *adj* about to cry; crying; wet with tears: *a tearful face.* **tear gas** a gas that makes your eyes hurt and fill with tears, used for example by the police to get rid of a crowd of people who are causing trouble.

tear² (teə*) *vt* 1 pull apart quickly with some force: *tear the paper in half.* 2 damage by pulling sharply: *tear a muscle. vi* 3 be pulled apart or damaged in this way. 4 rush: *He tore down the road to catch the bus.* • *nc* a torn place or hole caused by tearing. **tear down** pull or knock down; destroy. **tear up** tear into pieces.

tease (tiːz) *vt* make fun of (someone) in a playful or unkind way. • *nc* a person who

likes to tease. **teaser** *nc* 1 a person who likes to tease. 2 *infml* a difficult question or problem.

teat (tiːt) *nc* 1 the part of the female breast from which a baby gets its mother's milk. 2 the rubber device on the end of a baby's feeding-bottle.

technical ('teknɪkəl) *adj* of or to do with machines or industry; of or to do with a special method, art, or skill: *technical college.* **technically** ('teknɪkəlɪ) *adj*

technician (tek'nɪʃən) *nc* a person who is an expert in a particular art or skill, esp. one to do with machines or industry.

Technicolor ('teknɪkʌlə*) *nu Trademark* the way of producing photographs in colour, used for cinema films.

technique (tek'niːk) 1 *nu* the special skill given to a particular task. 2 *nc* a way of doing something expertly.

technology (tek'nɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of ways of using scientific knowledge to produce goods by machines, etc. **technological** (ˌteknə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* of or to do with technology. **technologist** (tek'nɒlədʒɪst) *nc* a person who is an expert in technology.

tectonic (tek'tɒnɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with buildings or the way things are built. 2 of or to do with movements in the earth's surface.

teddy ('tedɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** also **teddy bear** a soft toy in the shape of a bear.

tedious ('tiːdɪəs) *adj* seeming to be slow-moving, long, etc., because uninteresting: *a tedious journey; a tedious book.*

tee (tiː) *nc* 1 a space from which the ball is struck at the beginning of a game of golf. 2 the support on which the ball is placed to be struck.

teem[1] (tiːm) *vi* have or be found in great numbers: *rivers teeming with fish.*

teem[2] *vi* (of rain) fall fast and heavily: *It's teeming down; It's teeming with rain.*

teenage ('tiːneɪdʒ) *adj* of or to do with young people between and including the ages of thirteen and nineteen. **teenager** ('tiːneɪdʒə*) *nc* a teenage boy or girl. **teens** (tiːnz) *n pl* the numbers or ages between and including thirteen and nineteen: *two sisters, both in their teens.*

tee-shirt ('tiːʃɜɪt) *n* See **T-shirt.**

teeth (tiːθ) plural of **tooth.**

teethe (tiːð) *vi* (of a baby) produce its first teeth. **teething troubles** problems that occur at the beginning of a new project, plan, etc.

teetotal (tiː'təʊtəl) *adj* not drinking or not allowing yourself to drink alcohol. **teetotaller** *nc* a teetotal person.

teff (tef) *nu* a type of cereal used esp. for feeding horses.

Teflon ('teflɒn) *nu Trademark* a substance used to cover the inside of pans, etc., so that food will not stick to the surface.

telecommunications (ˌtelɪkəˌmjuːnɪ'keɪʃənz) *n pl* the passing on of news, information, or messages by means of the telephone, radio, etc.

telegram ('telɪgræm) *nc* a message sent by the use of electricity along wires or by radio.

telegraph ('telɪgrɑːf) *nc* a device or system by which messages can be sent over a distance by the use of electricity along wires or by radio. • *vt* send (messages, etc.) by telegraph. **telegraphic** (ˌtelɪ'græfɪk) *adj* of or to do with the telegraph. **telegraphy** (tə'legrəfɪ) *nu* the science or use of the telegraph.

teleost ('telɪˌɒst) *nc* any of a group of fish with a skeleton of bone, rather than cartilage, such as the herring, cod, carp, or eel.

telepathy (tə'lepəθɪ) *nu* the passing on of feelings, thoughts, etc., from one person's mind to another's, without the use of speech or signs. **telepathic** (ˌtelɪ'pæθɪk) *adj*

telephone ('telɪfəʊn) (*infml abbrev.* **phone**) 1 *nu* the system of sending and receiving messages, etc., with the human voice, by means of electricity. 2 *nc* an electrical device for this purpose. • *vt* 1 speak to (someone) by means of the telephone. 2 *vi* send a message by telephone. **on the telephone** speaking to someone by means of a telephone. **telephone box** or **booth** a small enclosure containing a telephone which the public can pay to use. **telephone directory** (*infml abbrev.* **phone book**) a book with a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people in a particular district. **telephone exchange** a place where all the telephone wires are connected, giving the means for people to speak to each other. **telephone number** the special set of figures which connects to a particular telephone or group of telephones.

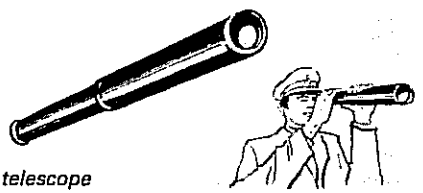
telephonic (ˌtelɪ'fɒnɪk) *adj* of or to do with the telephone.

telephonist (tə'lefənɪst) *nc* a person who works in a telephone exchange.

telephony (tə'lefənɪ) *nu* the system for sending and receiving messages by telephone.

teleprinter ('telɪprɪntə*) *nc* a telegraph apparatus that changes a typed message into code as it passes along a wire and then prints it out again at the other end.

telescope ('telɪskəʊp) *nc* an instrument that can make distant objects seem closer by looking into it with one eye through a lens: see picture. • *vti* make shorter by sliding one section of (something) into another. **telescopic** (ˌtelɪ'skɒpɪk) *adj* 1 of or to do with a telescope. 2 having parts that, when pushed, fit into each other to make the whole object shorter and compact: *a telescopic umbrella.*



telescope

television ('telɪˌvɪʒən) (*infml abbrev.* **TV**) 1 *nu* the system of sending pictures by radio waves to a distant apparatus that receives them and causes sound at the same time. 2 *nc* such an apparatus. **televise** ('telɪvaɪz) *vt* film and send (pictures, programmes, etc.) by television.

telex ('teleks) 1 *nu* the passing on of information by means of teleprinters. 2 *nc* a message sent by telex.

tell (tel) *vt* 1 make (something) known: *Tell me your name.* 2 express in words; say: *Tell the truth.* 3 order (someone) to do something: *I told him to go away.* 4 *vi* have an effect that is clearly noticed: *Too much work began to tell on his health.* 5 *vt* know or discover: *I can never tell which twin is which!* **tell apart** see the difference between. **tell off** speak angrily to (someone) about their faults, etc.

teller ('telə*) *nc* 1 a person who receives, pays out, and counts money in a bank. 2 a person who counts votes.

telltale ('teltel) *nc* a person who talks of other people's secrets, affairs, etc.; something that makes known a person's thoughts, feelings, etc. • *adj* making known: *A telltale blush showed her guilt.*

temper ('tempə*) 1 *nc* the condition of your feelings: *in a good temper.* 2 *nu* the condition of a metal, esp. its hardness: *the temper of steel.* • *vt* 1 bring (metal) to the right hardness by treating it with heat. 2 *vi* (of metal) be brought to the right hardness. 3 *vt* make less severe, cruel, etc.: *He tempered his anger with some sympathy.* **lose your temper** become angry.

temperament ('temprəmənt) *nc* a person's usual and natural state of mind, qualities, and feelings. **temperamental** (ˌtemprə'mentəl) *adj* likely to suddenly become excited.

temperate ('tempərət) *adj* 1 in control of yourself. 2 (of the weather, etc.) warm and gentle. 3 (of a place) having temperate weather.

temperature ('temprətʃə*) 1 *nu* the degree of heat or cold. 2 *nc* a measure of this. **have a temperature** have a fever. **take someone's temperature** measure the temperature of someone's body, esp. of someone thought to be ill, by putting a thermometer in their mouth, under their arm, etc.

tempest ('tempɪst) *nc* a violent storm. **tempestuous** (tem'pestʃʊəs) *adj* (of the weather or the feelings) violent; stormy.

template ('templɪt) *nc* a flat shape, esp. of part of something to be made, that can be drawn round to produce a piece or pieces of exactly the same shape in fabric, wood, metal, etc.

temple[1] ('tempəl) *nc* a building or place for the worship of God or a god.

temple[2] *nc* a flat part on each side of the head just above and in front of the ear.

tempo ('tempəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s,** *music* **-pi** (pɪt) 1 the speed at which a piece of music is played. 2 the rate of any activity.

temporal ('tempərəl) *adj* 1 of or to do with time. 2 of the affairs of this life; not spiritual.

temporary ('tempərərɪ) *adj* lasting for a short time only; not permanent. **temporarily** ('tempərəlɪ *US* ˌtempə'reərəlɪ) *adj*

tempt (tempt) *vt* 1 try to persuade (someone) to do something, esp. something wrong. 2 be the cause of the desire in (someone) to have or do something; attract (someone). **temptation** (temp'teɪʃən) 1 *nu* tempting or being tempted. 2 *nc* something that tempts. **tempting** *adj* that attracts: *a tempting offer.*

ten (ten) *determiner, n* the number 10. **tenth** (tenθ) *determiner, n, adv*

tenacious (tɪ'neɪʃəs) *adj* holding firmly; not letting go: *The sick man had a tenacious hold on life; a tenacious memory.* **tenacity** (tɪ'næsɪtɪ) *nu*

tenant ('tenənt) *nc* a person who pays rent for the use of a house, land, etc. • *vt* live in or use as a tenant.

tend[1] (tend) *vi* be likely to do something: *He tends to visit us in the summer instead of in the winter.*

tend[2] *vt* look after; give care to: *tend the sick; tend sheep.*

tendency ('tendənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** a turning

or leaning towards a particular action, state, etc.: *She has a tendency to be lazy.*

tender[1] ('tendə*) *adj* 1 kind and loving: *a tender heart.* 2 painful when touched; sore. 3 not tough: *a tender piece of meat.* **tenderly** *adj* **tenderness** *nu*

tender[2] *vt* 1 *fml* give or offer: *tender your apologies.* 2 offer (money or goods) for what you owe. 3 *vi* make an offer of work or goods for a certain price. • *nc* an offer of work or goods for a certain price.

tendon ('tendən) *nc* a string-like mass of skin that fixes a muscle to a bone.

tendril ('tendrɪl) *nc* the long, stem-like part of a climbing plant that clings to any support that is near.

tenement ('tenəmənt) *nc* a large building divided into rooms or flats for rent, esp. for poor people.

tennis ('tenɪs) *nu* a game for two or four people hitting a ball backwards and forwards over a net.

tenor ('tenə*) 1 *ncu* the male singing voice that is higher than the baritone and lower than the alto. *nc* 2 a man who has such a voice. 3 music for such a voice. 4 a musical instrument with the same extent between the highest and lowest notes as the tenor voice. 5 the general meaning or direction.

tense[1] (tens) *adj* (of the nerves, a rope, etc.) not relaxed; tightly stretched; tight. • *vti* (cause to) make (the body, etc.) tense.

tense[2] *nc grammar* the form of a verb that shows time: *the present tense.*

tensile ('tensaɪl) *adj* (of a material, cable, wire, etc.) able to be stretched: *The tensile strength of a material is the amount it can be stretched before it breaks.*

tension ('tenʃən) *nu* 1 the state or degree of being tense. 2 stretching or being stretched. 3 *nc* a state when feelings, etc., are being stretched: *racial tensions.*

tent (tent) *nc* a shelter made of strong cloth supported by poles and fixed to the ground with ropes.

tentacle ('tentəkəl) *nc* an arm-like part growing from some animals, used for feeding, holding, etc.

tentative ('tentətɪv) *adj* said or done in a careful way as a test to see the effect: *a tentative suggestion.* **tentatively** *adv*

tenuous ('tenjuəs) *adj* 1 delicate and slender. 2 slight or weak; not good enough: *a tenuous chance.*

tenure ('tenjuə*) 1 *nu* the holding of or the right to hold an office, house, or land. 2 *nc* the length of time that an office or the holding of a house or land lasts.

tepid ('tepɪd) *adj* 1 (esp. of water) slightly warm. 2 not showing much enthusiasm.

tergum ('tɜːgəm) *nc, pl* **-ga** (gə) a hard plate covering the dorsal part of the body segments of an arthropod.

term (tɜːm) *nc* 1 a certain or fixed length of time: *a school term; term of office.* 2 a word or expression used for some particular thing, esp. in a certain occupation, study, etc.: *a medical term.* 3 any word or expression. • *vt* describe as; name: *This may be termed a synonym.* **come to terms with** be willing to accept (a situation, etc.). **in terms of** as expressed by. **terms** *n pl* 1 the conditions of an agreement. 2 words: *He spoke of your work in terms of praise!*

terminal ('tɜːmɪnəl) *adj* of, being, or placed at the end: *She has a terminal disease so has not long to live.* • *nc* 1 the last station of a railway or bus line. 2 the part of an airport where passengers arrive and depart from. 3 *computers* a keyboard and screen that is connected to a large computer some distance away.

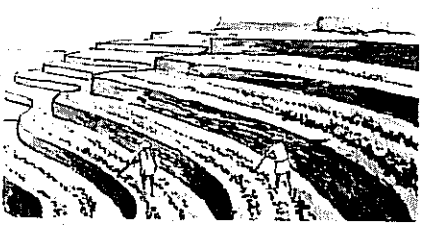
terminate ('tɜːmɪneɪt) 1 *vt* put an end to. 2 *vi* come to an end. **termination** (ˌtɜːmɪ'neɪʃən) 1 *nu* terminating or being terminated. 2 *nc* something that causes or comes to an end.

terminology (ˌtɜːmɪ'nɒlədʒɪ) *ncu, pl* **-gies** a group of words or expressions used for a particular subject.

terminus ('tɜːmɪnəs) *nc, pl* **-ni** (niː) or **-es** the place where buses, trains, etc., reach the end of their route.

termite ('tɜːmaɪt) *nc* a white, ant-like insect that chiefly lives in hot countries and feeds on wood.

terrace ('terəs) *nc* 1 a flat piece of ground cut in the form of large steps in the side of a hill: see picture. 2 a row of houses that look alike and are joined together. 3 a piece of ground given a hard surface next to a house. 4 (usually *pl*) rows of standing places, each row rising one above the other, for people to watch football, etc. • *vt* make or form terraces in. **terraced** *adj* 1 formed into terraces. 2 part of a **terrace** (def. 2): *a terraced house.*



terrace

terrain (tə'reɪn) *nc* a piece of land, esp. concerning its special qualities or its suitability as a battlefield.

terrestrial (tə'restrɪəl) *adj* 1 of or to do with the earth. 2 living on or belonging to the earth or land: *terrestrial creatures.*

terrible ('terəbəl) *adj* 1 causing great fear. 2 very serious: *a terrible illness.* 3 *infml* very poor in quality; very bad: *a terrible meal.* **terribly** *adv* very: *He's terribly nice!*

terrier ('terɪə*) *nc* a kind of small hunting dog full of life and action.

terrific (tə'rɪfɪk) *adj* 1 causing great fear. 2 *infml* very good: *a terrific pop group.* 3 very great: *driving at a terrific speed.*

terrify ('terɪfaɪ) *vt* greatly frighten. **terrified** *adj* **terrifying** *adj*

territory ('terɪtərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** 1 (a piece of) land ruled by one person or government. 2 *nu* an area of land lived in or defended by a certain animal or animals. **territorial** (ˌterɪ'tɔɪrɪəl) *adj* of or to do with a territory. **Territorial Army** *Brit* the body of mainly part-time soldiers organised and trained to help the full-time defence forces. **territorial waters** the sea near a country's coast over which it has control and special rights.

terror ('terə*) 1 *nu* great fear. *nc* 2 someone or something that causes great fear. 3 *infml, sometimes humorous* a person who causes worry or trouble, esp. a child. **terrorise** ('terəraɪz) *vt* cause terror by using force or making known that you will cause harm, etc. **terrorism** ('terərɪzəm) *nu* the use of violent force, esp. to bring about political changes. **terrorist** ('terərɪst) *nc* a person who supports or takes part in acts of terrorism.

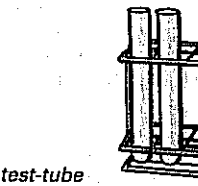
terse (tɜːs) *adj* 1 saying much in a few words. 2 rather rude and brief: *a terse reply.*

tertiary ('tɜːʃərɪ) *adj* third in degree or order of importance, etc.: *tertiary education.*

Terylene ('terəliːn) *nu Trademark, Brit* a synthetic fibre used for clothes, sheets, etc.

tessellate ('tesɪˌleɪt) 1 *vi* (of shapes) fit together without any gaps. 2 *vt* make (shapes) fit together in this way to cover (a surface).

test (test) *nc* an examination or trial to find out what a person knows or can do, or to find out the quality of something, etc.: *a history test; a blood test.* • *vt* examine; try; put to the test. **test-tube** ('testtjuːb) *nc* a glass tube open at one end used in scientific experiments: see picture. **test-tube baby** a baby produced by bringing the egg and sperm together outside the mother's body.



test-tube

testament ('testəmənt) *nc law* a written paper saying who is to receive property after the owner's death: *This was his last will and testament.* **New Testament, Old Testament** the two main parts of the Bible.

testes ('testɪːz) *n pl* the testicles of a male person or animal.

testicle ('testɪkəl) *nc* one of the two parts of the sex organ of a man or male animal that forms a liquid for producing young.

testify ('testɪfaɪ) *vti* 1 give proof of (something), esp. in a law court. 2 speak in support of (someone). 3 *vt* be proof of.

testimonial (ˌtestɪ'məunɪəl) *nc* 1 a letter in support of a person's abilities, qualities, etc.: *For the job he wanted he needed three testimonials.* 2 something given to someone by a group of people to show their respect and thanks for the person's hard work, etc.

testimony ('testɪmənɪ) *nu* 1 *law* proof given by a person, esp. in a law court, that something is true. 2 the making known that something is true.

tetanus ('tetənəs) *nu* a disease that causes tightening of some muscles.

tether ('teðə*) *nc* a rope or chain to which an animal is tied while feeding on grass, etc. • *vt* tie up (an animal) with a tether. **at the end of your tether** with nothing left to turn to for help, support, etc.

text (tekst) *nc* 1 the main written part of a book, not the notes, pictures, etc. 2 a short piece chosen from a book to discuss, etc. **text-book** ('tekstbʊk) *nc* a book that teaches or gives information on a particular subject. **textual** *adj* of or to do with a text: *make a few textual changes.*

textile ('tekstaɪl) *nc* any cloth, esp. made from threads by a machine. • *adj* of or to do with the making of cloth.

texture ('tekstʃə*) *ncu* 1 the way the threads are arranged in a textile. 2 the surface of a material, esp. how it feels. 3 the way the parts of something are put together.

thallophyte ('θæləˌfaɪt) *nc botany* any of a group of plants that have no stems, roots, or leaves, such as fungi and algae.

than (ðæn unstressed ðən) *conj* when

compared with: *She is much shorter than her sister.*

thank (θæŋk) *vt* show (someone) that you are grateful by saying so. **thanks** *n pl* the showing of gratitude. • *interj* (an expression of being thankful): *Thanks! It is a very nice gift.* **thanks to** because of. **thank you** (used to show you are grateful.) **no thank you** (used to refuse something.) **yes thank you** (a polite expression of agreement): *Have you had enough to eat?—Yes thank you.*

thankful ('θæŋkful) *adj* grateful. **thankfully** *adv* **thankfulness** *nu*

thankless ('θæŋklɪs) *adj* 1 ungrateful. 2 (of an action) not receiving thanks or praise: *a thankless job.*

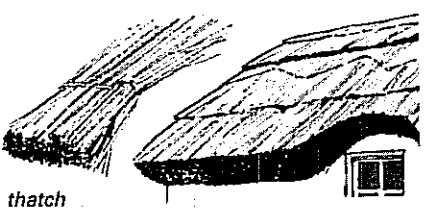
thanksgiving (ˌθæŋks'gɪvɪŋ) *nu* an expression of thanks, esp. to God. **Thanksgiving** *nc US* also **Thanksgiving Day** a day in November of every year when there is a public holiday to give thanks to God.

that[1] (ðæt) *determiner, pron, pl* **those** a person or thing pointed at; person or thing just mentioned or noticed: *That's the house, over there; Where's that noise coming from?*

that[2] (ðæt unstressed ðət) *pron* (often used in place of 'which', 'whom', or 'who'): *Please return the book that I lent you.*

that[3] *conj* 1 (used to introduce a group of words that make up the second part of a sentence): *He said that he won't be able to come to the party.* 2 (used to introduce a result): *I felt so tired that I went to bed early.* **so that** See under **so. that is** 1 in other words. 2 for example.

thatch (θætʃ) *nu* 1 also **thatching** the material for making a roof made up of dried straw, reeds, etc. 2 a roof of this material: see picture. • *vt* cover (a roof, house, etc.) with thatch. **thatched** *adj*



thatch

that'll ('ðætəl) that will.

that's (ðæts) that is.

thaw (θɔː) 1 *vi* (of snow, ice, or anything frozen) melt. 2 *vt* cause (snow, ice, or anything frozen) to melt. 3 *vi* (of a person's behaviour) become more friendly.

the (ðiː unstressed ðə before consonants, ðɪ before vowels) *determiner* 1 (used before a noun that has just been mentioned or is already known about): *Here is the book I suggested you read; Is the pain any better?* 2 (*used with a singular noun*) a class or group with common qualities, of people or things: *Lions belong to the cat family; Do you play the guitar?* 3 (with superlative): *the best way to learn.* 4 the only one existing: *the African continent.* **the (more)... the (more)** by so much; by that much: *The more you study the more you will know.*

theatre *US* **theater** ('θɪətə*) *nc* 1 a building where plays, operas, etc., can be seen by the public. 2 a large room with each row of seats placed behind and higher than the one before, used for lectures, etc. 3 also **operating theatre** a large room in a hospital where surgeons treat sick people by cutting into their bodies. 4 a place where important events happen. **theatrical** (θɪ'ætrɪkəl) *adj* 1 of or to do with the **theatre** (def. 1). 2 (of behaviour, etc.) false and wanting to impress.

thee (ðiː) *pron old-fashioned* objective form of **thou.**

theft (θeft) 1 *nu* the act of stealing. 2 *nc* an example of this.

their (ðeə*) *determiner* of or to do with them. **theirs** (ðeəz) *pron* someone or something belonging to or to do with them.

them (ðem unstressed ðəm) *pron* (used for people, animals, and things either after a preposition or when they are either the direct or indirect object of a verb.) **themselves** (ðəm'selvz) *pron* 1 (where the object of the verb is the same as the subject): *People who swim in a rough sea put themselves in danger.* 2 in their normal state: *They are not themselves today.* **by themselves** 1 without help. 2 alone.

theme (θiːm) *nc* 1 an idea or subject for discussion or for writing or thinking about. 2 a tune that is often repeated, developed, etc., in a piece of music.

then (ðen) *adv* 1 at that time (in the past or future). 2 if that happens; if that is so: *If he's offered the job then he'll accept it.* 3 next; afterwards: *They travelled first by plane and then by car.* **now and then** See under **now.**

thence (ðens) *adv fml or old-fashioned* from there. **thenceforth** (ˌðens'fɔːθ) **thenceforward** (ˌðens'fɔːwəd) *adv* from that time on.

theodolite (θɪ'ɒdəˌlaɪt) *nc* an instrument consisting of a movable telescope on a

tripod, used in surveying to measure angles.

theology (θiːˈɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the study of what is known about God and of religious teachings. **theologian** (ˌθɪəˈləʊdʒɪən) *nc* a person who is an expert in theology. **theological** (ˌθɪəˈlɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* of or to do with theology.

theorem (ˈθɪərəm) *nc* 1 a written statement to be proved true by skilled reasoning. 2 a statement in signs or numbers for which proof by skilled reasoning is required.

theoretical (θɪəˈretɪkəl) *adj* of or based on ideas, not on facts. **theoretically** *adv*

theory (ˈθɪərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** 1 a set of general ideas to explain an art or science. *nc* 2 an idea based on reason to explain certain facts, etc. 3 an opinion, etc., reached without proper experience or reasoning or without knowing all the facts. **theorise** (ˈθɪəˌraɪz) *vi* produce a theory or theories.

therapeutic (ˌθerəˈpjuːtɪk) *adj* of or to do with the treatment of disease; able or helping to cure disease.

therapy (ˈθerəpɪ) *ncu, pl* **-pies** the treatment of disease or ill health. **therapist** (ˈθerəpɪst) *nc* a person who is an expert in some form of therapy.

there (ðeə*) *adv* 1 in, at, or to that place: *Hang your coat up there; He goes there every week; They've lived there for years.* 2 (used as a sudden exclamation): *There she is!* 3 (used with, and to give, extra force): *There goes the last train tonight.* 4 on or at that point or matter: *You are quite right there.* • *pron* (used as an indefinite pronoun subject at the beginning of a sentence): *There is someone in the room; There seems to be someone in the room.* **here and there** See under **here. thereabouts** (ˈðeərəbaʊts) *adv* near that place; a little more or less than that number, amount, etc. **thereafter** (ðeərˈɑːftə*) *adv fml* afterwards. **there and then** at that exact moment; immediately. **thereby** (ðeəˈbaɪ) *adv fml* by that means; because of that. **therefore** (ˈðeəfɔː*) *adv* because of that reason. **therein** (ðeərˈɪn) *adv fml* in or into that place or thing: *Therein is the answer.* **thereof** (ðeərˈɒv) *adv fml* of that or it. **thereupon** (ˌðeərəˈpɒn) *adv fml* because of that; immediately after that. **there you are** (used when giving something to someone.)

there'd (ðeəd) there had or there would.

there'll (ðeəl) there will.

there's (ðeəz) there is.

thermal (ˈθɜːməl) *adj* 1 of or to do with heat. 2 warm or hot.

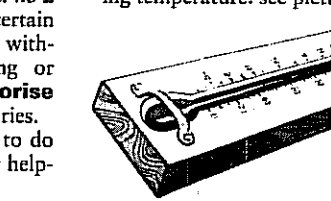
thermionic (ˌθɜːmɪˈɒnɪk) *adj* of or to do with electrons that are emitted by substances at high temperatures: *a thermionic valve.*

thermocouple (ˈθɜːməʊˌkʌpəl) *nc* a device that is used in science to measure temperature, consisting of two wires made from different metals.

thermodynamics (ˌθɜːməʊdaɪˈnæmɪks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) the science of the way heat is affected by or united with other forms of energy.

thermoelectric (ˌθɜːməʊɪˈlektrɪk) *adj* producing electricity from the force generated by differences in temperature.

thermometer (θəˈmɒmɪtə*) *nc* an instrument with a set of marks on it for measuring temperature: see picture.



thermometer

thermonuclear (ˌθɜːməʊˈnjuːklɪə*) *adj* of or using a nuclear reaction that happens at a very high temperature.

thermoplastic (ˌθɜːməʊˈplæstɪk) *adj* (of a substance) that becomes soft when warm and hard when cool.

Thermos (ˈθɜːməs) *n* also **Thermos flask** *Trademark* See **vacuum flask** under **vacuum.**

thermosphere (ˈθɜːməˌsfɪə*) *nc* one of the upper layers of the atmosphere, where the temperature is over 1000°C.

thermostat (ˈθɜːməstæt) *nc* a device that is able to control the temperature in a heating system.

thesaurus (θɪˈsɔːrəs) *nc* a book in which words that have the same or similar meanings are grouped together, sometimes with words that mean the opposite.

these (ðiːz) plural of **this.**

thesis (ˈθiːsɪs) *nc, pl* **-ses** (siːz) an idea based on reason, esp. in the form of a long piece of writing put forward for the purpose of getting a university higher degree.

they (ðeɪ) *pron* 1 (used of people or things, not of the speaker or the people being spoken to): *We expected them to visit us but they didn't.* 2 (used of people in general): *In New Zealand they have Christmas in the summer.* 3 (used with a word such as 'anyone'): *If anyone wants to come, they can.*

they'd (ðeɪd) they had or they would.

they'll (ðeɪl) they will.

they're (ˈðeɪə*) they are.

they've (ðeɪv) they have.

thiamine ('θaɪəmɪn, 'θaɪəmiːn) *nu* a vitamin of the B group, found in the outer layer of rice and other grains.

thick (θɪk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not thin; broad, fat, or deep when compared with something of the same sort. 2 not flowing quickly: *thick cream.* 3 not easily seen through: *a thick mist.* 4 arranged closely together: *thick hair.* 5 *infml* stupid. • *nu* a thick part of anything. **thicken** ('θɪkən) *vti* make or become thick or thicker. **thick-headed** *adj* stupid. **thickly** *adv* **thickness** *ncu* **thick-skinned** *adj* not easily hurt in the feelings or the spirit.

thicket ('θɪkɪt) *nc* a place where trees and bushes are growing closely together.

thief (θiːf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) a person who steals.

thigh (θaɪ) *nc* the part of the human leg above the knee.

thimble ('θɪmbəl) *nc* a cap of metal, plastic, etc., that fits on the end of the finger to protect it when sewing.

thin (θɪn) *adj* **-ner, -nest** 1 not thick; not broad, fat, or deep when compared with something of the same sort: *a thin slice of bread.* 2 (of liquids) like water: *thin soup.* 3 not fat; with not much flesh. 4 not arranged close together: *thin hair.* 5 not dense: *a thin mist.* • *vti* make or become thin. **thinly** *adv* **thin-skinned** *adj* easily hurt in the feelings or the spirit.

thing (θɪŋ) *nc* 1 any material object: *What's that thing on the floor?* 2 event; act; happening: *That was a silly thing to do!; The next exciting thing will be my birthday party.* 3 a person or animal regarded with feeling of some kind: *You poor thing; The new baby's a lovely little thing.* 4 an idea; thought: *He has things on his mind.* 5 a subject: *That's the very thing we mustn't talk about.* **first thing** *infml* before anything else, esp. early in the morning. **for one thing** for one of several reasons. **things** *n pl* belongings.

think (θɪŋk) 1 *vi* use the mind: *Give me time to think before I decide.* 2 *vt* believe; have an opinion; consider: *I think you're wrong; Do you think he will come?* • *nc infml* an act of thinking. **think about** use the mind to form an opinion, etc. **thinker** *nc* a person who uses their mind. **thinking** *adj* using the mind in an intelligent way. • *nu* thought. **think of** 1 consider. 2 have as a possible intention: *She's thinking of leaving her job.* 3 remember. 4 suggest. 5 invent. **think better of** change your mind about. **think out** consider something carefully; make a plan. **think over** consider carefully before deciding, etc. **think up** invent.

third (θɜːd) *determiner, n, adv* the next after the second. • *nc* one of three equal parts. **thirdly** *adv* **third party** another person as well as the two main people involved in something. **third-rate** *adj* of rather poor quality. **Third World** those parts of the world that have not yet been developed in agriculture, building, etc., or brought into shared power with other countries.

thirst (θɜːst) *nu* 1 the feeling that you want or need a drink. 2 the suffering caused by lack of a drink. 3 a strong desire: *a thirst for knowledge.* • *vt* feel a thirst. **thirsty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** causing or having thirst: *thirsty work; feel thirsty.*

thirteen (θɜː'tiːn) *determiner, n* 13. **thirteenth** (θɜː'tiːnθ) *determiner, n, adv*

thirty ('θɜːtɪ) *determiner, n* 30. **thirtieth** ('θɜːtɪɪθ) *determiner, n, adv*

this (ðɪs) *determiner, pron, pl* **these** 1 a person or thing that is near, closer, or here: *Do you prefer this house or that one over there?; He's lived in this country for ten years.* 2 *infml* (used instead of 'a' or 'the' to add force) a certain: *We drove until we came to this pretty village.* • *adv infml* to this degree: *I've never seen such a plant grow this high before.*

thistle ('θɪsəl) *nc* a kind of wild plant with sharp-pointed leaves and pink, purple, white, or yellow flowers.

thong (θɒŋ) *nc* a thin strip of leather, esp. for fastening: *a thong on a sandal.*

thorax ('θɔːræks) *nc* the part of the body between the neck and the stomach. **thoracic** (θɔː'ræsɪk) *adj* of or to do with the thorax: *the thoracic vertebrae.*

thorn (θɔːn) *nc* the sharp, pointed part of a plant growing from the stem. **thorny** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 having thorns. 2 difficult; causing trouble: *a thorny problem.*

thorough ('θʌrə) *adj* complete; taking great care not to forget or miss anything. **thoroughbred** ('θʌrəbred) *nc* an animal, esp. a horse, of pure breed. • *adj* of pure breed. **thoroughfare** ('θʌrəfeə*) *nc fml* a main road or street, much used by traffic. **thoroughgoing** ('θʌrəgəʊɪŋ) *adj* complete. **thoroughly** *adv* **thoroughness** *nu*

those (ðəʊz) plural of **that**[1].

thou (ðaʊ) *pron old-fashioned* you.

though (ðeʊ) *conj* 1 in spite of the fact that: *Though she studied hard she failed her examinations.* 2 even if; although. • *adv* however; nevertheless: *She said she would write to him: she didn't though.* **as though** as if.

thought[1] (θɔːt) past tense and past participle of **think.**

thought[2] 1 *nu* the act, way, or power of thinking. 2 *nc* an idea, opinion, etc., formed in the mind: *Have you any thoughts on the subject?* *nu* 3 attention of the mind given to something. 4 care for others; kindness. 5 *nc* intention: *They had no thought of harming him.* **on second thoughts** having formed a different opinion after considering something for a second time. **second thoughts** doubts about a decision you have made; a change of mind: *I was going to turn down the offer, but now I'm having second thoughts; On second thoughts, let's go to the cinema instead.* **thoughtful** ('θɔːtful) *adj* 1 deep in thought; showing thought. 2 caring about the feelings of others. **thoughtfully** *adv* **thoughtfulness** *nu* **thoughtless** ('θɔːtlɪs) *adj* 1 without thought. 2 not caring for the feelings of others. **thoughtlessly** *adv* **thoughtlessness** *nu*

thousand ('θauzənd) *determiner, n* the number 1000. **thousandth** ('θauzəndθ) *determiner, n, adv*

thrash (θræʃ) *vt* 1 beat with a stick, whip, etc. 2 *infml* win a victory over (a team, etc.) in a game. 3 *vi* move violently about: *His fever caused the sick man to thrash about on his bed.* **thrashing** *nc* a beating. **thrash out** deal with (a problem, etc.) by discussing it until it is settled.

thread (θred) 1 *nu* cotton, wool, silk, etc. *nc* 2 a piece of this. 3 any fine, thin line: *a thread of smoke; threads of silver in the old lady's hair.* 4 something that unites or connects parts of a whole: *the threads of a story.* 5 the long, hollow cut round the length of a screw. • *vt* put a piece of thread through the tiny hole of (a needle). **threadbare** ('θredbeə*) *adj* (of material) with thin or broken threads; worn out.

threadworm ('θred,wɜːm) *nc* a tiny worm that can live in the human body and cause illness.

threat (θret) *nc* 1 the expression of the intention to cause harm or pain, esp. if you are not obeyed. 2 a sign that danger or trouble is likely.

threaten ('θretən) *vt* 1 use threats against. 2 give a warning sign of danger, trouble, etc. **threatening** *adj* showing trouble, danger, etc., to come.

three (θriː) *determiner, n* the number 3. **three-dimensional** *adj* having or seeming to have length, width, and height.

thresh (θreʃ) 1 *vi* beat out or separate the seeds from the husks of wheat, etc. 2 *vt* beat (wheat, etc.) to separate the seeds.

threshold ('θreʃhəuld) *nc* 1 a flat block of wood or stone under a doorway; any entrance. 2 the start of an experience, happening, etc.: *on the threshold of a new career.*

threw (θruː) past tense of **throw.**

thrift (θrɪft) *nu* carefulness in dealing with money matters. **thrifty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** careful in the use of money; not wasteful.

thrill (θrɪl) *nc* 1 a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure. 2 a thing that causes such a feeling. • *vt* cause excitement and pleasure to. **thrilled** *adj* **thriller** *nc* an exciting book, film, or play, esp. one about crime. **thrilling** *adj*

thrips (θrɪps) *nc* a small insect that feeds on the sap of plants and can be a serious pest.

thrive (θraɪv) *vi* 1 do well; be successful. 2 grow in a strong and healthy way. **thriving** *adj*

throat (θrəʊt) *nc* 1 the front part of the neck. 2 the opening at the back of the mouth leading down to the stomach and lungs. **throaty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** rough; deep: *a throaty voice.*

throb (θrɒb) *vi* 1 beat, like the heart, again and again, esp. in a regular way: *throbbing music.* 2 (of the heart) beat faster and with greater force than usual. • *ncu* the act or an example of throbbing: *the throb of the engines.*

throes (θrəʊz) *n pl* a condition of feeling sudden, sharp pains. **in the throes of** in the middle of (something difficult or unpleasant).

thrombosis (θrɒm'bəʊsɪs) *nc, pl* **-boses** ('bəʊsiːz) the formation or presence of a solid mass of blood inside a blood-vessel, which may cause a serious illness.

throne (θrəʊn) 1 *nc* the seat on which a king, queen, ruler, etc., sits during great, stately occasions or events: see picture. 2 *nu* the power and duties of a royal person.

throne

throng (θrɒŋ) *nc* a crowd. • *vti* crowd: *People thronged to the exhibition.*

throttle ('θrɒtəl) *vt* 1 cause (someone) to stop breathing by pressing on their throat; strangle. 2 control the flow of steam, petrol, etc., in an engine. • *nc* a device for controlling the flow of steam, petrol, etc., in an engine.

through (θruː) *prep* 1 going in at one side or end and coming out at the other; from one end or side to the other: *a road through the village; look through a window.* 2 during: *all through the night.* 3 because of: *It was through his help that she got the job.* • *adv* 1 from side to side, end to end, beginning to end: *He read the newspaper all through: Let's go through.* 2 to the end. 3 (of making a telephone call) connected: *At last, I'm through to London.* 4 completely: *He was wet through.* 5 all the way: *Book a ticket from London through to Rome.* • *adj* that goes all the way; continuous: *a through train.* **be through (with)** be finished (with). **through and through** completely.

throughout (θruːˈaʊt) *adv* all the way through; in every part of; through the whole time.

throw (θrəʊ) *vt* 1 send (something) through the air with some force, using the hand and arm or some device. 2 move in a quick, careless, or violent way: *He threw his legs over the chair.* 3 cause to fall: *He was thrown off his horse.* 4 cause to be suddenly in some condition: *The news threw her into a rage.* 5 send (light or sound) in a particular direction. • *nc* the act of throwing; distance something is thrown: *That was a good throw!* **throw away** get rid of as useless or unwanted. **throw off** become free of. **throw on** put on clothes carelessly or quickly. **throw out** 1 get rid of. 2 say (something), esp. in a casual way. **throw up** 1 *infml* be sick. 2 give up (your job, position, etc.).

thrown (θrəʊn) past participle of **throw.**

thrush (θrʌʃ) *nc* a kind of bird noted for its song: see picture at **birds.**

thrust (θrʌst) 1 *vt* push suddenly or with force. 2 *vi* make a sudden, forward movement with the body, a weapon, etc. • *ncu* 1 the act or an example of thrusting. 2 the most important part: *the main thrust of the debate.*

thud (θʌd) *nc* a dull, heavy sound as of something being dropped or falling onto something soft. • *vi* strike, fall, etc., with a thud.

thug (θʌg) *nc* a dangerous and violent man, esp. a criminal.

thumb (θʌm) *nc* the short, and usually thickest, finger of the hand, separate from the other four. **thumbtack** (ˈθʌmtæk) *US nc* See **drawing-pin** under **drawing. thumb through** turn the pages of (a magazine, book, etc.) without reading it carefully.

thump (θʌmp) 1 *vt* beat with the hand tightly closed, using some force. 2 *vi* strike heavily and often: *His heart thumped with excitement.*

thunder (ˈθʌndə*) *nu* 1 a deep, heavy sound or a sharp, loud sound in the sky. 2 any deep, loud noise. • *vi* 1 send out thunder. 2 make a noise like thunder. 3 *vt* speak in a loud, angry voice. **thunderbolt** (ˈθʌndəbəʊlt) *nc* a flash of light in the sky together with thunder. **thunderous** (ˈθʌndərəs) *adj* making a noise like thunder. **thunderstorm** (ˈθʌndəstɔːm) *nc* a storm with thunder and lightning, and often heavy rain. **thunder-struck** (ˈθʌndəstrʌk) *adj* completely surprised. **thundery** (ˈθʌndərɪ) *adj* (of the sky, etc.) threatening a thunderstorm; dark.

Thursday (ˈθɜːzdɪ) *nc* the fifth day of the week, after Wednesday and before Friday.

thus (ðʌs) *adv* in this way; so.

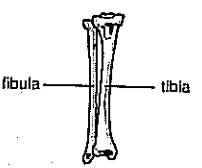
thwart (θwɔːt) *vt* prevent (the hopes, plans, aims, etc.) of (someone) from coming true.

thyme (taɪm) *nu* a plant of which the leaves are added to food for their taste.

thyroid (ˈθaɪrɔɪd) *nc* also **thyroid gland** a part of the body, in the neck, producing chemicals that control esp. growth.

tiara (tɪˈɑːrə) *nc* a curved band decorated with jewels, worn on the head by women at a formal gathering or other grand occasion, such as a ball.

tibia (ˈtɪbɪə) *nc* one of the bones in the human leg from the knee to the ankle: see picture.



tibia

tick[1] (tɪk) *nc* 1 the sharp, light, repeated noise made by a clock, etc. 2 a bent line written to mark something on a list or to indicate that something is correct. • *vi* 1 make a **tick**[1] (def. 1). 2 put a **tick**[1] (def. 2) by (something). **tick off** 1 mark with a **tick**[1] (def. 2) (something that has been done, finished with, etc.). 2 *infml* scold (someone).

tick[2] *nc* a very small animal that lives and feeds on a larger one, such as a dog. **tick fever** an illness of humans caused by the bite of an infected tick.

tickbird (ˈtɪkbɜːd) *n* See **oxpecker.**

ticket (ˈtɪkɪt) *nc* 1 a piece of paper or card showing that the holder may (and usually has paid to) use transport, attend an

entertainment, etc. 2 a piece of paper or cloth giving the price of or other information about the thing it is fixed to. 3 a notice given to a driver who has broken the law: *a parking ticket.* **ticket collector** a person employed on a railway to take used tickets and check that they were correct. **ticket office** a place where tickets are sold.

tickle ('tɪkəl) *vt* 1 touch (someone) in a place and way that makes them move suddenly and laugh. 2 amuse or please: *He was quite tickled by the idea.* 3 *vi* experience a tickling feeling: *My nose tickles.* **ticklish** ('tɪklɪʃ) *adj* 1 easily made to laugh when tickled. 2 delicate; difficult: *a ticklish problem.*

tide (taɪd) *nc* 1 the rise and fall of the sea about every twelve hours. 2 a flow of water caused by this rise and fall: *a strong tide.* 3 a general movement: *the tide of opinion.* **tidal** ('taɪdəl) *adj* to do with tides. **tidal wave** an unusually large and dangerous wave in the sea: see picture. **tide over** provide or be just enough for (someone) to live on (for a while).

tidal wave

tidings ('taɪdɪŋz) *n pl literary or fml* news; information.

tidy ('taɪdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 neat; in order: *a tidy girl; a tidy room.* 2 *infml* (of an amount of money) large. • *vti* (often followed by **up**) make tidy. **tidily** *adv* **tidiness** *nu*

tie (taɪ) *vti* 1 (often followed by **up**) fasten or be held tight (as if) with string, rope, etc.: *Tie the horse to the gate; They sailed into the harbour and tied up.* 2 make (a knot, etc.) in (string or rope). 3 *vi* (of someone in a competition) get the same result (as someone else): *We tied with a team from another school in third place.* • *nc* 1 a string, etc., used for tying something. 2 *US* **necktie** a strip of cloth worn mainly by men, tied round the neck under the collar of a shirt. 3 a link; connection. 4 an equal result. 5 something that prevents free movement. **tie up** make busy, occupied, in use, etc.: *He's tied up in a meeting; All my money is tied up in the business.*

tier (tɪə*) *nc* 1 one of several rows, esp. of seats, placed behind and above one another. 2 a stage or level: *a two-tier system.*

tiger ('taɪgə*) *nc* a large Asian member of the cat family that is yellow with black stripes: see picture at **animals.**

tight (taɪt) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 closely or firmly put together: *a tight knot; The lid of this jar is tight.* 2 (of a rope, wire, etc.) pulled or stretched until firm. 3 closely fitting: *tight clothes.* 4 *infml* not generous: *tight with his money.* 5 *infml* drunk. • *adv* tightly. **tighten** *vti* make or become tight or tighter. **tightly** *adv* **tightness** *nu* **tightrope** ('taɪtrəʊp) *nc* a rope or wire pulled tight on which balancing acts are done, esp. for entertainment at a circus. **tights** *n pl* a tight garment covering the body from the waist down, worn by women and also by dancers, etc.

tile (taɪl) *nc* a thin, flat piece of baked clay, rubber, cork, etc., used esp. to cover a roof, floor, or wall. • *vt* cover with tiles.

till[1] (tɪl) *conj, prep* short for **until.**

till[2] *nc* a container, esp. a drawer, for money in a bank or shop.

tiller ('tɪlə*) *nc* the handle used to steer a small boat.

tilt (tɪlt) *vti* (cause to) lean not flat or upright. • *nc* a slope or lean.

timber ('tɪmbə*) *nu* wood, esp. used for building; (also *nc*) a type or piece of such wood.

timbre ('tæmbə*) *nc* the quality of the sound of a voice or musical instrument.

time (taɪm) *nu* 1 the fact that events will happen, then are happening, and then have happened; continued existence: *Time cannot be stopped.* 2 rhythm: *beat time. nc* 3 a particular point in time: *The time is two o'clock; He comes at the same time every day.* 4 a period of time: *Five days is a long time.* 5 an occasion: *This is the fourth time I've come.* 6 a correct or proper occasion: *Is it time for us to go?* • *vt* 1 measure how long (something) lasts or takes. 2 choose a moment for (something) to happen. **all the time** without stopping. **at the same time** 1 at the same moment; together. 2 however; in spite of that. **at times** occasionally; sometimes. **behind the times** old-fashioned. **by the time** before or when: *It was dark by the time I finished work.* **for the time being** temporarily; until something better can be found, etc. **from time to time** occasionally; sometimes. **have a good time** enjoy yourself. **in time** 1 early (enough): *We were just in time to see the Queen.* 2 eventually; sometime in the future. 3 following the beat or speed of music, etc.: *We walked in time to the music.* **on time** (happening, etc.) at the appointed moment:

Is the train on time? **take your time** not hurry. **time and (time) again** many times; very often. **time-consuming** ('taɪmkən,sjuːmɪŋ) *adj* needing a lot of time. **timekeeper** ('taɪm,kiːpə*) *nc* a person who writes down or tells someone the time they spend working, playing a game, etc. **timeless** ('taɪmlɪs) *adj* not changing: *her timeless beauty.* **timely** *adv, adj* **-ier, -iest** at the right or a good moment. **timer** *nc* a person or device that measures or indicates time. **times** *n pl* (used to indicate a multiplication): *Two times three is six.* **timetable** ('taɪm,teɪbəl) *nc* a list showing the times when events, esp. departures of buses, trains, etc., are supposed to happen. **time zone** a section of the world where it is the same **time** (def. 3) in all the places: *London and New York are in different time zones.* **timing** *nu* the act of doing things at the best time in sport, entertainment, etc.

timid ('tɪmɪd) *adj* easily frightened. **timidity** (tɪ'mɪdɪtɪ) *nu* **timidly** *adv*

timorous ('tɪmərəs) *adj* frightened or timid.

tin (tɪn) 1 *nu* a chemical element; metal used in bronze and for making containers for food: symbol Sn. *nc* 2 a sealed metal container for keeping food good, esp. made of tin plate. 3 a metal box. • *vt* 1 put (beans, peas, etc.) into a **tin** (def. 2). 2 give (another metal) a coat of tin. **tinfoil** ('tɪnfɔɪl) *nu* very thin tin or aluminium. **tinny** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 to do with tin. 2 cheaply or badly made. 3 (of a sound) unpleasantly light. **tin-opener** ('tɪn,əʊpənə*) *nc* a tool for opening tins (**tin** def. 2). **tin plate** thin steel with a coat of tin.

tincture ('tɪŋktʃə*) *nc* a medicine dissolved in alcohol.

tinder ('tɪndə*) *nu* dry wood used for lighting a fire.

tinge (tɪndʒ) *nc* 1 a small amount of a colour. 2 a small amount of something else: *a tinge of sadness.* • *vt* give a tinge to.

tingle ('tɪŋgəl) *vi* experience a light prickling feeling. • *ncu* (an example of) this feeling.

tinker ('tɪŋkə*) *vi* (often followed by **with**) play or experiment (with a machine such as a car), esp. while repairing it. • *nc* 1 an example of tinkering. 2 a person who used to mend pots and pans.

tinkle ('tɪŋkəl) *vti* (cause to) ring lightly. • *nc* a light ringing sound.

tinsel ('tɪnsəl) *nu* string with strips of very thin metal fixed to it, used as an ornament.

tint (tɪnt) *nc* 1 a light variety of a colour. 2 a hair colouring. • *vt* give a tint to: *tinted glass.*

tiny ('taɪnɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** very small.

tip[1] (tɪp) *nc* the end of something, esp. pointed or the top: *the tip of the tongue.* • *vt* give a **tip**[1] to. **tiptoe** ('tɪptəʊ) *n* **on tiptoe** without your heels touching the ground. • *vi* walk on tiptoe. • *adv* on tiptoe. **tiptop** ('tɪptɒp) *adj* very good.

tip[2] 1 *vti* (cause to) slope or lean. 2 *vt* pour or empty: *Tip the coal over there.* • *nc* 1 an act of tipping. 2 a place for tipping, esp. rubbish. **tip over** tip (something) so that it falls over. **tip up** tip (something) so as to empty it, etc.

tip[3] *nc* 1 money given to a waiter, etc., as a reward for service on top of any normal charge. 2 a piece of advice. • *vt* give a **tip**[3] (def. 1) to. **tip off** give a warning or secret information to: *The police were tipped off about the bomb.* **tip-off** *nc* such a warning or piece of information.

tip[4] *vt* hit lightly, esp. with the edge of something. • *nc* an act of tipping.

tipple ('tɪpəl) *vti* take (alcoholic drink) frequently. • *ncu* (an) alcoholic drink.

tipsy ('tɪpsɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** slightly drunk.

tirade (taɪ'reɪd) *nc* a long, angry, or criticising speech.

tire[1] ('taɪə*) *vti* make or become less active or energetic through any sort of activity. **tired** *adj* no longer able or wanting to be active; ready for sleep. **tired of** bored with or annoyed by: *I'm tired of London.* **tireless** *adj* unable to be tired. **tire out** tire (someone) completely. **tiresome** ('taɪəsəm) *adj* boring or annoying. **tiring** *adj* that makes you tired.

tire[2] *US n* See **tyre.**

'tis (tɪz) *old-fashioned or literary* it is.

tissue ('tɪsjuː, 'tɪʃuː) *nu* 1 material of a particular type in a plant or animal: *skin tissue.* 2 soft paper used as a handkerchief, towel, etc.; (sometimes *nc*) a paper handkerchief. **tissue paper** thin paper used esp. for wrapping delicate objects.

tit (tɪt) *nc* one of several small birds, such as a bluetit (see picture at **birds**) or coal tit.

titanium (taɪ'teɪnɪəm) *nu* a chemical element; light metal that is mixed with other metals to make parts for aircraft, etc.: symbol Ti.

titbit ('tɪt,bɪt) *nc* a small, tasty piece of food.

tithe (taɪð) *nc* a tenth of what one is paid, what a farm produces, etc., given esp. to support a church.

titillate ('tɪtɪ,leɪt) *vti* make (someone) pleasantly excited, esp. sexually. **titillating** *adj* **titillation** (,tɪtɪ'leɪʃən) *nu*

title ('taɪtəl) *nc* 1 the name given to a book, film, etc. 2 a description of a person indicating his job, position in society, etc. 3 *law* a claim of ownership. 4 a position of being the best in a particular class of sport: *He holds the World Heavyweight title.* **titled** *adj* having a title, esp. a noble one. **title role** the character in a play, film, etc., after whom it is named.

titter ('tɪtə*) *vi* laugh in a quiet, nervous, or scornful way. • *nc* such a laugh.

TNT ('tiːenˌtiː) *nu* trinitrotoluene; a very powerful explosive.

to[1] (tuː unstressed tʊ, tə) *prep* 1 (used to indicate direction): *I went to Africa.* 2 (used to indicate an indirect object): *Why are you telling this to me?* 3 (used to indicate a comparison or relationship): *We have six to your two; doing exercises to music.* 4 until: *from January to April.* 5 against; onto; as far as: *stuck to the floor.* 6 *US* **of** before the hour of: *twenty to seven.* • *adv* 1 (of a door) shut or nearly shut: *Please pull the door to.* 2 conscious: *I was knocked out and came to half an hour later.* **to and fro** See under **fro.**

to[2] 1 (used to show the infinitive of a verb, or to indicate this when the verb is not spoken or written): *We don't want to go; He asked us to go, but we don't want to.* 2 (used with the infinitive to show purpose or the flow of events): *She did it to please him; I looked up to find him gone.*

toad (təʊd) *nc* an animal that lives in water and on land and has long, powerful back legs. **toadstool** ('təʊdstuːl) *nc* a plant with a flat top like an umbrella.

toast[1] (təʊst) *nc* cut bread turned brown by heat. • *vt* turn (bread, etc.) brown in this way. **toaster** *nc* an electrical device for toasting (slices of) bread.

toast[2] *vt* indicate, by raising a glass and drinking your wishes for the health, success, etc., of (someone or something). • *nc* an act of toasting: *We drank a toast to the bride and groom.*

tobacco (tə'bækəʊ) *ncu, pl* **-s, -es** a (type of) plant of which the leaves are dried and smoked, esp. in cigarettes. **tobacconist** (tə'bækənɪst) *nc* a person who sells tobacco and things made from tobacco.

toboggan (tə'bɒgən) *nc* a wooden frame used for sliding down snow-covered slopes. • *vi* slide on a toboggan.

today (tə'deɪ) *adv, n* 1 (during) this day. 2 (during) the present.

toddle ('tɒdəl) *vi* (esp. of a small child) walk unsteadily with short steps. **toddler** *nc* a child of two or three.

to-do (tə'duː) *nc infml* a state of confused activity; a disturbance.

toe (təʊ) *nc* 1 one of the five separate parts of the front of the foot. 2 a part like this on an animal's foot. 3 the part of a shoe, sock, etc., covering the toes. • *vt* touch with the toes. **toe the line** do as you are told or expected to do. **toenail** ('təʊneɪl) *nc* the hard, nearly flat growth on top of the end of each toe.

toffee ('tɒfɪ) *ncu* a (piece of) hard or soft sweet food chiefly made from sugar and butter.

together (tə'geðə*) *adv* 1 in or into company or union: *They live together; The pages are bound together.* 2 at the same time: *They said it together.* **together with** as well as.

toggle ('tɒgəl) *nc* a wooden or metal bar tied by its middle and used for fastening by being pushed through a hole or loop.

toil (tɔɪl) *fml nu* hard work. • *vi* 1 work hard. 2 travel slowly and with difficulty.

toilet ('tɔɪlɪt) *nc* See **lavatory. toilet paper** thin paper, usually on a roll, that you use to clean or dry yourself after you have been to the lavatory.

token ('təʊkən) *nc* 1 an indication or sign: *This present is just a token of my thanks.* 2 an object like a coin, used to work a public telephone, for gambling, etc. 3 a card that is given as a present and can be used to pay for something in a shop: *a book token.*

told (təʊld) past tense and past participle of **tell.**

tolerate ('tɒləreɪt) *vt* allow or not mind. **tolerable** ('tɒlərəbəl) *adj* that can be tolerated. **tolerably** *adv* **tolerant** ('tɒlərənt) *adj* able or willing to tolerate something, esp. something that others cannot or will not tolerate. **tolerance** ('tɒlərəns) *nu* 1 the quality of being tolerant. 2 *ncu science* (an example of) the ability of a substance, plant, etc., to put up with a measured amount of stress.

toll[1] (təʊl) 1 *vi* (of a bell) ring repeatedly. 2 *vt* ring (a bell) repeatedly. • *nu* the sound or act of tolling.

toll[2] *nc* an amount of money charged, esp. for using a road, tunnel, or bridge. **tollbooth** a place where a toll is paid, usually with a shelter for the person collecting the money.

tomahawk ('tɒməhɔːk) *nc* a North American Indian axe used for fighting with.

tomato (tə'mɑːtəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** the round, red fruit of the tomato plant, used as food.

tomb (tuːm) *nc* a place where a dead person is buried, esp. a room under the ground. **tombstone** ('tuːmstəʊn) *nc* a piece of

stone over a tomb or grave giving the name of the person buried in it.

tomboy ('tɒmbɔɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a girl who dresses or behaves like a boy.

tomcat ('tɒmkæt) *nc* also **tom** a male cat.

tomorrow (tə'mɒrəʊ) *adv, n* (on) the day after today.

ton (tʌn) *nc* 1 a measure of weight: see appendix. 2 *infml* a very heavy weight. 3 (of a ship) a measurement of size or of cargo capacity. 4 *infml* 100 miles per hour: *doing a ton down the motorway.* 5 (*pl*) *infml* a very large amount: *tons of interesting things.*

tone (təʊn) *nc* 1 the quality of a sound. 2 a variety of colour. 3 the general character of something: *the tone of the meeting.* 4 **music** the interval between the notes C and D, D and E, F and G, etc. See also **semitone.** • *vi* 1 (often followed by **with**) match in colour: *Your coat tones well with your dress.* 2 *vt* give a **tone** (def. 2) to. **tonal** ('təʊnəl) *adj* to do with tone. **tone down** make (something, esp. likely to cause anger or offence) more ordinary or (a colour) less bright: *His article was toned down before it was printed.*

tongs (tɒŋz) *n pl* also **pair of tongs** a device made of two arms squeezed together to hold an object.

tongue (tʌŋ) *nc* 1 the part of the body inside the mouth used for tasting and licking food, and, in humans, for talking. 2 a language: *What is your mother tongue?* 3 the piece of leather under the lace on a shoe. 4 anything shaped like a tongue. 5 *nu* the tongue(s) of an animal, esp. an ox or a pig, cooked and eaten as food. **tongue-tied** ('tʌŋtaɪd) *adj* unable to speak, esp. because of shyness.

tonic ('tɒnɪk) *nc* 1 a medicine that improves the general working of the body. 2 also **tonic water** fizzy water containing quinine, often drunk mixed with gin. 3 *music* the first note of a scale.

tonight (tə'naɪt) *adv, n* (during) the evening of a night following today.

tonnage ('tʌnɪdʒ) *nc* a weight, or the size of a ship, expressed in tons.

tonne (tʌn, tɒn) *nc* also **metric ton** a measure of weight: see appendix.

tonsil ('tɒnsəl) *nc anatomy* either of two small parts of each side of the back of the mouth. **tonsillitis** (tɒnsɪ'laɪtɪs) *nu* an illness in which the tonsils become swollen and painful.

too (tuː) *adv* 1 also: *I wrote this too.* 2 more than is good or than you would like: *It's too cold to go outside.*

took (tʊk) past tense of **take.**

tool (tuːl) *nc* 1 an instrument, usually held in the hand, such as a hammer or saw: see picture: *The engineer carried all his tools in a case.* 2 a person who is used by another, often to do unpopular or unpleasant things. 3 a means of or help in doing something: *Books are a tool of learning.* • *vt* work or ornament (something, esp. the leather cover of a book) with tools.

toot (tuːt) *vti* (of a horn, whistle, etc.) sound briefly. • *nc* such a sound.

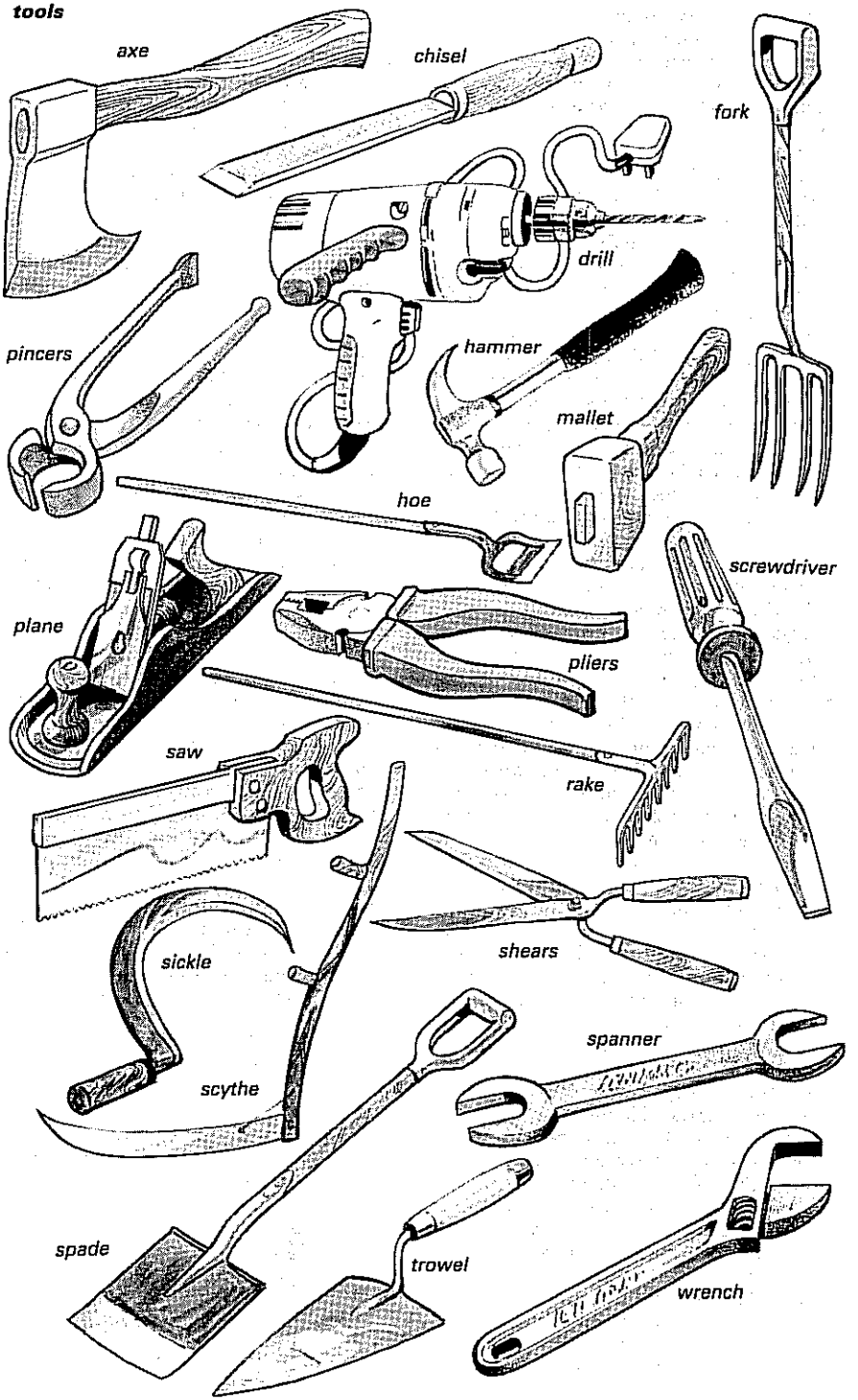
tooth (tuːθ) *nc, pl* **teeth** 1 one of the set of bone-like parts of the mouth used chiefly for biting and chewing. 2 a tooth-like object on a comb, gear, etc. **toothache** ('tuːθeɪk) *nc* a pain in or near a tooth. **toothbrush** ('tuːθbrʌʃ) *nc* a small brush with a long handle used for cleaning the teeth. **toothed** *adj* **toothpaste** ('tuːθpeɪst) *ncu* a (type of) soft paste, usually flavoured, used when brushing the teeth. **toothpick** ('tuːθpɪk) *nc* a thin, pointed piece of wood for cleaning food from between the teeth.

top[1] (tɒp) *nc* 1 the highest part of something: *the top of the tree.* 2 a lid or cap: *a bottle top. nu* 3 the best, most important, etc., part or member: *at the top of his class at school.* 4 the greatest possible extent: *at the top of her voice.* • *adj* to do with or at the top: *a top lawyer; the top shelf.* • *vt* 1 put a top on. 2 reach the top of. 3 remove the top of. 4 be greater, higher than: *He topped me by only one point.* **from top to bottom** thoroughly; completely: *We cleaned the house from top to bottom.* **on top of** 1 on; over. 2 as well as: *There's a tax on top of the selling price.* 3 *infml* in control: *He got on top of the situation by hard work.* **topheavy** (tɒp'hevɪ) *adj* heavier at the top than at the bottom and so likely to tip over. **topless** *adj* (of a woman) wearing no clothes above the waist. **topmost** ('tɒpməʊst) *adj* highest, most important, etc. **top secret** very secret. **topsoil** ('tɒpsɔɪl) *nu* the earth on the surface of the ground. **top ten** the list of songs of which most records are being bought at any one time. **top up** fill (a container that is not empty).

top[2] *nc* a toy that stays upright when it is spun: see picture.

top

tools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scythe
spade
trowel
wrench

topaz ('təʊpæz) *ncu* (a piece of) coloured (usually yellow) or clear precious stone.

topic ('tɒpɪk) *nc* a subject of a discussion, book, etc. **topical** *adj* to do with a topic, esp. a local or current one: *a topical report.*

topography (tə'pɒgrəfɪ) *ncu, pl* **-phies** the study (or a description) of the shape of the surface of an area of land. **topographical** (ˌtɒpə'græfɪkəl) *adj*

topple ('tɒpəl) *vti* (often followed by **over**) (cause to) fall.

topsy-turvy (ˌtɒpsɪ'tɜːvɪ) *adj, adv* upside-down; in confusion.

Torah ('tɔːrə) *n* the first five books of the Bible, as read in synagogues.

torch (tɔːtʃ) *nc* 1 *US* **flashlight** a small electric lamp containing its own battery. 2 a wooden stick or mass of other material soaked with a substance that burns, which is carried, burning, for its light.

tore (tɔː*) past tense of **tear²**.

torment (tɔː'ment) *vt* cause to suffer great pain or worry. • ('tɔːment) *ncu* (a cause of) great pain or worry.

torn (tɔːn) past participle of **tear²**.

tornado (tɔː'neɪdəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** a very strong wind blowing round and round a moving point.

torpedo (tɔː'piːdəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** a bomb used against ships that travels by its own power under water.

torque (tɔːk) *nu* a twisting force.

torrent ('tɒrənt) *nc* a large, fast rush or stream, esp. of water. **torrential** (tə'renʃəl) *adj* to do with or in a torrent: *torrential rain.*

torrid ('tɒrɪd) *adj* (of land, weather, etc.) very hot and dry.

torsion ('tɔːʃən) *nu* the twisting of something.

torso ('tɔːsəʊ) *nc* the main part of the human body, without (or not including) the head, arms, or legs.

tortoise ('tɔːtəs) *nc* an animal that moves very slowly and has a shell into which it can draw its head and legs: see picture at **reptiles.**

tortuous ('tɔːtjʊəs) *adj* 1 twisting and turning: *a tortuous route.* 2 difficult to follow or understand: *a tortuous argument.*

torture ('tɔːtʃə*) *vt* hurt (someone) very badly in order to persuade or punish. • *nu* 1 the act of causing pain in this way. 2 *nc* a way of torturing.

toss (tɒs) 1 *vt* throw, esp. up. *vti* 2 (often followed by **up**) throw (a coin) up in order to let the way it lands decide something. 3 (cause to) move wildly about: *He tossed in his sleep; The ship was tossed by the storm.* • *nc* the act of tossing. **toss-up** ('tɒsʌp) *nc* 1 an instance of tossing a coin. 2 *infml* an affair which might develop in either of two ways.

tot¹ (tɒt) *nc* 1 a small child: *tiny tots.* 2 a small measure of an alcoholic drink.

tot² *vti* (often followed by **up**) add up.

total ('təʊtəl) *adj* complete. • *nc* a number or amount reached by adding up several numbers or amounts. • *vt* 1 add up the total of: *to total your costs.* 2 *vi* amount to: *The houses in this street total ten.* **totally** *adv*

totalitarian (təʊˌtælɪ'teərɪən) *adj* to do with a political system in which one leader or party alone decides the affairs of the country, and no opposition is allowed.

totter ('tɒtə*) *vi* 1 walk unsteadily. 2 be about to fall or fail.

touch (tʌtʃ) 1 *vti* come or be up against or in contact with (something): *His foot touched the ball; Are the cars touching?* *vt* 2 have to do with: *I won't touch drink.* 3 affect: *a life touched by sadness.* 4 affect with feeling: *Her letter touched me.* 5 come close to; reach: *Our speed touched 90 kph.* • *nu* 1 the ability to feel by touching. *nc* 2 an act or state of touching. 3 a small amount: *a touch of heat.* 4 the quality of something as felt by touch. 5 a way of handling or touching. **in** or **out of touch** 1 aware or not aware of; in or out of contact with: *He's out of touch with events abroad; I'll put you in touch with a friend of mine.* 2 *sport* (of a ball or player) inside or outside the playing area. **touch down** (of a plane or spacecraft) land. **touchdown** ('tʌtʃdaʊn) *nc* the act or moment of touching down. **touching** *adj* that touches (**touch** def. 4): *a touching remark.* **touch on** deal with or refer to (a subject) briefly. **touch up** do small repairs to or the final work on (a painting, photograph, etc.). **touchy** ('tʌtʃɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** easily annoyed.

tough (tʌf) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 strong; hard to break, bite, etc. 2 able to survive rough treatment or bad conditions. 3 difficult; awkward: *a tough question.* • *nc* a rough, violent person. **toughen** *vti* (often followed by **up**) make or become tough or tougher. **toughness** *nu*

toupee ('tuːpeɪ) *nc* a small mat of false hair to cover a part of the head that has lost its hair.

tour (tʊə*) *nc* 1 a journey visiting many places, esp. either for pleasure or to give a concert, play, etc., in each. 2 a short journey around a city, house, etc. 3 (esp. of business people or the armed forces) a period of working abroad: *a business tour*

of America. • *vt* visit (a number of places) or travel around in (a place) on a tour.

tourist ('tʊərɪst) *nc* a person visiting a place or many places for pleasure, esp. on holiday away from home. **tourism** ('tʊərɪzəm) *nu* the business connected with tourists.

tournament ('tʊənəmənt) *nc* a competition between a number of players or teams.

tourniquet ('tʊənɪkeɪ) *nc* a device, such as a rolled-up cloth, for tightening round a part of the body to stop bleeding.

tousle ('taʊzəl) *vt* make (something, esp. hair) untidy.

tow (təʊ) *vt* (esp. of a boat or vehicle) pull (something, esp. another boat or vehicle) with a rope, etc. • *nc* an act of towing. **towpath** ('təʊpɑːθ) *nc* a path beside a river or canal from which a boat can be towed.

towards (tə'wɔɪdz) *prep* also **toward** 1 in the direction of: *He walked towards the house.* 2 with respect to: *his love towards her.* 3 to help with: *Here's some money towards your new car.* 4 near: *towards the end of the month.*

towel ('taʊəl) *nc* a piece of cloth or paper that soaks up water and is used for drying yourself after washing, swimming, etc. • *vt* dry with a towel. **throw in the towel** give up; admit defeat.

tower ('taʊə*) *nc* a tall building or other structure, such as one that is part of a church or castle: *a church tower; a water tower; the control tower of an airport.* • *vi* 1 be very high. 2 (followed by **above** or **over**) be higher or taller than: *He towered over his friends.* **tower block** a very tall building of flats or offices. **towering** *adj* very high.

town (taʊn) *nc* a fairly large group of houses, shops, factories, etc. **town hall** the chief building where the affairs of a town are dealt with, often also used for public meetings, etc. **town planning** the activity of deciding where buildings may be built, what land may be used for, etc.

township ('taʊnʃɪp) *nc* 1 a small town. 2 (in South Africa) a place set aside for black people to live in.

toxic ('tɒksɪk) *adj* poisonous or to do with poison. **toxin** ('tɒksɪn) *nc* a poisonous substance.

toy (tɔɪ) *nc* an object made to be played with, esp. by a child. **toyshop** ('tɔɪʃɒp) *nc* a shop selling toys. **toy with** 1 play with. 2 consider: *I'm toying with the idea of going abroad.*

trace (treɪs) *nc* 1 a track or mark left by someone or something: *disappear without a trace.* 2 a small amount. 3 a line drawn by a measuring instrument, etc. • *vt* 1 follow or discover the track or position of: *Have you traced where the gun was bought?* 2 copy (a drawing, etc.) by drawing on a piece of paper through which the original can be seen underneath. **tracing** *nc* a drawing made by tracing another.

trachea (trə'kiːə) *nc, pl* **-cheae** ('kiːiː) *anatomy, zoology* also **windpipe** the tube through which breath travels between the mouth and the lungs.

track (træk) *nc* 1 a set of marks or a line left by a moving vehicle, animal, etc. 2 a path or way, either rough or one used for racing. 3 a railway line. 4 a separate part of the recording on a gramophone record. 5 also **caterpillar track** an endless set of connected metal plates running round the wheels of a vehicle such as a tank. • *vt* follow the track of (something moving). **keep** or **lose track of** follow or fail to follow the progress of. **off the beaten track** See under **beaten. track down** find by hunting or following. **tracker** *nc* **track record** the past achievements, deeds, behaviour, failures, etc., of a person or organisation. **tracksuit** *nc* a suit made of soft material and worn by sports players, etc., esp. while training.

tract[1] (trækt) *nc* 1 a piece of land; region. 2 *anatomy* a set of parts of the body forming a particular system: *the digestive tract.*

tract[2] *nc* a piece of writing, esp. religious.

traction ('trækʃən) *nu* 1 the act or power of pulling, esp. by a vehicle. 2 *medicine* the pulling of a part of the body to help something, esp. a broken bone, to heal.

tractor ('trækt ə*) *nc* a vehicle used to pull a load, farm machine, etc.

trade (treɪd) 1 *nu* the act of buying and selling as a business. *nc* 2 an occupation or business, esp. a practical one, such as making furniture or repairing bicycles. 3 the people working in a trade: *This information is for the trade only.* • *vti* buy and sell (goods); exchange. **trade in** give (something), usually with a sum of money, in exchange for something newer, better, etc: *I traded in my old car for the latest model.* **trademark** ('treɪdmɑːk) *nc* 1 a name, picture, etc., that is shown on goods made by one firm and may not be used by another. 2 something characteristic of someone or something. **trader** *nc* **tradesman** ('treɪdzmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a person in (a) trade, esp. a shopkeeper. **trade union** also **trades union** an organisation of workers in a particular trade, having the

aim of improving their pay, working conditions, etc. **trade wind** a wind blowing towards the equator from either the north-east or the south-east.

tradition (trə'dɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) the passing down of opinions or customs to descendants or successors. **traditional** *adj* **traditionally** *adv*

traffic ('træfɪk) *nu* 1 the vehicles using a road. 2 the transport of people or goods: *a lot of air traffic.* 3 trade, esp. unlawful. • *vi* (often followed by **in**) trade, esp. unlawfully: *trafficking in illegal drugs.* **traffic circle** See **roundabout** (def. 1) under **round. traffic jam** a line of **traffic** (def. 1) that can move only slowly or not at all, caused by an obstruction or too many vehicles on the road at the same time. **traffic light(s)** a set of red, green, and usually also yellow lights used to indicate whether road traffic must stop or may go on.

tragedy ('trædʒədɪ) *nc, pl* **-dies** 1 a sad or unlucky event, such as an accident. 2 a play with a sad ending. **tragic** ('trædʒɪk) *adj* to do with a tragedy. **tragically** *adv*

trail (treɪl) *nc* 1 the track left by a person, animal, or anything considered to be moving: *This affair is leaving a trail of confusion.* 2 a road or path through wild country. • *vti* 1 drag along behind, esp. on the ground. 2 *vt* hunt or chase by following a **trail** (def. 1). 3 *vi* (esp. of plants) reach out, esp. across the ground.

trailer ('treɪlə*) *nc* 1 a road vehicle used for carrying and towed by a vehicle with an engine. 2 a short film containing parts of another which it is advertising. **trailer truck** *US* See **articulated lorry** under **articulate.**

train (treɪn) 1 *vti* teach, learn, or prepare for or to do something: *I'm training my dog to obey me; a trained soldier; She trained as a lawyer.* 2 *vt* (often followed by **on**) aim (a gun, etc.). • *nc* 1 a number of railway vehicles pulled by a locomotive. 2 the long back of a skirt or other garment that trails on the ground. 3 a row or number: *a train of events.* **trainee** *nc* a person who is being trained to do a job, etc. **trainer** *nc* 1 a person who trains a person, animal, or team for sporting competitions. 2 a light shoe for running, sports training, casual wear, etc. **training** *nu*

trait (treɪt, treɪ) *nc* a characteristic of appearance or behaviour.

traitor ('treɪtə*) *nc* a person who helps an enemy of their country or of a friend, breaks a promise, or lets out a secret.

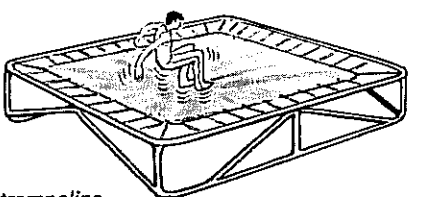
trajectory (trə'dʒektərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** the path taken by an object, esp. a bomb, spacecraft, etc., moving through the air or in space.

tram (træm) *nc* a passenger vehicle running like a railway engine on lines in the road.

tramp (træmp) *vi* 1 walk a long way. 2 walk or step heavily. • *nc* 1 a person who walks around the country asking for money or doing occasional work. 2 a long walk. 3 the sound of heavy walking.

trample ('træmpəl) *vti* knock or press down with the feet: *He trampled all over the flowers.*

trampoline ('træmpə,liːn) *nc* a flat sheet of cloth connected by springs to a frame and used for jumping on as exercise: see picture.



trampoline

trance (trɑːns) *nc* a state when you are conscious but behaving as if unaware of your surroundings: *Ever since she met him she's been going around in a trance.*

tranquil ('træŋkwɪl) *adj* calm; restful: *a tranquil mind; a tranquil sea.* **tranquillity** (træŋ'kwɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

tranquilliser ('træŋkwɪlaɪzə*) *nc medicine* a drug used to make someone calmer or less worried. **tranquillise** *vt* make (a person or animal) calm or sleepy by means of a drug.

transact (træn'zækt) *vt* do or carry out (business). **transaction** (træn'zækʃən) *nc* 1 an act of transacting. 2 something transacted.

transatlantic (,trænzət'læntɪk) *adj* from, on, or to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

transcend (træn'send) *vt* be above or beyond (experience, understanding, etc.): *She transcends beauty.* **transcendent** (træn'sendənt) *adj* also **transcendental** (,trænsen'dentəl) transcending human experience.

transcontinental (,trænzkɒntɪ'nentəl) *adj* from, at, or to the other side of a continent.

transcribe (træn'skraɪb) *vt* write again or differently; copy; write down (something spoken or heard): *transcribe notes into a book; a song transcribed for instruments.* **transcript** ('trænskrɪpt) *nc* a transcribed

copy: *a transcript of the president's speech.*

transducer (trænz'dju:sə*) *nc* a device, such as an electric motor, that changes one form of energy into another: *A telephone is a transducer that changes sound waves into electromagnetic waves.*

transfer (træns'fɜ:*) *vti* move or change from one person or thing, esp. place, to another: *I'll transfer some money from my bank account to yours; I transferred from the bus to the train.* ● ('trænsfɜ:*) *nc* an act of transferring or being transferred.

transfigure (træns'figə*) *vt* change the shape or appearance of, esp. to make appear ideal. **transfiguration** (ˌtrænsfigjʊ'reɪʃən) *nu*

transfix (træns'fɪks) *vt* 1 stick a sword, pin, etc., through. 2 cause (someone) to stand still through fear, shock, etc.

transform (træns'fɔ:m) *vt* 1 change the form, appearance, etc., of. 2 change the voltage of (electricity). **transformation** (ˌtrænsfə'meɪʃən) *nc* a great change. **transformer** *nc* 1 a person or thing that transforms. 2 a device that changes electric voltage.

transfusion (træns'fju:ʒən) *nc* 1 an instance of causing something, esp. liquid, to flow from one thing to another. 2 *medicine* an instance of replacing blood lost by a patient with some from someone else.

transgress (træns'gres) *fml or humorous vt* break (a law, custom, understanding, etc.). **transgression** (træns'greʃən) *ncu*

transient ('trænzɪənt) *adj* not permanent; lasting only a short time. **transience** ('trænzɪəns) *nu*

transistor (træn'zɪstə*) *nc* 1 an electrical device used in radios, etc., to control current. 2 a radio containing transistors.

transit ('trænzɪt) *nu* the movement of people or goods: *They're still in transit.* **transit camp** a place where refugees, etc., can stay after leaving one place and before settling in another.

transition (træn'zɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) change from one place or state to another. **transitional** *adj*

transitive ('trænzɪtɪv) *adj grammar* (of a verb) (usually) able to have a direct object: *'Ring' is transitive in the sense of 'make' (a bell) sound'.* See also **intransitive.**

transitory ('trænzɪtərɪ) *adj* not permanent; lasting only a short time.

translate (træns'leɪt) *vt* 1 say or write in a different language: *a Hindi novel translated into English.* 2 explain, esp. in simpler language. 3 turn or change into something else. 4 *fml* move from one place to another. **translation** (træns'leɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of translating. 2 *nc* something translated. **translator** *nc*

translucent (træns'lu:sənt) *adj* (of a substance such as thin cloth) allowing light through but not clear enough to see through.

transmit (trænz'mɪt) *vt* 1 pass on (a message, disease, radio or television programme, etc.). 2 allow (light, etc.) to pass through. **transmission** (trænz'mɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of transmitting or being transmitted. *nc* 2 something transmitted, esp. a radio or television broadcast. 3 a set of parts in a motor vehicle that transmits power to the wheels. **transmitter** *nc* a person or thing that transmits radio or television signals.

transparent (træns'pærənt) *adj* 1 (of a substance such as glass) clear enough to see through. 2 easily understood, discovered, etc.: *a transparent disguise.* **transparency** (træns'pærənsɪ) 1 *nc, pl* **-cies** also **slide** a transparent picture for looking at with the light behind it and esp. projected onto a screen. 2 *nu* the quality of being transparent.

transpire (træn'spaɪə*) *vi* 1 *infml* happen: *What transpired then?* 2 become known: *It transpired that he had not told the truth.* 3 *vti* (of a plant) give off (water) from the leaves.

transplant (træns'plɑ:nt) *vt* put (a plant) in another place or (a part of the body) into a different body. ● ('trænsplɑ:nt) *nc* an instance of transplanting: *a heart transplant.*

transport (træn'spɔ:t) *vt* 1 move or carry from one place to another. 2 send (someone) somewhere abroad to serve a punishment. ● ('trænspɔ:t) *nu* 1 the act or business of transporting: *the transport of dangerous chemicals.* 2 a means of transport: *travel by public transport.* **transportation** (ˌtrænspɔ:'teɪʃən) *nu* 1 *US* transport. 2 the act of transporting (**transport** *v* def. 2). **transporter** *nc* a person or thing that transports, esp. a very long vehicle for carrying cars on two levels.

transpose (træns'pəʊz) *vt* 1 put (things) in each other's places. 2 write or play (music) in a different key.

transversal (trænz'vɜ:səl) *adj* (of a line) crossing two or more other lines. ● *nc* a transversal line.

transverse (trænz'vɜ:s) *adj* arranged, pointing, etc., across something: *a transverse car engine.*

trap (træp) *nc* 1 a cage, pit, mechanical device, etc., used to catch animals or people. 2 a way of tricking someone into

making a mistake, doing something they did not want or mean to do, etc. • *vt* catch in a **trap** (defs. 1, 2). **trap-door** (ˌtræp'dɔː*) *nc* also **trap** a door in a floor or ceiling. **trapper** *nc* a person who traps wild animals, esp. for their fur.

trapeze (trə'piːz) *nc* a bar hanging by two ropes used for swinging on, esp. as a circus act.

trapezium (trə'piːzɪəm) *nc, pl* **-ziums, -zia** (zɪə) *geometry* a four-sided figure in which one pair of opposite sides is parallel and the other is not: see picture at **shapes.**

trash (træʃ) *nu* 1 something of poor quality. 2 nonsense. 3 *chiefly US* waste; rubbish.

trauma ('trɔːmə) *nc, pl* **-mas, -mata** (mətə) 1 a serious shock to the mind. 2 an injury to the body. **traumatic** (trɔː'mætɪk) *adj*

travel ('trævəl) *vi* 1 make a journey or journeys: *He travels around Europe a lot.* 2 (sometimes followed by **for**) move, esp. for a period: *We travelled for two days; Sound travels in water.* 3 (often followed by **in**) be employed to go from place to place selling: *He travels in toys.* 4 move or be sent, remaining in a good condition. 5 *infml* move fast. *vt* 6 move (a distance): *The ball only travelled ten metres!* 7 pass over or through: *I travelled the country looking for work.* • *nu* 1 the act of travelling. 2 *nc* (usually *pl*) a journey or journeys. **travel agency** a business that gives advice on travel (esp. holidays), obtains tickets, etc. **travel agent** a person who works in a travel agency. **travelled** *US* **traveled** *adj* having done (much) travelling: *well-travelled.* **traveller** *US* **traveler** *nc* **traveller's cheque** *US* **traveler's check** a cheque bought from a bank in one country and changed for money in another.

traverse (trə'vɜːs) *vt* move across (something, such as the side of a mountain). • *nc* an act of traversing.

travesty ('trævəstɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** something that tries to copy or pretends to be something else, but fails completely: *This food is a travesty of French cooking.* • *vt* make a travesty of.

trawler ('trɔːlə*) *nc* a fishing boat that pulls a net through the water: see picture.

trawler

tray (treɪ) *nc* 1 a board or sheet of metal with a raised edge, used for carrying food and drinks. 2 a shallow, open container for papers on a desk.

treacherous ('tretʃərəs) *adj* 1 tricking, cheating, letting out a secret, etc., or likely to do so. 2 dangerous; untrustworthy: *a treacherous road.* **treachery** ('tretʃərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (an instance of) treacherous behaviour.

treacle ('triːkəl) *nu* a dark brown, thick, sticky, sweet liquid made from sugar.

tread (tred) 1 *vti* step (on): *Don't tread on the grass; to tread a path.* 2 *vt* press or squash by treading: *treading grapes.* • *nc* 1 an act or manner of treading. 2 the flat part of a step or stair. 3 the raised parts of the surface of a tyre.

treason ('triːzən) *nu* the act of being disloyal to your king, queen, or country, esp. by helping an enemy.

treasure ('treʒə*) 1 *nu* a collection of precious metals or stones. 2 *nc infml* a highly valued person or thing. • *vt* 1 value highly. 2 *vi* (often followed by **up**) save or store (something valuable).

treasurer ('treʒərə*) *nc* a person in charge of the money of a club, town, etc.

treasury ('treʒərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a place where money or treasure is kept. **the Treasury** a government department controlling how public money is spent.

treat (triːt) *vt* 1 behave towards: *He treats her badly.* 2 deal with (a sick person or an illness) by using medicine, etc.: *He treated me for a broken leg.* 3 use a substance on (something) to protect it, make it last longer, etc.: *Fruit is often treated with chemicals.* 4 pay for (someone) to have: *I'll treat you to a meal.* 5 deal with: *treat problems as they arise.* • *nc* 1 something enjoyable, esp. to which you are treated (**treat** def. 4). 2 an act of treating (**treat** def. 4).

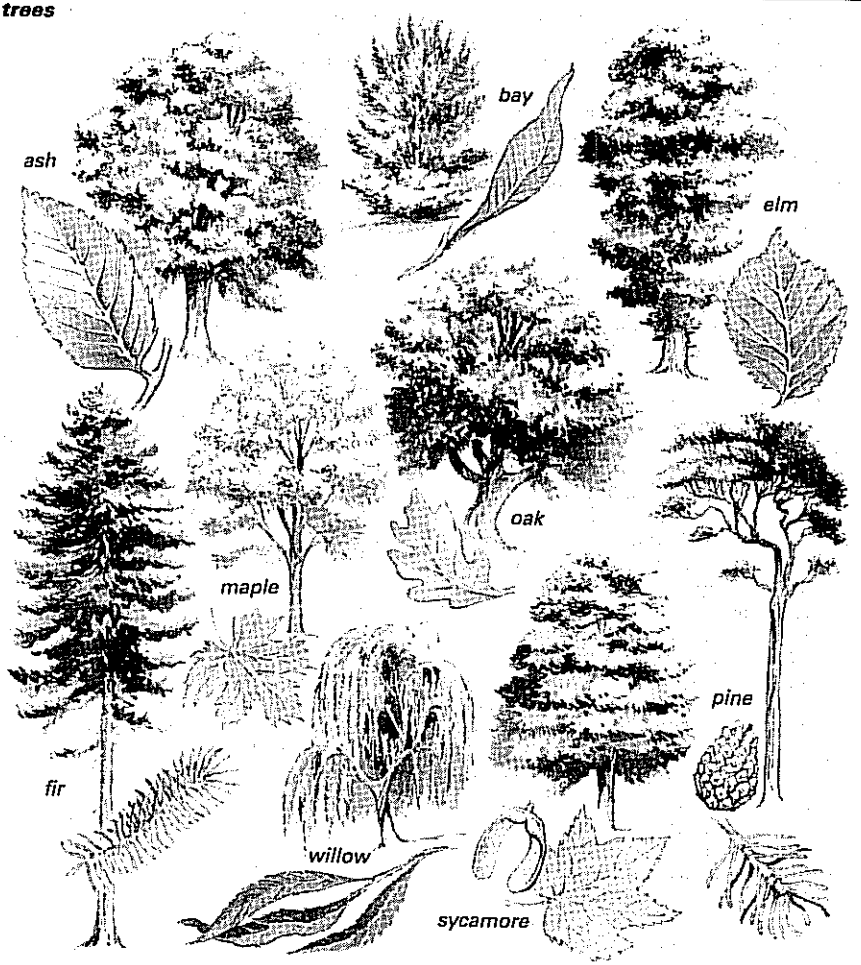
treatise ('triːtɪs) *nc* a formal piece of writing on a particular subject.

treatment ('triːtmənt) *ncu* the act or a way of treating someone or something.

treaty ('triːtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** an agreement, esp. between countries.

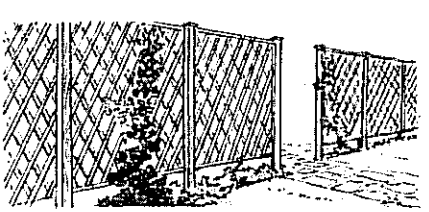
treble ('trebəl) *adj* to do with high sound, esp. a high instrument or singing voice. • *vti* make or become three times as many: *If you treble three you get nine.* • *nc* 1 a trebled quantity or thing. 2 a person with a treble singing voice, esp. a boy singer. 3 *nu* the high part of music or sound.

tree (triː) *nc* a large, woody plant, such as an oak, with a trunk from which branches and leaves grow at a distance from the ground: see picture. **treetop** ('triːtɒp) *nc* the top (part) of a tree.



trek (trek) *nc* a long journey, esp. in wild country. • *vi* make a trek.

trellis ('trelɪs) *nc* a fence made of crossed, sloping bars, used esp. to support plants: see picture.



trellis

tremble ('trembəl) *vi* 1 shake, esp. from fear, anger, cold, etc. 2 be very afraid: *He trembled at the thought of what might happen.* • *nc* an act of trembling.

tremendous (trɪ'mendəs) *adj* 1 huge; very big. 2 *infml* very good or unusual. **tremendously** *adv*

tremor ('tremə*) *nc* a shake or tremble: *an earth tremor.*

tremulous ('tremjuləs) *adj* trembling; shaking.

trench (trentʃ) *nc* 1 a long, narrow hole in the ground. 2 such a hole dug for soldiers to shelter in. • *vti* dig a trench (in or for).

trend (trend) *nc* the general direction of a change in behaviour, dress, etc.: *a trend towards longer skirts.* **trendy** ('trendɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** *infml, Brit* fashionable: *trendy clothes; a trendy theory.*

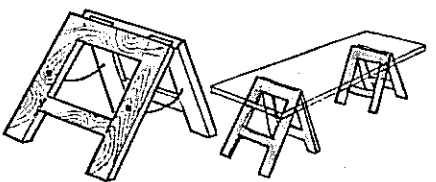
trepidation (,trepɪ'deɪʃən) *nu* fear or worry.

trespass ('trespəs) *vi* 1 (often followed by

on) enter (someone else's property) without permission. 2 (followed by **on** or **upon**) disturb (someone's privacy, rights, etc.). • *nc* an act of trespassing. **trespasser** *nc*

tress (tres) *nc chiefly literary* (usually *pl*) a part of a woman's hair, esp. when it is long or curled.

trestle ('tresəl) *nc* a folding, wooden stand used in pairs to support a table: see picture.



trestle

trial ('traɪəl) *nc* 1 an examination of a case in law to discover whether someone is guilty. 2 a test or experiment. 3 an annoying or worrying person or thing. **on trial** 1 being tried in a court of law. 2 being tested before being bought, employed, etc. **trial and error** discovering how to do something by seeing which methods work and which do not: *If there's no-one to teach you, you'll have to learn by trial and error.* **trial run** an experiment, esp. the first time a vehicle or other machine is worked.

triangle ('traɪæŋgəl) *nc* 1 *geometry* a three-sided figure: see picture at **shapes.** 2 three objects or points not in a straight line. 3 a musical instrument consisting of a metal bar in the shape of a triangle which is hit with another metal bar. **triangular** (traɪ'æŋgjulə*) *adj* in the shape of or to do with a **triangle** (defs. 1, 2).

tribe (traɪb) *nc* a group of related people, esp. living together in a place little affected by industrial society. **tribal** *adj* **tribesman** ('traɪbzmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a member of a tribe.

tribulation (ˌtrɪbjʊ'leɪʃən) *ncu* (a cause of) suffering or worry.

tribunal (traɪ'bjuːnəl) *nc* 1 a law court. 2 a group of people appointed to decide an argument over employment, rent, etc.

tributary ('trɪbjʊtərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a river, stream, etc., that flows into a larger one. • *adj* to do with a tributary.

tribute ('trɪbjuːt) *ncu* 1 (an amount of) money paid by one country to another that controls or attacks it. 2 (an expression of) admiration, thanks, etc.

trice (traɪs) *n* **in a trice** very quickly.

trick (trɪk) *nc* 1 an action intended to deceive or cheat. 2 an action learned by a person or animal: *to teach a dog a new trick.* 3 a playful action; joke: *He plays tricks like putting things in people's shoes.* 4 the cards played by all the players in one round of a card game. 5 a habit, esp. a useful one: *She has a trick of smiling and making you forget you were angry.* • *vt* deceive; cheat: *I was tricked into buying something I didn't want.* • *adj* made as a trick, to confuse, etc.: *a trick question.* **do the trick** *infml* do or be what is wanted or needed. **trickery** *nu* tricks; deception. **tricky** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 difficult; needing great care: *a tricky business.* 2 to do with tricks; deceitful.

trickle ('trɪkəl) *vi* (of a liquid) flow slowly or in small quantities. • *nc* a slow or small flow.

tricycle ('traɪsɪkəl) *nc* a three-wheeled vehicle, esp. for carrying one person and driven with the legs like a bicycle.

tried (traɪd) past tense and past participle of **try.**

trifle ('traɪfəl) 1 *nc* something small, unimportant, or worthless. 2 *nu* a little: *It's a trifle hot in here.* 3 *ncu* a (dish of) cold, sweet food made with sponge cake, jam, fruit, sherry, and custard. • *vi* 1 (often followed by **with**) treat something as if unimportant, etc.: *Don't trifle with me—I mean what I say!* 2 *vt* waste: *He trifled his money away on useless things.* **trifling** *adj* unimportant or worthless.

trigger ('trɪgə*) *nc* 1 a small part of a gun, pulled with a finger to fire the gun. 2 a mechanical device that lets a spring go, starts a machine, etc. 3 an action that causes another. • *vt* 1 fire (a gun), start (a machine), etc. 2 also **trigger off** be the cause or the start of; bring about.

trigonometry (ˌtrɪgə'nɒmɪtrɪ) *mathematics nu* the study of the relationships of the sides and angles of triangles.

trilateral (traɪ'lætərəl) *adj* with three sides (taking part).

trill (trɪl) *nc* 1 *music* the quick, repeated playing or singing of two notes close together, one after the other. 2 the high song of some birds. • *vi* make a trill; sing with trills.

trillion ('trɪljən) *nc* 1 *Brit* a million million million(s). 2 *US* a million million(s).

trilogy ('trɪlədʒɪ) *nc, pl* **-gies** a group of three connected plays, books, etc.

trim (trɪm) *adj* **-mer, -mest** in good order; neat. • *vt* 1 make trim, esp. by cutting away: *I'll have my hair trimmed.* 2 cut

away: *He trimmed the edge to make it fit.* 3 alter the position in which (a boat or plane) travels by moving its load, etc. 4 alter the position of (a boat's sail) to make best use of the wind. 5 ornament: *a hat trimmed with ribbons.* • *nu* 1 order; neatness: *put everything in trim.* *nc* 2 an act of trimming. 3 the position in which a boat or plane travels. 4 an ornament, esp. on a garment. **trimming** *nc* 1 a **trim** (def 4). 2 (*pl*) pleasant additions, esp. vegetables, sauces, etc., to go with meat: *roast beef with all the trimmings.*

trinity ('trɪnɪtɪ) *fml* 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** a group of three. 2 *nu* the state of being three. **Trinity** *n* the three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) that make up the Christian God.

trinket ('trɪŋkɪt) *nc* an ornament or piece of jewellery that is worth little.

trio ('triːəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 a group of three, esp. musicians. 2 a piece of music written for a trio.

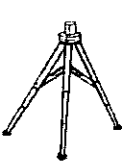
trip (trɪp) 1 *vt* (often followed by **up**) cause to fall or nearly fall: *He tripped me up with a stick.* *vi* 2 (often followed by **on, over,** or **up**) fall or nearly fall: *I tripped over that shoe on the stairs.* 3 *vti* (often followed by **up**) (cause to) make a mistake. • *nc* 1 a journey. 2 an act of tripping. 3 *infml* a state of altered consciousness produced by taking a certain kind of drug.

tripartite (traɪ'pɑːtaɪt) *adj* having or involving three parts or groups.

tripe (traɪp) *nu* 1 part of a stomach of a cow, etc., used as food. 2 *infml* nonsense.

triple ('trɪpəl) *adj* 1 being three in number or in three parts. 2 three times as much. • *nc* a triple quantity or thing. • *vti* make or become three times as much or many. **triplet** ('trɪplɪt) *nc* one of three people born together. **triply** ('trɪplɪ) *adv* three times as much.

tripod ('traɪpɒd) *nc* a three-legged stand, esp. for a camera: see picture.



tripod

trisect (traɪ'sekt) *vt* divide into three (equal) parts.

trite (traɪt) *adj* **-r, -st** (of an idea, expression, etc.) having lost its force through being used too much.

triumph ('traɪəmf) 1 *ncu* (a) victory or success. 2 *nu* happiness at a victory or success. • *vi* 1 win or be successful. 2 enjoy a triumph. **triumphal** (traɪ'ʌmfəl) *adj* to do with (a) triumph. **triumphant** (traɪ'ʌmfənt) *adj* 1 victorious or successful. 2 experiencing the joy of victory. **triumphantly** *adv*

trivial ('trɪvɪəl) *adj* of little value or importance. **trivia** ('trɪvɪə) *n pl* unimportant details, facts, etc. **triviality** (ˌtrɪvɪ'ælɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties**

trod (trɒd) past tense and past participle of **tread.**

trodden ('trɒdən) past participle of **tread.**

trolley ('trɒlɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a small stand or container on wheels for moving things such as luggage at an airport, goods in a supermarket or food about to be served. **trolley bus** an electric bus that gets its power from cables over the streets.

trombone (trɒm'bəʊn) *nc* a brass musical wind instrument with a sliding tube: see picture at **musical instruments.**

troop (truːp) *nc* 1 a large group of people or animals. 2 (*pl*) soldiers. • *vi* collect or move in a crowd: *We all trooped off to school.* **trooper** *nc* a soldier in a cavalry or armoured unit.

trophy ('trəʊfɪ) *nc, pl* **-phies** an object given or taken to remind you of a victory or success.

tropic ('trɒpɪk) *nc* either of two lines of latitude around the earth, at twenty-three and a half degrees North (tropic of Cancer) and twenty-three and a half degrees South (tropic of Capricorn). **the tropics** the part of the earth's surface between the two tropics. **tropical** *adj* 1 to do with or coming from the tropics. 2 (esp. of weather) hot.

tropism ('trəʊpɪzəm) *nu* (esp. of a plant) growing towards light or some other stimulus.

troposphere ('trɒpəsfɪə*) *nc* the lowest layer of the atmosphere that surrounds the earth: *Most weather conditions occur in the troposphere.*

trot (trɒt) *nu* 1 the third fastest step of a horse, between a walk and a canter. 2 a slow run. • *vi* 1 (of a horse or person) move at a trot. 2 *infml* go: *I'll trot down to the shops.* 3 *vt* cause (a horse or person) to move at a trot. **trot out** produce, esp. repeatedly, for approval, examination, etc.

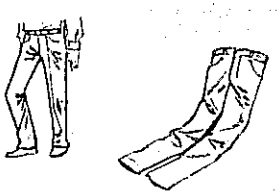
trouble ('trʌbəl) *nu* 1 worry; problems or difficulties: *trouble with my car.* 2 effort or thought: *He took a lot of trouble over his work.* 3 the condition of being likely to be punished: *He got into trouble with the*

law. nc 4 a cause of **trouble** (def. 1): *The trouble with your car is its age.* 5 (often *pl*) disturbance; disorder: *the troubles amongst the workers.* 6 a disease or pain: *back trouble.* • *vti* cause trouble for or be caused trouble: *My back troubles me; These are troubled times; Don't trouble to get up; Can I trouble you to help me?* **trouble-maker** ('trʌbəl,meɪkə*) *nc* a person who causes trouble, esp. disagreement. **troublesome** ('trʌbəlsəm) *adj* causing trouble.

trough (trɒf) *nc* 1 a long, narrow, open container, esp. for animals' food or water. 2 a long, narrow hollow in the ground, between waves, etc.

troupe (truːp) *nc* a company of actors, dancers, etc.

trousers ('trauzəz) *n pl* also **pair of trousers** *chiefly US* **pants** a garment reaching from the waist usually down to the feet and covering each leg separately: see picture. **trouser** *adj* of or to do with trousers: *trouser material.*



trousers

trout (traut) *nc* a food fish found usually in freshwater and often caught for sport: see picture at **fish.**

trowel ('trauəl) *nc* 1 a small hand tool with a flat metal blade used in laying bricks: see picture at **tools.** 2 a small hand tool with a pointed curved metal blade used in gardening.

truant ('truːənt) *adj* away from school without permission. • *nc* a truant child. **play truant** stay away from school without permission. **truancy** ('truːənsɪ) *nu*

truce (truːs) *nc* an agreement to stop fighting, esp. just for a short time.

truck (trʌk) *nc* 1 *Brit* a railway vehicle for goods. 2 a lorry. • *vt* move (goods) in a truck.

trudge (trʌdʒ) *vi* walk heavily, esp. when tired. • *nc* a long, tiring walk.

true (truː) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 according to fact: *a true story.* 2 real; being as the name suggests: *a true oak desk.* 3 loyal; faithful: *true to his friends.* 4 exactly in position: *a true note.* • *adv* 1 *old-fashioned* truly: *Tell me true.* 2 exactly (in position): *The wheel is running true.* **come true** (of a dream, wish, etc.) actually happen. **truly** *adv* 1 in a true manner. 2 really: *truly a great day.* **yours truly** (used before your name at the end of a letter, usually to someone you have not met.)

trump (trʌmp) *nc* a playing-card of the suit that is trumps. • *vt* beat (another card) by playing a trump. **trumps** *nu* (*with singular verb*) the suit, in a card game, of which a card can beat any card of any other suit.

trumpet ('trʌmpɪt) *nc* a brass musical wind instrument, esp. with three valves: see picture at **musical instruments.** • *vi* (of an elephant) make a noise like a trumpet.

truncheon ('trʌnʃən) *nc* a stick used as a weapon, esp. by policemen.

trundle ('trʌndəl) *vti* (of something heavy and esp. large) move slowly on wheels.

trunk (trʌŋk) *nc* 1 the main solid part of a tree, between the roots and the branches. 2 a large case for carrying belongings. 3 *anatomy* most of a body, not including the head, neck, arms, and legs. 4 the long nose of an elephant. 5 *US* See **boot** (def. 2). **trunk call** *chiefly Brit* a long-distance telephone call. **trunk road** *Brit* a main road. **trunks** *n pl* short for **swimming trunks.**

truss (trʌs) *vt* 1 (sometimes followed by **up**) tie up. 2 tie the wings and legs of (a chicken, etc.) for cooking. 3 support (a roof, etc.) with a **truss** (def. 1). • *nc* 1 a supporting part of a roof, etc. 2 *medicine* a device, esp. a type of belt, worn to keep a part inside the body in place.

trust (trʌst) *nu* 1 belief in the truth, honesty, reliability, value, etc., of someone or something. 2 responsibility brought by people's trust: *in a position of trust. nc* 3 an arrangement by which money, etc., is held by one person, etc., to be used for another's good. 4 a group of people, company, etc., in charge of such an arrangement. • *vt* 1 have **trust** (def. 1) in: *After we caught her stealing from the till we were never able to trust her again.* 2 expect or hope: *I trust that all is well.* 3 rely on to look after: *I wouldn't trust him with my life.* 4 *vi* (often followed by **in**) have **trust** (def. 1): *Trust in your friends.* **trustworthy** ('trʌst,wɜːðɪ) *adj* able to be trusted; reliable. **trusty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** faithful or reliable.

trustee (trʌs'tiː) *nc* a person who holds property in trust for another.

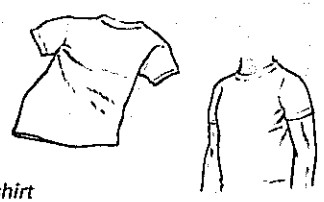
truth (truːθ) *nu* 1 the quality of being true: *the truth of your story.* 2 what is true: *Are you telling the truth?* 3 *nc* something true. **truthful** *adj* honest; telling the truth. **truthfully** *adv*

try (traɪ) 1 *vti* (often followed by **to** or, but not often in a past tense, **and**) make an attempt: *I tried to hit it; Do try and come.* *vt* 2 (often followed by **out**) test: *Would you like to try my pen?* 3 examine and decide (a case in law); decide whether (someone) is guilty: *He was tried for murder.* • *nc, pl* **tries** 1 an attempt. 2 a test. **trying** *adj* difficult or annoying: *Children can be trying.* **try on** 1 put on (a garment) to see whether it fits. 2 do (something) to see whether it will be allowed, go unnoticed, etc.: *Don't try anything on with your new teacher.*

tsar (also **czar**) (zɑɪ*) *nc* the ruler of Russia until 1917.

tsetse fly ('tsetsɪ) *nc, pl* **tsetse flies** an insect that bites people and animals and sucks their blood, passing on such diseases as sleeping sickness.

T-shirt ('tiːʃəːt) *nc* a light, simple, short-sleeved garment for the upper body: see picture.



T-shirt

tub (tʌb) *nc* 1 a large, open container for washing, etc. 2 a small plastic or cardboard container for ice cream, etc. 3 short for **bathtub** (see **bath** def. 1).

tuba ('tjuːbə) *nc* a large brass musical wind instrument that plays very low notes.

tube (tjuːb) *nc* 1 a long, round, hollow object, used esp. to run a liquid through. 2 a tube of soft metal or plastic, flattened at one end and with a cap at the other, for holding a stiff liquid or substance such as toothpaste. 3 a part shaped like a tube in the body. 4 also **inner tube** a hollow rubber ring filled with air inside a tyre. 5 short for **cathode-ray tube. the tube** *infml, Brit* the London underground railway. **tubing** *nu* a number, system, or kind of tubes. **tubeless** *adj* (of a tyre) having no inner tube.

tuber ('tjuːbə*) *nc* the solid, rounded part, usually under the ground, of a plant such as a potato.

tuberculosis (tjuˌbəːkjuˈləʊsɪs) *nu* a disease that can be passed from one person to another and usually affects the lungs.

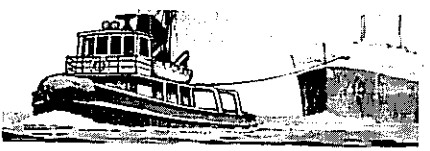
tubular ('tjuːbjʊlə*) *adj* to do with a tube.

tuck (tʌk) *vt* 1 fold or force into a small or tight place: *Tuck the money in your pocket.* 2 draw together; put a tuck in. • *nc* 1 a fold made in a garment to make it shorter, tighter, etc. 2 *nu schoolchildren slang, Brit* food, esp. sweet foods: *the tuck shop.* **tuck in** 1 tuck bedclothes in around (someone), esp. so that they go to sleep. 2 *infml* (start to) eat heartily.

Tuesday ('tjuːzdɪ) *nc* the third day of the week, after Monday and before Wednesday.

tuft (tʌft) *nc* a bunch of hair, grass, etc., growing or held together at one end.

tug (tʌg) *vti* pull sharply: *The dog tugged at the rope.* • *nc* 1 a sharp pull: *Give it a tug.* 2 also **tugboat** a boat with a powerful engine used for moving either large ships or boats without engines: see picture. **tug of war** a competition in which two teams of people pull at opposite ends of a rope.



tugboat

tuition (tjuːˈɪʃən) *nu* teaching, esp. to a single pupil or a small group: *private tuition.*

tulip ('tjuːlɪp) *nc* 1 a plant that grows from a bulb and produces brightly coloured, bell-shaped flowers: see picture at **flowers.** 2 one of these flowers.

tumble ('tʌmbəl) 1 *vti* (cause to) fall, esp. hard or then rolling over and over. 2 *vi* do jumps, balancing acts, etc., as an entertainment. • *nc* an act of tumbling. **tumble-down** ('tʌmbəldaʊn) *adj* (of a building) in a very bad state of repair. **tumble dryer** a machine for drying washed clothes, etc., by rolling them round and turning them over in hot air.

tumbler ('tʌmblə*) *nc* 1 a flat-bottomed drinking glass with no handle. 2 a person who tumbles (**tumble** def. 2).

tummy ('tʌmɪ) *nc, pl* **-mies** *children or infml* stomach.

tumour *US* **tumor** ('tjuːmə*) *nc medicine* a growth that is not normal in the body.

tumult ('tjuːmʌlt) *ncu* (a) loud noise, esp. from a crowd shouting. **tumultuous** (tjuːˈmʌltjʊəs) *adj* noisy; enthusiastic.

tuna ('tjuːnə) *nc* also **tunny** ('tʌnɪ) *pl* **tunny, tunnies** a large sea fish that is eaten as food.

tundra ('tʌndrə) *nu* treeless land in northern North America, Europe, and Asia, where the earth freezes in winter.

tune (tjuːn) *nc* 1 a piece of music in which only one note is played or sung at a time. 2 the chief part in a piece of music in which more that one note is played or sung at a time. • *vt* 1 put (a musical instrument) in tune. 2 alter (an engine, etc.) so that it works as efficiently as possible. **in** or **out of tune** with the notes set at the right or wrong pitch: *Stringed instruments go out of tune very quickly.* **in tune with** with the notes set exactly the same as those of: *All the instruments are in tune with each other.* **tuneful** *adj* having a pleasant tune. **tune in** (often followed by **to**) 1 alter (a radio or television) so as to receive a particular station or programme. 2 listen to; watch: *Five million people tuned in to last week's episode.* **tuner** *nc* 1 a person who tunes musical instruments. 2 the part of a radio or television set that receives or can be altered to receive different stations.

tungsten ('tʌŋstən) *nu* a chemical element; metal used in steel and for the wire that gives off light in electric light bulbs: symbol W.

tunic ('tjuːnɪk) *nc* any of several garments reaching from the shoulders down to about the top part of the legs, and usually without sleeves.

tunnel ('tʌnəl) *nc* a long hole dug under the ground, esp. for a road, railway, etc. • *vi* dig a tunnel.

turban ('tɜːbən) *nc* a garment for the head worn esp. by Muslim and Sikh men and made of a long piece of cloth wound round the head itself or a cap.

turbine ('tɜːbaɪn) *nc* a machine driven by a flow of gas or liquid, esp. water.

turbulent ('tɜːbjʊlənt) *adj* (esp. of air or water) moving in a confused or disordered way. **turbulence** *nu* **turbulently** *adv*

tureen (tjʊ'riːn) *nc* a large dish with a cover for serving soup, etc.

turf (tɜːf) *ncu, pl* **-s, -ves** (vz) (a cut piece of) grass with its roots and the earth in which they are growing. • *vt* plant (ground) with turf. **the turf** 1 a grass racetrack for horses. 2 horseracing. **turf out** *infml, Brit* throw out; force to leave: *We were turfed out of the restaurant because we weren't dressed smartly enough.*

turkey ('tɜːkɪ) *ncu, pl* **-s** (meat from) a bird that is widely kept and eaten.

turmoil ('tɜːmɔɪl) *nu* confusion: *His mind was in turmoil.*

turn (tɜːn) *vti* 1 (cause to) move around; spin; twist: *Wheels turn; Turn the handle.* 2 (cause to) change direction: *Turn right onto the road. vt* 3 become: *She turned pale with fear; He's turned ninety.* 4 give a shape to (a material) or make (an object) by cutting into it as it is turned round and round by a machine. • *nc* 1 an act of turning (**turn** defs. 1, 2): *a quick turn of the page.* 2 a bend in a road. 3 also **turning** a place where roads meet: *Take the next turn on the right.* 4 a change: *a turn for the better.* 5 an opportunity or right to do something in a particular order: *We'll take turns; You missed your turn; The boys took it in turns to ride the bike.* 6 *old-fashioned* a short walk or ride: *Take a turn round the garden.* 7 something turned: *Put a turn of rope round that post.* 8 an action that helps or causes difficulty for someone: *It's nice to do someone a good turn.* 9 *infml* a strange, esp. frightened feeling: *I had a funny turn when they said that ship had sunk.* **in** or **out of turn** in or out of order when taking turns (**turn** def. 5): *Wait—don't go out of turn.* **turn away** send away; refuse to let in, accept, etc.: *We were turned away because the cinema was full.* **turn back** 1 fold (the end of a sheet on a bed, etc.) back onto itself. 2 start to return: *The weather was so bad we had to turn back.* **turn down** 1 refuse to accept, appoint, etc.: *I've been turned down for the job.* 2 lower (the strength, volume, brightness, etc.) of (a radio, light, etc.). 3 fold (the end of a sheet on a bed, etc.) back onto itself. **turn in** 1 hand in or give up: *Turn in your gun if you haven't permission to own it.* 2 *infml* go to bed at night. **turn into** change into: *I've turned my garage into a bedroom.* **turn off** 1 cause (a machine, etc.) to stop working, esp. by switching off the power supply. 2 leave (a road, path, etc.). 3 *infml* be disliked by: *Cold rice turns me off.* **turn on** 1 cause (a machine, etc.) to start working, esp. by switching on the power supply. 2 suddenly attack or become angry with: *As soon as we were alone he stopped being kind and turned on me.* 3 *infml* make (someone) pleased or interested, esp. sexually: *Her dancing at the party turned him on.* **turn out** 1 switch (an electric light, etc.) off. 2 produce: *This factory turns out ten cars a day.* 3 empty (things) out of (something): *Turn out your pockets.* 4 prove to be: *It's turned out sunny.* 5 dress; present (someone or yourself): *She's always nicely turned out.* 6 go out (to do something): *We all turned out to meet him.* **turn-out** ('tɜːnaʊt) *nc* 1 the way in which someone is dressed. 2 the number of people who **turn out** (def. 6) to do something. **turn over** 1 (cause to) change position, bringing the

bottom to the top: *He turned the paper over to read the other side.* 2 pass on; give up: *He'll turn his house over to me when he leaves.* 3 receive (money) in business: *We turn over about £4000 a week.* 4 (of an engine) work without producing movement. 5 cause (an engine) to work, esp. in order to get it running smoothly. 6 consider carefully: *He turned the problem over in his mind.* **turnover** ('tɜɪn,əʊvə*) *nc* 1 the amount of money received by a business. 2 a sheet of pastry folded over to hold fruit, jam, etc., and cooked. **turn to** go to for advice or help. **turn up** 1 arrive; appear: *He turned up late again.* 2 find or be found by chance. 3 increase (the volume, brightness, etc.) of (a radio, lamp, etc.). **turn-up** ('tɜɪnʌp) *nc* the material folded up at the bottom of a trouser leg.

turner ('tɜɪnə*) *nc* a person who turns (**turn** def. 4).

turning-point ('tɜɪnɪŋpɔɪnt) *nc* a point or moment at which a change, esp. of direction, takes place.

turnip ('tɜɪnɪp) *nc* a plant of which the large white root is eaten.

turnpike ('tɜɪnpaɪk) *nc old-fashioned or US* a road that you have to pay to use.

turnstile ('tɜɪn,staɪl) *nc* a type of gate with a turning mechanism that allows only one person to pass through at a time, often after paying money, showing a ticket, etc.

turntable ('tɜɪn,teɪbəl) *nc* a stand that can be turned round, esp. for playing a record or to point a locomotive in a different direction.

turpentine ('tɜɪpəntaɪn) (*infml abbrev.* **turps**) *nu* a light oil made from pine trees and used in paint and medicine.

turquoise ('tɜɪkwɔɪz) *ncu* (a) greenish-blue precious stone. • *adj* having the colour of turquoise.

turret ('tʌrɪt) *nc* a small tower, esp. set in the wall of a castle.

turtle ('tɜɪtəl) *nc* an animal that can swim and has a strong shell on its back: see picture at **reptiles.**

turves (tɜɪvz) plural of **turf.**

tusk (tʌsk) *nc* a long, curved, pointed tooth growing out of the mouth of an elephant, etc.

tussle ('tʌsəl) *vi, nc* (a) struggle; fight.

tut (tʌt) *vi* make the noise 'tut-tut'. **tut-tut** *interj* (said as two clicks made with the tip of the tongue behind the top front teeth and used to scold someone.)

tutor ('tjuːtə*) *nc* 1 a teacher, esp. of one person or a small group. 2 a university teacher responsible for the general progress of a few students. • *vt* teach, esp. as a tutor. **tutorial** (tjuː'tɔɪrɪəl) *nc* a lesson given by a tutor.

TV (,tiː'viː) *n infml* short for **television.**

twang (twæŋ) *nc* 1 a sharp ringing sound, made esp. by pulling a stretched string and letting it go. 2 a way of speaking that makes it sound as if the speaker is talking through their nose. • *vti* (cause to) make a twang.

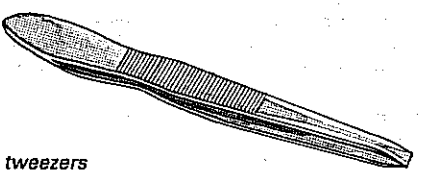
'twas (twɒz) *old-fashioned or literary* it was.

tweak (twiːk) *nc* a sudden, sharp pull or twist (esp. to a part of the body). • *vt* give a tweak to.

tweed (twiːd) *nu* a thick, woollen cloth.

tweet (twiːt) *vi, nc* (make) the short, high sound of a small bird.

tweezers ('twiːzəz) *n pl* also **pair of tweezers** a tool for picking up small objects: see picture.



tweezers

twelve (twelv) *determiner, n* the number 12. **twelfth** (twelfθ) *determiner, n, adv*

twenty ('twentɪ) *determiner, n* the number 20. **twentieth** ('twentɪɪθ) *determiner, n, adv*

twice (twaɪs) *adv* two times: *He called twice; This one is twice as good.*

twiddle ('twɪdəl) *vt* twist or spin, esp. to no useful purpose. **twiddle your thumbs** have nothing to do.

twig (twɪg) *nc* a small branch of a tree.

twilight ('twaɪlaɪt) *nu* light from the sun when it is just below the horizon, esp. in the evening.

twin (twɪn) *nc* 1 one of two people or animals formed and born together. 2 one of a pair. 3 also **twin town** one of two towns, in different countries, that arrange visits and other contacts between themselves. • *adj* being (one of) a pair: *twin engines.* • *vt* make into a pair: *Our town is twinned with one in Germany.*

twine (twaɪn) *nu* string made by twisting cotton, etc., together. • *vti* twist or wind: *Twine the ribbon round your hat.*

twinge (twɪndʒ) *vi, nc* 1 (have) a sharp pain. 2 (have) a sudden feeling: *a twinge of guilt.*

twinkle ('twɪŋkəl) *vi* 1 (esp. of a star) shine, seeming brighter and less bright quickly and irregularly. 2 (of the eyes)

shine from happiness, amusement, etc. • *nc* 1 an irregular brightness. 2 a look of amusement, etc., in the eyes.

twirl (twɜːl) *vti* spin or twist fast. • *nc* an act of twirling.

twist (twɪst) *vt* 1 cause one end of (something) to turn (in the opposite direction to the other end): *Your belt is twisted.* 2 bend awkwardly and painfully: *I twisted my knee jumping off the wall.* 3 *vi* become twisted (**twist** def. 1). *vti* 4 wind: *Twist the rope round your arm; The path twists through the wood.* 5 (cause to) go round; spin; turn: *To open the jar, twist the lid off.* • *nc* 1 an act of twisting. 2 something made by twisting, such as cotton for sewing. 3 a bend in a path, etc. 4 an unexpected event in a story.

twitch (twɪtʃ) *vti* (cause to) move sharply: *twitching muscles; She twitched her scarf from her face.* • *nc* a sudden, sharp movement, esp. a movement of part of the body, esp. the face, that you cannot prevent.

twitter ('twɪtə*) *vi* 1 (esp. of a bird) make a high, irregular sound. 2 *derogatory* talk a great deal, esp. in a nervous way. • *nc* a sound of twittering.

two (tuː) *determiner, n* the number 2. **twofold** ('tuːfəʊld) *adj* double; in two parts or of two kinds. • *adv* doubly. **two-way** ('tuːweɪ) *adj* moving or allowing movement, etc., in both directions: *two-way traffic; two-way radio.*

tycoon (taɪ'kuːn) *nc* a powerful businessman or businesswoman.

tympanic membrane (tɪm'pænɪk) *nc* the eardrum (see under **ear**[1]).

type (taɪp) 1 *nc* a sort; kind; class: *What type of wine do you like?* *nu* 2 printed letters: *not in handwriting, but in type.* 3 metal or wooden letters used for printing. • *vti* write with a typewriter. **typewriter** ('taɪpˌraɪtə*) *nc* a machine for writing with, in which levers with **type** (def. 3) press a ribbon containing ink onto the paper. **typing** *nu* writing done with a typewriter. **typist** ('taɪpɪst) *nc* a person who uses a typewriter. **typography** (taɪ'pɒgrəfɪ) *nu* the art of choosing and arranging type for printing.

typhoid ('taɪfɔɪd) *nu* also **typhoid fever** a serious disease carried in food and water and causing high temperature, red spots, and pain around the stomach.

typhoon (taɪ'fuːn) *nc* a very violent storm with strong winds, esp. at sea in the East.

typhus ('taɪfəs) *nu* also **typhus fever** a serious disease causing high temperature, purple spots, and headache.

typical ('tɪpɪkəl) *adj* representative; serving as an example: *A mistake like that is typical of a beginner.* **typically** *adv*

typify ('tɪpɪfaɪ) *vt* be representative or typical of: *Arriving late typifies your approach to work.*

tyranny ('tɪrənɪ) 1 *nu* cruel, unjust government or rule. *nc, pl* **-nies** 2 a tyrannical act. 3 a country under tyrannical rule. **tyrannical** (tɪ'rænɪkəl) *adj*

tyrant ('taɪərənt) *nc* a tyrannical ruler.

tyre *US* **tire** ('taɪə*) *nc* a rubber ring, esp. hollow and filled with air under pressure, round the outside of a wheel.

U

ubiquitous (juːˈbɪkwɪtəs) *adj* 1 being or appearing to be everywhere. 2 *infml* frequent or common.

udder (ˈʌdə*) *nc* the bag hanging near to the back legs of a cow, female goat, etc., that produces milk for its young.

ugh (uː, ɜː) *interj* (a noise made to express disgust.)

ugly (ˈʌglɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 unpleasant to look at; not beautiful. 2 harmful, dangerous, or threatening: *ugly clouds.* **ugliness** *nu*

ukelele (ˌjuːkəˈleɪlɪ) *nc* a four-stringed musical instrument like a small guitar.

ulcer (ˈʌlsə*) *nc* a sore in the stomach, etc.

ulna (ˈʌlnə) *nc* the inner of the two bones in the forearm. See also **radius** (def. 3).

ultimate (ˈʌltɪmət) *adj* 1 last; final: *War is our ultimate defence.* 2 most, largest, best, etc.: *the ultimate furniture for luxury.* **ultimately** *adv* in the end.

ultimatum (ˌʌltɪˈmeɪtəm) *nc, pl* **-matums, -mata** (ˈmeɪtə) a final offer or demand made by a person, group, or country, that is threatening to strike, go to war, etc., if it is not accepted or allowed.

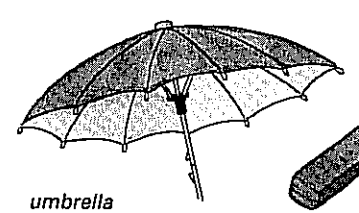
ultraviolet (ˌʌltrəˈvaɪələt) *nu, adj* (to do with) radiation of a slightly higher frequency than light that can be seen.

ululate (ˈjuːljuˌleɪt) *vi* make a series of high sounds; often used by women in mourning or as a celebration.

umbilical (ʌmˈbɪlɪkəl) *adj* **umbilical cord** the tube connecting a human or other mammal to its mother until birth. **umbilicus** (ʌmˈbɪlɪkəs) *nc* the navel.

umbra (ˈʌmbrə) *nc, pl* **-s, -rae** (riː) *astronomy* the part of a shadow, esp. of the moon on the earth, that is completely dark.

umbrella (ʌmˈbrelə) *nc* a device made of cloth fixed to metal arms that can be raised and lowered on a stick, used as a protection from rain or sun: see picture.



umbrella

umpire (ˈʌmpaɪə*) *nc* a person appointed to see that rules are kept, in a game such as cricket or tennis. • *vt* act as umpire in (a game, etc.).

unable (ʌnˈeɪbəl) *adj* not able (see **be able (to do something)** under **able**): *He was unable to speak.*

unaccountable (ˌʌnəˈkaʊntəbəl) *adj* not accountable.

unaccustomed (ˌʌnəˈkʌstəmd) *adj* not accustomed.

unaffected (ˌʌnəˈfektɪd) *adj* not affected.

unanimous (juːˈnænɪməs) *adj* with everyone agreeing: *a unanimous decision.* **unanimously** *adv*

unarmed (ˌʌnˈɑːmd) *adj* not armed (**arm²** def. 1).

unattended (ˌʌnəˈtendɪd) *adj* 1 with no-one present or in charge: *an unattended car.* 2 not being looked after, served, etc.

unavoidable (ˌʌnəˈvɔɪdəbəl) *adj* not avoidable.

unaware (ˌʌnəˈweə*) *adj* not aware. **unawares** *adv* 1 unexpectedly. 2 accidentally.

unbearable (ˌʌnˈbeərəbəl) *adj* not bearable.

unbecoming (ˌʌnbɪˈkʌmɪŋ) *adj* not becoming.

unbend (ˌʌnˈbend) *vti* 1 (cause to) become straight again. 2 *infml* (cause to) become less formal or more friendly.

unbent (ˌʌnˈbent) past tense and past participle of **unbend.**

unborn (ˌʌnˈbɔːn) *adj* not yet born: *an unborn child.*

unbroken (ˌʌnˈbrəʊkən) *adj* 1 not broken; whole. 2 continuous; uninterrupted. 3 (of a record, esp. in sport) not beaten.

unbutton (ˌʌnˈbʌtən) *vt* undo (a garment, etc.) that is fastened with buttons.

uncalled-for (ˌʌnˈkɔːldfɔː*) *adj* unnecessary, undeserved, or unwelcome.

uncanny (ʌnˈkænɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** mysterious: *It's uncanny how you're always right.*

uncertain (ʌnˈsɜːtən) *adj* 1 not sure or confident. 2 not known for sure. 3 unreliable; changeable: *uncertain weather.* **uncertainly** *adv* **uncertainty** 1 *nc, pl* **-ties** something uncertain. 2 *nu* the quality of being uncertain.

unchanged (ˌʌnˈtʃeɪndʒd) *adj* not changed.

uncivilised (ˌʌnˈsɪvɪlaɪzd) *adj* rude: *uncivilised behaviour.*

uncle (ˈʌŋkəl) *nc* 1 a brother of your father or mother. 2 the husband of an aunt. 3 (used by and to children in naming a male friend of their parents.)

unclean (ˌʌnˈkliːn) *adj* 1 dirty. 2 not pure

spiritually. 3 not fit to be eaten, for religious reasons.

uncomfortable (ʌn'kʌmftəbəl) *adj* 1 not comfortable. 2 embarrassed; guilty: *He looked uncomfortable when the farmer asked who had left the gate open.*

uncommon (ʌn'kɒmən) *adj* unusual.

uncompromising (ʌn'kɒmprəmaɪzɪŋ) *adj* not trying or wanting to **compromise** (def. 1).

unconcerned (ˌʌnkən'sɜːnd) *adj* not **concerned** (def. 2).

unconscious (ʌn'kɒnʃəs) *adj* not conscious; senseless. **the unconscious** the group of mental activities not under conscious control. **unconsciously** *adv*

unconventional (ˌʌnkən'venʃənəl) *adj* not conventional.

uncouth (ʌn'kuːθ) *adj* (of behaviour or a person) rough, awkward, or not polite.

uncover (ʌn'kʌvə*) *vt* 1 take the cover, lid, etc., off. 2 discover: *They uncovered a plan to kill the president.*

uncut (ˌʌn'kʌt) *adj* 1 not (yet) cut. 2 (of a film, book, etc.) not shortened; complete. 3 (of a precious stone) having not (yet) been given a regular shape. 4 (of a book) not (yet) having had the edges of its pages cut since they were folded.

undaunted (ˌʌn'dɔːntɪd) *adj* not daunted.

undeniable (ˌʌndɪ'naɪəbəl) *adj* unable to be denied: *a woman of undeniable beauty.* **undeniably** *adv*

under ('ʌndə*) *prep, adv* below or beneath. • *prep* 1 governed by; under the control of: *I work under the owner of the factory.* 2 less than: *Can you do it in under four minutes?* 3 having: *I travel under a false name.* 4 in the process of: *under consideration by the council.*

underclothes ('ʌndəˌkləʊðz) *n pl* also **underwear** clothes worn next to the skin.

undercurrent ('ʌndəˌkʌrənt) *nc* 1 a current below the surface, esp. in the sea. 2 an opinion or influence disguised by or different to a more common one.

underdeveloped (ˌʌndədɪ'veləpt) *adj* 1 (esp. of a photograph) not developed enough. 2 (of a country) without a modern industry and with a low standard of living for most of the people.

underestimate (ˌʌndər'estɪmeɪt) *vt* make too low an estimate of. • (ˌʌndər'estɪmət) *nc* an estimate that is too low.

underfoot (ˌʌndə'fʊt) *adv* on the ground; under your feet.

undergo (ˌʌndə'gəʊ) *vt* experience; suffer: *The town underwent a great change.*

undergone (ˌʌndə'gɒn) past participle of **undergo.**

undergraduate (ˌʌndə'grædjʊət) *nc* a university student who has not yet obtained a **degree** (def. 4).

underground ('ʌndəgraʊnd) *adj* (ˌʌndə'graʊnd) *adv* 1 below the surface of the ground. 2 (in) secret or in(to) hiding. • ('ʌndəgraʊnd) *nc US* **subway** an underground railway.

undergrowth ('ʌndəgrəʊθ) *nu* bushes or small trees growing beneath larger ones.

underline (ˌʌndə'laɪn) *vt* 1 draw a line under. 2 draw special attention to; give force to.

underlying (ˌʌndə'laɪɪŋ) *adj* 1 hidden but suggested or suspected: *the underlying reason for his action.* 2 central; original: *The underlying cause of crime is the shape of modern society.*

undermine (ˌʌndə'maɪn) *vt* 1 dig or wear away the supporting ground underneath. 2 weaken: *They undermined his position by telling lies about him.*

underneath (ˌʌndə'niːθ) *prep, adv* below; under. • *adj, nc* (a) lower (side or part).

undernourished (ˌʌndə'nʌrɪʃt) *adj* not eating enough of the right foods for health and normal growth.

underpants ('ʌndəpænts) also **pair of underpants** (often shortened to **pants**) *n pl* a man's garment reaching from the waist to the tops of the legs and worn inside other clothes.

undershirt ('ʌndəʃɜːt) *US n* See **vest** (def. 1).

underside ('ʌndəsaɪd) *nc* a lower side; bottom.

understand (ˌʌndə'stænd) *vt* 1 (come to) know the meaning of: *Do you understand what I'm saying?* 2 believe; learn: *I understand that the meeting is tomorrow.* 3 consider without expressing: *It is understood that everyone attends without being told to.* 4 see the point of (another person's feelings): *I can understand why it matters to you.* **understandable** *adj* able to be understood. **understanding** 1 *nu* the ability to understand things; sympathy. 2 *nc* an opinion; way of understanding: *What is your understanding of the law on this point?* 3 *ncu* (an) agreement. • *adj* able to **understand** (def. 4); sympathetic.

understatement ('ʌndəˌsteɪtmənt) *ncu* (an example of) representing or describing something as less, smaller, less important, etc., than it is.

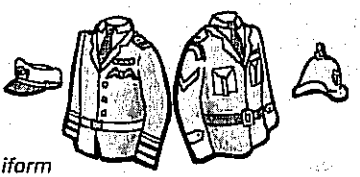
understood (ˌʌndə'stʊd) past tense and past participle of **understand.**

undertake (ˌʌndə'teɪk) *vt* 1 promise: *He undertook to finish in a week.* 2 agree to take, do, etc.: *I'll undertake that job.*

undertaking *nc* 1 a job, esp. large, undertaken. 2 a promise (to do something).
undertaken (ˌʌndəˈteɪkən) past participle of **undertake.**
undertaker (ˈʌndəˌteɪkə*) *nc* a person who arranges funerals.
undertone (ˈʌndətəʊn) *nc* 1 a quiet voice: *He spoke in an undertone.* 2 an underlying quality: *His praise had undertones of jealousy.*
undertook (ˌʌndəˈtʊk) past tense of **undertake.**
underwater (ˌʌndəˈwɔːtə*) *adj, adv* below the surface of water, esp. the sea.
underwear (ˈʌndəweə*) *nu* See **underclothes.**
underweight (ˌʌndəˈweɪt) *adj* weighing too little.
underwent (ˌʌndəˈwent) past tense of **undergo.**
underworld (ˈʌndəwɜːld) *nu* 1 the world of criminals. 2 the place where dead people's souls are thought by some people to go.
underwrite (ˌʌndəˈraɪt) *economics vt* 1 provide insurance for (property or a risk). 2 promise to buy the part of (an issue of a company's shares) not bought by the public. **underwriter** (ˈʌndəˌraɪtə*) *nc*
underwritten (ˌʌndəˈrɪtən) past participle of **underwrite.**
underwrote (ˌʌndəˈrəʊt) past tense of **underwrite.**
undesirable (ˌʌndɪˈzaɪərəbəl) *adj* not desirable.
undid (ˌʌnˈdɪd) past tense of **undo.**
undisturbed (ˌʌndɪˈstɜːbd) *adj* not disturbed.
undo (ˌʌnˈduː) *vt* 1 open (a coat, button, knot, etc.). 2 change (the effect of an earlier action): *You'll have to undo your own mistake.* **undoing** *nu* the cause of someone's ruin or failure: *Carelessness was his undoing.*
undone (ˌʌnˈdʌn) past participle of **undo.** • *adj* not done: *The washing of last week's laundry is still undone.*
undoubtedly (ʌnˈdaʊtɪdlɪ) *adv* without doubt or question: *He was undoubtedly the winner.*
undress (ˌʌnˈdres) 1 *vi* take your clothes off. 2 *vt* take off the clothes of. • *nu* being (partly) undressed: *in a state of undress.*
undue (ˌʌnˈdjuː) *adj* 1 not fitting or necessary. 2 more than is fitting or necessary: *with undue haste.* **unduly** *adv* more than is fitting or necessary: *unduly fast.*
undulate (ˈʌndjʊleɪt) *vti* (cause to) move in or look like waves: *undulating country.*
unearth (ˌʌnˈɜːθ) *vt* 1 dig up out of the ground. 2 find after a long or difficult search.
uneasy (ʌnˈiːzɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 (of a person) not at ease; disturbed. 2 disturbing; worrying: *an uneasy silence.* **uneasily** *adv* **uneasiness** *nu*
unemployed (ˌʌnɪmˈplɔɪd) *adj* 1 with no paid job. 2 not in use. **the unemployed** unemployed people. **unemployment** *nu* 1 the state of not having a paid job. 2 the state of there being too few jobs: *There is high unemployment around this town.*
unequal (ˌʌnˈiːkwəl) *adj* not equal.
unexpected (ˌʌnɪkˈspektɪd, before a noun ˈʌnɪkˌspektɪd) *adj* not expected. **unexpectedly** *adv*
unfair (ˌʌnˈfeə*) *adj* not **fair**[1] (def. 1).
unfaithful (ˌʌnˈfeɪθfʊl) *adj* not **faithful** (def. 1).
unfamiliar (ˌʌnfəˈmɪljə*) *adj* not **familiar** (defs. 1, 2); not knowing about.
unfavourable *US* **unfavorable** (ˌʌnˈfeɪvərəbəl) *adj* not favourable.
unfeeling (ˌʌnˈfiːlɪŋ) *adj* not feeling.
unfinished (ˌʌnˈfɪnɪʃt) *adj* not finished.
unfit (ˌʌnˈfɪt) *adj* not **fit**[1]. **unfit for** not **fit for** (see under **fit**[1]).
unfold (ʌnˈfəʊld) *vti* 1 open up or come out of a folded state: *Unfold the map so that I can see it all at once.* 2 (cause to) develop; reveal or be revealed: *The story slowly unfolded.*
unforgettable (ˌʌnfəˈgetəbəl) *adj* unable to be forgotten.
unfortunate (ˌʌnˈfɔːtʃənɪt) *adj* not fortunate. **unfortunately** *adv* unluckily.
unfounded (ˌʌnˈfaʊndɪd) *adj* not based on fact; groundless: *an unfounded accusation of dishonesty.*
unfriendly (ˌʌnˈfrendlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** not friendly.
unfurl (ˌʌnˈfɜːl) *vt* bring (esp. a flag, umbrella, or sail) out of a rolled-up state; open out.
ungrateful (ʌnˈgreɪtfʊl) *adj* 1 not grateful. 2 *fml* not likely to be appreciated or rewarded: *an ungrateful task.*
unguarded (ˌʌnˈgɑːdɪd) *adj* not guarded.
unhappy (ʌnˈhæpɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 not happy. 2 not suitable: *an unhappy choice of dress for a funeral.*
unhealthy (ʌnˈhelθɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** not healthy.
unheard (ˌʌnˈhɜːd) *adj* not heard. **unheard-of** (ˌʌnˈhɜːdɒv) *adj* not known or experienced before: *It's unheard-of for him to admit he's wrong.*
unicorn (ˈjuːnɪkɔːn) *nc* an imaginary animal; a horse with a long, straight horn.

unification (ˌjuːnɪfɪˈkeɪʃən) *nu* the act of unifying.

uniform (ˈjuːnɪfɔːm) *nc* a characteristic set of clothes worn by a member of a group or organisation, such as a soldier or nurse: see picture. • *adj* the same; not changing or differing: *men of uniform height.* **uniformity** (ˌjuːnɪˈfɔːmɪtɪ) *nu* **uniformly** *adv*



uniform

unify (ˈjuːnɪfaɪ) *vt* make (things) one or uniform.

unilateral (ˌjuːnɪˈlætərəl) *adj* done by or affecting only one side, person, country, etc.: *a unilateral decision to become independent.*

union (ˈjuːnɪən) *nu* 1 the act of uniting or the act or state of being united. 2 agreement. *nc* 3 a group of people, countries, etc., that join together for a purpose, esp. political: *the Soviet Union.* 4 a club, esp. a university students' organisation for social activities. 5 short for **trade union.** 6 a device for joining things, esp. pipes.

unique (juːˈniːk) *adj* 1 being the only one of its kind: *Since everyone is different, you are unique!* 2 *infml* unusual: *a unique opportunity to buy a historic house.* **uniqueness** *nu*

unisex (ˈjuːnɪseks) *adj* for men or women: *unisex clothes.*

unison (ˈjuːnɪsən) *nu* 1 the singing or playing of the same note(s) at the same time by more than one voice or musical instrument: *to sing in unison.* 2 agreement.

unit (ˈjuːnɪt) *nc* 1 one of something: *One ten and three units make thirteen.* 2 a quantity used for measuring, such as an hour or a kilogram. 3 a device, group, piece of furniture, etc., that is part of a larger one: *an army unit; a kitchen unit.* **unitary** (ˈjuːnɪtərɪ) *adj* 1 to do with a unit or units. 2 to do with unity.

unite (juːˈnaɪt) *vti* (cause to) join or become one. **united** *adj* 1 joined. 2 in agreement. **the United Nations** an organisation of independent countries that tries to bring about international peace.

unity (ˈjuːnɪtɪ) 1 *nu* the quality or state of being united. 2 *nc, pl* **-ties** something that is united or considered as a unit.

universal (ˌjuːnɪˈvɜːsəl) *adj* 1 to do with the whole world. 2 to do with everyone or everything in a particular class: *a universal oil for all engines.* 3 general: *universal suffering.* **universally** *adv*

universe (ˈjuːnɪvɜːs) 1 *nu* everything material that exists. 2 *nc* a system like the universe: *Scientists think that a universe of negative matter may exist.*

university (ˌjuːnɪˈvɜːsɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** a place of higher education, chiefly for students studying for degrees.

unjust (ˌʌnˈdʒʌst) *adj* not just.

unkempt (ˌʌnˈkempt) *adj* 1 (of the hair) uncombed. 2 untidy: *an unkempt garden.*

unkind (ʌnˈkaɪnd) *adj* **-er, -est** not **kind²**.

unknown (ʌnˈnəʊn) *adj* not known. • *nc* an unknown person, thing, or quantity.

unlawful (ʌnˈlɔːfʊl) *adj* not lawful.

unleaded (ʌnˈledɪd) *adj* **unleaded petrol** petrol produced without lead in it; considered less harmful to people and the environment.

unless (ənˈles) *conj* if . . . not; except if: *I shall go unless I'm told not to.*

unlike (ˌʌnˈlaɪk) *adj, prep* not **like¹**; different from.

unlikely (ʌnˈlaɪklɪ) *adj* not likely.

unload (ˌʌnˈləʊd) *vt* 1 remove (a load) from (a ship, lorry, etc.). 2 remove the bullet, charge, etc., from (a gun). 3 get rid of: *Can I unload that job onto you?*

unlock (ˌʌnˈlɒk) *vt* undo the lock of (a door, room, etc.).

unlucky (ʌnˈlʌkɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** not lucky.

unmanned (ˌʌnˈmænd) *adj* (of a ship, etc.) not manned.

unmistakable (ˌʌnmɪˈsteɪkəbəl) *adj* not mistakable; obvious. **unmistakably** *adv*

unnatural (ʌnˈnætʃrəl) *adj* 1 not according to nature; not normal. 2 very cruel. 3 false; affected: *an unnatural smile.*

unnecessary (ʌnˈnesəsərɪ) *adj* 1 not necessary. 2 more than is necessary: *unnecessary cost.* 3 unwelcome: *an unnecessary remark.*

unpaid (ˌʌnˈpeɪd) *adj* not (being) paid.

unpleasant (ʌnˈplezənt) *adj* not pleasant. **unpleasantness** 1 *nu* the quality of being unpleasant. 2 *nc* an unpleasant event.

unpopular (ˌʌnˈpɒpjʊlə*) *adj* not **popular** (def. 1).

unprecedented (ʌnˈpresɪdentɪd) *adj* having no precedent.

unpredictable (ˌʌnprɪˈdɪktəbəl) *adj* not predictable.

unprepared (ˌʌnprɪˈpeəd) *adj* 1 not having made (enough) preparations. 2 done without preparation.

unproductive (ˌʌnprəˈdʌktɪv) *adj* not productive.

unprofitable (ˌʌnˈprɒfɪtəbəl) *adj* not profitable.

unqualified (ˌʌnˈkwɒlɪfaɪd) *adj* 1 without qualifications. 2 complete; not limited in any way: *an unqualified success.*

unquestionable (ʌnˈkwestʃənəbəl) *adj* not questionable; definite. **unquestionably** *adv*

unravel (ʌnˈrævəl) *vt* 1 sort out (something knotted or mixed up). 2 undo (cloth, knitting, etc.) into single threads. 3 solve (a mystery, etc.).

unreal (ˌʌnˈrɪəl) *adj* imaginary; not in existence.

unrealistic (ˌʌnrɪəˈlɪstɪk) *adj* not recognising the truth about something: *unrealistic expectations.*

unreasonable (ʌnˈriːzənəbəl) *adj* 1 unfair: *It's unreasonable to make him go.* 2 not wanting or prepared to be sensible.

unremitting (ˌʌnrɪˈmɪtɪŋ) *adj* not slowing or pausing.

unrequited (ˌʌnrɪˈkwaɪtɪd) *adj* not given in return: *unrequited love.*

unrest (ˌʌnˈrest) *nu* a lack of peace or calm: *The unrest in the country could bring about civil strife.*

unruly (ʌnˈruːlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** disorderly; troublesome.

unsatisfactory (ˌʌnsætɪsˈfæktərɪ) *adj* not satisfactory.

unscathed (ˌʌnˈskeɪðd) *adj* without injury.

unscrew (ˌʌnˈskruː) *vt* 1 loosen (something) by removing a screw. 2 remove (a lid, etc.) by turning it like a screw.

unscrupulous (ʌnˈskruːpjʊləs) *adj* (of a person or behaviour) not keeping to what is right or honest.

unseen (ˌʌnˈsiːn) *adj* 1 not seen. 2 (of something written) not seen or prepared before you have to read or translate it. • *nc Brit* a piece of writing that you have not seen before, to be translated into your own language.

unsettle (ˌʌnˈsetəl) *vt* disturb; make worried or unsteady.

unsightly (ʌnˈsaɪtlɪ) *adj* unattractive or ugly.

unskilled (ˌʌnˈskɪld) *adj* not skilled.

unsound (ˌʌnˈsaʊnd) *adj* 1 not firm or solid: *an unsound wall.* 2 unwise; unreliable: *unsound advice.* 3 sick; confused: *of unsound mind.*

unspeakable (ʌnˈspiːkəbəl) *adj* bad or awful, esp. too much so to be described.

unsuspected (ˌʌnsəˈspektɪd) *adj* not suspected.

unthinkable (ˌʌnˈθɪŋkəbəl) *adj* that cannot be considered acceptable or probable: *Defeat is unthinkable.*

untidy (ʌnˈtaɪdɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** not tidy. • *vt* make untidy.

untie (ˌʌnˈtaɪ) *vt* undo (something tied or tied up).

until (ənˈtɪl) (often shortened to **till**) *conj, prep* 1 up to (the time that): *I'll work until five o'clock or until I'm tired.* 2 (used with a negative) before: *You mustn't stop until tomorrow or until I do.*

untimely (ʌnˈtaɪmlɪ) *adj* not timely.

unto (ˈʌntʊ) *old-fashioned prep* **to**[1].

untold (ˌʌnˈtəʊld) *adj* 1 very great or many: *untold damage.* 2 not told.

untrue (ˌʌnˈtruː) *adj* not **true** (defs. 1, 3).

unused[1] (ˌʌnˈjuːzd) *adj* not used.

unused[2] (ˌʌnˈjuːst) *adj* not used. See **used to** under **use.**

unusual (ʌnˈjuːʒʊəl) *adj* not usual; uncommon. **unusually** *adv*

unveil (ˌʌnˈveɪl) *vt* 1 uncover (a statue, etc.) for a first official showing. 2 make known: *The government unveiled its plans for the railways.* 3 *vti* take a veil off your (or someone else's) face.

unwelcome (ʌnˈwelkəm) *adj* not welcome.

unwieldy (ʌnˈwiːldɪ) *adj* too big or heavy to use or hold easily.

unwilling (ˌʌnˈwɪlɪŋ) *adj* not willing. **unwillingly** *adv* **unwillingness** *nu*

unwind (ˌʌnˈwaɪnd) 1 *vti* stretch out after having been wound. 2 *infml vi* relax; become rested.

unwitting (ʌnˈwɪtɪŋ) *adj* 1 not knowing or conscious: *He was an unwitting part of their plan.* 2 unintended: *unwitting criticism.* **unwittingly** *adv*

unworthy (ʌnˈwɜːðɪ) *adj* not worthy.

unwound (ˌʌnˈwaʊnd) past tense and past participle of **unwind.**

up (ʌp) *prep* at or to a higher point in or on: *There's a bird up the chimney; Go up the stairs.* • *adv* 1 moving from a lower position to a higher one: *Look up.* 2 (used to indicate that an action is complete or final): *Eat up your dinner; Your time is up.* 3 to a particular place or to the speaker: *He drove up (to the house) in his new car.* 4 in a higher or more important place: *We're going up to London.* 5 (used to show a greater intensity): *Speak up—we can't hear you!* • *vt* raise (esp. a price). • *adj* 1 (still or already) out of bed. 2 higher (in price): *Butter is up this week.* **ups and downs** periods of good and bad luck. **up to** 1 doing or intending to do: *He's up to his tricks.* 2 until: *It's been cold up to now.* 3 to a limit of: *up to ten miles.* 4 capable of: *Are you up to a walk?* 5 to be decided by: *It's up to you where we go.* 6 the duty of: *It's up to us to do our best.* 7 as good as: *This isn't up to his best work.* **what's up?** *infml* what's the matter?

upbringing ('ʌpbrɪŋɪŋ) *ncu* care and training given to a child growing up by its parents: *a strict upbringing.*

upcountry (ʌp'kʌntrɪ) *adj, adv* in the interior of a large country: *He's gone upcountry to see his mother.*

update (ˌʌp'deɪt) *vt* make (a book, etc.) fully modern.

upgrade (ˌʌp'greɪd) *vt* raise in importance, pay, etc.

upheaval (ʌp'hiːvəl) *nc* a violent disturbance.

upheld (ʌp'held) past tense and past participle of **uphold.**

uphill (ˌʌp'hɪl) *adv* 1 (moving) up a slope. 2 against great difficulties. ● *adj* 1 sloping upwards. 2 difficult; needing great effort: *uphill work.*

uphold (ʌp'həʊld) *vt* 1 agree with; approve: *The judgement was upheld by a higher court.* 2 support (a person, cause, etc.).

upholstery (ʌp'həʊlstərɪ) *nu* 1 the cloth, soft filling material, etc., used in furniture. 2 the work of upholstering. **upholster** *vt* fit (furniture) with upholstery.

upkeep ('ʌpkiːp) *nu* (the cost of) keeping something in good condition.

uplands ('ʌplən̩dz) *n pl* a hilly or mountainous region.

uplift (ʌp'lɪft) *vt literary* raise. ● ('ʌplɪft) *nu* 1 the condition of being raised; power to do this. 2 *nc* something that makes you feel better, happier, etc.: *Your letter gave me a real uplift.*

upon (ə'pɒn) *fml prep* on; onto.

upper ('ʌpə*) *adj* higher (part of): *the upper air.* ● *nc* the part of a shoe or boot above the sole and heel. **uppermost** ('ʌpəməʊst) *adj, adv* highest.

upright ('ʌpraɪt) *adj* 1 standing up; not lying down, bent, or folded. 2 honest; honourable. ● *nc* 1 an upright, esp. supporting part of something such as a chair or roof. 2 also **upright piano** a piano in which the strings are upright, not flat.

uprising ('ʌpˌraɪzɪŋ) *nc* an act of fighting, causing disturbances, etc., by a large number of people in order to overthrow a government; rebellion.

uproar ('ʌprɔː*) *nu* confused, noisy disturbance: *There was uproar at his speech.* **uproarious** (ʌp'rɔːrɪəs) *adj* 1 (of laughter) loud. 2 very funny. 3 to do with uproar.

uproot (ʌp'ruːt) *vt* 1 pull (a plant) from the ground, with its roots. 2 move (someone) from their home or country. 3 find and destroy: *uproot corruption.*

upset (ʌp'set) 1 *vti* tip over; overturn. 2 *vt* disturb (the mind or body of): *Shouting upsets me; an upset stomach.* ● *nc* 1 the act of upsetting or the act or state of being upset. 2 an unexpected defeat.

upshot ('ʌpʃɒt) *nc* a result or effect.

upside-down (ˌʌpsaɪd'daʊn) *adj, adv* 1 completely turned over. 2 *infml* in confusion or disorder: *an upside-down world.*

upstairs (ˌʌp'steəz) *adv, adj* up (the) stairs; to or on an upper floor. ● *nu* an upstairs floor.

upstream (ˌʌp'striːm) *adv, adj* in the opposite direction to the current of a river.

up-to-date (ˌʌptə'deɪt) *adj* modern; current.

upturned (ˌʌp'tɜːnd) *adj* 1 (of a nose) with the end pointing upwards. 2 turned over.

upward ('ʌpwəd) *adv* also **upwards,** *adj* (moving or pointing) towards a higher place, value, etc.

upwind (ˌʌp'wɪnd) *adv, adj* (going) against the wind.

uranium (jʊ'reɪnɪəm) *nu* a chemical element; a radioactive metal used for nuclear power.

urban ('ɜːbən) *adj* to do with a town or city. **urbanise** ('ɜːbənaɪz) *vt* 1 make (esp. a piece of country) more urban. 2 make (a person or group of people) used to town or city life. **urbanisation** (ˌɜːbənaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu*

urchin ('ɜːtʃɪn) *nc* 1 a naughtily playful child, esp. poorly dressed. 2 short for **sea urchin.**

urge (ɜːdʒ) *vt* 1 recommend strongly: *We were urged to leave quickly; I urge silence.* 2 drive; hurry: *Urge the horses on.* ● *nc* a strong wish to do something.

urgent ('ɜːdʒənt) *adj* 1 needing quick action or attention: *an urgent parcel.* 2 showing that something is urgent. **urgency** *nu* **urgently** *adv*

uric acid ('jʊərɪk) *zoology* a semi-liquid waste product found in the urine of humans and certain animals, reptiles, and birds.

urine ('jʊərɪn) *nu* liquid waste from the body. **urinate** ('jʊərɪˌneɪt) *vi*

urn (ɜːn) *nc* 1 a type of pot used to hold the ashes of the burnt body of a dead person. 2 a large metal container with a tap at the bottom, used for tea, coffee, etc.

urogenital (ˌjʊərəʊ'dʒenɪtəl) *adj* having to do with the urinary or genital organs.

us (ʌs unstressed əs) *pron* (used to indicate the speaker or writer together with one or more other people either after a preposition or when they are the object of a verb): *He paid us quickly; She is waving to us.*

usable ('juːzəbəl) *adj* able to be used.

usage ('juːzɪdʒ, 'juːsɪdʒ) *ncu* (a) way of using something; use.

use (juːz) *vt* 1 cause to serve a purpose; employ: *I use a pen for writing.* 2 treat or behave towards, esp. for your own good: *He uses his friends shamefully.* • *nu* 1 the act of using or the state of being used: *The new guns are in use against the enemy.* 2 custom or practice: *This new idea has come into use recently; It is an old word now going out of use.* 3 value. 4 *nc* a purpose for using something: *A knife has many uses.* **it's no use** it is useless: *It's no use complaining.* **used** (juːst) or **usedn't** ('juːsənt) **to** at an earlier time make or not make it your practice to: *I used to walk more before I had a car.* **used** (juːst) **to** familiar with: *You quickly get used to foreign food.* **use up** employ (something that is destroyed by use); finish: *We used up nearly all the ink.*

useful ('juːsful) *adj* 1 able to be used for a purpose. 2 *infml* good; praiseworthy: *He played a useful game.* **usefulness** *nu*

useless ('juːslɪs) *adj* 1 serving no purpose. 2 *infml* having no ability: *You're useless at swimming.*

user ('juːzə*) a person who uses something, a service, etc.: *telephone users; vehicle users.* **user-friendly** *adj* easy to use: *Computers are much more user-friendly than they used to be.*

usher ('ʌʃə*) *nc* a person who shows people to their seats in a theatre or cinema, or at a wedding. • *vt* show the way to or lead (someone). **usher in** be just before in time or be present at the arrival of: *The Boer War ushered in the twentieth century.*

usual ('juːʒuəl) *adj* normal; most common: *My usual drink is tea.* **as usual** as (nearly) always; again: *He's late, as usual.* **usually** *adv*

usurp (juː'zɜːp) *vt fml* take over or seize (someone's power, property, etc.) wrongfully.

utensil (juː'tensəl) *nc* a tool or other object used esp. for cooking or eating.

uterus ('juːtərəs) *anatomy nc, pl* **-ruses, -ri** (raɪ) also **womb** the part of the body of a female human or other mammal in which its young grow. **uterine** ('juːtəˌraɪn) *adj*

utilise ('juːtɪlaɪz) *vt* put to use. **utilisation** (ˌjuːtɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən) *nu*

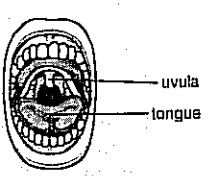
utility (juː'tɪlɪtɪ) 1 *nu* usefulness. 2 *nc, pl* **utilities** also **public utility** a public service, such as a water supply or bus service. • *adj* made chiefly with utility in mind: *utility furniture.*

utmost ('ʌtməʊst) *adj* greatest or furthest possible: *with the utmost care.* • *nu* the most possible: *I did my utmost to find it.*

utter[1] ('ʌtə*) *vt* express in sound: *He uttered a long cry.* **utterance** 1 *fml nu* the act of uttering. 2 *nc* something uttered.

utter[2] *adj* complete; total: *in utter admiration.* **utterly** *adv*

uvula ('juːvjʊlə) *nc, pl* **-ulas, -ulae** (ˌliː) a length of tissue that hangs down the back of the human throat; used for speaking: see picture.



uvula

V

vacancy ('veɪkənsɪ) *nc, pl* **-cies** 1 a job not being done by anyone. 2 a room available in a hotel.

vacant ('veɪkənt) *adj* 1 empty; unoccupied. 2 (appearing to be) not occupied in thought: *a vacant expression on his face.*

vacate (və'keɪt) *vt* leave (a place) vacant by going away from it.

vacation (və'keɪʃən, veɪ'keɪʃən) *ncu* 1 *Brit* (a) holiday for universities or law courts. 2 *US* (a) holiday from work, esp. spent away from home. • *vi US* take a **vacation** (def. 2).

vaccinate ('væksɪneɪt) *vt* give a vaccine to. **vaccination** (ˌvæksɪ'neɪʃən) *ncu* **vaccine** ('væksiːn) *ncu* a (particular) substance taken or injected into the body to prevent a disease: *measles vaccine.*

vacillate ('væsɪleɪt) *vi* keep changing your mind.

vacuole ('vækjuˌəʊl) *nc biology* a tiny cavity in the protoplasm of a living cell containing fluid.

vacuum ('vækjuːm) *nc, pl* **-s, -ua** (juə) a space containing nothing or less air than normal. • *vti* clean (a room, etc.) with a vacuum cleaner. **vacuum cleaner** a machine that cleans by sucking dirt into a bag. **vacuum flask** also **Thermos flask** *Trademark* a bottle with a double wall containing a vacuum, used to keep drinks, etc., hot or cold.

vagabond ('vægəbɒnd) *nc* a person with no fixed home; a tramp.

vagina (və'dʒaɪnə) *nc* a passage in a woman connecting her outer sexual organs with her uterus.

vagrant ('veɪgrənt) *nc* a person with no fixed home or work. **vagrancy** *nu* the state of being a vagrant.

vague (veɪg) *adj* **-r, -st** not clear or exact: *I can see the vague outline of a building.* **vaguely** *adv*

vain (veɪn) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 too proud or pleased with your appearance or success. 2 pointless: *a vain attempt.* **in vain** without result or success. **vainly** *adv*

valency ('veɪlənsɪ) *chemistry nc, pl* **-cies** the number of hydrogen atoms that an atom or group can combine with or replace: *Oxygen has a valency of two.*

valentine ('væləntaɪn) *nc* **valentine card** a card sent to a loved one on St Valentine's Day (14 February), esp. without the sender's signature.

valet ('vælɛɪ) *nc* a man's personal male servant, employed to look after clothes, etc.

valiant ('vælɪənt) *fml adj* brave.

valid ('vælɪd) *adj* 1 (of a ticket, licence, etc.) (still) usable; able to be accepted. 2 (of an argument, reason, etc.) forceful or sensible. 3 *law* properly done; able to be accepted by a law court. **validate** *vt* make valid. **validity** (və'lɪdɪtɪ) *nu*

valley ('vælɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** a long hollow between hills, usually with a river flowing down it: see picture.

valley

valour *US* **valor** ('vælə*) *fml nu* bravery, esp. in battle.

valuable ('vælju:əbəl) *adj* of great worth or value.

valuation (ˌvælju'eɪʃən) 1 *nc* a price or value arrived at by valuing. 2 *nu* the act of valuing.

value ('vælju:) *nu* the quality of something, esp. in terms of worth, usefulness, or desirability. *nc* 2 the worth of something expressed as money. 3 an amount or quantity: *The temperature reaches very high values in the desert.* 4 (*pl*) the importance a person places on standards of behaviour: *They have strange values—they don't think that stealing is really a crime.* • *vt* 1 guess the value of, with knowledge of other values. 2 consider to be valuable. **Value-Added Tax** a tax on the difference between the cost of making or buying something and the price it is sold for: *abbrev.* VAT **valueless** ('vælju:lɪs) *adj* of no value; not worth anything.

valve (vælv) *nc* 1 a device for stopping or controlling the flow of a gas or liquid in a pipe, esp. for allowing flow in only one direction. 2 a device in a radio or television set, used to control the flow of electricity.

vampire ('væmpaɪə*) *nc* a dead person in horror stories who comes alive again at night and sucks the blood of living people: *Count Dracula is the most well-known vampire.*

van (væn) *nc* 1 a closed-in motor vehicle used to carry goods. 2 a railway carriage, esp. used for goods.

vanadium (vəˈneɪdɪəm) *nu chemistry* a very hard silver-white metallic chemical element used as a catalyst in some chemical industrial processes. Symbol: V

vandal (ˈvændəl) *nc* a person who damages public or other people's property on purpose. **vandalism** *nu* the acts of vandals.

vane (veɪn) *nc* 1 the flat blade of a fan, windmill, propeller, etc. 2 a weathercock.

vanguard (ˈvæŋgɑːd) *nc* the leading part or members of an army, artistic movement, etc.

vanilla (vəˈnɪlə) *nu* a plant of which the seed pods are cooked with food, esp. sweet, for their taste.

vanish (ˈvænɪʃ) *vi* disappear or stop existing.

vanity (ˈvænɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** (an example of) being vain.

vanquish (ˈvæŋkwɪʃ) *literary vt* defeat; overcome.

vaporise (ˈveɪpəraɪz) *vti* (cause to) turn into vapour.

vapour *US* **vapor** (ˈveɪpə*) *nc* a gas or cloud of tiny drops of a substance, such as steam.

variable (ˈveərɪəbəl) *adj* 1 likely to change. 2 able to be varied. • *nc* a variable quantity: *There are so many variables that I don't know what will happen.*

variant (ˈveərɪənt) *adj, nc* (something) different from a particular or the normal form or type: *a variant spelling.*

variation (ˌveərɪˈeɪʃən) 1 *ncu* (an example of) varying or being different. *nc* 2 something different. 3 a part of a piece of music made up of ornamentations on one simple tune.

varied (ˈveərɪd) *adj* showing variety; mixed.

variegated (ˈveərɪgeɪtɪd) *adj* (esp. of a plant) having two or more different colours: *variegated leaves.*

variety (vəˈraɪɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the quality of varying or being mixed: *the variety of all human life.* 2 a mixed or varied group: *There's a variety to choose from.* 3 an entertainment made up of many short pieces, such as songs, dances, and the telling of jokes. 4 *nc, pl* **-ties** a type within a mixed group: *Which variety of apple is this?*

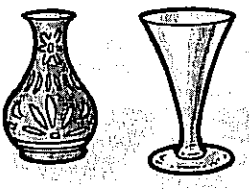
various (ˈveərɪəs) *determiner* several: *There are various ways of doing this.* • *adj* several; different; varying: *His experiences are many and various.* **variously** *adv*

varnish (ˈvɑːnɪʃ) *ncu* a (type of) liquid usually made of oil, resin, and spirit that dries to give a hard, shiny, clear finish to wood, etc. • *vt* coat with varnish.

vary (ˈveərɪ) *vti* (cause to) change or be different.

vascular (ˈvæskjulə*) *adj* to do with the vessels through which blood or sap flows.

vase (vɑːz) a glass or china container, esp. for cut flowers: see picture.



vase

vast (vɑːst) *adj* **-er, -est** very large; huge. **vastly** *adv* **vastness** *nu*

vat (væt) *nc* a large, esp. open, container for liquid.

vault[1] (vɔːlt) *nc* 1 an arched roof or ceiling. 2 a room under the ground for burying dead people in: *a family vault.* 3 a room for something valuable, such as silver or money: *a bank vault.*

vault[2] *vti* jump over (something), using a pole or the arms for support. • *nc* such a jump.

veal (viːl) *nu* meat from a calf.

vector (ˈvektə*) *nc* 1 *mathematics* a quantity having both size and direction, such as force. 2 something, esp. an insect, that spreads disease between humans or animals.

Vedas (ˈveɪdəz) *n pl* the four oldest sacred Hindu writings.

veer (vɪə*) *vi* 1 change direction. 2 change a subject, opinion, etc.: *The discussion veered away from politics.* 3 (of the wind) change direction clockwise: *veering from south-east to south.*

vegan (ˈviːgən) *nc* a strict vegetarian who eats no animal products such as meat, cheese, milk, or eggs.

vegetable (ˈvedʒtəbəl) *nc* a non-woody plant used as food, such as the pea, cabbage, or potato: see picture. • *adj* from or to do with any plant: *vegetable oil.*

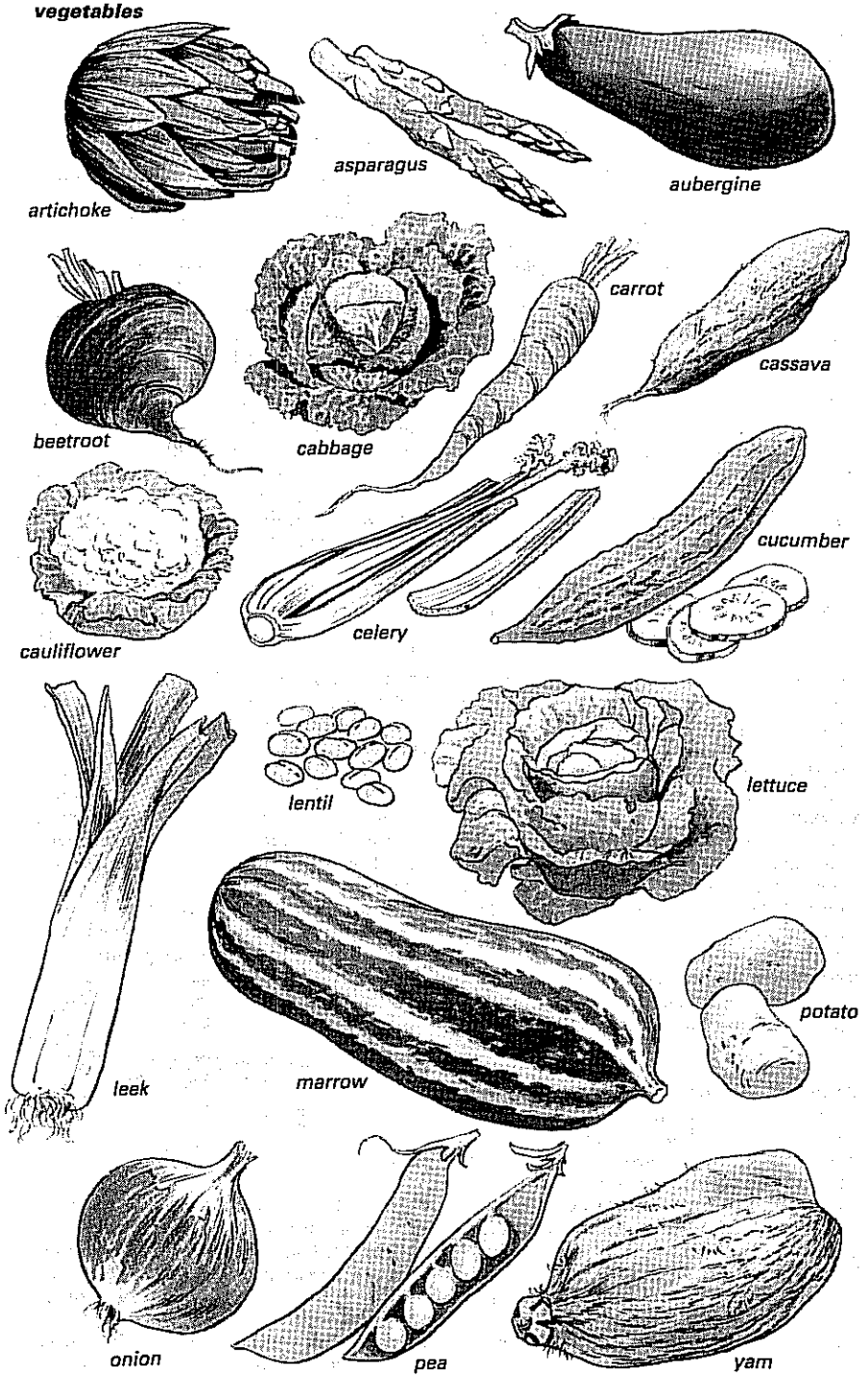
vegetarian (ˌvedʒɪˈteərɪən) *nc, adj* (to do with) a person who eats no meat or fish.

vegetate (ˈvedʒɪteɪt) *vi* 1 *infml* lead a life without interest or variety. 2 grow as a vegetable does.

vegetation (ˌvedʒɪˈteɪʃən) *nu* plants. **vegetative** (ˈvedʒɪtətɪv) *adj*

vehement (ˈvɪəmənt) *adj* with very strong feeling; forceful: *a vehement defence of freedom.* **vehemence** *nu* **vehemently** *adv*

vegetables


artichoke
asparagus
aubergine
beetroot
cabbage
carrot
cassava
cauliflower
celery
cucumber
leek
lentil
lettuce
marrow
potato
onion
pea
yam

vehicle ('vɪəkəl) *nc* 1 a device for carrying people or goods, esp. one using roads. 2 a means of expressing or communicating, such as music or a newspaper. 3 a substance mixed with and used to carry and distribute another: *Oil is the main vehicle in printing ink.*

veil (veɪl) *nc* 1 a piece of cloth, through which it is possible for the wearer to see, worn in front of the face. 2 something that covers or hides. • *vt* 1 put a veil over the face of. 2 cover or hide: *The plot was veiled in secrecy.*

vein (veɪn) *nc* 1 a tube that carries blood to the heart. 2 mood; general feeling: *Our talk was in a serious vein.* 3 a layer of coal, metal ore, etc., in the ground.

veld (felt) *nu* also **veldt** the open grass-covered plains of southern Africa, with some bushes but very few trees.

velocity (vɪ'lɒsɪtɪ) *nc, pl* **-ties** speed of movement.

velvet ('velvɪt) *nu* a thick, soft cloth with threads sticking up on one side. **velvety** *adj*

vena cava (ˌviːnə 'keɪvə) *nc, pl* **venae cavae** (ˌviːniː 'keɪviː) one of the two large veins that carry deoxygenated blood back to the heart.

vendetta (ven'detə) *nc* 1 a long quarrel or fight, esp. between two families. 2 a state when one person tries to make another's work, life, etc., difficult.

vendor ('vendə*, 'vendɔː*) *nc* a person who sells something: *the vendor of a house.*

veneer (və'nɪə*) 1 *ncu* a thin layer of (a type of) fine wood stuck onto furniture, etc., made of a cheaper wood. 2 *nc* something that seems good but is actually put on to hide something less pleasant: *a place with a thin veneer of civilisation.* • *vt* cover with (a) veneer.

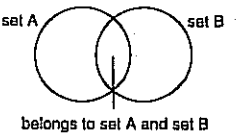
venerate ('venəreɪt) *vt* hold in great respect on account of character, great age, religious connections, etc. **venerable** *adj* worthy of veneration. **veneration** (ˌvenə'reɪʃən) *nu*

venereal (və'nɪərɪəl) *adj* **venereal disease** a disease caught from another person during sexual intercourse.

vengeance ('vendʒəns) *nu* punishment brought on someone by a person they have wronged. **with a vengeance** a lot; more than usual: *It's raining with a vengeance.*

venison ('venɪsən) *nu* meat from a deer.

Venn diagram (ven) *mathematics* a diagram using circles and rectangles to represent various types of mathematical sets and show the relationships between them: see picture.



Venn diagram

venom ('venəm) *nu* poison from a snake, scorpion, etc.

vent (vent) *nc* a hole allowing the passage, esp. escape, of air, a liquid, etc. • *vt* 1 also **give vent to** express or let out (a feeling): *He gave vent to his anger by hitting me.* 2 allow (air, a liquid, etc.) through a vent. 3 provide with a vent.

ventilate ('ventɪleɪt) *vt* 1 allow fresh air into (a room, etc.). 2 allow public consideration or discussion of (a subject). **ventilation** (ˌventɪ'leɪʃən) *nu* 1 a system for bringing fresh air into a building. 2 the act of ventilating. **ventilator** *nc* a device for ventilating a room.

ventral ('ventrəl) *adj zoology* to do with the front or underside of the body: *ventral fin.*

ventricle ('ventrɪkəl) *nc* 1 one of the two lower spaces in the heart. 2 any of several spaces, esp. filled with liquid, in the body.

ventriloquist (ven'trɪləkwɪst) *nc* someone who can make their speech appear to come from someone else or an object.

venture ('ventʃə*) *vt* 1 *fml* risk: *to venture your life.* 2 dare to put forward (an opinion, etc.): *I venture to suggest that you're lying.* 3 *vi* dare to go: *I wouldn't venture out in this weather.* • *nc* an action with an element of risk, such as the starting of a business.

veranda (also **verandah**) (və'rændə) *nc* a covered and sometimes partly walled space along the side of a house: see picture.


veranda

verb (vɜːb) *nc* a word describing a state or an action, such as 'be', 'make', or 'fly'.

verbal ('vɜːbəl) *adj* 1 in speech not writing: *only a verbal agreement.* 2 to do with verbs. 3 to do with words or language. **verbally** *adv*

verdant ('vɜːdənt) *literary adj* (of a field, etc.) green (with many healthy plants).

verdict ('vɜːdɪkt) *nc* a judgement or decision, esp. on someone's guilt in a law court.

verge (vɜːdʒ) *nc* an edge, esp. one of grass along the side of a road. • *vti* be next to or on the edge of: *Our garden verges on the road.* **on the verge of** on the point of; close to: *I'm on the verge of finishing; on the verge of an important discovery.* **verge on** approach; be almost: *Such behaviour verges on stupidity.*

verify ('verɪfaɪ) *vt* 1 find out whether (something) is true. 2 show to be true. **verification** (ˌverɪfɪ'keɪʃən) *nu*

veritable ('verɪtəbəl) *adj* real; absolute: *That meal was a veritable feast.*

vermilion (və'mɪljən) *adj* bright red. • *ncu* a vermilion colour.

vermin ('vɜːmɪn) *n pl* 1 animals and insects that can harm plants, animals, and people. 2 *derogatory* people who are useless or harmful to the rest of society.

vernacular (və'nækjʊlə*) *nc, adj* (to do with) the language spoken in a particular place: *The vernacular of London is Cockney.*

vernal ('vɜːnəl) *adj* to do with the season of spring: *the vernal equinox.*

versatile ('vɜːsətaɪl) *adj* able to do many different things: *a versatile writer; a versatile tool.*

verse (vɜːs) 1 *nu* poetry. *nc* 2 a separate part of a poem or song. 3 a short, numbered paragraph of the Bible.

versed (vɜːst) *adj* (usually followed by **in**) experienced (in) or knowledgeable (about).

version ('vɜːʃən) *nc* a particular form of something, esp. an account or story in which some details differ from other forms: *The other witness gave quite a different version of the accident.*

versus ('vɜːsəs) *chiefly law or sport prep* against: *abbrev.* **v.** or **vs:** *England v. Brazil.*

vertebra ('vɜːtɪbrə) *nc, pl* **-brae** (briː) any of the bones making up the spine. **vertebrate** ('vɜːtɪbrət) *nc, adj* (an animal) with a spine.

vertex ('vɜːteks) *nc, pl* **-tices** (tɪsiːz), **-texes** the highest point of something, esp. a figure such as a triangle.

vertical ('vɜːtɪkəl) *adj* upright; at an angle of 90° to something level or to another line. • *nc* a vertical line, surface, etc. **vertically** *adv*

very ('verɪ) *adv* a lot; much: *very angry; very badly; very much better.* • *adj* (used to add force to a following adjective or noun): *the very first time; at the very end of the book; the very thing I want.*

vessel ('vesəl) *nc* 1 *fml* a container, esp. for liquids. 2 *fml* a ship or boat, esp. a large one. 3 a tube in the body carrying a liquid, esp. blood.

vest (vest) *nc* 1 *US* **undershirt** a garment worn under other clothes on the upper body. 2 *US, Australian* See **waistcoat.** • *vt fml* (followed by **in**) allow someone to use: *The greatest power is vested in the governor of the district.*

vestibule ('vestɪbjuːl) *nc* a small room at or near an entrance.

vestige ('vestɪdʒ) *nc* 1 something that remains, showing that a person or thing was once there. 2 a very small amount: *There's not a vestige of freedom left in the country since he took power.* **vestigial** (ve'stɪdʒɪəl) *adj* that is a vestige of something that was once in existence: *The chimpanzee has a vestigial tail.*

vestment ('vestmənt) *nc* a garment worn to indicate position, authority, etc., esp. by Christian priests.

vet (vet) *infml n* short for **veterinary surgeon.** • *vt* examine before acceptance: *Before we get married, you'll have to be vetted by my family!*

veteran ('vetərən) *nc* 1 a person, esp. a soldier, or a thing, esp. a car, that has done long service. 2 *US* a former soldier. • *adj* to do with or being a veteran.

veterinary ('vetərɪnərɪ) *adj* to do with medicine for animals. **veterinary surgeon** (*infml abbrev.* **vet**) a person who treats sick or injured animals.

veto ('viːtəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** the right to forbid a measure, law, etc., wanted by others. • *vt* use your veto to forbid.

vex (veks) *vt* anger or annoy. **vexation** (vek'seɪʃən) 1 *nc* something that vexes. 2 *nu* the act of vexing; the state of being vexed.

via ('vaɪə) *prep* through; by way of: *We flew to Australia via America.*

viable ('vaɪəbəl) *adj* 1 (of a plan, suggestion, etc.) workable; of use. 2 (of an unborn child or animal) able to live if born.

viaduct ('vaɪədʌkt) *nc* a bridge, built on a row of arches, carrying a road or railway across a valley.

vibrate (vaɪ'breɪt) *vti* (cause to) move quickly to and fro. **vibration** *nu* the act of vibrating. **vibrations** *infml n pl* a feeling you get about a place or another person.

vicar ('vɪkə*) *nc* an Anglican priest usually in charge of a parish.

vice[1] (vaɪs) *nc* 1 an evil habit or quality. 2 *humorous* a bad habit: *What are his*

favourite vices? 3 *nu* immoral behaviour, esp. sexual.

vice[2] *US* **vise** *nc* a device for holding an object being worked on.

vice versa (ˌvaɪs ˈvɜɪsə, ˌvaɪsɪ ˈvɜɪsə) the other way round.

vicinity (vɪˈsɪnɪtɪ) *nu* the region close to or around a place: *in the vicinity of London.*

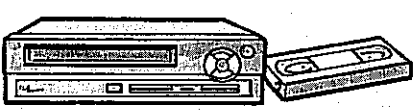
vicious (ˈvɪʃəs) *adj* cruel, esp. also violent. **vicious circle** a situation in which solving one problem causes a second and solving that causes the first again. **viciously** *adv*

victim (ˈvɪktɪm) *nc* a person who suffers on account of a natural event or someone's actions: *the victims of war.*

victor (ˈvɪktə*) *nc* the winner of a war etc. **victorious** (vɪkˈtɔɪrɪəs) *adj*

victory (ˈvɪktərɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ries** (an example of) defeating someone.

video (ˈvɪdɪəʊ) *nu, adj* (to do with) the recording and showing of pictures, esp. moving: *a video link for the football match.* **video game** a game played by moving electronically the pictures, symbols, etc., produced by a computer program on a screen. **video recorder** a machine for recording and playing videotapes: see picture. **videotape** (ˈvɪdɪəʊˌteɪp) *ncu* (a piece of) tape for recording pictures and sound. • *vt* record on videotape.



video recorder

view (vjuː) *nc* 1 an act or opportunity of seeing or looking at something. 2 a scene, esp. of pretty countryside: *There's a lovely view from the top of the hill.* 3 an opinion: *give your views on a subject.* 4 *nu* vision; sight: *to come into view.* • *vt* 1 look at. 2 consider: *He views the matter differently.* 3 watch (television). **in view of** on account of; considering. **point of view** also **viewpoint** a way of considering a matter. **with a view to** 1 with the intention of. 2 in the hope of. **viewer** *nc* 1 a person who views, esp. television. 2 a device used for viewing something. **viewpoint** (ˈvjuːpɔɪnt) *nc* 1 See **point of view.** 2 a place from which there is a good **view** (def. 2).

vigil (ˈvɪdʒɪl) *nc* the act of staying awake at night, either on guard or as a religious custom.

vigilant (ˈvɪdʒɪlənt) *adj* watchful; keeping guard. **vigilance** *nu*

vigorous (ˈvɪgərəs) *adj* possessing or showing great energy: *a vigorous sport.* **vigorously** *adv*

vigour *US* **vigor** (ˈvɪgə*) *nu* the quality of being vigorous.

vile (vaɪl) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 disgusting. 2 evil.

villa (ˈvɪlə) *nc* a comfortable country house, esp. used for holidays.

village (ˈvɪlɪdʒ) *nc* a group of houses smaller than a town. **villager** *nc* a person who lives in a village.

villain (ˈvɪlən) *nc* 1 an evil person. 2 *Brit* a criminal. **villainy** *nu* evil behaviour.

vindicate (ˈvɪndɪkeɪt) *vt* show to be just, right, or not guilty: *History will vindicate our actions.* **vindication** (ˌvɪndɪˈkeɪʃən) 1 *nu* the act of vindicating. 2 *nc* something that vindicates.

vindictive (vɪnˈdɪktɪv) *adj* wanting (too much) to harm someone who has wronged you.

vine (vaɪn) *nc* a plant on which grapes grow. **vineyard** (ˈvɪnjəd) *nc* a place where vines are grown.

vinegar (ˈvɪnɪgə*) *nu* a sour liquid made from wine, beer, etc., and used in food.

vintage (ˈvɪntɪdʒ) *nc* (the wine, esp. a good quality one, made from) a particular year's harvest of grapes. • *adj* of lasting quality: *a vintage car.*

vinyl (ˈvaɪnɪl) *nu* a type of plastic material.

viola (vɪˈəʊlə) *nc* a stringed musical instrument slightly larger than a violin.

violate (ˈvaɪəleɪt) *vt* 1 break (a law, agreement, etc.). 2 not respect (a holy place). 3 disturb or interrupt: *to violate someone's privacy.* 4 rape. **violation** (ˌvaɪəˈleɪʃən) *ncu* (an example of) violating.

violent (ˈvaɪələnt) *adj* 1 using force to cause injury, etc.: *He got violent and hit me.* 2 forceful: *in violent disagreement.* 3 caused by force: *a violent death.* **violence** *nu* **violently** *adv*

violet (ˈvaɪələt) *adj* reddish-blue. • *ncu* 1 a violet colour. 2 *nc* a plant with small, often sweet-smelling, white or violet flowers.

violin (ˌvaɪəˈlɪn) *nc* a stringed musical instrument played with a bow: see picture at **musical instruments. violinist** *nc* a person who plays a violin.

viper (ˈvaɪpə*) *n* See **adder.**

virgin (ˈvɜɪdʒɪn) *nc* a person, esp. a woman, who has not had sexual intercourse. • *adj* natural; untouched: *virgin forest.* **virginity** (vəˈdʒɪnɪtɪ) *nu* the quality or state of being (a) virgin.

virile (ˈvɪraɪl) *adj* (of a man) young and healthy; attractive. **virility** (vəˈrɪlɪtɪ) *nu*

virology (vaɪ'rɒlədʒɪ) *nu medicine* the study of viruses and diseases caused by them. **virologist** *nc*

virtual ('vɜːtjʊəl) *adj* with the effect or nature but not the name or form of; amounting to: *We had to work in virtual darkness.* **virtually** *adv*

virtue ('vɜːtjuː) 1 *ncu* (a particular type of) goodness or uprightness of behaviour: *the virtue of generosity.* 2 *nc* a good quality; advantage: *This plan has the virtue of simplicity.* 3 effectiveness. **by virtue of** on account of; on the strength of: *He is allowed such freedom by virtue of his important position.* **virtuous** *adj* having or showing **virtue** (def. 1).

virus ('vaɪərəs) *nc* a tiny parasite that only comes to life in living cells and causes diseases such as chicken pox, measles, flu, Aids, and rabies.

visa ('viːzə) *nc* a note made in a passport allowing the holder to enter a particular country: *an American visa.*

vis-à-vis (ˌviːzɑː'viː) *prep* in respect of; regarding. • *prep, adv* opposite; facing.

viscose ('vɪskəʊs) *nu* a thick sticky cellulose substance used to make cloth.

viscount ('vaɪkaʊnt) *nc* (in the UK) a nobleman above a baron and below an earl.

viscous ('vɪskəs) *adj* (of a liquid) sticky; not flowing easily. **viscosity** (vɪs'kɒsɪtɪ) *ncu, pl* **-ties** (a measure of) the quality of being viscous.

vise (vaɪs) *US n* See **vice²**.

Vishnu ('vɪʃnuː) *n* a Hindu god.

visible ('vɪzɪbəl) *adj* 1 able to be seen. 2 noticeable: *visible danger.* **visibility** (ˌvɪzɪ'bɪlɪtɪ) *nu* the condition of the light for being able to see: *Visibility was reduced to two metres by the fog.*

vision ('vɪʒən) *nu* 1 the ability to see; sight. 2 the ability to imagine, esp. the future and plan for it. *nc* 3 something seen in a dream or a religious experience. 4 (often *pl*) an act of imagining something: *I used to have visions of being rich.*

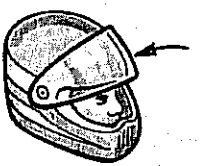
visionary ('vɪʒənərɪ) *adj* given to having visions; fanciful. • *nc, pl* **-ries** a visionary person.

visit ('vɪzɪt) *vt* 1 come or go to see (a person or place). 2 go to (a place) in order to examine something. 3 (of a disease, disaster, etc.) come upon (someone). 4 *fml or literary* bring (a punishment, etc.) on (someone): *Their sins were visited on us.* • *nc* an act of visiting (**visit** defs. 1, 2). **pay a visit to** come or go to see. **visit with** *US* come or go to talk with (someone).

visitation (ˌvɪzɪ'teɪʃən) *nc* 1 a visit to inspect or examine. 2 a disease or disaster seen as a punishment.

visitor ('vɪzɪtə*) *nc* a person who visits.

visor ('vaɪzə*) *nc* 1 a guard fixed at the top of the front window of a car, etc., that can be swung down to protect the passengers' eyes from bright light. 2 a part on a helmet that can be swung down to protect the wearer's face: see picture.



visor

visual ('vɪzjʊəl) *adj* to do with seeing. **visualise** ('vɪzjʊəlaɪz) *vt* imagine; see in your mind. **visually** *adv*

vital ('vaɪtəl) *adj* 1 necessary, esp. for life: *A water supply is vital.* 2 of great importance: *a vital decision.* 3 full of life or energy; lively. **vitally** *adv*

vitality (vaɪ'tælɪtɪ) *nu* 1 the power to live. 2 liveliness; energy.

vitamin ('vɪtəmɪn, 'vaɪtəmɪn) *nc* any of several substances present in food that are necessary in small quantities for health: *Fruit contains vitamin C.*

vivacious (vɪ'veɪʃəs) *adj* full of life; lively.

vivid ('vɪvɪd) *adj* 1 (of a colour) bright. 2 (of a description, the imagination, etc.) powerful; clear: *a vivid account of events.* **vividly** *adv*

viviparous (vɪ'vɪpərəs) *adj* 1 bringing forth live young rather than eggs: *Humans, dogs, cats, and elephants are all viviparous.* 2 *botany* (of a seed) germinating before it leaves the plant.

vivisection (ˌvɪvɪ'sekʃən) *nu* cutting into live animals in order to do experiments with them.

vixen ('vɪksən) *nc* a female fox.

vlei (fleɪ, vleɪ) *nc* an area of low marshy ground.

vocabulary (və'kæbjʊlərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** 1 a set of words used by one person. 2 a set of words used by a particular group: *scientific vocabulary.* 3 a list of words used in a book, printed in the book with an explanation of their meanings.

vocal ('vəʊkəl) *adj* 1 to do with the voice: *vocal music.* 2 expressing yourself forcefully: *Several very vocal people complained.* **vocalist** *nc* a singer. **vocally** *adv*

vocation (vəʊ'keɪʃən) 1 *nc* a job; occupa-

tion. 2 *nu* a calling or urge to take up a particular occupation, esp. a religious one. **vocational** *adj*

vodka ('vɒdkə) *nu* a strong, clear alcoholic drink made from potatoes, rye, barley, or corn, originally in Russia.

vogue (vəʊg) *nc* a fashion; popularity: *The vogue for this kind of hat went out last summer—nobody wears one now.*

voice (vɔɪs) *nc* 1 the sound, made in the throat, that humans use for speaking and singing. 2 the quality or power of this: *a good singing voice; a quiet voice.* 3 *grammar* a set of forms of verbs that shows the relationship between subject and verb: *English has active and passive voices.* • *vt* express (an opinion or feeling). **give voice to** voice (an opinion or feeling). **lose your voice** not be able to speak normally, through illness, shouting, etc. **with one voice** with everyone agreeing. **voice-box** ('vɔɪsbɒks) *n* See **larynx.**

void (vɔɪd) *adj* 1 empty. 2 (followed by **of**) lacking; without: *an expression void of meaning.* 3 without force or not binding in law: *Their marriage has been proved void.* • *vt* 1 *law* make void. 2 get rid of. • *nc* 1 an empty space. 2 *nu* the space between the stars and planets.

volatile ('vɒlətaɪl) *adj* 1 (of a liquid) easily turning to vapour. 2 likely to change your mind or ideas.

volcano (vɒl'keɪnəʊ) *nc, pl* **-es** a mountain through which liquid rock, gases, and sometimes ashes come out of the inside of the earth: see picture. **volcanic** (vɒl'kænɪk) *adj*

volcano

volley ('vɒlɪ) *nc, pl* **-s** 1 the firing of several guns together. 2 (in cricket, tennis, football, etc.) the hitting or kicking of a ball in play before it hits the ground. • *vi* 1 (of guns) fire together. 2 *vti* hit or kick (a ball) with a volley. **volleyball** ('vɒlɪbɔːl) *nu* a game for two teams of six players who knock a large ball back and forth over a high net with their hands.

volt (vəʊlt) *nc* the electrical energy per coulomb of electrical charge available to a circuit and its components: symbol V **voltage** ('vəʊltɪdʒ) *nc* electric force expressed in volts. **voltmeter** ('vəʊlt,miːtə*) *nc* an instrument for measuring voltage.

voluble ('vɒljubəl) *adj* talking easily: *A voluble speaker.*

volume ('vɒljuːm) 1 *nu* the amount of space taken up by something: *the volume of a room; Milk is sold by volume.* 2 *nc* a book, esp. one of a set: *Where is volume three of this series?* *nu* 3 loudness: *shouting at full volume.* 4 an amount; quantity: *a great volume of business.*

voluminous (və'luːmɪnəs, və'ljuːmɪnəs) *adj* great or lengthy: *his voluminous writings.*

voluntary ('vɒləntrɪ) *adj* 1 acting by choice, esp. also not for payment: *a voluntary worker.* 2 able to continue because of voluntary work: *a voluntary organisation.* 3 carried out consciously: *a voluntary movement of the hand.* • *nc, pl* **-ries** a piece of music played before or after a church service. **voluntarily** *adv*

volunteer (ˌvɒlən'tɪə*) *nc* a person who does or offers to do something voluntarily. • *vti* (when *vi,* often followed by **for**) offer (to do something) voluntarily: *He volunteered for the job; May I volunteer my help?*

voluptuous (və'lʌptʃʊəs) *adj* 1 to do with pleasures of the body. 2 (of a woman) sexually attractive.

vomit ('vɒmɪt) *vti* bring (the contents of the stomach) up through the mouth. • *nu* vomited matter.

vortex ('vɔːteks) *nc, pl* **-tices** (tɪsiːz), **-texes** 1 a mass of spinning gas or liquid. 2 a situation or activity regarded as sucking in people who take part in it.

vote (vəʊt) *nc* 1 a formal expression of a preference or choice, such as for or against a plan of action or between people standing in an election. 2 a number of votes made: *a high vote.* • *vti* 1 express (a preference or choice) by vote: *We voted to accept the plan; Vote for Smith!* *vt* 2 place in or remove from a position by voting: *He was voted off the council.* 3 approve by vote: *We voted them more money.* 4 *infml* decide that (something) is: *The play was voted a failure.* **voter** *nc*

vouch (vaʊtʃ) *v* **vouch for** answer for; guarantee: *I'll vouch for his honesty.*

voucher ('vaʊtʃə*) *nc* a receipt for goods or services not yet obtained: *a meal voucher.*

vow (vaʊ) *nc* a serious promise: *They took a vow of silence.* • *vt* make a vow: *I vow never to go there again.*

vowel ('vaʊəl) *nc* 1 a speech sound pro-

duced without even partly stopping the flow of air through the mouth. 2 any of the letters *a, e, i, o, u,* and sometimes *y*. See also **consonant.**

voyage ('vɔɪɪdʒ) *nc* a journey, esp. a long one, by sea or air or in space. ● *vti literary* make a voyage (across). **voyager** *nc*

vulcanise ('vʌlkənaɪz) *vt* heat (rubber) with sulphur to make it strong and elastic.

vulgar ('vʌlgə*) *adj* showing lack of taste or manners: *vulgar clothes; a vulgar word.*

vulnerable ('vʌlnərəbəl) *adj* open to being wounded, captured, criticised, etc.

vulture ('vʌltʃə*) *nc* a large African and Asian bird that feeds on dead animals: see picture at **birds.**

W

wad (wɒd) *nc* 1 a lump of soft material, such as cotton, used to pack something, fill a hole, etc. 2 a bundle or pile of papers, banknotes, etc. • *vt* pack, fill, etc., with a **wad** (def. 1) or wadding. **wadding** *nu* soft material used to pack or fill something, etc.

waddle ('wɒdəl) *vi* walk, rolling from side to side, like a duck.

wade (weɪd) 1 *vti* walk through (water, snow, etc., which comes above the knees): *We waded across the river. vi* 2 *infml* (followed by **through**) read (something long or boring). 3 (followed by **in** or **into**) attack with force.

wadi ('wɒdɪ) *nc* a place in a hot country where water flows only when there has been a lot of rain.

wafer ('weɪfə*) *nc* a thin slice of something, esp. of biscuit eaten with ice cream.

waffle[1] ('wɒfəl) *infml, chiefly Brit vi* talk or write at great length and vaguely. • *nu* lengthy, vague talk or writing.

waffle[2] *nc chiefly US* a kind of small, flat cake usually eaten with syrup.

waft (wɒft) *vti* carry or travel (as easily and smoothly as) on water or in the air: *Smoke wafted in through the window.* • *nc* a smell, quantity of smoke, etc., carried in the air.

wag (wæg) *vti* shake back and forth: *The dog wagged its tail.* • *nc* 1 an instance of wagging. 2 *old-fashioned* a person who makes jokes, funny remarks, etc.

wage (weɪdʒ) *nc* (usually *pl*) payment for work, esp. worked out by the hour and paid every week. • *vt* start and carry on (esp. a war).

wager ('weɪdʒə*) *n, v* See **bet.**

wagon (also **waggon**) ('wægən) *nc* 1 a goods vehicle of various kinds, esp. with four wheels and pulled by a tractor. 2 *Brit* an open railway goods vehicle.

wail (weɪl) *vi, nc* (make) a long, high noise, esp. indicating grief or pain.

waist (weɪst) *nc* 1 (the part of a garment covering) the part of the body between the ribs and the hip-bones. 2 the (narrower) middle part of an object. **waistband** ('weɪstbænd) *nc* a strip of cloth that is sewn around the waist of a garment such as a skirt or pair of trousers. **waistcoat** ('weɪstkəʊt) *US, Australian* **vest** *nc* a buttoned, sleeveless, upper garment worn esp. by men under a jacket. **waistline** ('weɪstlaɪn) *nc* 1 the shape or measurement of a person's waist. 2 the waist of a garment.

wait (weɪt) 1 *vti* (when *vi,* often followed by **for**) delay action or stay somewhere in expectation (of); be ready (for): *Wait here till I come back; They waited for the next attack; You must wait your turn.* 2 *vi* work as a waiter or waitress: *wait at table.* • *nc* an instance of waiting (**wait** def. 1). **lie in wait (for)** wait (for) in order to attack. **waiting-list** ('weɪtɪŋlɪst) *nc* a list of people waiting to obtain something. **waiting-room** ('weɪtɪŋrʊm) *nc* a room in which to wait for a train, your turn to see a doctor, etc. **wait on** 1 serve, esp. as a waiter. 2 *chiefly US* wait for. **wait up** not go to bed because you are waiting for someone to arrive, return, etc.

waiter ('weɪtə*) *nc* a man who serves food in a restaurant, etc. **waitress** ('weɪtrɪs) *nc* a woman who does this work.

waive (weɪv) *vt fml or law* 1 disregard or not apply (a rule, etc.). 2 give up (a right).

wake[1] (weɪk) 1 *vti* (often followed by **up**) stop sleeping: *You woke me up; I woke early.* 2 *vi* (followed by **to** or **up to**) start to take notice (of): *We must wake up to new ideas.* **wakeful** ('weɪkfʊl) *adj* awake; not able to sleep. **waking** *adj* awake: *He thought about her throughout his waking hours.*

wake[2] *nc* a track, esp. that left in water by a moving boat.

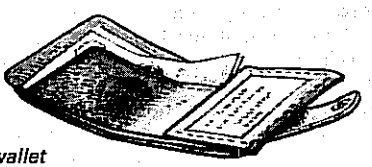
walk (wɔːk) *vi* 1 move on foot, always with at least one foot on the ground. 2 (of a horse) move with its slowest step. *vt* 3 walk on, along, across, etc.: *to walk the streets.* 4 cause (a horse, dog, etc.) to walk. 5 walk with: *Let me walk you home.* • *nc* 1 an instance or manner of walking: *Let's go for a walk by the sea.* 2 a place intended for walking. **walkabout** ('wɔːkəbaʊt) *nc* 1 an informal walk made by a royal person, etc., to talk to people. 2 *Australian* a period spent walking in the bush by a native Australian. **walker** *nc* a person who walks, esp. for pleasure. **walking-stick** ('wɔːkɪŋstɪk) *nc* a stick carried in the hand to lean on while walking. **walk off with** *infml* 1 win (a prize, etc.) easily. 2 steal. **walk of life** a job; occupation: *people from all walks of life.* **walk out** 1 go away suddenly or angrily. 2 go on strike. **walk-out** ('wɔːkaʊt) *nc* an act of going on strike. **walkover** ('wɔːk,əʊvə*) *nc infml* an easy win.

walkie-talkie (,wɔːkɪ'tɔːkɪ) *nc infml* a

small radio, for talking and listening to others, that can be used while you move about.

wall (wɔːl) *nc* 1 a usually tall, long, narrow structure made of bricks, stones, concrete, wood, etc., to separate fields or rooms, support a roof, etc. 2 anything that divides, separates, or encloses in this way. • *vt* put a wall around: *a walled garden.* **go to the wall** fail or be ruined, esp. in business. **up the wall** crazy or angry: *He drives me up the wall.* **wallflower** (ˈwɔːlˌflaʊə*) *nc* 1 a plant often found on old walls and grown for its flowers. 2 a shy person who does not become involved at social occasions. **wallpaper** (ˈwɔːlˌpeɪpə*) *ncu* (a kind of) paper, usually printed with a coloured pattern, that is stuck onto walls and ceilings. • *vti* put wallpaper on (the walls of a room).

wallet (ˈwɒlɪt) *nc* a small, flat, folding case, esp. of leather, for paper money, etc.: see picture.

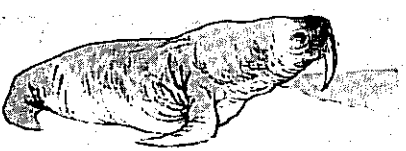


wallet

wallow (ˈwɒləʊ) *vi* 1 roll about in water, mud, etc. 2 *infml* take a kind of pleasure (in): *He wallowed in grief.* • *nc* an instance of or place for wallowing.

walnut (ˈwɔːlnʌt) *nc* 1 a tree grown for its nuts, which are eaten, and its wood. 2 a nut from this tree. 3 *nu* the wood of this tree.

walrus (ˈwɔːlrəs) *nc* a large grey animal that lives in the sea and on land in cold parts of the world: see picture.



walrus

waltz (wɔːls) *nc* (a piece of music written for) a simple dance for couples. • *vi* dance a waltz.

wan (wɒn) *adj* **-ner, -nest** (of a person or their face) pale.

wand (wɒnd) *nc* a narrow stick, esp. one used in magic.

wander (ˈwɒndə*) *vi* 1 travel or move from place to place without purpose. 2 leave a set path or course. 3 (of a person or of speech or writing) leave the main subject; appear confused and hard to understand. **wanderer** *nc*

wane (weɪn) *vi* 1 (esp. of the moon, as it appears from earth) become smaller. 2 lessen: *Their interest began to wane.* • *nu* the act of waning.

wangle (ˈwæŋgəl) *vt infml* obtain or achieve (something), esp. by using tricks or persuasion: *wangle an extra day off.*

want (wɒnt) *vt* 1 feel the need (for); wish (to have): *I want a dog; Do you want to go home?* 2 need: *This job wants doing properly.* 3 be without; lack: *The film wants only a good ending.* • *nc* 1 something wanted. *nu* 2 the act of wanting. 3 lack: *We walked for want of a car.* 4 need: *Poor people are in great want of help.* **wanted** *adj* 1 needed. 2 being looked for on suspicion of being a criminal: *a wanted man.* **want for** be without: *We want for nothing.* **wanting** *adj* 1 absent. 2 not good enough: *They were examined and found wanting.*

wanton (ˈwɒntən) *adj* 1 to no purpose: *wanton destruction.* 2 not proper in the opinion of society: *a wanton woman.*

war (wɔː*) 1 *ncu* (a period of) armed fighting between countries or between forces within a country: *a civil war; the Second World War.* 2 *nc* any fight: *the war on crime.* • *vi* fight a war. **at war** fighting a war. **go to war** begin fighting a war. **warfare** (ˈwɔːfeə*) *nu* the act of fighting a war. **warhead** (ˈwɔːhed) *nc* the explosive front end of a shell, missile, etc. **warlike** (ˈwɔːlaɪk) *adj* 1 threatening war. 2 often going to war. **warpath** (ˈwɔːpɑːθ) *n* **on the warpath** looking or preparing for a fight; very angry. **warship** (ˈwɔːʃɪp) *nc* a ship armed, etc., for use in war. **wartime** (ˈwɔːtaɪm) *nu* a period of war: *wartime cooking.*

warble (ˈwɔːbəl) *vti* (esp. of a bird) sing with a note that varies in pitch. • *ncu* (an instance of) warbling. **warbler** *nc* 1 a small insect-eating bird, not all kinds of which are noted for their song. 2 a person or thing that warbles.

ward (wɔːd) *nc* 1 a separate room in a hospital. 2 a division of an area: *a parliamentary ward.* 3 a person who has a **guardian** (def. 1). **ward off** keep (someone or something) away; stop (someone or something) attacking, harming, bothering, etc., you: *a spray to ward off mosquitoes.*

warden (ˈwɔːdən) *nc* a person in charge of people or a building.

warder ('wɔːdə*) *nc* a person in charge of prisoners.

wardrobe ('wɔːdrəʊb) *nc* 1 a tall cupboard for clothes to be hung up in. 2 a person's clothes.

warehouse ('weəhaʊs) *nc* a building in which goods are stored.

wares (weəz) *n pl* goods for sale.

warm (wɔːm) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 fairly hot. 2 (of clothes, etc.) keeping you warm. 3 (of a colour) containing red or yellow. 4 close to finding or guessing something: *You're getting warm.* 5 friendly; enthusiastic: *a warm welcome.* • *vti* 1 (often followed by **up**) make or become warm or warmer. 2 *vi* (usually followed by **to**) become sympathetic or friendly: *He soon warmed to our new neighbours.* • *nu* an instance of warming. **the warm** a warm place: *Come into the warm.* **warm-blooded** *adj* (of an animal) having a blood temperature that stays almost the same, whatever the outside temperature. **warm-hearted** (ˌwɔːmˈhɑːtɪd) *adj* kind or sympathetic. **warmly** *adv* **warmth** (wɔːmθ) *nu* **warm up** 1 make or become warm or warmer. 2 prepare for something, esp. a race.

warn (wɔːn) *vt* 1 make (someone) be careful (of or about): *We were warned of the danger.* 2 give (someone) notice; tell in advance: *I warn you that I may not be able to come.* 3 advise: *I warned them not to break the law again.* **warning** *nc* 1 an instance of warning. 2 something that warns.

warp (wɔːp) *vti* make or become bent out of shape: *The wood got wet and warped.* • *nc* 1 an instance of being warped. 2 *nu* the threads, laid lengthwise, across and in between which others are fed in weaving cloth. See also **weft.**

warrant ('wɒrənt) *nc* permission, esp. written, to pay someone money, search a house, etc.: *a warrant for an arrest.* • *vt* 1 promise that (something) is of good quality: *warranted used cars.* 2 *infml* say for certain: *I'll warrant he's lying.* 3 be sufficient reason for: *His foolish remark didn't warrant her anger.* **warranty** *nc, pl* **-ties** a promise to repair or replace something bought if it proves not to be of good quality.

warren ('wɒrən) *nc* a network of tunnels under the ground, dug and lived in by rabbits.

warrior ('wɒrɪə*) *nc* a fighter in war.

wart (wɔːt) *nc* a small, firm lump sticking out on the skin.

wary ('weərɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** careful; looking out for trouble. **warily** *adv*

was (wɒz unstressed wəz) *v* (used with **I, he, she,** or **it**) past tense of **be.**

wash (wɒʃ) 1 *vti* clean (clothes, yourself, etc.) with a liquid, esp. water and usually soap or some other substance. *vt* 2 remove (dirt, etc.) by washing. 3 (of a liquid) carry (something) along or away: *The flood washed the bridge away.* *vi* 4 (of a liquid) flow onto or splash: *Waves washed right over the ship.* 5 (of clothes, etc.) be able to be washed without losing colour or being damaged. 6 *infml, chiefly Brit* stand up to examination: *This story of yours just won't wash.* • *nc* 1 an instance of washing. 2 a collection of clothes washed together. 3 the waves produced by a moving boat. **washable** *adj* (of fabric, clothes, etc.) that can be washed in water with soap or some other substance: *These curtains are washable, but those have to be dry-cleaned.* **wash-basin** ('wɒʃˌbeɪsən) *nc* a bowl with taps and a pipe for letting out dirty water, for washing the hands, etc., in. **washed-out** (wɒʃtˈaʊt) *adj* pale, esp. also tired. **washer** *nc* 1 a person or thing that washes. 2 a flat ring of metal, rubber, etc., used to help a screw, bolt, or tap to be tightened. **washing** *nu* clothes that are to be, are being, or have just been washed. **washing-machine** ('wɒʃɪŋməˌʃiːn) *nc* a machine for washing clothes. **washing-powder** ('wɒʃɪŋˌpaʊdə*) *ncu* a (type of) powder used in washing clothes, etc. **washing-up** (ˌwɒʃɪŋˈʌp) *nu Brit* 1 dirty plates, etc., that are to be washed up. 2 the act of washing up. **wash out** 1 wash the inside of. 2 remove (dirt, etc.) by washing. 3 (of dirt, etc.) be removed by washing: *These marks should wash out.* **washout** ('wɒʃaʊt) *nc infml* 1 a failure. 2 a useless person. **washroom** ('wɒʃrʊm) *nc* a room containing one or more lavatories and wash-basins, esp. in a place where people work. **wash up** 1 *chiefly Brit* wash (plates, knives, forks, etc.) after a meal. 2 *US* wash your hands and face.

wasn't ('wɒzənt) *v* was not.

wasp (wɒsp) *nc* a winged insect with yellow and black stripes and a sting: see picture at **insects.**

wast (wɒst) *v old-fashioned* (used with **thou**) past tense of **be.**

wastage ('weɪstɪdʒ) *nu* 1 something lost or wasted. 2 the act of wasting.

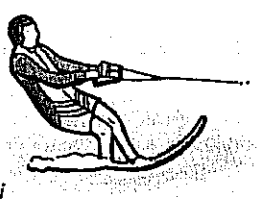
waste (weɪst) 1 *vt* use to no purpose or unnecessarily: *Don't waste your money on useless things.* 2 *vti* (often followed by **away**) wear away or (cause to) get smaller or weaker. • *nu* 1 the act of wasting: *a waste of time.* 2 something wasted or

thrown away: *nuclear waste.* 3 *nc* also **wasteland** wild or unused land: *the icy wastes of Russia.* **go to waste** be wasted. **lay waste** ruin or destroy: *The town was laid waste by the war.* **wasteful** ('weɪstful) *adj* causing waste. **waste paper** paper thrown away after use. **waste-paper basket** a basket, tin, etc., for waste paper, etc.

watch (wɒtʃ) *vt* look at or observe carefully: *to watch television.* • *nc* 1 a small clock worn on the wrist or carried in a pocket. 2 a period of being on duty, guarding, etc.: *There are soldiers on watch.* 3 a person or group keeping watch. **watchdog** ('wɒtʃdɒg) *nc* 1 a dog kept to guard property. 2 a person or group that makes sure that a government department, etc., acts properly. **watcher** *nc* **watchful** ('wɒtʃful) *adj* watching carefully; keeping a good watch. **watchman** ('wɒtʃmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man who guards a factory, etc., esp. at night. **watch (out) (for)** be on your guard (against): *Watch out for the holes in the road!* **watchword** ('wɒtʃwɜːd) *nc* a word or phrase, esp. secret, that shows someone that you are a friend, member of the same group, etc.

water ('wɔːtə*) *nu* 1 the clear liquid that forms sea, rain, rivers, etc.; (also *pl*) water forming a river, part of the sea, etc.: *the waters of the Nile; international waters.* 2 liquid waste from the body; urine. 3 the height of a sea or river at a place at certain times: *low water.* • *vt* 1 supply (land, plants, animals, etc.) with water. *vi* 2 (of the eyes) fill with tears. 3 (of the mouth) produce saliva. **water closet** *old-fashioned* (a room containing) a lavatory: *abbrev.* (*not old-fashioned*) WC. **watercolour** ('wɔːtəˌkʌlə*) *nc* 1 paint made ready for use for painting pictures by mixing with water. 2 a painting done with watercolours. **watercress** ('wɔːtəkres) *nu* a plant that grows in water and which is eaten, esp. as salad. **water down** 1 mix with water. 2 make less unpleasant, shocking, etc. **waterfall** ('wɔːtəfɔːl) *nc* a river falling down a steep, rocky drop: see picture. **waterfront** ('wɔːtəfrʌnt) *nc* the land or part of a town near the sea, a lake, or a river. **water hole** a pool or other source of water, esp. one where animals drink or one in a dry place. **water level** the level of the surface of a body of water. **waterlogged** ('wɔːtəlɒgd) *adj* (of ground, etc.) so wet or full of water that it cannot absorb any more. **watermark** ('wɔːtəmɑːk) *nc* a word, picture, etc., formed in paper by making some parts thinner than the rest. • *vt* put a watermark in (paper). **watermelon** ('wɔːtəˌmelən) *nc* a very large fruit with a hard green outside and very juicy red flesh. **waterproof** ('wɔːtəpruːf) *adj* (of cloth, a joint, etc.) that does not let water through. • *nc* (often *pl*) a waterproof garment. • *vt* make waterproof. **watershed** ('wɔːtəʃed) *nc* 1 high land on either side of which the rivers flow to different seas or lakes. 2 a time or point of change, esp. in someone's life. **water-ski** ('wɔːtəskiː) *nc* a board on which you can stand and be towed across water by a boat. • *vi* travel on one or two water-skis: see picture. **watertight** ('wɔːtətaɪt) *adj* (of a door, boat, etc.) closed, built, etc., so as not to let water through. **waterway** ('wɔːtəweɪ) *nc* a river or canal used by boats. **waterworks** ('wɔːtəwɜːks) *nu* (*with singular verb*) a place supplying water to a town, etc. **watery** *adj* 1 covered with water; under water. 2 (esp. of food or drink) thin or weak. 3 (esp. of colours) pale.

waterfall



water-ski

watt (wɒt) *nc* a measure of electric energy transferred per second.

wattle ('wɒtəl) 1 *nu* branches and twigs pushed and twisted together to make a fence, wall, or roof. 2 *nc* a loose fold of skin hanging from the throat of some birds.

wave (weɪv) *vti* 1 move to and fro with a continuous movement. 2 (be) put in curves: *waved hair.* 3 wave (your hand) as a greeting, etc. 4 *vt* direct by waving: *The policeman waved us on.* • *nc* 1 an instance of waving. 2 a long, raised body of water moving across the surface of the sea, etc. 3 a movement like a wave: *The attack came*

in three waves. 4 a sudden extra quantity: *a heat wave.* 5 *physics* a movement within a substance by means of which light, heat, sound, etc., travels: *radio waves.* 6 a curve made in hair, etc. **wavelength** ('weɪvleŋθ) *nc* the distance between matching points on neighbouring waves (**wave** def. 5), as used to describe where to find a particular station on a radio, etc. **wavy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** shaped or moving in or like waves: *wavy hair; a wavy line.*

waver ('weɪvə*) *vi* 1 be undecided: *I'm wavering between going now and staying another week.* 2 become unsteady: *The tower wavered and fell.*

wax[1] (wæks) *ncu* a (type of) smooth substance, made from or by a plant or animal, from petroleum, by bees, etc., that melts when heated and is used for polishing, sealing, making candles, etc. • *vt* coat, polish, etc., with wax. **waxwork** ('wæks,wɜːk) *nc* a model of a (famous) person made from wax. **waxy** *adj*

wax[2] *vi* (esp. of the moon, as it appears from earth) increase or become larger.

way (weɪ) *nc* 1 a method or means of doing something: *Which way do you do this?* 2 a means of going somewhere; road, path, etc. 3 a degree; respect: *We're similar in many ways, though we argue.* 4 a direction: *It points that way.* 5 a manner of behaving: *He has a way with awkward customers.* *nu* 6 a distance: *a long way away.* 7 the state of going somewhere: *Let's be on our way.* • *adv* far: *That remark was way off the subject.* **by the way** in passing; as an unconnected remark. **by way of** 1 passing through: *to Japan by way of Hong Kong.* 2 (to serve) as: *The letter was by way of an apology.* **get** or **have your (own) way** get what you want. **give way** 1 break down: *The gate gave way when he kicked it.* 2 change your mind and allow someone to have what they want. **in a bad way** in a bad state (of health, etc.). **in a way** in one respect. **in** or **out of the way** preventing or not preventing someone or something from moving forward. **lose your way** no longer know in which direction to travel or what to do. **make way (for)** allow (someone) space to move through. **make your way** go: *We made our way to the exit.* **no way** *infml* certainly not. **under way** in progress; moving. **way of life** a method of organising or set of ideas behind your whole life. **way out** the door, road, etc., by which you leave somewhere.

wayfarer ('weɪ,feərə*) *nc literary* a traveller.

waylay (,weɪ'leɪ) *vt* stop (someone) to attack or talk to.

wayside ('weɪsaɪd) *nc* the side of a road.

wayward ('weɪwʊd) *adj* wanting to have your own way. **waywardness** *nu*

we (wiː unstressed wɪ) *pron* 1 (used of two or more people, one of whom is the speaker or writer, as the subject of a verb): *We all went together.* 2 (used by editors and by kings and queens) I. 3 *infml* (used esp. to a child, sick person, etc.) you: *We're being naughty, aren't we?*

weak (wiːk) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 not strong. 2 watery: *weak orange juice.* 3 not up to a good or usual standard. **weaken** *vti* make or become weak or weaker. **weakling** ('wiːklɪŋ) *nc* a weak person. **weakly** *adv* **weakness** 1 *nu* the quality of being weak. *nc* 2 a bad quality of a person, plan, machine, etc. 3 a liking or habit about which you feel slightly guilty: *I have a weakness for buying old books.*

weal (wiːl) a raised mark produced on the body by a blow with a stick, whip, etc.

wealth (welθ) *nu* 1 (much) money; riches. 2 the state of being rich. 3 a large quantity: *a wealth of information.* **wealthy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** rich.

wean (wiːn) *vt* cause (a child or young animal) to start taking food and drink other than its mother's milk.

weapon ('wepən) *nc* 1 a device or instrument, such as a knife, a gun, or an animal's horn, used to cause harm to people or things. 2 an idea, plan, etc., used to bring victory in a quarrel, argument, etc.

wear (weə*) *vt* 1 be dressed in (clothes, etc.). 2 have on or as part of your person: *She wears her hair long; wearing a smile.* 3 *vti* (often followed by **away**) rub or be rubbed (away): *The rocks have been worn away by the weather.* 4 *vi* last; resist being worn away or out: *Good clothes wear well.* • *nu* 1 the state of wearing or being worn away. 2 clothes: *formal wear.* 3 ability to resist being worn out: *There's still a lot of wear in my old coat.* **wear down** 1 reduce or be reduced by rubbing. 2 overcome by continued effort. **wear off** 1 rub or be rubbed away. 2 (of a feeling) gradually cease to exist: *The pain will soon wear off.* **wear out** 1 make or become useless through wear. 2 make very tired: *I'm worn out!*

weary ('wɪərɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** *vti* (make or become) tired. **wearily** *adv* **weariness** *nu* **wearisome** ('wɪərɪsəm) *adj* tiring or annoying.

weasel ('wiːzəl) *nc* a small, fast, fierce, furry animal: see picture.


weasel

weather ('weðə*) *nu* natural conditions; the state or presence or absence of sun, rain, wind, cloud, temperature of the air, etc. • *vti* 1 (cause to) change colour, etc., or wear away through the action of the weather. 2 *vt* come safely through (a storm or other difficulty). **weather-beaten** ('weðə,bi:tən) *adj* (esp. of a person, their face, etc.) much affected by the action of the weather. **weathercock** ('weðəkɒk) *nc* also **weather vane** a moving pointer (in the shape of a cock) that indicates wind direction. **weatherman** ('weðəmæn) *nc, pl* **-men** a person who finds out or announces what weather to expect.

weave (wi:v) *vt* 1 make (cloth, a basket, etc.) by repeatedly crossing (threads, sticks, etc.) over and under each other. 2 make (something) by combining (things): *He wove all his experiences into a book.* 3 *vti* make (your way, etc.) by moving forward and from side to side. *The procession weaved its way through the town.* • *nc* a style of weaving. **weaver** *nc* **weaving** *ncu* **get weaving** *infml* act quickly.

web (web) *nc* 1 also **spider's web** a net made by a spider to catch flies, etc., to eat. 2 skin between toes, as on a duck. 3 a complicated arrangement, esp. of something bad: *a web of corruption.* • *vt* cover with a web. **webbed** *adj* (of a foot) having skin between the toes, as on a duck.

wed (wed) 1 *vti* marry. 2 *vt* join closely.

we'd (wi:d) we had or we would.

wedding ('wedɪŋ) *nc* the occasion of a marriage: *I'm going to their wedding next week.*

wedge (wedʒ) *nc* a piece of wood, metal, etc., shaped like a triangle that gets narrower towards one sharp edge, used for splitting wood, for putting under a door to keep it open, etc. • *vt* 1 fasten with a wedge. 2 push into a small or tight space.

wedlock ('wedlɒk) *nu fml* the state of being married.

Wednesday ('wenzdɪ) *nc* the fourth day of the week, after Tuesday and before Thursday.

wee (wi:) *adj* very small: *a wee bit.* • *vi infml, children* pass urine.

weed (wi:d) *nc* 1 a wild plant, esp. an unwanted one in a garden, etc. 2 *infml* a weak person. • *vti* remove weeds from (ground). **weed out** get rid of (unwanted or unsuitable people or things). **weedy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 full of weeds. 2 *infml* thin and weak.

week (wi:k) *nc* a period of seven days, esp. beginning with Sunday. **weekday** ('wi:kdeɪ) *nc* any day of the week other than Sunday and sometimes Saturday. **weekend** (,wi:k'end) *nc* a period from about Friday evening to Sunday evening. **weekly** *adj, adv* (happening, produced, etc.) once a week. • *nc, pl* **-lies** a weekly newspaper, magazine, etc.

weep (wi:p) *vti* 1 produce (tears); cry. 2 (of cheese, a wound, etc.) produce (drops of liquid). • *nc* a period of weeping.

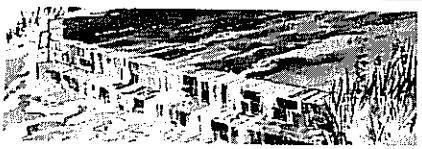
weevil ('wi:vɪl) *nc* a small insect that eats plants including many human foods.

weft (weft) *nu* the threads fed across and in between others in weaving cloth. See also **warp.**

weigh (weɪ) *vt* 1 measure the heaviness or lightness of. 2 (often followed by **up**) consider carefully: *to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages.* 3 *vti* have a certain weight: *He weighs seventy kilos; You weigh more than me.* **weigh down** press down with a heavy weight. **weighing-machine** ('weɪŋmə'ʃi:n) *nc* a device for weighing someone or something. **weigh on** trouble; worry: *a problem that is weighing on my mind.* **weigh out** take (one or more weighed quantities) from a larger quantity of (something): *I'll weigh out a kilo for everyone.*

weight (weɪt) *nc* 1 the amount that someone or something weighs; the degree of heaviness or lightness of someone or something. 2 an object, esp. of metal, made to weigh a certain amount, such as a kilogram. 3 an object used to hold something down. *nu* 4 the force produced by the action of gravity on a mass. 5 importance; influence: *That argument carries a lot of weight.* • *vt* 1 add weight to. 2 take account of something when considering: *Your pay is weighted to allow for the higher cost of living in London.* **pull your weight** do your fair share of a task or activity done with others. **put on weight** become heavier or fatter. **weightless** *adj* weighing nothing, as in space. **weightlessness** *nu* **weightlifting** ('weɪt,lɪftɪŋ) *nu* the sport of lifting weighted metal bars. **weighty** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 heavy. 2 important; considerable.

weir (wɪə*) *nc* a wall built across a river to raise the water level, control the flow, etc.: see picture.



weir

weird (wɪəd) *adj* **-er, -est** strange or odd. **weirdly** *adv* **weirdness** *nu*

welcome ('welkəm) *vt* show your pleasure at receiving (someone). • *adj* 1 received with pleasure. 2 free; invited: *Anyone is welcome to call.* • *interj* (used to welcome someone.) • *nc* the act of welcoming. **you're welcome!** (used to accept someone's thanks) not at all!; don't mention it!

weld (weld) *vti* (of metal or plastic) join by pressing pieces together while they are softened by heat. • *nc* a place where two pieces are welded together. **welder** *nc*

welfare ('welfeə*) *nu* 1 the state of having good health, education, etc., and the means to live comfortably. 2 *US* government money paid to people in need. **welfare state** a system in which the government is responsible for the welfare of the people.

well[1] (wel) *adv* **better, best** 1 in a good way: *a job well done.* 2 thoroughly; considerably: *well over a hundred.* 3 certainly; indeed: *He could well be right.* • *interj* (used esp. at the start of a sentence, to show surprise, agreement, expectation, etc.) • *adj* **better, best** 1 healthy. 2 in good order: *All's well.* **as well (as)** in addition (to); besides. **do well** 1 get a good result. 2 be right (to do something). **well done!** (used to congratulate someone on a good result.) **well-being** (ˌwel'biːɪŋ) *nu* a general state of health and happiness. **well-known** (ˌwel'nəʊn) *adj* famous; known by most people. **well-nigh** ('welnaɪ) *adv* almost: *well-nigh impossible.* **well off** rich or having some other advantage. **well to do** rich.

well[2] *nc* a hole in the ground for obtaining water, oil, etc. • *vi* (often followed by **up**) flow up and out.

we'll (wiːl) we shall or we will.

wellington ('welɪŋtən) *nc* also **wellington boot** a waterproof boot made of rubber or plastic.

wend (wend) *v* **wend your way** go; make your way, esp. slowly.

went (went) past tense of **go.**

wept (wept) past tense and past participle of **weep.**

were (wɜː* unstressed wə*) *v* past tense of **be.**

we're (wɪə*) we are.

weren't (wɜːnt) *v* were not.

wert (wɜːt unstressed wət) *v old-fashioned* (used with **thou**) past tense of **be.**

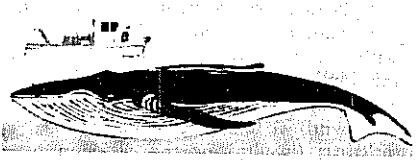
west (west) *n* **the west** the direction in which the sun sets. **the West** 1 the western part of the world, esp. Europe and North America. 2 the western part of the United States, esp. at the time when it was being colonised. • *adj* 1 in or towards the west. 2 (of the wind) coming from the west. • *adv* towards the west. **westerly** ('westəlɪ) *adj* in or from the west. **western** ('westən) *adj* in or to the west. • *nc* a book or film about **the West** (def. 2). **westerner** ('westənə*) *nc* a person from the west of somewhere, esp. from **the West** (def. 1). **westward(s)** ('westwəd(z)) *adj, adv* towards the west.

wet (wet) *adj* **-ter, -test** 1 full of or covered with water or some other liquid. 2 (of weather, etc.) rainy. 3 (of paint, ink, etc.) not yet dry. 4 *infml, Brit* weak or stupid. • *vt* make wet. • *nu* 1 wetness; dampness. 2 rainy weather. **wet suit** a rubber garment worn by divers, etc., that fits closely to the body, arms, and legs.

we've (wiːv) we have.

whack (wæk) *vt* 1 hit sharply. 2 *infml, Brit* tire out: *I'm whacked!* • *nc* 1 a sharp blow. 2 *infml* a try: *Have a whack!* 3 *infml* a share of a task: *Do your whack.*

whale (weɪl) *nc* any of several very large sea animals, such as the blue whale (see picture), that are not fish but mammals. **whaler** *nc* a ship used for whaling. **whaling** *nu* the hunting and killing of whales.



blue whale

wharf (wɔːf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz), **-s** a platform at which ships load and unload goods.

what (wɒt) *determiner, pron* 1 (used to ask for something, esp. something selected from all others of its kind): *What (book) are you reading?* 2 the (people, thing(s), etc.) that: *What audience we had was interested; Let's see what you have done.* • *determiner* (showing surprise at the quality of something): *What a good boy!* **so what?** *infml* what importance, use, or meaning does that have? **what about?** See under **about. what ... for?** (used to ask the reason for or purpose of something): *What is that device used for?; What*

did you do that for? **what if?** what will happen if?: *What if I fail the exam?*

whatever (wɒt'evə*) *determiner, pron* 1 the or any (people, things, etc.) at all that: *You can keep whatever you find.* 2 no matter what: *He'll go, whatever the weather.* 3 also **what ever** (used to add force to words) just what exactly?: *Whatever have you done?* • *adj* also **whatsoever** at all: *This has nothing whatsoever to do with us.* • *pron infml* something else: *Fetch your money or cheque book or whatever.*

what'll ('wɒtəl) what will or what shall?

what's (wɒts) what is or what has?

wheat (wiːt) *nu* 1 a grass grown for its seeds, which are made into flour. 2 these seeds.

wheedle ('wiːdəl) *vt* 1 (try to) persuade (someone) by being very polite or friendly: *I was wheedled into paying.* 2 obtain by wheedling: *They wheedled the secret out of him.*

wheel (wiːl) *nc* 1 a flat, round object or frame able to spin around its fixed centre and used as part of a machine, for a vehicle to run on, etc. 2 short for **steering-wheel.** 3 an act of wheeling (**wheel** def. 2). • *vti* 1 move on wheels. *vi* 2 (of a line of marching soldiers, etc.) turn as if fixed to a point. 3 move in circles or curves: *The birds wheeled in the air.* **wheelbarrow** ('wiːlbærəʊ) *nc* a one-wheeled hand vehicle used in building, gardening, etc.: see picture. **wheelchair** ('wiːltʃeə*) *nc* a chair on wheels used by a person who cannot walk.

wheelbarrow

wheeze (wiːz) *vti* breathe or speak with a whistling sound. • *nu* 1 whistling breathing. 2 *nc slang, Brit* a plan, esp. for a trick or joke. **wheezy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

when (wen) *adv* 1 at what time?: *When did this happen?* 2 at or on which (time): *There was a time when I enjoyed this.* • *conj* 1 at the or any time at which: *I'll write when I can.* 2 if; since: *Why did you say it, when you knew it was wrong?* 3 although: *He said it, when he knew it was wrong.* • *pron* which time: *Until when did they live here?*

whence (wens) *adv, conj old-fashioned or fml* from where (?): *Send it back whence it came.*

whenever (wen'evə*) *conj* every time; no matter when: *Whenever she writes, she has bad news.* • *adv* 1 also **when ever** (used to add force) just when exactly?: *Whenever did that fall over?* 2 *infml* at some other time: *Come on Sunday or whenever.*

when's (wenz) when is or when has?

where (weə*) *adv* in or to what place?: *Where are you going?* • *conj* in or to the place in which: *I like living where I do.* • *pron* 1 in or to which (place): *the place where we live.* 2 which place?: *Where do you come from?* **whereabouts** ('weərəbaʊts) *adv* (roughly) where. • *nu* the place where someone or something is: *Do you know Brian's whereabouts?*

whereas (weər'æz) *conj* 1 but (on the other hand): *I drive, whereas he goes by train.* 2 *fml or law* since; because.

whereby (weə'baɪ) *pron* by which (means).

wherefore ('weəfɔː*) *old-fashioned or fml conj* for which reason. • *adv* why? **whys and wherefores** reasons.

wherein (weər'ɪn) *old-fashioned or fml pron* in which (place or respect). • *adv* in what place or respect?

whereof (weər'ɒv) *old-fashioned or fml pron* of which (thing) or of whom. • *adv* of what or of whom?

where's (weəz) where is or where has?

whereupon (ˌweərə'pɒn) *conj* at which; as a result of which: *I refused to go, whereupon he went alone.*

wherever (weər'evə*) *conj* in or to every place; no matter where: *Wherever you look there are people.* • *pron* every place in or to which: *Wherever we go is crowded.* • *adv* 1 also **where ever** (used to add force) just where exactly?: *Wherever did you get that hat?* 2 *infml* in or to some other place.

wherewithal ('weəwɪðɔːl) *n* **the wherewithal** the necessary things: *the wherewithal for a long journey.*

whet (wet) *vt* 1 sharpen (a knife, etc.). 2 increase (an appetite or other feeling).

whether ('weðə*) *conj* if ... (or not): *I don't know whether he did it; Have you decided whether to go or not?* **whether ... or (whether)** if ... or (if): *It will happen, whether the weather is wet or dry.*

which (wɪtʃ) *determiner, pron* 1 (used to ask for something, esp. selected from only some of its kind or from a group of which all are known): *Which (countries) have you visited?* 2 the one that: *Take which you want.* • *pron* (used to stand for a noun other than a person in a relative clause): *She enjoyed herself, which made me glad; His books, about which I know nothing, sell very well.*

whichever (wɪtʃˈevə*) *determiner, pron* 1 any at all that: *I'll have whichever (one) I'm given.* 2 no matter which: *Whichever it is, I don't want it.* 3 also **which ever** (used to add force) just which exactly?: *Whichever did you choose?*

whiff (wɪf) *nc* a brief current of air, a smell, etc. • *vti* 1 blow gently. 2 *vi slang, Brit* smell unpleasant.

while (waɪl) *conj* also **whilst** (waɪlst) 1 during (all) the time that: *While I'm away, take care of the plants and water them once.* 2 although: *While that's the normal method, I wouldn't use it.* 3 but (on the other hand): *I went home, while Jane stayed at work.* • *prep* also **whilst** when; during: *I think a lot while walking.* • *nu* a period of time: *a long while ago; all the while.* **while away** pass (time), esp. pleasantly.

whim (wɪm) *nc* a sudden, esp. odd, idea. **whimsical** (ˈwɪmzɪkəl) *adj* with or full of odd ideas.

whimper (ˈwɪmpə*) *vi* cry nervously, sadly, or in fear. • *nu* the sound of whimpering.

whine (waɪn) *vti, nc* 1 (make) a long, high sound. 2 (make) an annoying complaint.

whinny (ˈwɪnɪ) *nc, pl* **-nies** the soft noise made by a horse. • *vi* (of a horse) make this noise.

whip (wɪp) *nc* 1 a rope, thin strip of leather, etc., on a handle, used for driving animals, hitting someone as a punishment, etc. 2 a blow with a whip. 3 a stiff, sweet food made from egg whites, cream, fruit, etc. 4 a member of a parliament who makes sure that other members of the party vote when necessary. 5 a direction to a member of a parliament from the party whip to attend. • *vt* 1 hit with a whip. 2 (followed by **on,** etc.) drive with a whip. 3 (followed by **off, out,** etc.) take or move quickly: *I whipped the gun off the table before he could pick it up.* 4 wind thin string round (the end of a rope, etc.) to hold it together. 5 beat (cream, egg white, etc.) to make it stiff. 6 *vi infml* come or go quickly or for a short time: *I'll whip over and fetch it.* **whip up** 1 excite (a feeling, crowd, etc.). 2 *infml* make or prepare (food, etc.) quickly.

whirl (wɜːl) *vti* (cause to) spin or turn quickly. • *nc* a whirling movement. **whirlpool** (ˈwɜːlpuːl) *nc* a current of water going round and round. **whirlwind** (ˈwɜːlwɪnd) *nc* a tall body of air blowing round quickly.

whirr also **whir** (wɜː*) *vi, nc* (make) the long, low sound of something spinning or moving very quickly: *the whirr of the engines.*

whisk (wɪsk) 1 *vti* move or carry with a fast, sweeping movement: *We whisked the visitors round the factory.* 2 *vt* beat (eggs, milk, etc.) to get air bubbles in. • *nc* 1 an act of whisking. 2 a tool for whisking food. 3 a short brush or soft whip: *a fly whisk.*

whisker (ˈwɪskə*) *nc* 1 a stiff, straight hair, used for feeling, that grows on the face of an animal such as a cat. 2 a hair growing on a man's face.

whisky (ˈwɪskɪ) *ncu, pl* **-kies** a (type of) strong, alcoholic drink made, esp. in Scotland, from cereals such as barley.

whisper (ˈwɪspə*) *vti* 1 speak very quietly; speak without using the full voice. 2 spread (a rumour or secret): *The fight they had has been whispered everywhere.* 3 *vi* (esp. of leaves) make a soft, rustling sound. • *nc* 1 whispered speech. 2 something whispered.

whist (wɪst) *nu* a card game played by two pairs of players.

whistle (ˈwɪsəl) 1 *vi* make a sharp, clear sound, as by blowing through a small hole between the lips. 2 *vt* make (a tune, etc.) by whistling. • *nc* 1 a device or musical instrument that whistles. 2 a sound or a period of whistling.

white (waɪt) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 having the colour of snow, milk, etc. 2 (of a person) of a race with pale (pinkish) skin. 3 (of coffee) with milk. 4 (of glass, plastic, etc.) colourless; clear. • *ncu* 1 a white colour. *nc* 2 a white person. 3 the white part of an egg. 4 the white part of the eyeball. **white-collar** (ˌwaɪtˈkɒlə*) *adj* doing an office or desk job. See also **blue-collar** under **blue. white elephant** See under **elephant. white-hot** *adj* extremely hot. **White House** the home, in Washington, of the President of the USA. **whiten** *vti* make or become white or whiter. **whiteness** *nu* **whitewash** (ˈwaɪtwɒʃ) 1 *nu* a mixture of water and a substance such as lime, used for making walls white. 2 *nc* an attempt to disguise wrongs, mistakes, etc. • *vt* 1 cover with whitewash. 2 disguise wrongs, mistakes, etc. **whitish** *adj*

whither (ˈwɪðə*) *old-fashioned or literary adv* to what place? • *conj* 1 to which (place). 2 to whatever place: *Go whither I show you.*

whiting (ˈwaɪtɪŋ) *nc* a fish caught for food.

whittle (ˈwɪtəl) *vt* shape or cut down (a stick, etc.) by shaving off small pieces. **whittle down** lessen or get rid of bit by bit.

whiz also **whizz** (wɪz) *infml vti* 1 move with great speed. 2 make the sound of something moving fast through the air. • *nc* an act or the sound of whizzing. **whiz kid** or **whizz kid** *infml* a young person who achieves great success very quickly in their job: *computer whiz kids.*

who (hu: unstressed hu) *pron* 1 what or which person(s)? 2 (used to stand for a person in a relative clause): *The man who was here is my brother.* 3 the person(s) who: *Talk to who you like.*

who'd (hu:d) who had or who would.

whoever (hu:'evə*) *pron* 1 the or any person(s) who: *Whoever did this must be caught.* 2 no matter who: *It is wrong, whoever did it.* 3 also **who ever** (used to add force) just who exactly?: *Whoever can that be?* 4 *infml* someone else.

whole (həul) *adj* 1 complete; with nothing missing or removed: *I was there a whole week.* 2 (of a number) containing no fraction: *You can buy only a whole number of eggs.* • *ncu* (an example of) something whole. **on the whole** all things considered. **whole-hearted** (ˌhəul'hɑ:tɪd) *adj* very enthusiastic or sincere. **wholeheartedly** *adv* **wholemeal** ('həulˌmi:l) *adj* (of flour, bread, etc.) made from the whole wheat grain, with nothing removed. **wholly** ('həullɪ) *adv*

wholesale ('heulseɪl) *nu* the business of buying goods from their makers and selling them to shopkeepers. • *adj, adv* in large quantities. • *vt* sell wholesale. **wholesaler** *nc*

wholesome ('həulsəm) *adj* good for the development of health or a good character: *wholesome food; wholesome entertainment.*

who'll (hu:l) who will or who shall.

whom (hum) *pron* (used instead of **who** when it is an object in its own clause): *Whom did you see?; Did he say whom he gave it to?*

whoop (hu:p) *vi, nc* (give) a shout of excitement, etc. **whooping cough** a disease that is caught from someone else and makes you cough and then breathe in noisily.

whorl (wɜ:l) *nc* a ring of leaves, petals, etc., on a plant.

who's (hu:z) who is or who has.

whose (hu:z) *determiner, pron* 1 of or belonging to whom?: *Whose is this?* 2 of or belonging to whom or which: *the cupboard whose doors are missing.*

why (waɪ) *adv* for what reason?: *Why have you come here?* • *pron* for which: *the reason why you did that.* • *interj* (used to express surprise, etc.): *Why, that's a good idea!* **whys and wherefores** See under **wherefore.**

wick (wɪk) *nc* a kind of string used in a candle or cigarette lighter, etc., to bring wax or oil to the flame.

wicked ('wɪkɪd) *adj* 1 evil or harmful. 2 *often humorous* (of a person) naughty. **wickedly** *adv* **wickedness** *nu*

wicker ('wɪkə*) *nu* twigs from a tree, esp. the willow, repeatedly crossed over each other to make baskets, chair seats, etc.

wicket ('wɪkɪt) *nc* 1 (in the game of cricket) a set of three upright sticks in the ground, with two small ones across the top which it is the aim of the bowler to knock over. 2 a small gate or door, esp. next to or within a larger one.

wide (waɪd) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 measuring a larger amount than usual from side to side: *a wide road.* 2 (used after a noun) measuring ... from side to side: *a road five metres wide.* 3 reaching far; including much: *a wide choice.* 4 (of eyes, mouth, etc.) fully open. 5 far from the target: *Your shot was very wide.* • *adv* 1 fully: *wide awake.* 2 over a great distance: *I searched far and wide.* 3 far from the target: *Your shot went wide.* **wide-eyed** (ˌwaɪd'aɪd) *adj* very surprised. **widely** *adv* 1 far apart. 2 to a great extent. **widen** *vti* make or become wide or wider. **widespread** ('waɪdspred) *adj* widely occurring, held, etc.

widow ('wɪdəu) *nc* a woman whose husband has died and who has not remarried. • *vt* make (someone) a widow or widower. **widowed** *adj* **widower** *nc* a man whose wife has died and who has not remarried.

width (wɪdθ) *nc* 1 the distance from one side of something to the other. 2 *nu* the state of being wide.

wield (wi:ld) *vt* hold or use (power, a weapon, etc.).

wife (waɪf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) a woman to whom a man is married.

wig (wɪg) *nc* a mat of false hair to cover the head.

wiggle ('wɪgəl) *vti* move repeatedly from side to side. • *nc* an act of wiggling, a place where something wiggles, etc.

wigwam ('wɪgwæm) *nc* a North American Indian's house made of animal skins stretched round sticks: see picture.

wigwam

wild (waɪld) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 (of plants or animals) living in a natural state; not grown or kept on a farm, etc. 2 uncontrolled; disorderly: *wild behaviour.* 3 violent: *a wild storm.* 4 very excited or disturbed: *wild enthusiasm.* 5 (of country) deserted-looking; uninviting. • *nc* wild country. • *adv* wildly: *He was shooting wild.* **wildcat** ('waɪldkæt) *nc* a middle-sized European animal of the cat family. **wildfire** ('waɪldfaɪə*) *n* **like wildfire** very quickly: *The disease spread like wildfire.* **wild-goose chase** an attempt to find something that cannot be found, do something impossible, etc. **wildlife** ('waɪldlaɪf) *nu* wild animals and plants. **wildly** *adv*

wilderness ('wɪldənɪs) *nc* a deserted, unused piece of land.

wile (waɪl) *nc* (usually *pl*) a trick; deceit.

wilful ('wɪlful) *adj* 1 intentional: *wilful damage.* 2 determined to do as you like. **wilfully** *adv*

will[1] (wɪl unstressed əl) *v* 1 (used to form the future tense, expressing determination when used with **I** or **we**): *He will be there; I will go, whatever happens.* 2 (used to ask someone to do something): *Will you do this for me?* 3 (used to express ability): *Will the engine start?* 4 (used to give an order): *You will do as you're told.* 5 (used to express expectation): *The letter will be for me.* 6 (used to express what is usual): *The weather will stay like this for weeks at a time.* 7 (used to express what is bound to happen): *Things will go wrong at the last minute.*

will[2] *nc* 1 a written list of who you want your possessions to be given to when you die. 2 something decided on; an intention. 3 *nu* the mental ability to want, choose, or do something. • *vt* 1 want or intend: *I willed it to happen and it did!* 2 leave (someone something) in your will: *He willed everything to his wife.* **at will** when you choose. **willpower** ('wɪl,paʊə*) *nu* strength of the mind, esp. to make your body do something difficult.

willing ('wɪlɪŋ) *adj* glad or ready (to do something). **willingly** *adv* **willingness** *nu*

willow ('wɪləʊ) *nc* a tree with long, thin branches that grows esp. near water: see picture at **trees;** (also *nu*) the wood of this tree, which bends easily.

wilt (wɪlt) *vti* (of a plant, leaf, etc.) (cause to) become soft or weak and hang down.

wily ('waɪlɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** clever; full of trickery or deceit.

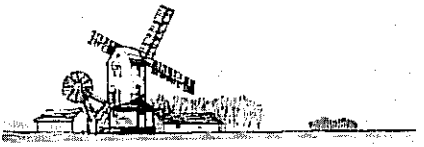
win (wɪn) 1 *vti* come first, defeat your enemy, etc., in (a race, war, etc.). *vt* 2 obtain (a prize, etc.) as a result of winning (a race, war, etc.). 3 *fml* get or reach, esp. with an effort: *He finally won their respect.* 4 (often followed by **over**) persuade (someone) to agree with you. • *nc* an instance of winning. **win the day** win a battle, argument, etc.

wince (wɪns) *vi* make a sudden, quick movement from pain, horror, etc. • *nc* an act of wincing.

winch (wɪntʃ) *nc* a device for winding in a rope or cable. • *vt* pull with a winch.

wind[1] (wɪnd) 1 *ncu* a current of air. 2 *nc* a force: *the wind of change. nu* 3 a report, indication: *He got wind of our plans.* 4 breath needed in exercise, singing, etc.: *short of wind.* 5 the state of having too much air in the stomach or bowels. 6 *infml* empty talk: *Don't believe his promises, they're just wind.* 7 the part of an orchestra, band, etc., playing instruments that are blown into to produce music: *a wind instrument.* • *vt* cause (someone) to have difficulty breathing, esp. by hitting just below the ribs. **windbreak** ('wɪndbreɪk) *nc* a fence, row of trees, etc., that protects from the wind. **windfall** ('wɪndfɔːl) *nc* 1 an apple, etc., blown early from the tree. 2 money received unexpectedly. **windmill** ('wɪndmɪl) *nc* a machine for making corn into flour, pumping water, etc., worked by sails or blades blown round by the wind: see picture. **windpipe** ('wɪndpaɪp) *n* See **trachea.** **windscreen** ('wɪndskriːn) *US* **windshield** ('wɪndʃiːld) *nc* the front window of a motor vehicle. **windscreen wiper** (often shortened to **wiper**) a mechanical arm with a rubber strip to wipe water off a windscreen. **windsurfer** ('wɪnd,sɜːfə*) *nc* 1 a long, narrow board with a sail, on which a person can stand and sail across the surface of a stretch of water. 2 a person who does this: see picture. **windsurfing** ('wɪnd,sɜːfɪŋ) *nu* the sport or activity of sailing on a windsurfer. **windswept** ('wɪndswept) *adj* (of a place, person's hair, etc.) blown by strong winds. **windy** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

wind[2] (waɪnd) 1 *vt* turn or lead (a string, wire, etc.) round (something): *a cloth wound round the head; Wind him in a blanket. vi* 2 (of a string, wire, etc.) be turned or led round something. 3 (of a path, river, etc.) curve from side to side. *vt* 4 (often followed by **up**) tighten (the spring) or raise (the weights) of (a clock, watch, etc.). 5 move (a window, etc.) by turning or twisting (a handle). **winding** *adj* that winds (**wind**[2] def. 3): *a winding*



windmill

windsurfer

stream. **wind up** 1 wind (a clock, watch, etc.). 2 finish; bring or come to an end: *The company was making no profit and was wound up; We wound up going after all.* 3 *infml* make angry or anxious.

windlass ('wɪndləs) *nc* a device for winding in a rope or cable.

window ('wɪndəʊ) *nc* a frame containing glass, set in the wall of a building. **windowpane** ('wɪndəʊpeɪn) *nc* a single piece of glass in a window. **window-sill** ('wɪndəʊsɪl) *nc* a shelf at the bottom of a window.

wine (waɪn) *ncu* (a type of) alcoholic drink made from grape juice or another fruit, flower, or vegetable. **wineglass** ('waɪnglɑːs) *nc* a glass for drinking wine from, esp. with a rounded bowl on top of a thin stem.

wing (wɪŋ) *nc* 1 a thin, flat part on the side of a bird or aircraft, used for flying. 2 *US* **fender** a part of a car covering a wheel. 3 a side part of a building: *the north wing of the palace.* 4 (often *pl*) the space on either side of the stage in a theatre. 5 (in a game such as football) (a player who uses) the side of the field. 6 a part of a political party, esp. with more extreme views than the rest of that party. • *vti* 1 (cause to) fly or move fast. 2 *vt* wound slightly. **winged** *adj* having wings: *a winged insect.*

wink (wɪŋk) *vi* 1 close and open one eye quickly, esp. as a sign of amusement or to be friendly. 2 (of a light) flash quickly. • *nc* an act of winking.

winner ('wɪnə*) *nc* 1 a person or thing that wins. 2 *infml* a successful person or thing.

winnings ('wɪnɪŋz) *n pl* something won, esp. money.

winsome ('wɪnsəm) *adj* (of a person, smile, etc.) attractive.

winter ('wɪntə*) *nc* the season between autumn and spring; the coldest season, in which plants that have lost their leaves stay bare and snow may fall. • *vi* spend the winter (in a particular place). **winter sports** sports done on snow or ice, such as skiing and skating. **wintertime** ('wɪntətaɪm) *nu* the winter season. **wintry** ('wɪntrɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

wipe (waɪp) *vt* 1 rub (a cloth, hand, etc.) across (a surface). 2 clean (dirt, water, etc.) off (something) by wiping. • *nc* an act of wiping. **wipe off** 1 remove or cancel (a debt, etc.). 2 remove or clean by wiping. **wipe out** 1 destroy or kill. 2 remove or clean by wiping. **wiper** *nc* 1 something or someone that wipes. 2 short for **windscreen wiper. wipe up** dry (plates, etc., that have been washed up) by wiping with a cloth.

wire (waɪə*) 1 *ncu* (a length of) thread-like metal that bends easily, used esp. to carry electricity or electric signals. 2 *nc infml, chiefly US* a telegram. • *vt* 1 fasten, provide, etc., with wire. 2 put in wires to make an electric circuit. 3 *infml, chiefly US* send a telegram, message, etc. to (someone). **wiring** *nu* wires used in or for electric devices. **wiry** *adj* 1 like wire. 2 (of a person) thin and strong.

wireless ('waɪəlɪs) *n old-fashioned, chiefly Brit* See **radio.**

wisdom ('wɪzdəm) *nu* great knowledge, experience, and good sense. **wisdom tooth** any of the four teeth, at the back of each side of each jaw, that are the last to grow.

wise (waɪz) *adj* **-r, -st** 1 showing wisdom and good judgement. 2 (followed by **to**) *infml* understanding the ways, esp. tricks, of: *I'm wise to you, son.* **wisely** *adv*

wish (wɪʃ) 1 *vti* (when *vi*, often followed by **for**) want and hope (for): *I wish he would go away; I couldn't wish for better weather; Wish us luck!* 2 *vt* want (something that you can expect to bring about): *I wish to see the manager.* • *nc* 1 an act of wishing: *best wishes.* 2 something wished for. **wishful** ('wɪʃful) *adj* having a wish or wishes. **wishful thinking** believing something unlikely because you want it to be true.

wisp (wɪsp) *nc* a thin, delicate piece of something such as cloud or hair. **wispy** *adj*

wistful ('wɪstful) *adj* sadly thoughtful or wanting something. **wistfully** *adv*

wit (wɪt) 1 *nu* (the ability to produce)

amusing, unexpected remarks, ideas, etc. *nc* 2 a person with **wit** (def. 1). 3 (also *pl*) intelligence, understanding, and ability to act quickly.

witch (wɪtʃ) *nc* a person, esp. a woman, practising magic or serving the devil. **witchcraft** ('wɪtʃkrɑːft) *nu* the practices of a witch. **witch doctor** a person who is believed to have magic powers, esp. to cure sick people.

with (wɪð) *prep* 1 in the company of: *I went abroad with friends.* 2 using: *Hit it with the hammer.* 3 because of: *eyes wet with tears.* 4 having: *a house with two chimneys.* 5 (used after a verb to indicate that the action is also being done by the following noun): *I agree with you; They discussed it with the others.* 6 following or understanding what someone says or writes: *I'm not with you.* 7 supporting or agreeing with: *If you're not with us, you're against us.*

withdraw (wɪð'drɔː) 1 *vti* take or move back or away: *withdraw from a competition; withdraw a remark.* 2 *vt* take (a sum of money) from a bank account. **withdrawal** *nc* 1 an act of withdrawing. 2 the period of pain, etc. after you stop taking a habit-forming drug: *withdrawal symptoms.* 3 an amount of money withdrawn.

withdrawn (wɪð'drɔːn) past participle of **withdraw.** • *adj* unwilling to meet or talk to others; quiet and thoughtful.

withdrew (wɪð'druː) past tense of **withdraw.**

wither ('wɪðə*) *vti* (of a flower, etc.) (cause to) dry up: *The plants withered and died.*

withheld (wɪð'held) past tense and past participle of **withhold.**

withhold (wɪð'həʊld) 1 *vt* keep back; prevent someone from having, knowing, etc. 2 *vi* (followed by **from**) keep from (doing something).

within (wɪ'ðɪn) *prep* 1 inside: *within the castle walls.* 2 before the end of: *Come back within a year.* 3 no more than: *within fifty kilometres.* • *adv old-fashioned or fml* inside.

without (wɪ'ðaʊt) *prep* not having, with, or using: *completely without money; I can't see it without moving.* • *adv old-fashioned or fml* outside.

withstand (wɪð'stænd) *vt* resist; fight off; put up with.

withstood (wɪð'stʊd) past tense and past participle of **withstand.**

witness ('wɪtnɪs) *nc* 1 a person who sees or hears an event, etc. 2 a person who says what they know in a court of law. 3 a person present at the signing of a legal document. • *vt* 1 see or hear (an event, etc.). 2 be present when a legal document is signed.

witty ('wɪtɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** showing **wit** (def. 1): *a witty poem.* **witticism** ('wɪtɪˌsɪzəm) *nc* a witty remark.

wives (waɪvz) plural of **wife.**

wizard ('wɪzəd) *nc* 1 a male witch. 2 a person very clever at something.

wizened ('wɪzənd) *adj* (esp. of a person or face) looking dried up through age.

wobble ('wɒbəl) *vti* (cause to) move or shake unsteadily. • *nc* an act of wobbling. **wobbly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** unsteady.

woe (wəʊ) 1 *nc* (often *pl*) a piece of bad luck; trouble: *Tell me all your woes.* 2 *chiefly old-fashioned or literary nu* great grief. **woeful** *adj* 1 causing or showing grief. 2 very bad: *woeful ignorance.* **woefully** *adv*

woke (wəʊk) past tense of **wake.**

woken ('wəʊkən) past participle of **wake.**

wolf (wʊlf) *nc, pl* **-ves** (vz) a wild hunting animal of the dog family: see picture at **animals.** • *vt* eat greedily. **cry wolf** raise a false alarm.

woman ('wʊmən) *nc, pl* **women** ('wɪmɪn) a grown-up female human. **womanhood** *nu* the condition of being a woman. **womanly** *adj*

womb (wuːm) *n* See **uterus.**

won (wʌn) past tense and past participle of **win.**

wonder ('wʌndə*) *ncu* (something that causes) a mixture of surprise, curiosity, and sometimes admiration. • *vti* 1 (when *vi*, often followed by **about**) be curious about; wish that you knew (about): *I wonder what will happen next.* 2 *vi* (usually followed by **at**) feel wonder. **no wonder** it is not surprising: *No wonder it doesn't work—the battery's flat.* **wonderful** *adj* very good; splendid. **wonderfully** *adv*

wont (wəʊnt) *chiefly old-fashioned adj* used; likely: *He is wont to complain.* • *nu* habit.

won't (wəʊnt) *v* will not.

woo (wuː) *vt* 1 *fml or old-fashioned* try to win the love, favour, etc. of (someone). 2 try to obtain (fame, etc.).

wood (wʊd) 1 *nu* the hard material in the trunks and branches of trees. 2 *nc* a large group of trees. **woodcraft** ('wʊdkrɑːft) *nu* knowledge of woods and the ability to live in them. **wooded** *adj* (of land) covered with trees. **wooden** ('wʊdən) *adj* 1 made of wood. 2 (of a person or their behaviour) stiff or expressionless. **woodland** ('wʊdlənd) *ncu* (an area of) wooded country. **woodpecker** ('wʊdˌpekə*) *nc* a

bird that digs with its beak into tree trunks for insects: see picture at **birds. woodsman** ('wʊdzmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a person who lives in woods or is good at woodcraft. **woodwind** ('wʊdwɪnd) *adj* (of a musical instrument, such as the flute) blown, but not brass. • *n pl* woodwind instruments. **woodwork** ('wʊdwɜːk) *nu* 1 making things from wood. 2 things made from wood. **woodworm** ('wʊdwɜːm) 1 *nc* the young of a type of beetle or other insect, which makes holes in wood. 2 *nu* the condition caused by this: *One of the chairs has woodworm.* **woody** *adj* **-ier, -iest.**

woof (wʊf) *nc* the short, sharp noise made by a dog. • *vi* (of a dog) make this noise.

wool (wʊl) *ncu* (a type of) animal hair, usually from sheep, used to make warm clothes, etc. **woollen** *US* **woolen** ('wʊlən) *adj* made of wool. • *nc* (usually *pl*) a woollen garment. **woolly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 like wool. 2 unclear; mixed up: *a woolly argument.* • *nc, pl* **-lies** a woollen garment, esp. a pullover or cardigan.

word (wɜːd) *nc* 1 a short piece of language written with a space either side: *'Word' and 'language' are words.* 2 (often *pl*) something spoken, esp. in anger, to tell someone off, etc.: *I had a word with him; words of warning.* *nu* 3 a promise: *I shall keep my word.* 4 news: *They sent word of the victory.* • *vt* say or write in words: *a carefully worded answer.* **in a word** in short; using few words. **in other words** expressed differently. **in your own words** not copying the words used by someone else: *Read the article then write about it in your own words.* **take (someone) at their word** believe that (someone) means what they say. **word for word** 1 exactly as spoken or written: *The speech is printed word for word in the newspaper.* 2 with each word translated separately into another language: *a word-for-word translation.* **wording** *nu* 1 the way in which something is worded. 2 the writing on a sign, etc. **word processing** the work done by a word processor; the use of a word processor. **word processor** a machine or computer program that is used to produce text, such as letters and documents, that can be seen and corrected on a screen and then printed on paper. **wordy** *adj* **-ier, -iest** using too many words.

wore (wɔː*) past tense of **wear.**

work (wɜːk) *nu* 1 an effort of the body or mind put to a purpose. 2 employment; a job: *What work do you do?* 3 a task: *There's work to be done.* 4 *physics* movement brought about by a force. 5 *nc* something made by work, esp. a book, painting, piece of music, etc. • *vti* 1 produce (something) by doing work: *I can't work wonders.* 2 make (your way): *He worked through the crowd.* *vt* 3 cause (a machine) to do its job: *Can you work this kind of radio?* 4 make something (esp. from metal) by shaping. *vi* 5 (of a machine) do what it should: *The clock isn't working.* 6 do work; do your job; be employed: *Where do you work?* **at work** 1 in action; working. 2 at the place where you do your job. **out of work** unemployed. **workable** *adj* able to be put into practice. **worked up** angry; excited. **worker** *nc* **workforce** ('wɜːkfɔɪs) *nc* all the people who work for a particular company, etc. **workman** ('wɜːkmən) *nc, pl* **-men** a man who does his job with his hands. **workmanship** ('wɜːkmənʃɪp) *nu* the quality of the work done on something. **work of art** anything well or beautifully made. **work out** 1 find (an answer, figure, etc.) using numbers or by thought. 2 think up or invent (a plan, etc.). 3 happen (as planned or hoped): *Did everything work out (all right)?* 4 do exercises to become fitter, stronger, etc. **workout** ('wɜːkəʊt) a set of such exercises; a session of working out. **works** 1 *n pl* the moving parts of a machine. 2 *nu* (*with singular verb*) a factory or other place where something is made or processed: *a gas works.* **workshop** ('wɜːkʃɒp) *nc* 1 a room or building used for building and repairing machines, etc. 2 a group of people who study or work together on a particular subject for a short time: *a drama workshop.* **work surface** also **worktop** ('wɜːktɒp) a flat space for working on, esp. about one metre high against the wall of a kitchen. **work up** 1 (cause to) develop: *I've worked up quite a thirst.* 2 (cause to) become angry or excited. **work up to** move towards (an action): *You're working up to asking me to do you a favour.*

working ('wɜːkɪŋ) *nc* (often *pl*) 1 the way something works. 2 (a part of) a place where coal, etc., is dug out of the ground. • *adj* 1 to do with work or workers. 2 large enough to be useful: *a working knowledge.* **in working order** able to **work** (def. 5). **working class** people who work mainly with their hands for a living, together with their families. **working hours** periods during which most people work. **working party** a group of people who find out about and report on something.

world (wɜːld) *nu* 1 the earth and all the people on it. 2 all human society and its affairs, esp. seen as outside a small group, such as the family: *Children grow up and go out into the world. nc* 3 any planet, esp. one with life on it. 4 a part of the world or its people: *the Third World.* 5 a division of activity, culture, life, etc.: *the animal world; the world of music.* **on top of the world** very happy or excited. **world-famous** (ˌwɜːldˈfeɪməs) *adj* known in all parts of the world. **worldly** *adj* **-ier, -iest** of the world, esp. to do with pleasure in this life. **World War I** also **First World War, Great War** the war from 1914 to 1918 fought by Britain, France, Italy, Russia, and the United States against Germany, Austro-Hungary, and Turkey. **World War II** also **Second World War** the war from 1939 to 1945 fought by Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States against Germany, Italy, and Japan. **worldwide** (ˌwɜːldˈwaɪd) *adj* of or to do with the whole world.

worm (wɜːm) *nc* a usually small, long, thin animal without legs that lives in the ground or in a larger animal. • *vt* 1 make (your way) by creeping, sliding, etc. 2 (followed by **out of**) get (information) from someone. 3 get worms out of (a dog, etc.).

worn (wɜːn) part participle of **wear.** • *adj* damaged by wear.

worry (ˈwʌrɪ) 1 *vt* disturb or annoy: *I shan't worry you with the news now.* 2 *vti* (cause to) become anxious: *Don't worry about the cost—I'll pay.* • *ncu, pl* **-ries** (something that causes) anxiety. **worried** *adj* anxious. **worrying** *adj* causing anxiety: *a worrying time.*

worse (wɜːs) *adj, adv* more bad(ly). • *nu* something worse. **the worse for wear** 1 worn. 2 *infml* drunk. **worsen** (ˈwɜːsən) *vti* make or become worse. **worse off** in a worse state, esp. with less money.

worship (ˈwɜːʃɪp) *vt* 1 have or show great respect for (a god, etc.). 2 admire or love greatly. • *ncu* (an act of) worshipping. **worshipper** *nc*

worst (wɜːst) *adj, adv* the most bad(ly). **the worst** the worst person or thing. • *vt old-fashioned* defeat (someone).

worsted (ˈwʊstɪd) *ncu* (a type of) woollen cloth.

worth (wɜːθ) *adj* 1 deserving: *It's not worth the trouble.* 2 having the value of: *a hat worth £10.* 3 (of a person, company, etc.) owning money or property of a certain value: *They're worth millions.* • *nu* 1 value. 2 an amount of a particular value: *twenty dollars' worth of food.* **worthless** (ˈwɜːθlɪs) *adj* 1 having no value. 2 (of a person) not having a good character. **worthwhile** (ˌwɜːθˈwaɪl) *adj* worth the effort, time, money, etc., needed.

worthy (ˈwɜːðɪ) *adj* **-ier, -iest** 1 deserving: *worthy of praise.* 2 of great worth: *a worthy way to spend your time.*

would (wʊd unstressed wəd, əd) *v* 1 (used in reported speech in place of **shall** (def. 2) or **will**[1] (def. 1)): *He said he would go.* 2 past tense of **will**[1] (defs. 3, 5, 6, 7). 3 (used to form a conditional verb): *Would you go if you had time?* 4 (used to ask someone politely to do something): *Would you help me, please?* 5 *fml or literary* used to: *I would visit her often.* 6 *fml* if only: *Would that you had been there!* **would-be** (ˈwʊdbiː) *adj* wanting, claiming, or intended to be: *a would-be leader of the people.*

wouldn't (ˈwʊdənt) *v* would not.

would've (ˈwʊdəv) *v* would have: *I would've told her if she'd asked.*

wound[1] (wuːnd) *nc* 1 an injury to the body caused by a knife, bullet, etc. 2 an injury to the feelings. • *vt* cause a wound to.

wound[2] (waʊnd) past tense and past participle of **wind**[2].

wove (wəʊv) past tense of **weave.**

woven (ˈwəʊvən) past participle of **weave.**

wrangle (ˈræŋgəl) *vi, nc* (have) a loud or angry argument.

wrap (ræp) *vt* 1 (often followed by **up**) cover (something) by winding paper, cloth, etc., round it: *a parcel wrapped in brown paper.* 2 wind (paper, cloth, etc.) round something: *with a blanket wrapped round him.* • *nc* a garment wrapped around the shoulders and upper body. **wrapped up in** 1 occupied with; thinking only of. 2 connected with; in a close relationship with. **wrapper** *nc* a sheet of something, esp. paper, wrapped round a book, sweet, etc. **wrapping** *nc* material used for wrapping.

wrath (rɒθ) *nu chiefly old-fashioned or literary* anger. **wrathful** (ˈrɒθfʊl) *adj* angry.

wreath (riːθ) *nc, pl* **-ths** (ðs, θs) a ring made of flowers or leaves used to show honour or respect, esp. for a dead person.

wreathe (riːð) *often literary* 1 *vti* (cause to) form a ring or wreath. 2 *vt* form a ring round: *Cloud wreathed the mountains.* 3 *vi* (of smoke, cloud, etc.) move in twists and curves.

wreck (rek) *vt* ruin or destroy (hopes, a ship, etc.). • *nc* 1 something, esp. a ship, that has been wrecked. 2 *nu* ruin; destruction. **wreckage** (ˈrekɪdʒ) *nu* 1 the

remains of something wrecked. 2 wrecking or being wrecked.

wren (ren) *nc* a very small brown bird with a tail pointing upwards.

wrench (rentʃ) *vt* give (something) or remove (something) with a violent twist or pull: *The gun was wrenched from his hand.* • *nc* 1 a violent twist or pull. 2 a tool for turning nuts and bolts, esp. of many different sizes: see picture at **tools.**

wrest (rest) *vt* take by force or with an effort.

wrestle ('resəl) 1 *vti* (when *vi*, often followed by **with**) fight (someone) by holding, twisting, and throwing. 2 *vi* (followed by **with**) deal or struggle (with a problem, your feelings, etc.). **wrestler** *nc* a person who wrestles (**wrestle** def. 1) as a sport. **wrestling** *nu* the sport of wrestling (**wrestle** def. 1).

wretch (retʃ) *nc* 1 an annoying person. 2 a miserable or unlucky person.

wretched ('retʃɪd) *adj* 1 annoying. 2 of poor quality. 3 miserable; unlucky. **wretchedness** *nu*

wriggle ('rɪgəl) *vti* (cause to) make or move with short, twisting movements. • *nc* a wriggling movement. **wriggle out of** *infml* manage to avoid (doing something, etc.).

wring (rɪŋ) *vt* 1 twist or press (a chicken's neck, wet clothes, etc.) forcefully. 2 (often followed by **out** or **out of**) remove or obtain (water from clothes, information from someone, etc.) by force. • *nc* an act of wringing.

wrinkle ('rɪŋkəl) *nc* an unevenness in old skin, wet paper, etc. • *vti* form wrinkles (in).

wrist (rɪst) *nc* 1 the joint between the hand and the arm. 2 the part of a garment covering this. **wristwatch** ('rɪstwɒtʃ) *nc* a watch worn on a strap or band around the wrist.

writ (rɪt) *nc* a formal order made by a law court telling someone to do something or to stop doing something.

write (raɪt) *vt* 1 mark (letters, a language, your name, etc.), esp. on paper with a pen, etc. 2 produce (a letter, a book, music, etc.) by writing. **write away** send a letter, order, etc.: *I've written away for information.* **write down** make a written note of. **write in** 1 send an order, suggestion, etc., to a business, radio station, etc. 2 add in writing: *Please write in your name on the form.* **write off** 1 send an order, etc. to a business, etc. 2 (esp. of money or something that has a value) consider as completely lost, destroyed, or non-existent. **write-off** ('raɪtɒf) *nc* something written off, esp. a car too badly damaged to be worth repairing. **write out** write (an abbreviation, etc.) in full. **writer** *nc* **write up** 1 describe (events) in (a diary, etc.). 2 turn (notes, etc.) into a full report.

writhe (raɪð) *vi* twist or roll about in pain, etc.

writing ('raɪtɪŋ) 1 *nu* the practice of representing language by means of marks on paper, stone, etc. 2 *nc* (often *pl*) something written: *the writings of Shakespeare.* **in writing** written or printed, rather than just spoken: *Make sure you get their promise in writing.* **writing paper** sheets of good quality paper used for letters to people.

written ('rɪtən) past participle of **write.**

wrong (rɒŋ) *adj* 1 not correct or true. 2 (of behaviour, etc.) bad. 3 not intended or not the best: *You went the wrong way.* • *adv* 1 wrongly. 2 not working properly: *My car has gone wrong again.* • *ncu* (an example of) bad or unfair action. • *vt* be unfair or cause trouble to (someone). **in the wrong** 1 having made a mistake. 2 having done wrong. **wrong-doer** ('rɒŋˌduːə*) *nc* a person who breaks the law or does something else bad. **wrongful** *adj fml* bad; illegal; unfair: *wrongful arrest.* **wrongly** *adv*

wrote (rəʊt) past tense of **write.**

wrought (rɔɪt) *adj* (of metal) shaped by hammering or rolling: *wrought iron.*

wrung (rʌŋ) past tense and past participle of **wring.**

wry (raɪ) *adj* **-er, -est; wrier, wriest** twisted, esp. (of a smile, etc.) expressing dislike or disgust. **wryly** *adv*

X

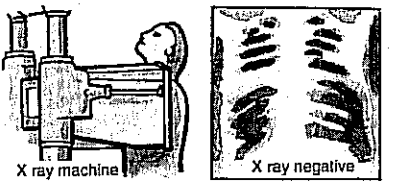
xenophobia (ˌzenəˈfəʊbɪə) *nu* a dislike or fear of people from other countries. **xenophobic** (ˌzenəˈfəʊbɪk) *adj*

xerophyte (ˈzɪərəˌfaɪt) *nc* any of a group of plants that can grow or live in very dry places, such as cacti.

Xmas (ˈeksməs, ˈkrɪsməs) *n infml* short for **Christmas.**

X-chromosome (ˈeksˌkrəʊməsəʊm) *nc* one of the parts of a cell that show whether a person or animal is male or female. See also **Y-chromosome.**

X-ray also **x-ray** (ˈeksˌreɪ) *nc* 1 (*pl*) radiation that can go through substances which light cannot. 2 a photograph taken with X-rays, esp. of bones inside the body: see picture. • *vt* take an X-ray of.



X-ray

xylem (ˈzaɪlem) *nu* part of a plant that carries water, etc., up from the roots. See also **phloem.**

xyloid (ˈzaɪlɔɪd) *adj botany* of or to do with wood; like wood, woody.

xylophone (ˈzaɪləfəʊn) *nc* a musical instrument with blocks of wood of different lengths which are hit with hammers: see picture at **musical instruments.**

Y

yacht (jɒt) *nc* 1 a sailing boat used for pleasure or racing. 2 a motor boat or small ship used for pleasure. **yachting** *nu* sailing in a **yacht** (def. 1). **yachtsman** ('jɒtsmən) *nc, pl* **-men, yachtswoman** ('jɒtswʊmən) *nc, pl* **-women** a person who sails a **yacht** (def. 1).

yak (jæk) *nc* a long-haired, Tibetan type of cattle: see picture.

yak

yam (jæm) *nc* 1 a plant in hot parts of the world, of which the thick root parts are eaten: see picture at **vegetables.** 2 one of these root parts.

yank (jæŋk) *infml vt, nc* (give) a sharp pull (to).

yap (jæp) *vi* 1 (of a dog, esp. small) make short, high, sharp noises. 2 *infml* talk a lot. • *nc* an instance of yapping.

yard[1] (jɑːd) *nc* 1 a measure of length: see appendix. 2 a long pole fixed across the mast of a ship to support a sail. **yardstick** ('jɑːdstɪk) *nc* a fixed standard, etc., with which other things or people are compared to measure or judge them.

yard[2] *nc* a piece of closed-in land with a hard surface, esp. behind a house, shop, etc., or used for a particular purpose: *our back yard; a railway goods yard.*

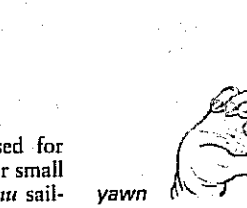
yarn (jɑːn) 1 *ncu* (a length or type of) thread made from wool, cotton, etc., for making into material. 2 *nc infml* a story, esp. untrue.

yashmak ('jæʃmæk) *nc* a thin cloth worn over the face by Muslim women.

yawn (jɔːn) *vi* 1 open the mouth wide and breathe in deeply on account of being tired or bored: see picture. 2 be wide open: *The mouth of the cave yawned in front of us.* • *nc* an act of yawning (**yawn** def. 1).

yaws (jɔːz) *nu* a disease caught from other people in hot parts of the world and producing red skin growths and painful joints.

Y-chromosome ('waɪˌkrəʊməsəʊm) *nc* one of the parts of a cell that show whether a person or animal is male or female. See also **X-chromosome.**



yawn

year (jɪə*) *nc* 1 a period of 365 or 366 days, esp. from 1 January to 31 December. 2 a group of students entering a university, etc., in the same year: *He was in the year above me at school.* **all the year round** during the whole year. **yearly** *adv, adj* (happening, done, paid, etc.) once a year. **year-round** ('jɪərəʊnd) *adj* open, existing, etc., all the year round. **years** *n pl* 1 age: *He's very fit for a man of his years.* 2 time: *in years to come.* 3 *infml* a long time.

yearn (jɜːn) *vi* (usually followed by **after, for,** or infinitive) want very much: *to yearn for home.* **yearning** *ncu* a strong desire.

yeast (jiːst) *nu* a kind of fungus used in making beer, wine, raised bread, etc.

yell (jel) *vti, nc* (say with or give) a loud, high shout.

yellow ('jeləʊ) *adj* **-er, -est** 1 of the colour of, for example, a ripe banana or an egg yolk. 2 *infml* cowardly; afraid. • *ncu* a yellow colour. • *vti* make or become yellow. **yellow fever** a disease caught from other people in hot parts of the world and causing fever and coughing of blood. **yellowish** ('jeləʊɪʃ) *adj*

yelp (jelp) *vi* (esp. of a dog) give a short, sharp, high noise, esp. indicating pain. • *nc* (an act of making) this noise.

yen (jen) *nc infml* a strong desire: *I have a yen to travel.*

yes (jes) *adv* 1 (used to express approval or agreement or to indicate correctness or that a negative statement is incorrect): *Will you do it?—Yes; He wasn't there—Yes, he was.* 2 (used as a question to ask someone what they want or to continue speaking): *Yes? Can I help you?* • *nc* (a person who gives) an answer or vote of 'yes'.

yesterday ('jestədeɪ) *adv, nu* (during) the day before today. • *nc* (often *pl*) the recent past: *yesterday's leaders.*

yet (jet) *adv* 1 now or then: *I haven't finished yet; It wasn't yet ready.* 2 even; still: *yet another surprise; yet bigger than the last.* 3 still; in the time remaining: *I'll finish yet.* • *conj* also **and yet** but: *I saw him*

yet didn't recognise him. **as yet** so far: *We haven't found a replacement as yet.*

yield (jiːld) *vti* (often followed by **to**) give up; surrender: *The defenders yielded (the town) to the enemy.* 2 *vt* produce; return: *a trade that yields a good profit.* 3 *vi* bend; come open; burst: *The door yielded as he pushed it.* • *nc* an amount produced or returned as a profit, harvest, etc.

yoga (ˈjəʊgə) *nu* a system of exercises, etc., of the body and mind, which is intended to make you fit and help you relax.

yogurt also **joghurt** (ˈjɒgət, ˈjəʊgət) *ncu* (a type or helping of) a thick liquid or soft food made from milk, often with fruit added.

yoke (jəʊk) *nc* 1 a wooden bar, fixed across the backs of their necks, by which two oxen or other animals pull a vehicle, plough, etc. 2 the part of a garment around the neck and shoulders if made from a separate piece of material. • *vt* join with a **yoke** (def. 1).

yolk (jəʊk) *nc* the yellow part inside an egg, which feeds the young animal.

yonder (ˈjɒndə*) *adj, adv old-fashioned or literary* (that ...) over there.

you (juː unstressed jʊ, jə) *pron* 1 the person(s) or thing(s) to whom one is talking or writing: *I'll tell you a story; You coward!; You promised you wouldn't tell anyone.* 2 any person: *You hold a hammer like this.*

you'd (juːd) you had or you would.

you'll (juːl) you will.

young (jʌŋ) *adj* **younger** (ˈjʌŋgə*), **youngest** (ˈjʌŋgɪst) having lived or existed for a short time; not yet old. • *n pl* young people or animals: *a cat with her young.* **youngster** (ˈjʌŋstə*) *nc* a young person or animal.

youngberry (ˈjʌŋbərɪ) *nc, pl* **-ries** a large, sweet, dark-purple fruit, similar to a blackberry.

your (jɔː*, jʊə* unstressed jə*) *determiner* 1 belonging to or to do with you: *Is this your car?* 2 belonging to or to do with any person: *You wear a hat on your head.*

you're (jɔː*, jʊə* unstressed jə*) you are.

yours (jɔːz, jʊəz) *pron* the one(s) belonging to or to do with you.

yourself (jɔːˈself, unstressed jəˈself) *pron, pl* **-ves** (vz) 1 (the reflexive form of 'you'): *Have you cut yourself?* 2 (the emphatic form of 'you'): *Do it yourself!* 3 in your normal state: *You're not looking yourself today—had a late night?* **by yourself** (of the person(s) spoken or written to) 1 without help. 2 alone.

youth (juːθ) *nu* 1 the quality of being young. 2 the period when a person or thing is young. 3 young people. 4 *nc, pl* **-ths** (ðz) a young man. **youthful** (ˈjuːθful) *adj* 1 to do with the young. 2 feeling, looking, etc., young. **youth hostel** See under **hostel.**

you've (juːv) you have.

yo-yo (ˈjəʊˌjəʊ) *nc* a toy like a small spool that moves up and down on a piece of string.

Z

zeal (ziːl) *nu* great enthusiasm, esp. in religious or political matters. **zealot** ('zelət) *nc* a person who has or shows great zeal. **zealous** ('zeləs) *adj* enthusiastic; ambitious; eager.

zebra ('zebrə) *nc* a wild African horse with black and white stripes: see picture at **animals. zebra crossing** (in the UK) a road crossing, marked by black and white stripes and flashing yellow lights, where people on foot have right of way over vehicles.

Zen (zen) *nu* also **Zen Buddhism** a mainly Chinese and Japanese form of Buddhism in which meditation is important.

zenith ('zenɪθ) *nc* 1 the point in the sky directly above you. 2 the highest point or time of greatest power, happiness, etc.

zero ('zɪərəʊ) *nc, pl* **-s, -es** 1 the figure 0, indicating nothing. 2 a point on a scale between plus and minus values. • *adj* no; none; at zero. • *vt* alter (a measuring instrument) to read zero.

zest (zest) *nu* 1 enthusiasm; keen interest: *a zest for living*. 2 added taste, interest, etc.: *A good dressing gives salad some zest*. 3 the thin layer of outer skin of an orange or lemon.

zigzag ('zɪgzæg) *nc, adj, adv, vi* ((move in) a course) turning sharply from side to side.

zinc (zɪŋk) *nu* a chemical element; white metal used in brass, in batteries, and for coating iron: symbol Zn.

zip (zɪp) 1 also **zip fastener, zipper** a device for closing a garment, bag, etc., by means of two rows of plastic or metal teeth which are joined and separated by a slide pulled along them. 2 a noise made by very fast movement through air. • *vt* 1 (often followed by **up**) close with a **zip** (def. 1). 2 *vi* move with a **zip** (def. 2) or very fast. **zip code** (in the USA) See **postcode** under **post³**.

zither ('zɪðə*) *nc* a flat musical instrument with strings that are pulled slightly and let go.

zodiac ('zəʊdɪæk) *n* **signs of the zodiac** 1 twelve signs representing groups of stars along the path which the sun appears to take across the sky each year. 2 the importance of these signs, believed by some people to affect character and events.

zone (zəʊn) *nc* a district or division, esp. of land. • *vt* divide into zones.

zoo (zuː) *nc* a place where living animals are kept for study and showing to visitors.

zoology (zəʊ'ɒlədʒɪ, zuː'ɒlədʒɪ) *nu* the science of studying animals. **zoological** (ˌzəʊə'lɒdʒɪkəl, ˌzuːə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* **zoologist** *nc*

zoom (zuːm) *vi* move fast, esp. with a buzzing noise. • *nc* an act or noise of zooming. **zoom in** or **out** alter a zoom lens so as to get less or more into the picture. **zoom lens** a lens system on a camera, etc., that can be altered so as to get less or more into the picture.

zoophyte ('zəʊəˌfaɪt) *nc biology* an animal that looks like a plant.

zucchini (zuː'kiːnɪ) *US* See **courgette**.

zygote ('zaɪgəʊt) *nc biology* the cell that is formed when a sperm from a male joins with the egg of a female.

APPENDIX

Currency units

Country	Unit of currency		
Afghanistan	afghani		= 100 puls
Albania	lek		= 100 qindarka
Algeria	dinar		= 100 centimes
Angola	kwanza		= 100 lwei
Antigua and Barbuda	dollar		= 100 cents
Argentina	peso		= 10,000 australs
Armenia	dram		= 100 luma
Australia	dollar		= 100 cents
Austria	schilling		= 100 groschen
Azerbaijan	manat		= 100 gopik
(The) Bahamas	dollar		= 100 cents
Bahrain	dinar		= 1000 fils
Bangladesh	taka		= 100 paisas
Barbados	dollar		= 100 cents
Belgium	franc		= 100 centimes
Belize	dollar		= 100 cents
Belorussia	rouble		
Benin	franc		
Bermuda	dollar		= 100 cents
Bhutan	ngultrum		= 100 chetrum
Bolivia	boliviano		= 100 centavos
Botswana	pula		= 100 thebe
Brazil	real		= 100 centavos
Brunei	dollar		= 100 cents
Bulgaria	lev		= 100 stotinki
Burkina Faso	franc		
Burma	kyat		= 100 pyas
Burundi	franc		= 100 centimes
Cambodia	riel		= 100 sen
Cameroon	franc		
Canada	dollar		= 100 cents
Cape Verde	escudo		= 100 centavos
Central African Republic	franc		
Chad	franc		
Chile	peso		= 100 centavos
China	yuan	= 10 jiao	= 100 fen
Colombia	peso		= 100 centavos
Congo	franc		
Costa Rica	colón		= 100 céntimos
Côte d'Ivoire	franc		
Croatia	kuna		= 100 lipa
Cuba	peso		= 100 centavos
Cyprus	pound		= 100 cents
Czech Republic	koruna		= 100 haler
Denmark	krone		= 100 øre
Djibouti	franc		= 100 centimes
Dominica	dollar		= 100 cents
Dominican Republic	peso		= 100 centavos
Ecuador	sucre		= 100 centavos
Egypt	pound		= 100 piastres
El Salvador	colón		= 100 centavos
Equatorial Guinea	franc		

Country	Unit of currency	
Estonia	kroon	= 100 sents
Ethiopia	birr	= 100 cents
Fiji	dollar	= 100 cents
Finland	markka	= 100 pennis
France	franc	= 100 centimes
Gabon	franc	
(The) Gambia	dalasi	= 100 butut
Georgia	lari	
Germany	mark	= 100 pfennig
Ghana	cedi	= 100 pesewas
Gibraltar	pound	= 100 pence
Greece	drachma	= 100 lepta
Grenada	dollar	= 100 cents
Guatemala	quetzal	= 100 centavos
Guinea	franc	
Guinea-Bissau	peso	= 100 centavos
Guyana	dollar	= 100 cents
Haiti	gourde	= 100 centimes
Honduras	lempira	= 100 centavos
Hong Kong	dollar	= 100 cents
Hungary	forint	= 100 fillér
Iceland	króna	= 100 aurar
India	rupee	= 100 paise
Indonesia	rupiah	= 100 sen
Iran	rial	
Iraq	dinar	= 1000 fils
(Republic of) Ireland	pound	= 100 pence
Israel	shekel	= 100 agorot
Italy	lira	
Jamaica	dollar	= 100 cents
Japan	yen	
Jordan	dinar	= 1000 fils
Kazakhstan	tenge	= 100 teins
Kenya	shilling	= 100 cents
Kirghizia	som	= 100 tiyin
Kuwait	dinar	= 1000 fils
Laos	kip	
Latvia	lat	= 100 santims
(The) Lebanon	pound	= 100 piastres
Lesotho	loti	= 100 lisente
Liberia	dollar	= 100 cents
Libya	dinar	= 1000 millemes
Lithuania	litas	= 100 centas
Luxembourg	franc	= 100 centimes
Macedonia	denar	= 100 deni
Madagascar	franc	= 100 centimes
Malawi	kwacha	= 100 tambala
Malaysia	ringgit	= 100 sen
Maldives	rufiyaa	= 100 laris
Mali	franc	
Malta	lira	= 100 cents = 1000 mils
Mauritania	ouguiya	= 5 khoums
Mauritius	rupee	= 100 cents
Mexico	peso	= 100 centavos
Moldavia	leu	= 100 bani
Monaco	franc	= 100 centimes
Mongolia	tugrik	= 100 mongos
Montserrat	dollar	= 100 cents

Country	Unit of currency		
Morocco	dirham		= 100 centimes
Mozambique	metical		= 100 centavos
Namibia	rand		= 100 cents
Nepal	rupee		= 100 paisas
The Netherlands	guilder		= 100 cents
New Zealand	dollar		= 100 cents
Nicaragua	córdoba		= 100 centavos
Niger	franc		
Nigeria	naira		= 100 kobo
North Korea	won		= 100 chon
Norway	krone		= 100 øre
Oman	rial		= 1000 baiza
Pakistan	rupee		= 100 paisas
Panama	balboa		= 100 centesimos
Papua New Guinea	kina		= 100 toea
Paraguay	guaraní		= 100 céntimos
Peru	sol		= 100 centavos
(The) Philippines	piso		= 100 sentimos
Poland	złoty		= 100 groszy
Portugal	escudo		= 100 centavos
Qatar	riyal		= 100 dirhams
Romania	leu		= 100 bani
Russia	rouble		= 100 kopeks
Rwanda	franc		= 100 centimes
Saudi Arabia	rial	= 20 qurush	= 100 halalas
Senegal	franc		
(The) Seychelles	rupee		= 100 cents
Sierra Leone	leone		= 100 cents
Singapore	dollar		= 100 cents
Slovakia	koruna		= 100 haleru
Slovenia	tolar		= 100 stotins
Somalia	shilling		= 100 cents
South Africa	rand		= 100 cents
South Korea	won		= 100 chon
Spain	peseta		= 100 céntimos
Sri Lanka	rupee		= 100 cents
St Kitts and Nevis	dollar		= 100 cents
St Lucia	dollar		= 100 cents
St Vincent and the Grenadines	dollar		= 100 cents
(The) Sudan	dinar		= 10 pounds
Suriname	guilder		= 100 cents
Swaziland	lilangeni		= 100 cents
Sweden	krona		= 100 öre
Switzerland	franc		= 100 centimes
Syria	pound		= 100 piastres
Tajikistan	rouble		
Tanzania	shilling		= 100 cents
Thailand	baht		= 100 satang
Togo	franc		
Tonga	pa'anga		= 100 seniti
Trinidad and Tobago	dollar		= 100 cents
Tunisia	dinar		= 1000 millimes
Turkey	lira		= 100 kurus
Turkmenistan	manat		= 100 tenge
Uganda	shilling		= 100 cents
Ukraine	karbovanet		
United Arab Emirates	dirham		= 100 fils
United Kingdom	pound		= 100 pence

Country	Unit of currency	
United States of America	dollar	= 100 cents
Uruguay	peso	= 100 centésimos
Uzbekistan	som	
Venezuela	bolívar	= 100 céntimos
Vietnam	dong	
Western Samoa	tala	= 100 sene
Yemen	riyal	= 100 fils
Yugoslavia	dinar	= 100 para
Zaïre	zaïre	
Zambia	kwacha	= 100 ngwee
Zimbabwe	dollar	= 100 cents

Continents and countries of the world

Continent or country	Adjective, person
Afghanistan (æf,gænɪ'stɑɪn)	Afghan ('æfgæn)
Africa ('æfrɪkə)	African (-kən)
Albania (æl'beɪnɪə)	Albanian (-nɪən)
Algeria (æl'dʒɪərɪə)	Algerian (-rɪən)
Andorra (æn'dɔːrə)	Andorran (-rən)
Angola (æŋ'gəulə)	Angolan (-lən)
Anguilla (æŋ'gwɪlə)	Anguillan (-lən)
Antarctica (ænt'ɑːktɪkə)	Antarctic (ænt'ɑːktɪk)
Antigua and Barbuda (æn'tiːgə) (bɑː'buːdə)	Antiguan (-gən), Barbudan (-dən)
Argentina (,ɑːdʒən'tiːnə), The Argentine ('ɑːdʒəntaɪn)	Argentinian (-'tɪnɪən), Argentine ('ɑːdʒəntaɪn)
Armenia (ɑː'miːnɪə)	Armenian (-nɪən)
Asia ('eɪʃə, 'eɪʒə)	Asian (-ʃən, -ʒən)
Australia (ɒ'streɪlɪə)	Australian (-lɪən)
Austria ('ɒstrɪə)	Austrian (-strɪən)
Azerbaijan (,æzəbaɪ'dʒɑːn)	Azerbaijani (-'dʒɑːnɪ)
(The) Bahamas (bə'hɑːməz)	Bahamian (bə'heɪmɪən)
Bahrain (bɑː'reɪn)	Bahraini (-reɪnɪ)
Bangladesh (,bæŋglə'deʃ)	Bangladeshi (-'deʃɪ)
Barbados (bɑː'beɪdəs)	Barbadian (-dɪən)
Belgium ('beldʒəm)	Belgian (-dʒən)
Belize (be'liːz)	Belizean (-zɪən)
Belorussia (beləu'rʌʃə)	Belorussian (-ʃən)
Benin (be'niːn)	Beninese (benɪ'niːz)
Bermuda (bə'mjuːdə)	Bermudan (-dən), Bermudian (-dɪən)
Bhutan (buː'tɑːn)	Bhutanese (-niːz)
Bolivia (bə'lɪvɪə)	Bolivian (-vɪən)
Bosnia-Herzegovina ('bɒznɪə hɜːtsəgə'viːnə)	Bosnian ('bɒznɪən)
Botswana (bɒ'tswɑːnə)	Botswanan (-nən)
Brazil (brə'zɪl)	Brazilian (-lɪən)
British Virgin Islands (,brɪtɪʃ 'vɜːdʒɪn aɪləndz)	British Virgin Islander (-də*)
Brunei ('bruːnaɪ)	Bruneian (bruː'naɪən)
Bulgaria (bʌl'geərɪə)	Bulgarian (-rɪən)
Burkina Faso (bɜː'kiːnə 'fæsəu)	Burkinabé (bɜːkɪnə'beɪ)
Burma ('bɜːmə)	Burmese (,bɜː'miːz)
Burundi (bu'rundɪ)	Burundian (-dɪən)
Cambodia (kæm'bəudɪə)	Cambodian (-dɪən)
Cameroon (,kæmə'ruːn)	Cameroonian (-nɪən)
Canada ('kænədə)	Canadian (kə'neɪdɪən)
Cape Verde (,keɪp 'vɜːd)	Cape Verdean, Cape Verdian (-ɪən)
Cayman Islands ('keɪmən aɪləndz)	Caymanian (keɪ'mænɪən), Cayman Islander (-də*)

Continent or country	Adjective, person
Central African Republic (ˌsentrəl ˌæfrɪkən rɪˈpʌblɪk)	Central African (ˈæfrɪkən)
Chad (tʃæd)	Chadian (-dɪən)
Chile (ˈtʃɪlɪ)	Chilean (-lɪən)
China (ˈtʃaɪnə)	Chinese (ˌtʃaɪniːz)
Colombia (kəˈlɒmbɪə)	Colombian (-bɪən)
Congo (ˈkɒŋgəʊ)	Congolese (ˌkɒŋgəˈliːz)
Costa Rica (ˌkɒstə ˈriːkə)	Costa Rican (-kən)
Côte d'Ivoire (ˌkəʊt diːˈvwɑː)	Ivorian (aɪˈvɔːrɪən)
Croatia (krəʊˈeɪʃə)	Croatian (-ʃən), Croat (ˈkrəʊæt)
Cuba (ˈkjuːbə)	Cuban (-bən)
Cyprus (ˈsaɪprəs)	Cypriot (ˈsɪprɪət)
Czech Republic (tʃek rɪˈpʌblɪk)	Czech (tʃek)
Denmark (ˈdenmɑːk)	Danish (ˈdeɪnɪʃ), Dane (deɪn)
Djibouti (dʒɪˈbuːtɪ)	Djiboutian (-ɪən)
Dominica (ˌdɒmɪˈnɪkə)	Dominican (-kən)
Dominican Republic (dəˈmɪnɪkən rɪˈpʌblɪk)	Dominican (-kən)
Ecuador (ˈekwədɔː*)	Ecuadorean (ˌekwəˈdɔːrɪən)
Egypt (ˈiːdʒɪpt)	Egyptian (ɪˈdʒɪpʃən)
El Salvador (el ˈsælvədɔː*)	Salvadorean (ˌsælvəˈdɔːrɪən)
England (ˈɪŋglənd)	English (ˈɪŋglɪʃ)
Equatorial Guinea (ˌekwəˌtɔːrɪəl ˈgɪnɪ)	Equatorial Guinean (-ɪən)
Eritrea (ˌerɪˈtreɪə)	Eritrean (-eɪən)
Estonia (eˈstəʊnɪə)	Estonian (-nɪən)
Ethiopia (ˌiːθɪˈəʊpɪə)	Ethiopian (-pɪən)
Europe (ˈjʊərəp)	European (ˌjʊərəˈpɪən)
Fiji (ˌfiːˈdʒiː)	Fijian (ˌfiːˈdʒiːən)
Finland (ˈfɪnlənd)	Finnish (ˈfɪnɪʃ), Finn (fɪn)
France (frɑːns)	French (frentʃ)
Gabon (gæˈbɒn)	Gabonese (ˌgæbəˈniːz)
(The) Gambia (ˈgæmbɪə)	Gambian (-bɪən)
Georgia (ˈdʒɔːdʒə)	Georgian (-dʒən)
Germany (ˈdʒɜːmənɪ)	German (ˈdʒɜːmən)
Ghana (ˈgɑːnə)	Ghanaian (gɑːˈneɪən)
Gibraltar (dʒɪˈbrɔːltə*)	Gibraltarian (ˌdʒɪbrɔːlˈteərɪən)
Great Britain (ˌgreɪt ˈbrɪtən)	British (ˈbrɪtɪʃ), Briton (ˈbrɪtən)
Greece (griːs)	Greek (griːk)
Grenada (grɪˈneɪdə)	Grenadian (-dɪən)
Guatemala (ˌgwɑːtəˈmɑːlə)	Guatemalan (-lən)
Guinea (ˈgɪnɪ)	Guinean (-nɪən)
Guinea-Bissau (ˌgɪnɪ bɪˈsaʊ)	Guinea-Bissauan (-ˈsaʊən)
Guyana (gaɪˈænə)	Guyanese (ˌgaɪəˈniːz)
Haiti (ˈheɪtɪ)	Haitian (ˈheɪʃən)
Honduras (hɒnˈdjʊərəs)	Honduran (-rən)
Hong Kong (ˌhɒŋ ˈkɒŋ)	
Hungary (ˈhʌŋgərɪ)	Hungarian (hʌŋˈgeərɪən)
Iceland (ˈaɪslənd)	Icelandic (aɪsˈlændɪk), Icelander (ˈaɪsləndə*)
India (ˈɪndɪə)	Indian (-dɪən)
Indonesia (ˌɪndəˈniːzɪə)	Indonesian (-zɪən)
Iran (ɪˈrɑːn)	Iranian (ɪˈreɪnɪən)
Iraq (ɪˈrɑːk)	Iraqi (ɪˈrɑːkɪ)
(Republic of) Ireland (ˈaɪələnd)	Irish (ˈaɪərɪʃ)
(Republic of) Israel (ˈɪzreɪəl)	Israeli (ɪzˈreɪlɪ)
Italy (ˈɪtəlɪ)	Italian (ɪˈtælɪən)
Jamaica (dʒəˈmeɪkə)	Jamaican (-kən)
Japan (dʒəˈpæn)	Japanese (ˌdʒæpəˈniːz)
Jordan (ˈdʒɔːdən)	Jordanian (dʒɔːˈdeɪnɪən)
Kazakhstan (kəzɑːkˈstɑːn)	Kazakh (kəˈzɑːk)

Continent or country	Adjective, person
Kenya ('kenjə)	Kenyan (-jən)
Kirghizia (kɜ:'gɪzɪə)	Kirghiz (kɜ:'gɪz), Kirghizian (kɜ:'gɪzɪən)
Kuwait (kʊ'weɪt)	Kuwaiti (-tɪ)
Laos ('lɑ:ɒs)	Lao (laʊ), Laotian ('lɑ:ɒʃən)
Latvia ('lætvɪə)	Latvian (-vɪən)
(The) Lebanon ('lebənən)	Lebanese (,lebə'ni:z)
Lesotho (lə'su:tu:)	Lesothan (-tən)
Liberia (laɪ'bɪərɪə)	Liberian (-rɪən)
Libya ('lɪbɪə)	Libyan (-bɪən)
Liechtenstein ('lɪktənstaɪn)	Liechtenstein, Liechtensteiner (-nə*)
Lithuania (,lɪθju:'eɪnɪə)	Lithuanian (-nɪən)
Luxembourg ('lʌksəmbɜ:g)	Luxembourg, Luxembourger (-gə*)
Macedonia (,mæsɪ'dəʊnɪə)	Macedonian (-nɪən)
Madagascar (,mædə'gæskə*)	Malagasy (mælə'gɑ:sɪ)
Malawi (mə'lɑɪwɪ)	Malawian (-wɪən)
Malaysia (mə'leɪzɪə)	Malaysian (-zɪən)
Maldives ('mɔ:ldi:vz)	Maldivian (mɔ:l'dɪvɪən)
Mali ('mɑ:lɪ)	Malian (-lɪən)
Malta ('mɔ:ltə)	Maltese (mɔ:l'ti:z)
Mauritania (,mɒrɪ'teɪnɪə)	Mauritanian (-nɪən)
Mauritius (mə'rɪʃəs)	Mauritian (-'rɪʃən)
Mexico ('meksɪkəʊ)	Mexican (-kən)
Moldavia (mɒl'deɪvɪə)	Moldavian (-vɪən)
Monaco ('mɒnəkəʊ)	Monegasque (,mɒnə'gæsk)
Mongolia (mɒŋ'gəʊlɪə)	Mongolian (-lɪən), Mongol ('mɒŋgɒl)
Montenegro (,mɒntɪ'ni:grəʊ)	Montenegrin (-grɪn)
Montserrat (,mɒntsə'ræt)	Montserratian (-'ræʃən)
Morocco (mə'rɒkəʊ)	Moroccan (-kən)
Mozambique (,məʊzæm'bi:k)	Mozambican (-'bi:kən)
Myanmar ('maɪænmɑ:) See Burma	
Namibia (nə'mɪbɪə)	Namibian (-bɪən)
Nauru (naɪ'u:ru:)	Nauruan (-ruɪən)
Nepal (nɪ'pɔ:l)	Nepalese (,nepə'li:z)
The Netherlands ('neðələndz), Holland ('hɒlənd)	Dutch (dʌtʃ), Hollander ('hɒləndə*)
New Zealand (,nju: 'zi:lənd)	New Zealand, New Zealander (-də*)
Nicaragua (,nɪkə'rægjuə)	Nicaraguan (-ən)
Niger (ni:'ʒeə*)	Nigerien (ni:'ʒeərɪən)
Nigeria (naɪ'dʒɪərɪə)	Nigerian (naɪ'dʒɪərɪən)
North America (,nɔ:θ ə'merɪkə)	North American (-kən)
North Korea (,nɔ:θ kə'rɪə)	North Korean (-'rɪən)
Northern Ireland (,nɔ:ðən 'aɪələnd)	Northern Irish ('aɪərɪʃ)
Norway ('nɔ:weɪ)	Norwegian (nɔ:'wi:dʒən)
Oman (əʊ'mɑ:n)	Omani (əʊ'mɑ:nɪ)
Pakistan (,pɑ:kɪ'stɑ:n)	Pakistani (-nɪ)
Panama (,pænə'mɑ:)	Panamanian (,pænə'meɪnɪən)
Papua New Guinea ('pæpjʊə nju: 'gɪnɪ)	Papua New Guinean ('pæpjʊə nju: 'gɪnɪən)
Paraguay ('pærəgwaɪ)	Paraguayan (,pærə'gwaɪən)
Peru (pə'ru:)	Peruvian (-'ru:vɪən)
(The) Philippines ('fɪlɪpi:nz)	Philippine ('fɪlɪpi:n), Filipino (,fɪlɪ'pi:nəʊ)
Poland ('pəʊlənd)	Polish ('pəʊlɪʃ), Pole (pəʊl)
Portugal ('pɔ:tʃʊgəl)	Portuguese (,pɔ:tʃʊ'gi:z)
Qatar ('kʌtɑ:*)	Qatari (-ɑ:rɪ)
Romania (rə'meɪnɪə)	Romanian (-nɪən)
Russia ('rʌʃə)	Russian (-ʃən)
Rwanda (rʊ'ændə)	Rwandan (-dən)
San Marino (,sæn mə'ri:nəʊ)	San Marinese (,sæn ,mærɪ'ni:z)
Saudi Arabia (,saʊdɪ ə'reɪbɪə)	Saudi Arabian (-bɪən)

Continent or country	Adjective, person
Scotland ('skɒtlənd)	Scottish ('skɒtɪʃ), Scot (skɒt)
Senegal (ˌsenɪ'gɔːl)	Senegalese (ˌsenɪgə'liːz)
Serbia ('sɜːbɪə)	Serb (sɜːb), Serbian (-ɪən)
(The) Seychelles ('seɪʃelz)	Seychellois (seɪʃel'wɑː)
Sierra Leone (sɪˌerə lɪ'əʊn)	Sierra Leonean (-nɪən)
Singapore (ˌsɪŋgə'pɔː*)	Singaporean (ˌsɪŋgə'pɔːrɪən)
Slovakia (sləʊ'vækɪə)	Slovakian (-kɪən), Slovak ('sləʊvæk)
Slovenia (sləʊ'viːnɪə)	Slovenian (-nɪən), Slovene ('sləʊviːn)
Somalia (sə'mɑːlɪə)	Somalian (-lɪən), Somali (-li)
South Africa (ˌsaʊθ 'æfrɪkə)	South African (-kən)
South America (ˌsaʊθ ə'merɪkə)	South American (-kən)
South Korea (ˌsaʊθ kə'rɪə)	South Korean (-'rɪən)
Sri Lanka (ˌsrɪ 'læŋkə)	Sri Lankan (ˌsrɪ 'læŋkən)
St Kitts and Nevis (sənt ˌkɪts ən 'niːvɪs)	
St Lucia (sənt 'luːʃə)	St Lucian (-ʃən)
St Vincent and the Grenadines (sənt 'vɪnsənt ən ðə 'grenədiːnz)	St Vincentian (vɪn'senʃən)
(The) Sudan (suː'dɑːn)	Sudanese (ˌsuːdə'niːz)
Suriname (sʊərɪ'nɑːmə)	Surinamese (sʊərɪnə'miːz)
Swaziland ('swɑːzɪlænd)	Swazi ('swɑːzɪ)
Sweden ('swiːdən)	Swedish ('swiːdɪʃ), Swede (swiːd)
Switzerland ('swɪtsələnd)	Swiss (swɪs)
Syria ('sɪrɪə)	Syrian (-rɪən)
Taiwan (taɪ'wɑːn)	Taiwanese (ˌtaɪwə'niːz)
Tajikistan (tədʒɪkɪ'stɑːn)	Tajik (tə'dʒɪk)
Tanzania (ˌtænzə'nɪə)	Tanzanian (-'nɪən)
Thailand ('taɪlænd)	Thai (taɪ)
Tibet (tɪ'bet)	Tibetan (-tən)
Togo ('təʊgəʊ)	Togolese (ˌtəʊgə'liːz)
Tonga ('tɒŋə)	Tongan (-ən)
Trinidad and Tobago (ˌtrɪnɪdæd ən tə'beɪgəʊ)	Trinidadian (ˌtrɪnɪ'dædɪən), Tobagoan (-gəʊən)
Tunisia (tjuː'nɪzɪə)	Tunisian (-ən)
Turkey ('tɜːkɪ)	Turkish ('tɜːkɪʃ), Turk (tɜːk)
Turkmenistan (tʊəkmenɪ'stɑːn)	Turkmen ('tʊəkmen), Turkmenian (tʊək'miːnɪən)
Uganda (juː'gændə)	Ugandan (-dən)
Ukraine (juː'kreɪn)	Ukrainian (juː'kreɪnɪən)
United Arab Emirates (juːˌnaɪtɪd 'ærəb eˈmɪərəts)	
United Kingdom (juːˌnaɪtɪd 'kɪŋdəm)	
United States of America (juːˌnaɪtɪd ˌsteɪts əv ə'merɪkə)	American (-kən)
Uruguay ('juərəgwaɪ)	Uruguayan (ˌjuərə'gwaɪən)
Uzbekistan (ʊzbekɪ'stɑːn)	Uzbek (ʊz'bek)
Venezuela (ˌvenɪ'zweɪlə)	Venezuelan (-lən)
Vietnam (ˌvɪet'næm)	Vietnamese (ˌvɪetnə'miːz)
Virgin Islands of the United States ('vɜːdʒɪn aɪləndz əv ðə juː'naɪtɪd steɪts)	US Virgin Islander (juːes 'vɜːdʒɪn aɪləndə*)
Wales (weɪlz)	Welsh (welʃ)
Western Samoa (ˌwestən sə'məʊə)	Western Samoan (-ən)
Yemen ('jemən)	Yemeni (-nɪ)
Yugoslavia (ˌjuːgəʊ'slɑːvɪə)	Yugoslavian (-vɪən), Yugoslav ('juːgəʊslɑːv)
Zaïre (zɑː'ɪə)	Zaïrean (-rɪən)
Zambia ('zæmbɪə)	Zambian (-bɪən)
Zimbabwe (zɪm'bɑːbwɪ)	Zimbabwean (-wɪən)

Abbreviations

A ampere
AA anti-aircraft
ABM anti-ballistic missile
A/C; a/c account
a.c. alternating current
AD *anno Domini* (Latin), in the year of our Lord
ADB African Development Bank
AFL-CIO American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organisations
AGM Annual General Meeting
AH *anno Hegirae* (Latin), in the year of Hegira
AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
A level Advanced level examination
AM amplitude modulation
a.m. *ante meridiem* (Latin), before noon
ANC African National Congress
anon. anonymous
approx. approximately
Apr. April
arr. arrives
ASA Advertising Standards Authority; Advertising Standards Association
a.s.a.p. as soon as possible
ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations
Assoc. Association
asst. assistant
Aug. August
AV Audio-Visual
Ave. Avenue
AWB Afrikaner Weerstandsbewegung
AWOL absent without leave

b. born; bowled
BA Bachelor of Arts
BBC British Broadcasting Corporation
BC before Christ
BCC Broadcasting Complaints Commission
B.Ed. Bachelor of Education
b/f brought forward
BFPO British Forces' Post Office
BM Bachelor of Medicine
B.Mus. Bachelor of Music
bn billion
b.p. blood-pressure; boiling point
Bros Brothers
B.Sc. Bachelor of Science

C carbon; Celsius; centigrade; (Roman numeral) 100
c. caught; cent; century; cubic
c. circa (Latin), about
ca. circa (Latin), about
cal calorie
Capt. Captain
CB citizens' band (radio)
cc copies; cubic centimetre(s); cubic capacity
CD compact disc
cd candela
CD-ROM compact disk read-only memory
cent. century
cert. certificate; certified
cf. *confer* (Latin), compare
c/f carried forward
CFC chlorofluorocarbon
c.g.s. centimetre-gram-second system
ch. chapter
CIA Central Intelligence Agency
CID Criminal Investigation Department
cif cost, insurance, freight
C.-in-C. Commander-in-Chief
CIS Commonwealth of Independent States
cl centilitre(s)
cm centimetre(s)
CND Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
CO Commanding Officer; conscientious objector
Co. Company
c/o care of
COD cash on delivery
cont or **cont'd** continued
COSATU Congress of South African Trade Unions
CP Conservative Party
cps characters per second (on a computer printer)
Cr. credit; creditor; Crown
cu cubic
c.v. curriculum vitae
cwt. hundredweight

D (Roman numeral) 500
d. daughter; died
dB decibel(s)
d.c. direct current
DD Doctor of Divinity
DDT dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane (insecticide)
Dec. December
dep. departs
Dept Department
Dip Ed Diploma in Education
Dir. Director
DIY do-it-yourself
DJ dinner-jacket; disc-jockey
D.Litt. Doctor of Letters
DM Deutsche Mark (German currency)
D.Mus. Doctor of Music
DNA deoxyribonucleic acid
dob date of birth
DOS disk operating system
DP Democratic Party

D.Phil. Doctor of Philosophy
Dr Doctor
Dr. debtor
D.Sc. Doctor of Science

E. east; eastern
ECG electrocardiogram
Ed. edited (by); editor
EFTA European Free Trade Association
EFTPOS electronic funds transfer at point of sale
e.g. *exempli gratia* (Latin), for example
e.m.f. electromotive force
encl. enclosed
ENT ear, nose, and throat
ESP extra-sensory perception
esp. especially
Esq. Esquire
etc. *et cetera* (Latin), and the rest
et seq. *et sequentia* (Latin), and what follows
EU European Union
excl. excluding

F Fahrenheit
f. female; feminine; following; franc
f *forte* (Italian), loud(ly)
FA Football Association
FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation
FC Football Club
Feb. February
Fed. Federal; Federation
fem. female; feminine
FF Freedom Front
ff *fortissimo* (Italian), very loud(ly)
FIFA *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* (French)
fig. figurative; figure
fl. fluid
fl. *floruit* (Latin), flourished
FM frequency modulation
f.p. freezing-point
Fr Father; franc; France; French
Fri. Friday
ft. feet; foot
fwd forward

g gram(s); (acceleration due to) gravity; gallon
gal gallon
gal. gallon(s)
GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GB Great Britain
GBH grievous bodily harm
GCE General Certificate of Education
GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education
Gdn(s) Garden(s)
GDP gross domestic product
Gen. General
Gk Greek
gm gram(s)
GMT Greenwich Mean Time
GNP gross national product
GNU Government of National Unity
GNVQ General National Vocational Qualification
govt government
GP general practitioner
gr. gross
gt great
gtd guaranteed

ha hectare(s)
h. & c. hot and cold (water)
HB hard and black (pencil lead)
HCF highest common factor
HE Her or His Excellency; high explosive; His Eminence
h.f. high frequency
HGV heavy goods vehicle
HIV human immunodeficiency virus
HM Her or His Majesty('s)
Hon. Honorary; Honourable
HP hire-purchase
hp horsepower
HQ Headquarters
hr hour(s)
h.t. high tension
Hz hertz

I Island; (Roman numeral) 1
IBA Independent Broadcasting Authority
ibid. *ibidem* (Latin), in the same place
ICBM inter-continental ballistic missile
id. *idem* (Latin), the same
IDA International Development Association
i.e. *id est* (Latin), that is; in other words
IFP Inkatha Freedom Party
ILO International Labour Organisation
IMF International Monetary Fund
in. inch(es)
Inc Incorporated
incl. included; inclusive
inst. institute; institution
IOU I owe you
IPA International Phonetic Alphabet
IQ intelligence quotient
IUD intrauterine device

Jan. January
jnr junior
JP Justice of the Peace
jr. junior
Jul. July
Jun. June
jun. junior

K kelvin; 1000; kilobyte
k kilogram; kilometre
kcal kilocalorie
kg kilogram(s)
kHz kilohertz
kJ kilojoule(s)
km kilometre(s)
KO; k.o. knock-out
kph kilometres per hour
kW kilowatt
kWh kilowatt hour

L learner
L. Lake; Latin; left; (Roman numeral) 50
l line; litre(s)
LA Los Angeles
Lab. Labour (Party)
lang. language
Lat. Latin
lat. latitude
lb. *libra(e)* (Latin), pound(s) (weight)
lbw leg before wicket (cricket)
LCD lowest common denominator
LCM least (or lowest) common multiple
LDV light delivery vehicle
l.h. left-hand
Lib. Liberal (Party)
lit. literally; literature
LL B Bachelor of Laws
LL D Doctor of Laws
long. longitude
LP long-playing (record)
Lt Lieutenant
l.t. low tension
Ltd. Limited

M motorway; (Roman numeral) 1000
M. member; *Monsieur* (French), Mr
m. male; married; masculine; metre(s); mile(s); million(s)
MA Master of Arts
Mar. March
masc. masculine
max. maximum
MD Doctor of Medicine
MEC Member of Executive Council
Med Mediterranean
MEP Member of the European Parliament
MF medium frequency
mg milligram(s)
MHz megahertz
min. minimum; minute(s)
mkt market
ml millilitre(s)
Mlle *Mademoiselle* (French), Miss
MM *Messieurs* (French), Messrs
mm millimetre(s)
Mme *Madame* (French), Mrs
MO Medical Officer; money order
mol mole
Mon. Monday
MOT Ministry of Transport
MP Member of Parliament; military police
m.p.g. miles per gallon
m.p.h. miles per hour
M.Phil. Master of Philosophy
MPLA Movement for Popular Liberation of Angola
Mr title before a man's name
Mrs title before a married woman's name
ms manuscript
Ms title before a woman's name
M.Sc. Master of Science
mss manuscripts
Mt Mount
MV megavolt
MW medium wave; megawatt

N newton (unit of force)
N. north; northern
n. noun
NACTU National Council of Trade Unions
NASA (US) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NB *nota bene* (Latin), note well
NE north-east
NEC National Executive Committee of ANC
NGO Non-governmental organisation
NHA National Health Authority
NHS National Health Service; National Health System
No.; no. number
Nov. November
NP National Party
nr. near
NT New Testament
NUM National Union of Mineworkers
NW north-west
NY New York
NZ New Zealand

OAP old-age pensioner
OAU Organisation of African Unity
Oct. October
OD overdose
O level Ordinary level examination
o.n.o. or nearest offer
op cit *opere citato* (Latin), in the work cited
OPEC Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
opp opposite
OT occupational therapy; Old Testament
Oxfam Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
oz. ounce(s)

P parking(-place)
p penny; pence

p. page; participle; past
p *piano* (Italian), soft(ly)
PA personal assistant; Press Association; public address
pa *per annum* (Latin), per year
PAC Pan Africanist Congress
p. & p. postage and packing
para paragraph
PAYE pay-as-you-earn (tax-collection)
PC Police Constable; Privy Councillor
p.c. postcard, per cent
PE physical education
PHC Primary Health Care
Ph.D. *Philosophiae Doctor* (Latin), Doctor of Philosophy
PLC Public Limited Company
PM post-mortem; Prime Minister
p.m. *post meridiem* (Latin), after noon
PO postal order; post office
POW prisoner of war
pp. pages
p.p. past participle; *per procurationem* (Latin), on behalf of
pp *pianissimo* (Italian), very soft(ly)
PR Public Relations
PRO Public Relations Office or Officer
PS postscript
PT physical training
PTA Parent-Teacher Association
PTO please turn over
Publ.; publ. published (by); publisher

QED *quod erat demonstrandum* (Latin), which was to be proved
qt quart
Qu question
q.v. *quod vide* (Latin), which see

R. Railway; right; River; Road
rad radian
RAM relative atomic mass; random-access memory
RC Red Cross; Roman Catholic
Rd. Road
rec(d) received
ref. reference
Renamo Mozambique National Resistance
ret(d). retired
r.h. right-hand
RIP *requiescat* (or *requiescant*) *in pace* (Latin), may he or she (or they) rest in peace
rly railway
ROM read-only memory
r.p.m. revolutions per minute
RSA Republic of South Africa
RSVP *répondez, s'il vous plaît* (French), please reply
rt right
Rt. Hon. Right Honourable

S. Saint; Society; south; southern
s. second(s); singular; son
SA South Africa; South America
SAA South African Airways
SAAU South African Agriculture Union
SABC South African Broadcasting Corporation
SACP South African Communist Party
s.a.e. stamped addressed envelope
SALT Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
SAP Structural Adjustment Programme
SAPA South African Press Association
Sat. Saturday
SE south-east
SEATO South-East Asia Treaty Organisation
sec. second(s); secretary
Sept. September
SF science fiction
Sgt Sergeant
SI *Système International* (French), International System (of Units)
Sn(r) Senior
Soc. Society
SOS save our souls (distress signal)
sp spelling
sq square
sr steradian
SS Saints; steamship
St Saint; Street
st. stone(s)
Sun. Sunday
Suppl. Supplement
Supt Superintendent
s.v. *sub verbo* or *sub voce* (Latin), under the word or heading
SW south-west

t. ton(s)
TB tuberculosis
tel. telephone
temp. temperature
Thurs. Thursday
TNT trinitrotoluene
trans. translated
TT teetotal(ler); tuberculin tested
TUC Trades Union Congress
Tues. Tuesday
TV television

UAE United Arab Emirates
UCT University of Cape Town
UDF United Democratic Front
UDI unilateral declaration of independence
UFO unidentified flying object
UHF ultra high frequency
UHT ultra heat treated
UK United Kingdom
UN United Nations
Unesco United Nations Educational,

Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNHCR United Nations High Commission for Refugees
Unicef United Nations (International) Children's (Emergency) Fund
UNISA University of South Africa
UNITA National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
Univ. University
UNO United Nations Organisation
UPI United Press International
US United States
USA United States of America
USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
UWC University of The Western Cape

V volt(s); (Roman numeral) 5
v. verb; verse; versus; very
v. *vide* (Latin), see
VAT value-added tax
VC vice-chancellor; vice-consul
VCR video-cassette recorder
VDU visual display unit
VHF very high frequency
VIP very important person
viz *videlicet* (Latin), namely
vol. volume
vs versus
VSO Voluntary Service Overseas
VTR videotape recorder
vv. verses

W watt(s)
W. west; western
Weds. Wednesday
WHO World Health Organisation
WI West Indies
wk week; work
WP word processing
w.p.b. waste-paper basket
wpm words per minute
WRAF Women's Royal Air Force
wt weight
wysiwyg what you see is what you get

X (Roman numeral) 10

yd. yard(s)
YMCA Young Men's Christian Association
yr. year; your
YWCA Young Women's Christian Association

Weights and measures

Metric

Length

10 millimetres	=	1 centimetre	=	0.3937 inch
100 centimetres	=	1 metre	=	1.0936 yards
1000 metres	=	1 kilometre	=	0.6214 mile

Area

10,000 sq centimetres	=	1 sq metre	=	1.196 sq yards
10,000 sq metres	=	1 hectare	=	2.4711 acres
100 hectares	=	1 sq kilometre	=	0.3861 sq mile

Weight

1000 milligrams	=	1 gram	=	0.0353 ounce
1000 grams	=	1 kilogram	=	2.2046 pounds
1000 kilograms	=	1 tonne	=	0.9842 ton

Capacity

10 millilitres	=	1 centilitre	=	0.018 pint
100 centilitres	=	1 litre	=	0.22 gallon
10 litres	=	1 decalitre	=	2.20 gallons

Non-metric

Length

12 inches	=	1 foot	=	30.48 centimetres
3 feet	=	1 yard	=	0.9144 metre
1760 yards	=	1 mile	=	1.6093 kilometres

Area

144 sq inches	=	1 sq foot	=	0.0929 sq metre
9 sq feet	=	1 sq yard	=	0.8361 sq metre
4840 sq yards	=	1 acre	=	4046.9 sq metres
640 acres	=	1 sq mile	=	259 hectares

Weight

16 ounces	=	1 pound	=	0.4536 kilogram
14 pounds	=	1 stone	=	6.35 kilograms
8 stone	=	1 hundredweight	=	50.80 kilograms
20 hundredweight	=	1 ton	=	1.016 tonnes

Capacity

20 fluid ounces	=	1 pint	=	0.5683 litre
2 pints	=	1 quart	=	1.1366 litres
8 pints	=	1 gallon	=	4.5461 litres

SI Units

The International System of Units (Système International d'Unités: SI) is an international system of measurement using seven base units and two supplementary units from which all other SI units are derived.

Multiples and submultiples of these units are formed by the use of affixes.

Base units

Quantity	Name	Symbol
length	metre	m
mass	kilogram	kg
electric current	ampere	A
time	second	s
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K
luminous intensity	candela	cd
amount of substance	mole	mol

Supplementary units

plane angle	radian	rad
solid angle	steradian	sr

Affixes

multiple	affix	symbol
10	deca-	da
10^2	hecto-	h
10^3	kilo-	k
10^6	mega-	M
10^9	giga-	G
10^{12}	tera-	T
10^{15}	peta-	P
10^{18}	exa-	E

sub-multiple	affix	symbol
10^{-1}	deci-	d
10^{-2}	centi-	c
10^{-3}	milli-	m
10^{-6}	micro-	μ
10^{-9}	nano-	n
10^{-12}	pico-	p
10^{-15}	femto-	f
10^{-18}	atto-	a

Chemical elements and symbols

actinium (Ac)
aluminium (Al)
americium (Am)
antimony (Sb)
argon (Ar)
arsenic (As)
astatine (At)
barium (Ba)
berkelium (Bk)
beryllium (Be)
bismuth (Bi)
boron (B)
bromine (Br)
cadmium (Cd)
caesium (Cs)
calcium (Ca)
californium (Cf)
carbon (C)
cerium (Ce)
chlorine (Cl)
chromium (Cr)
cobalt (Co)
copper (Cu)
curium (Cm)
dysprosium (Dy)
einsteinium (Es)
erbium (Er)
europium (Eu)
fermium (Fm)
fluorine (F)
francium (Fr)
gadolinium (Gd)
gallium (Ga)
germanium (Ge)
gold (Au)
hafnium (Hf)
hahnium (Ha)
helium (He)
holmium (Ho)
hydrogen (H)
indium (In)
iodine (I)
iridium (Ir)
iron (Fe)
krypton (Kr)
lanthanum (La)
lawrencium (Lr)
lead (Pb)
lithium (Li)
lutetium (Lu)
magnesium (Mg)
manganese (Mn)
mendelevium (Md)
mercury (Hg)
molybdenum (Mo)
neodymium (Nd)
neon (Ne)
neptunium (Np)
nickel (Ni)
niobium (Nb)
nitrogen (N)
nobelium (No)
osmium (Os)
oxygen (O)
palladium (Pd)
phosphorus (P)
platinum (Pt)
plutonium (Pu)
polonium (Po)
potassium (K)
praseodymium (Pr)
promethium (Pm)
protactinium (Pa)
radium (Ra)
radon (Rn)
rhenium (Re)
rhodium (Rh)
rubidium (Rb)
ruthenium (Ru)
rutherfordium (Rf)
samarium (Sm)
scandium (Sc)
selenium (Se)
silicon (Si)
silver (Ag)
sodium (Na)
strontium (Sr)
sulphur (S)
tantalum (Ta)
technetium (Tc)
tellurium (Te)
terbium (Tb)
thallium (Tl)
thorium (Th)
thulium (Tm)
tin (Sn)
titanium (Ti)
tungsten (W)
uranium (U)
vanadium (V)
xenon (Xe)
ytterbium (Yb)
yttrium (Y)
zinc (Zn)
zirconium (Zr)

Punctuation

This section has been adapted from *Current English Usage* by Frederick T. Wood, R.H. Flavell, and L.M. Flavell (Macmillan).

Full stop (*US* period) (.)
It indicates the end of a sentence. Any sentence which follows begins with a capital letter:
O He left the hotel. It was raining outside.
If a sentence ends with a question mark or exclamation mark, no full stop is added:
O Do you want to come with us tomorrow?

Question mark (?)
It is used at the end of direct questions:
O 'May I come with you tomorrow?'
It is not used after indirect questions:
O She asked if she could have a glass of water.

Exclamation mark (*US* exclamation point) (!)
1 After interjections It is used after interjections and words which are meant to imitate a sudden, sharp sound:
O Ah! Oh! Bang! Crash! You stupid boy!
2 After *how* or *what* It is used after sentences which use *how* or *what* as exclamations to show surprise or indignation:
O *How* rude he is! O *What* an awful mess!

Comma (,)
1 Where adjectives qualify the same noun Compare these two sentences:
O She was a tall, slim girl. O She was a pretty little girl.
Commas are used in the first sentence because the adjectives have equal weight in qualifying the same noun. There are no commas in the second sentence because *little girl* has the force of a compound.
2 To separate repeated words It is used to separate words which are repeated for the sake of emphasis:
O He speaks very, very quickly.
3 To indicate a parenthesis It indicates a parenthesis or an interruption and separates it from the rest of the sentence. The parenthesis may consist of a single word or a group of words:
O This, however, is certain.
O The story, such as it is, may be summarised as follows.
Since a parenthesis is an insertion into a sentence, *two commas* are needed to separate it from the sentence.
4 To distinguish defining and non-defining expressions It is used to distinguish a non-defining expression from one which defines. This is a very important use and must be carefully noted. Compare these two sentences:
O My brother who is an engineer has gone to Australia.
O My brother, who is an engineer, has gone to Australia.
The first sentence implies I have several brothers. The clause *who is an engineer* defines: it describes the brother I am talking about. Here there are no commas. The implication of the second sentence is that I have only one brother. The clause *who is an engineer* merely adds extra information about that brother. The information is like a parenthesis and is separated off by two commas.
5 To mark off a noun in direct address It is used to mark off a noun or pronoun in direct address:
O Is that you, Mary?
Where the phrase occurs internally, two commas are needed:
O And now, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the most interesting exhibit of all.
6 To separate participial phrases It is used to separate participial phrases from the rest of the sentence:

O The horse, seeing how high the fence was, refused to jump.
7 To separate verbs like *say* from direct speech It separates the verbs *say*, *shout*, *reply*, etc., from direct speech:
O 'Your dinner is on the table,' she shouted. O 'All right,' he replied, 'I'm coming now.'
8 To separate co-ordinate clauses It may be used to separate two co-ordinate clauses joined by a conjunction, though there is a tendency in modern usage to leave the comma out:
O I am going out now, but I hope to find everything ready when I get back.
If the subjects of the clauses are different, the comma is more likely to be kept:
O I have to go now, but Mr Haverall will arrive shortly.
9 To separate a main and subordinate clause Where the main clause follows the subordinate clause, a comma may be used to separate the two:
O Although it was raining heavily, the match continued.
A comma is never used when the main clause comes first.

Colon (:)
1 It separates two co-ordinate clauses where the second clause explains the first:
O Martin had never felt so happy: Sheila loved him.
2 It separates two clauses where one is in contrast to the other:
O Speech is silver: silence is golden.
3 It introduces a list or an example:
O The box contained a collection of articles: a few books, various papers, foreign coins, stamps and paperclips.
Where the list introduced starts on the following line, the colon may be followed by a dash:
O The following candidates passed with distinction:—
J C Andrews, W A Barsley, J Charlesworth, P G Dutton.
4 It introduces a fairly long passage of direct speech, as a comma would introduce a shorter passage:
O Introducing the speaker, the Chairman said: (Here follows an actual report of his speech, or the relevant parts of it, in inverted commas.)
5 It introduces a literary or documentary quotation within the body of the paragraph. In this case the quotation should not be more than one sentence long:
O If I may quote from the Managing Director's last report: 'Property revaluation shows a surplus of £21.7 million over book value.'

Semi-colon (;)
1 Usage It separates two clauses not joined by a conjunction, which are syntactically independent but which are closely connected in thought:
O You couldn't expect it to last very long; it was too cheap.
2 Comma or semi-colon? Sometimes it is hard to decide whether to use a comma or a semi-colon. The sense we wish to express is the best guide. Generally the semi-colon, being a heavier punctuation mark than the comma, throws more emphasis on the words that follow it. Compare these sentences:
O I knew he would fail, and he did. O I knew he would fail; and he did.
3 Other use It separates items in a list where commas are ineffective because they have been used within the items themselves:
O To avoid sunburn you need: a big, shady sun-hat; a good, protective, cream; a cool, cotton shirt as a cover-up; and self-discipline not to stay out in the sun too long.

Inverted commas (or quotation marks) ('...' or "...")
They are used in direct speech. Note the following:
1 Inverted commas are only used around words actually spoken:
O 'I really can't think why Martin's so late,' said Sheila. 'He must have been held up in the traffic.'
2 Where the words inside the inverted commas form a complete sentence, the full stop comes inside the inverted commas:
O 'He must have been held up in the traffic.'
The exception to this is where the sentence is followed by words such as *she said*, in which case the full stop follows them:
O 'I really can't think why Martin's so late,' said Sheila with a sigh.
When a sentence is interrupted by words such as *she said*, *he replied*, etc., then these words

are marked off by commas:
O 'Yes,' said the secretary, 'Mr Hopkins will see you at ten tomorrow.'
3 Any punctuation of direct speech belongs inside the inverted commas:
O 'You clumsy boy!' the woman exclaimed. 'Who told you to ride your bicycle on the pavement?'
4 Where there is a quotation within a quotation, it is marked off by double inverted commas. You must be careful that any further punctuation, such as a question mark, is correctly placed:
O 'Did he say "I refuse to do it"?' asked the magistrate.

Hyphen (-)

1 **With prefixes** It links prefixes to nouns to form new words: *ex-soldier*, *non-intervention*, *sub-let*, *pro-British*, *anti-aircraft*. In long-established compounds the two elements are now written as one word, but the hyphen continues to be used if its absence would lead to a duplication of letters: *co-operating*, *re-employ*, *mis-shapen*. A hyphen is always necessary when a prefix is attached to a noun or adjective beginning with a capital letter: *pro-German*, *anti-Nazi*, *un-English*.
2 **To prevent ambiguity** The hyphen is used to prevent ambiguity where words are similar. Compare:
O I am going to *re-cover* that old cushion. O I *recovered* the cushion from the dustbin.
3 **To group words** The hyphen is used to group words so as to avoid ambiguity: *an Irish-linen manufacturer* (the linen is Irish, not the manufacturer). *An old factory-cleaner* (the cleaner is old, not the factory).
4 **With adjectives before a noun** In phrases consisting of an adjective + noun or an adjectival phrase, a hyphen is used before a noun: *nineteenth-century poetry*, *our next-door neighbours*. But they are not hyphenated after a noun or verb: *poetry of the nineteenth century*, *our neighbours next door*.
5 **With adjectives modified by adverbs** Usually, no hyphen is necessary when an adverb modifies an adjective: *a badly behaved child*, *an incredibly foolish act*. But with combinations such as *well-known*, *ill-behaved*, *wide-open*, *half-hearted* where the first element might not at once be recognised as an adverb, the hyphen is necessary before a following noun: *a well-known fact*, *a well-acted play*, *a wide-open window*, *a half-hearted attempt*. No hyphen is required when the combination follows the noun and verb: *The fact is well known; the play was well acted*.
6 **With adjective-participle combinations** Adjective-participle combinations like *hard-boiled*, *new-born*, are hyphenated whether used before the noun or after the noun and verb:
O Pack some *hard-boiled* eggs for the picnic. O These eggs are *hard-boiled*.
7 **With compounds ending in *-ed*** Compound adjectives made from an adjective followed by a noun with *-ed* added take the hyphen: *a good-sized house*, *a four-wheeled vehicle*.
8 **With compound cardinal numbers** Compound cardinal numbers like *twenty-one*, *fifty-three*, etc., are hyphenated; so are the corresponding ordinals: *one's twenty-first birthday*. With multiples there is no hyphenation of the cardinals *(two hundred, five thousand, three score and ten)*, but the ordinals have a hyphen: *the two-hundredth anniversary*. Fractions are hyphenated when they denote a single amount: *two-thirds of a mile*, *three-quarters of a pound*.
9 **At the end of a line** As far as possible, avoid splitting words at the end of a line, but if splitting is necessary, then (a) place the hyphen at the end of the first line, not at the beginning of the second, and (b) see that the word is so split that the part of it on the first line is recognisable as a sense unit. Thus *wonder-ing*, not *won-dering* or *wond-ering*.
10 **Unnatural hyphens** Avoid the unsightly and unnatural hyphens in *schoolboys and -girls*, *grandfathers and -mothers*. Write *schoolboys and schoolgirls*, etc.

Dash (—)

It is longer than a hyphen and separates parts of sentences, whereas a hyphen joins parts of words.
1 It separates a parenthesis from the main body of the sentence. For this use two dashes are needed, one at each end:
O Those who knew Pop—and there were few who did not know him—learnt to love him.
2 It attaches an afterthought or comment to the end of a sentence. The dash is used here only when the comment which follows is not a complete clause:

○ Of the young men going into industry, many can scarcely write their name or read a simple sentence of English—a sad commentary on our educational system.
3 To attach a final summing-up to a sentence. Here the words that follow the dash may, and usually do, constitute a complete clause, or even several clauses:
○ Friends, money, power, position—all these he had before he reached middle age.
4 To show that a sentence is unfinished or has been interrupted:
○ A: I was about to say—
○ B: I'm not interested in what you were about to say.

Apostrophe (')
There are three uses:
1 **In omissions** To indicate the omission of one or more letters from the spelling of a word, as in *can't, isn't*. Remember *it's* is short for *it is*. The possessive adjective *its* has no apostrophe.
2 **In plurals** For the plural of words which, not being nouns or pronouns, do not normally have a plural form: *if's, and's* and *but's; he gets mixed up with his will's and shall's*. It is also used for the plural of letters of the alphabet: *Mind your p's and q's; how many l's are there in travelling?* An apostrophe may also be used for the plurals of numbers when they are written as figures: *He makes his 8's like 3's; the 1990's*, but the modern tendency is to omit the apostrophe here: *8s like 3s; the 1990s*.
3 **In possessives** To indicate the possessive (or genitive case) of a noun.
a The apostrophe is placed before the *s* for the genitive singular: *my father's car* and after the *s* for the genitive plural: *a girls' school, a dogs' home*.
b Those nouns which do not make their plural in *s (child/children, woman/women, man/men)* add an *'s* to the singular and the plural forms: *a child's toys, children's toys, a woman's hat, a women's college*.
c For personal names ending in *s*, add an *'s* if an additional syllable is pronounced for the possessive: *Jones's, James's, Charles's*, but if no extra syllable is pronounced, then place the apostrophe after the existing *s*: *Mr Humphreys' house*.
d When two names are to be taken together as a 'joint' possessive, the possessive ending is added only to the last: *Gilbert and Sullivan's operas* (joint authorship) but *Trollope's and Thackeray's novels* (the novels of Trollope and Thackeray considered separately).
e Note the 'free' or independent genitive in *St Paul's; she was staying at her aunt's; I am going to the butcher's/baker's/barber's*.
f Use the *'s* or *s'* in phrases such as *an hour's time, a day's journey, two weeks' wages, three weeks' holiday*, etc.
g Note the use of the apostrophe in such expressions as *a friend of my father's, a poem of Shelley's, a relative of her husband's*.