Lovereading4kids.co.uk

Helping you choose books for children

0-5 5-7 7-9 9-12 12+

opening extract from

# Oxford Junior Illustrated Dictionary

written by

**Sheila Dignen**

published by

**Oxford University Press**

All text is copyright of the author and illustrator

please print off and read at your leisure.

**genre** noun (*plural* **genres**)
A genre is one type of writing. Poetry, adventure stories, and fairy tales are examples of different genres.

**gentle** adjective **gentler, gentlest**
If you are gentle, you touch something in a kind, careful way and are not rough. *I gave Ali a gentle nudge.*

**WORD FAMILY**
- **gently** She very gently put the baby bird back in the nest.

**gentleman** noun (*plural* **gentlemen**)
a polite name for a man

**genuine** adjective (*say* **jen**-yoo-in)
Something that is genuine is real. *Do you think this is genuine gold?*

**geography** noun (*say* **jee**-og-ra-fee)
the subject in which you learn about the earth, with its mountains, rivers, countries, and the people who live in them

**geology** noun
the subject in which you learn about rocks and fossils



**germ** noun (*plural* **germs**)
A germ is a tiny living thing, that is too small to see. Germs sometimes make you ill if they get inside your body.

**get** verb **gets, getting, got**
1 When you get something, you receive it, buy it, or earn it, and it becomes yours. *What did you get for your birthday?*
2 To get means to become. *Are you getting tired yet?*

**ghost** noun (*plural* **ghosts**)
the shape of a dead person that some people think they can see

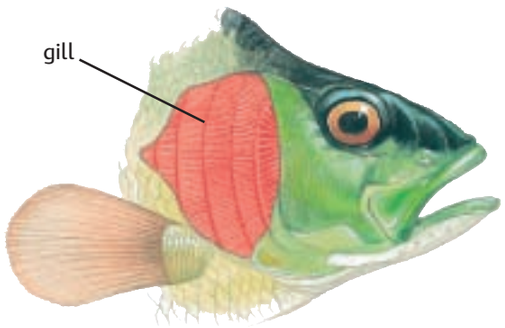
**giant** noun (*plural* **giants**)
a very big person, especially in stories

**gift** noun (*plural* **gifts**)
a present

**gigantic** adjective
Something that is gigantic is very big. *He lifted the tree with one of his gigantic arms.*

**giggle** verb **giggles, giggling, giggled**
If you giggle, you laugh in a silly way.

**gill** noun (*plural* **gills**)
The gills on a fish are the parts on its sides that it breathes through.




**ginger** noun
a spice with a strong, hot taste

**ginger** adjective
Ginger hair is a reddish-orange colour.

**giraffe** noun (*plural* **giraffes**)
A giraffe is a very tall African animal with a very long neck. Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world, and they use their long necks to reach up and eat leaves off trees.

**girl** noun (*plural* **girls**)
a female child

**girlfriend** noun (*plural* **girlfriends**)
A boy's girlfriend is the girl he is going out with.







**give** verb **gives, giving, gave, given**
If you give something to someone, you let them have it.

**glad** adjective
If you are glad about something, you are happy about it.
*Then the crocodile and the monkey and the parrot were very glad and began to sing because they were going back to Africa, their real home.*—Hugh Lofting, The Story of Doctor Dolittle

**WORD FAMILY**
- **gladly** I will gladly help you.

**glamorous** adjective
Someone who is glamorous looks elegant, rich, and beautiful.

**glance** verb **glances, glancing, glanced**
If you glance at something, you look at it quickly.
*I glanced at my watch. 'Let's get a move on. It's quarter past eight.'*—Narinder Dhami, Bindi Babes

**glare** verb **glares, glaring, glared**
1 If you glare at someone, you look at them angrily. *Mr Dempster glared at the two boys.*
2 If a light glares, it shines with a very bright light that hurts your eyes.

**glass** noun (*plural* **glasses**)
1 the hard, clear substance that windows are made of
2 a cup made of glass, which you drink out of

**glasses** noun
two round pieces of glass in a frame, which some people wear over their eyes to help them to see better or to shade their eyes from the sun



**gleam** verb **gleams, gleaming, gleamed**
If something gleams, it shines. *The cat's eyes gleamed in the dark.*

**glide** verb **glides, gliding, glided**
When something glides along, it moves along very smoothly. *The skaters glided over the ice.*

**glider** noun (*plural* **gliders**)
a type of aeroplane without an engine

**glimmer** verb **glimmers, glimmering, glimmered**
If something glimmers, it shines with a faint light.

**glimpse** verb **glimpses, glimpsing, glimpsed**
If you glimpse something, you see it for only a few seconds. *I glimpsed an animal in the bushes.*

**glint** verb **glints, glinting, glinted**
If something glints, it shines or sparkles. *The water was glinting in the moonlight.*

**glisten** verb **glistens, glistening, glistened**
If something glistens, it shines and sparkles because it is wet. *The grass glistened with dew.*

**glitter** verb **glitters, glittering, glittered**
If something glitters, it shines and sparkles brightly.
*Trees of diamonds under the earth! Sparkling brighter than frost. Glittering more brilliantly than sun on water.*—Anne Fine, The Twelve Dancing Princesses

**gloat** verb **gloats, gloating, gloated**
If you gloat, you show that you are pleased because you have done well and someone else has done badly.



**global warming** noun
the process by which the earth is gradually getting warmer because of pollution in the atmosphere

**globe** noun (*plural* **globes**)
a ball with the map of the whole world on it

**WORD FAMILY**
- Something that is **global** happens all over the world.

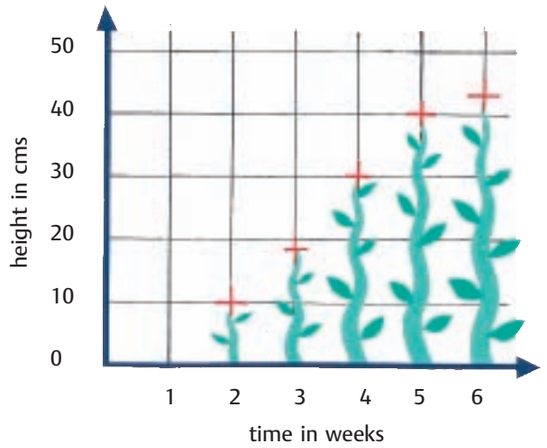
**gloomy** adjective **gloomier, gloomiest**
1 A gloomy place is dark.
2 If you feel gloomy, you feel sad.

**glorious** adjective
Something that is glorious is beautiful or magnificent. *It was a glorious summer's day.*

**grape** noun (*plural* **grapes**)
a small, soft green or purple fruit that grows in bunches

**grapefruit** noun (*plural* **grapefruits**)
a large, sour-tasting fruit that has thick yellow skin

**graph** noun
(*plural* **graphs**)
a diagram that shows information about something *We drew a graph showing how tall our plant grew.*




**graphics** noun
pictures or designs, especially pictures that are made on a computer *Some computer games have got brilliant graphics.*

**grasp** verb **grasps, grasping, grasped**
If you grasp something, you get hold of it and hold it tightly. *She grasped my arm to stop herself from falling.*

**grass** noun (*plural* **grasses**)
a green plant that covers the ground and is used for lawns and parks

**grasshopper** noun (*plural* **grasshoppers**)
an insect that has long back legs and can jump a long way



**grate** verb **grates, grating, grated**
When you grate food, you cut it into very small pieces by rubbing it against a rough tool. *Sprinkle the grated cheese over the top of the pizza.*

**grateful** adjective
If you are grateful for something, you are glad that you have it. *We are very grateful for all your help.*

**WORD FAMILY**
- **gratefully** He accepted the food gratefully.

**grave** noun (*plural* **graves**)
a place where a dead person is buried in the ground

**grave** adjective **graver, gravest**
Something that is grave is very serious and worrying.

**gravel** noun
tiny stones that are used to make paths *Her feet crunched over the gravel.*

**gravity** noun
(*in science*) the force that pulls things towards the earth

**graze** verb **grazes, grazing, grazed**
1 If you graze a part of your body, you hurt it by scraping it against something and making it bleed. *I fell over and grazed my knee.*
2 When animals graze, they eat grass. *The sheep were grazing in the field.*

**grease** noun
a thick, oily substance

**great** adjective **greater, greatest**
1 Something that is great is very big and impressive.
*The edge of the river was lined with great trees, which seemed to get even taller further away.*—Alexander McCall Smith, The Bubblegum Tree
2 A great person is very clever and important. *Van Gogh was a great artist.*
3 Something that is great is very good. *It's a great film!*

**greedy** adjective **greedier, greediest**
Someone who is greedy wants more food or money than they need.

**green** adjective
Something that is green is the colour of grass.





**greengrocer** noun (*plural* **greengrocers**)
someone who sells fruit and vegetables in a shop

**greenhouse** noun (*plural* **greenhouses**)
a glass building that people use for growing plants in

**greet** verb **greets, greeting, greeted**
When you greet someone, you welcome them and say hello to them.

**WORD FAMILY**
- A **greeting** is something that you say when you greet someone.

**grew** verb *see* **grow**

**grey** adjective (*rhymes with* day)
Something that is grey is the colour of the sky on a cloudy day.

**grid** noun (*plural* **grids**)
a pattern of straight lines that cross over each other to make squares

**grill** verb **grills, grilling, grilled**
When you grill food, you cook it on metal bars either under or over heat. *We grilled some sausages for tea.*

**grin** verb **grins, grinning, grinned**
When you grin, you smile in a cheerful way. *The Enormous Crocodile grinned, showing hundreds of sharp white teeth.*—Roald Dahl, The Enormous Crocodile

**grind** verb **grinds, grinding, ground**
When you grind something, you crush it into tiny bits. *The wheat is taken to the mill and ground into flour.*

**grip** verb **grips, gripping, gripped**
When you grip something, you hold on to it tightly.

**gripping** adjective
A book or film that is gripping is very exciting.

**groan** verb **groans, groaning, groaned**
When you groan, you make a low sound because you are in pain or are disappointed about something.

**grocer** noun (*plural* **grocers**)
someone who sells tea, sugar, jam, and other kinds of food in a shop

**groom** noun (*plural* **grooms**)
1 a person who looks after horses
2 another word for a bridegroom

**groove** noun (*plural* **grooves**)
a long, narrow cut in something

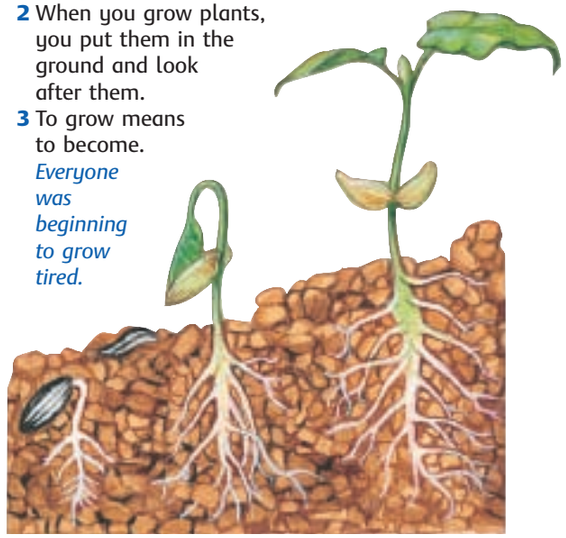
**grope** verb **gropes, groping, groped**
If you grope around, you try to find something by feeling for it with your hands because you cannot see. *I groped for the door in the dark.*

**ground** noun (*plural* **grounds**)
1 The ground is the earth.
2 A sports ground is a piece of land that people play sport on.

**ground** verb *see* **grind**

**group** noun (*plural* **groups**)
1 a number of people, animals, or things that are together or belong together *There was a group of children standing by the ice cream stall.*
2 a number of people who play music together *What's your favourite pop group?*

**grow** verb **grows, growing, grew, grown**
1 To grow means to become bigger.
*My aunt looked at me and said, 'My! Haven't you grown!'*
2 When you grow plants, you put them in the ground and look after them.
3 To grow means to become.
*Everyone was beginning to grow tired.*



**growl** verb **growls, growling, growled**
When an animal growls, it makes a deep, angry sound in its throat.

# Explore: Words we use too much

When you read your writing, look out for words that you use over and over again. Try to think of alternatives. This list will give you some ideas, but you may want to look at the *Oxford Junior Illustrated Thesaurus* for more. Before you choose a different word, check that it has the right meaning for your sentence.

| word | other words you could try | |
|---|---|---|
| **and** | also, as well, of course, furthermore, moreover | |
| **angry** | furious, cross, bad tempered, annoyed, mad | |
| **bad** | bad person | wicked, evil |
| | bad food | rotten, mouldy, terrible |
| | bad dog | naughty, disobedient |
| | bad at tennis | hopeless, useless, terrible |
| | bad knee | injured, sore |
| **because** | so, therefore, since, consequently, hence, if... then | |
| **but** | however, in contrast, although, and yet, on the other hand, whereas | |
| **good** | good work | thorough, neat, accurate, careful, excellent |
| | good art | impressive, brilliant, excellent, wonderful |
| | good day | nice, pleasant, enjoyable |
| | good children | well-behaved, polite, quiet, happy |
| **lovely** | lovely clothing | pretty, beautiful, unique, gorgeous |
| | lovely food | delicious, tasty, wonderful |
| | lovely person | kind, pleasant, charming, polite |
| **nice** | nice picture | pretty, beautiful, lovely, stylish, gorgeous |
| | nice person | friendly, kind, thoughtful, sympathetic, pleasant, polite |
| | nice weather | lovely, pleasant, beautiful, warm, sunny, glorious, wonderful |
| **said** | bellowed, called, complained, cried, declared, groaned, moaned, mumbled, screamed, snarled, whispered, yelled | |
| **then** | next, later, after that, soon, meanwhile, secondly, before | |
| **went** | walked, ran, fled, crept, marched, scuttled, strolled, tiptoed, scuttled | |



Become a Word Explorer

# Explore: Words we easily confuse

| word | meaning | example |
|---|---|---|
| **to** | when you go to a place, you go there | We're going to Spain this year. |
| **too** | also or more than you need | He is coming too. Don't eat too much. |
| **two** | the number 2 | There will be two of us. |
| **its** | belonging to it | The cat was eating its food. |
| **it's** | short for *it is* | It's raining today. |

**Explorer tip:** To decide which you need, think about the question: can I turn it into *it is*? If you can, you need to write it's, if you can't, you should write its.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **there** | in that place | Go over there. |
| **their** | belonging to them | They have lost their homework. |
| **they're** | short for *they are* | They're going home now. |
| **loose** | not tight | My tooth is loose. |
| **lose** | If you lose something, you can't find it. | Where did you lose your jumper? |
| **than** | compared with another person | I am shorter than you. |
| **then** | or thing after that | We'll do some work and then we'll have a story. |
| **whose** | belonging to which person | Whose jumper is this? |
| **who's** | short for *who is* | Who's reading next? |
| **your** | belonging to you | Have you got your coat? |
| **you're** | short for *you are* | You're looking well today. |