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10

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alligator *noun* (*plural* **alligators**) a large reptile like a crocodile, found mainly in America



allotment *noun* (*plural* **allotments**) a small piece of ground which someone rents and uses for growing vegetables, fruit, or flowers

allow *verb* (**allows, allowing, allowed**) 1 to let someone do something 2 to provide an amount of money for some reason ▸ *They only allowed £5 for bus fares and it wasn't enough.*

allowance *noun* (*plural* **allowances**) a sum of money that is given regularly to someone ▸ *Kate's Mum gave her a monthly allowance for clothes.*

alloy *noun* (*plural* **alloys**) a metal formed by mixing other metals ▸ *Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc.*

all right *adjective* satisfactory; in good condition ▸ *He put his hand on her arm and asked her if she was all right.* ▸ *All right, I'll sit on the floor over here.*

all-rounder *noun* someone who is good at different things

ally *noun* (*plural* **allies**) (*pronounced* **al**-I) a person or country that helps or supports another

almighty *adjective* 1 having total power 2 (informal) very great or loud ▸ *The door crashed against the wall with an almighty bang.*

almond *noun* (*plural* **almonds**) (*pronounced* **ah**-mond) a flat oval nut that you can eat

almost *adverb* very nearly but not quite ▸ *Jane jumped forward and almost banged her head on the glass.*

alone *adjective* and *adverb* without any other people or things, on your own ▸ *As soon as Mark opened the door he knew he was not alone.*

along *preposition* and *adverb* 1 from one end of something to the other ▸ *The nurse was pushing a trolley along the corridor.* 2 going somewhere with someone ▸ *Our friends enjoyed the outing and were glad we had taken them along.*

alongside *preposition* and *adverb* beside something and close to it

aloud *adverb* in an ordinary voice that people can hear

alphabet *noun* (*plural* **alphabets**) the letters used in a language arranged in a special order alphabetical *adjective* alphabetically *adverb*

already *adverb* by or before now ▸ *When the phone rang, Claire had already left the house.*

Alsatian *noun* (*plural* **Alsatians**) (*pronounced* **al**-**say**-shan) a large strong dog with a thick coat and a long pointed nose

also *adverb* as an extra, besides ▸ *We also need some bread.*

altar *noun* (*plural* **altars**) a table or raised surface in a church or temple, used in religious ceremonies or to perform sacrifices

alter *verb* (**alters, altering, altered**) to change something slightly to make it more suitable ▸ *The dress was too long and her mother had to alter it.* alteration *noun*

alternate *adjective* (*pronounced* **ol**-**ter**-nat) every other one ▸ *I visit my grandparents on alternate weekends.* alternately *adverb* one after the other in turn

alternative *noun* (*plural* **alternatives**) (*pronounced* **ol**-**ter**-na-tiv) something you can choose or use instead of something else ▸ *Blinds are a good alternative to curtains in kitchens and work-rooms.*

alternative *adjective* for you to choose instead of something else ▸ *There is an alternative route if you don't want to go through London.*

although *conjunction* even though ▸ *Although the sun was shining, it was still cold.*

altitude *noun* (*plural* **altitudes**) the height of something above sea level

altogether *adverb* 1 completely ▸ *The excuse was not altogether convincing.* 2 as a total, in all ▸ *We made £50 altogether at the cake sale.*

aluminium *noun* a silver-coloured metal that is light in weight

always *adverb* 1 all the time, at all times 2 often, constantly ▸ *The family always go for a long walk on Sundays.* 3 whatever happens ▸ *I could always sleep on the floor.*

am a form of the verb **be** used when the person speaking is referring to himself or herself

a.m. short for Latin *ante meridiem*, which means 'before midday'. You use it to show the time in the morning. ▸ *Wake me at 7 a.m.*

amalgamate *verb* (**amalgamates, amalgamating, amalgamated**) to join things together to form one thing

amateur *noun* (*plural* **amateurs**) (*pronounced* **am-a-ter**) someone who does something because they enjoy it, and not for money ▸ *The orchestra was a mixture of amateur and professional musicians.*
amateur *adjective* done by amateurs

amaze *verb* (**amazes, amazing, amazed**) to surprise or astonish someone very much ▸ *We were amazed that our phone bill was so low.* amazement *noun*

ambassador *noun* (*plural* **ambassadors**) an official who is sent to represent a country in another country

amber *noun* 1 a hard clear dark yellow substance often containing fossils of insects and used for jewellery 2 a yellowish colour



ambiguous *adjective* having more than one possible meaning, uncertain ▸ *The words of the song were rather ambiguous.* ambiguity *noun*

ambition *noun* (*plural* **ambitions**) 1 a strong desire to be successful in life 2 something you want to do very much ▸ *Polly's ambition was to become a doctor like her mother.* ambitious *adjective* having a lot of ambition

amble *verb* (**ambles, ambling, ambled**) to walk along gently without hurrying

ambulance *noun* (*plural* **ambulances**) a special vehicle for carrying sick or injured people

ambush *noun* (*plural* **ambushes**) a surprise attack from a hidden place
ambush *verb* (**ambushes, ambushing, ambushed**) to attack someone in an ambush

amend *verb* (**amends, amending, amended**) to change a piece of writing so that it is better or more accurate amendment *noun*

amiable *adjective* friendly, good-tempered amiability *noun* amiably *adverb*

amicable *adjective* friendly amicably *adverb*

amid or **amidst** *preposition* in the middle of, among

ammonia *noun* a gas or liquid with a sharp smell, used to make cleaning liquids

ammunition *noun* bullets, shells, and other objects fired from guns

amnesty *noun* (*plural* **amnesties**) a promise to free prisoners or to pardon people who have broken the law