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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 **Alsations**) (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