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created for parents and children to make
choosing books easy and fun

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Aa

abandon verb

- 1 The robbers **abandoned** the stolen car.
leave, desert, forsake, leave behind, strand
(informal) dump, ditch
- 2 We **abandoned** our picnic because of the rain.
cancel, give up, scrap, drop, abort, discard

ability noun

Skin has a natural **ability** to heal itself.
capability, competence, aptitude, talent, expertise, skill

able adjective

- 1 Will you be **able** to come to my party?
allowed, permitted, free, willing
OPPOSITE unable
- 2 Penguins are very **able** swimmers.
competent, capable, accomplished, expert, skilful, proficient, talented, gifted
OPPOSITE incompetent

abolish verb

I wish someone would **abolish** homework!
get rid of, do away with, put an end to, eliminate
OPPOSITE create

about preposition

There are **about** two hundred children in the school.
approximately, roughly, close to, around
to be about something
The film is **about** a dog called Scruff.

concern, deal with, involve

abrupt adjective

- 1 The book came to a very **abrupt** end.
sudden, hurried, hasty, quick, unexpected
OPPOSITE gradual
- 2 The sales assistant had a very **abrupt** manner.
blunt, curt, sharp, rude, gruff, impolite, tactless, unfriendly
OPPOSITE polite

absent adjective

Why were you **absent** from school yesterday?
away, missing
To be absent from school without a good reason is to **play truant**.
OPPOSITE present

absolute adjective

The hypnotist asked for **absolute** silence.
complete, total, utter, perfect

absolutely adverb

This floor is **absolutely** filthy!
completely, thoroughly, totally, utterly, wholly, entirely

abuse verb

- 1 The rescued dog had been **abused** by its owners.
mistreat, maltreat, hurt, injure, damage, harm, misuse
- 2 The referee was **abused** by players from both teams.
be rude to, insult, swear at
(informal) call someone names

abuse noun

- 1 They campaigned against the **abuse** of animals.
mistreatment, misuse, damage, harm, injury
- 2 A spectator yelled **abuse** at the referee.
insults, name-calling, swear words

accelerate verb

The bus **accelerated** when it reached the motorway.
go faster, speed up, pick up speed
OPPOSITE slow down

accept verb

- 1 I **accepted** the offer of a lift to the station.
take, receive, welcome
OPPOSITE reject
- 2 The club **accepted** my application for membership.
approve, agree to, consent to
OPPOSITE deny
- 3 Do you **accept** responsibility for the damage?
admit, acknowledge, recognize, face up to
OPPOSITE deny
- 4 They had to **accept** the umpire's decision.
agree to, go along with, tolerate, put up with, resign yourself to

acceptable adjective

- 1 Would a pound be **acceptable** as a tip?
welcome, agreeable, appreciated, pleasant, pleasing, worthwhile
- 2 She said my handwriting was not **acceptable**.
satisfactory, adequate, appropriate, permissible, suitable, tolerable, passable
OPPOSITE unacceptable

accident noun

- 1 There has been an **accident** at a fireworks display.
misfortune, mishap, disaster, calamity, catastrophe
A person who is always having accidents is **accident-prone**.
- 2 A motorway **accident** is causing traffic delays.
collision, crash, smash
An accident involving a lot of vehicles is a **pile-up**.

A railway accident may involve a **derailment**.

- 3 It was pure **accident** that led us to the secret passage.
chance, luck, a fluke

accidental adjective

- 1 The damage to the building was **accidental**.
unintentional, unfortunate, unlucky
- 2 The professor made an **accidental** discovery.
unexpected, unforeseen, unplanned, fortunate, lucky, chance

OPPOSITE deliberate

account noun

- 1 I wrote an **account** of our camping trip in my diary.
report, record, description, history, narrative, story, chronicle, log
(informal) write-up
- 2 Money was of no **account** to him.
importance, significance, consequence, interest, value

accurate adjective

- 1 The detective took **accurate** measurements of the room.
careful, correct, exact, meticulous, minute, precise
OPPOSITE inexact, rough
- 2 Is this an **accurate** account of what happened?
faithful, true, reliable, truthful, factual
OPPOSITE inaccurate, false

accuse verb

accuse of
Miss Sharp **accused** her opponent of cheating.
charge with, blame for, condemn for, denounce for
OPPOSITE defend

ache noun

The **ache** in my tooth is getting worse.
pain, soreness, throbbing, discomfort, pang, twinge

achieve verb

- 1 He **achieved** his ambition to play rugby for Wales.
accomplish, attain, succeed in, carry out, fulfil
- 2 The singer **achieved** success with her first CD.
acquire, win, gain, earn, get, score

achievement noun

To climb Mount Everest would be an **achievement**.
accomplishment, attainment, success, feat, triumph

act noun

- 1 Rescuing the boy from the river was a brave **act**.
action, deed, feat, exploit, operation

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2 The best **act** at the circus involved three clowns. performance, sketch, item, turn

act verb

1 We must **act** as soon as we hear the signal.

do something, take action

2 Give the medicine time to **act**. work, take effect, have an effect, function

3 Stop **acting** like a baby!

behave, carry on

4 I **acted** the part of a pirate in the play.

perform, play, portray, represent, appear as

action noun

1 The driver's **action** prevented an accident.

act, deed, effort, measure, feat

2 The fruit ripens through the **action** of the sun.

working, effect, mechanism

3 The film was packed with **action**.

drama, excitement, activity, liveliness, energy, vigour, vitality

active adjective

1 Mr Aziz is very **active** for his age.

energetic, lively, dynamic, vigorous, busy

2 My uncle is an **active** member of the football club.

enthusiastic, devoted, committed, dedicated,

hard-working

OPPOSITE inactive

activity noun

1 The town centre was full of **activity**.

action, life, busyness, liveliness, excitement, movement, animation

2 My mum's favourite **activity** is gardening.

hobby, interest, pastime, pursuit, job, occupation, task

actual adjective

Did you see the **actual** crime?

real, true, genuine, authentic

OPPOSITE imaginary, supposed

actually adverb

What did the teacher **actually** say to you?

really, truly, definitely, certainly, genuinely, in fact

adapt verb

1 I'll **adapt** the goggles so that they fit you.

alter, change, modify, convert, reorganize, transform

2 Our family **adapted** quickly to life in the country.

become accustomed, adjust, acclimatize

add verb

The poet **added** an extra line in the last verse.

join on, attach, append, insert

to add to

The herbs **add** to the flavour of the stew.

improve, enhance, increase

add up

1 Can you **add up** these figures for me?

count up, find the sum of, find the total of

(informal) tot up

2 (informal) Her story just doesn't **add up**.

be convincing, make sense

additional adjective

There are **additional** toilets downstairs.

extra, further, more,

supplementary

adequate adjective

1 A sandwich will be **adequate**, thank you.

enough, sufficient, ample

2 Your work is **adequate**, but I'm sure you can do better.

satisfactory, acceptable, tolerable, competent, passable, respectable

adjust verb

1 You need to **adjust** the TV picture.

correct, modify, put right,

improve, tune

2 She **adjusted** the central heating thermostat.

alter, change, set, vary, regulate

admire verb

1 I **admire** her skill with words.

think highly of, look up to, value, have a high opinion of, respect,

applaud, approve of, esteem

OPPOSITE despise

2 The travellers stopped to **admire** the view.

enjoy, appreciate, be delighted by

admit verb

Did he **admit** that he told a lie?

acknowledge, agree, accept,

confess, grant, own up

OPPOSITE deny

adopt verb

1 Our school has **adopted** a healthy eating policy.

take up, accept, choose, follow,

embrace

2 We have **adopted** a stray kitten.

foster, take in

adore verb

1 Rosie **adores** her big sister.

love, worship, idolize, choke on

2 (informal) I **adore** chocolate milk shakes!

love, like, enjoy

OPPOSITE hate, detest

adult adjective

An **adult** zebra can run at 80km an hour.

grown-up, mature, full-size, fully grown

OPPOSITE young, immature

advance verb

1 As the army **advanced**, the enemy fled.

move forward, go forward, proceed, approach, come near,

press on, progress, forge ahead, gain ground, make headway,

make progress

OPPOSITE retreat

2 Mobile phones have **advanced** in the last few years.

develop, grow, improve, evolve, progress

advantage noun

We had the **advantage** of the wind behind us.

assistance, benefit, help, aid, asset

OPPOSITE disadvantage, drawback

adventure noun

1 He told us about his latest **adventure**.

enterprise, exploit, venture,

escapade

2 They travelled the world in search of **adventure**.

excitement, danger, risk, thrills

advertise verb

We made a poster to **advertise** the cake sale.

publicize, promote, announce,

make known

(informal) plug

advice noun

The website gives **advice** on building a bird table.

guidance, help, directions,

recommendations, suggestions,

tips, pointers

advise verb

1 What did the doctor **advise**?

recommend, suggest, advocate,

prescribe

2 He **advised** me to rest.

counsel, encourage, urge

affect verb

1 Global warming will **affect** our climate.

have an effect or impact on, influence, change, modify, alter

2 The bad news **affected** us deeply.

disturb, upset, concern, trouble, worry

afford verb

I can't **afford** a new bike just now.

have enough money for, pay for, manage, spare

afraid adjective

1 We felt **afraid** as we approached the haunted house.

frightened, scared, terrified,

petrified, alarmed, fearful,

anxious, apprehensive

OPPOSITE brave

2 Don't be **afraid** to ask questions.

hesitant, reluctant, shy

age noun

The book is set in the **age** of the Vikings.

period, time, era, epoch, days

aggressive adjective

Bats are not **aggressive** creatures.

hostile, violent, provocative, quarrelsome, bullying,

warlike

OPPOSITE friendly

agile adjective

Mountain goats are extremely **agile**.

nimble, graceful, sure-footed, sprightly, acrobatic, supple, swift

OPPOSITE clumsy, stiff

agony noun

He screamed in **agony** when he broke his leg.

pain, suffering, torture, torment, anguish, distress

agree verb

1 I'm glad that we **agree**.

be united, think the same, concur

OPPOSITE disagree

2 I **agree** that you are right.

accept, acknowledge, admit,

grant, allow

OPPOSITE disagree

3 I **agree** to pay my share.

consent, promise, be willing,

undertake

OPPOSITE refuse

agreement noun

1 There was **agreement** on the need for longer holidays.

consensus, unanimity, unity, consent, harmony, sympathy,

conformity

OPPOSITE disagreement

2 The two sides signed an **agreement**.

alliance, treaty

An agreement to end fighting is an **armistice** or **truce**.

A business agreement is a

bargain, **contract**, or **deal**.

aid noun

1 We can climb out with the **aid** of this rope.

help, support, assistance, backing, cooperation

2 They agreed to send more **aid** to the poorer countries.

donations, subsidies,

contributions

aid verb

The local people **aided** the police in their investigation.

help, assist, support, back, collaborate with, cooperate with,

contribute to, lend a hand to, further, promote, subsidize

aim noun

What was the **aim** of the experiment?

ambition, desire, dream, goal, hope, intention, objective,

purpose, target, wish

aim verb

1 She **aims** to be a professional dancer.



WORD WEB



aircraft noun

SOME TYPES OF AIRCRAFT

aeroplane, airliner, airship, biplane, bomber, fighter, glider, helicopter, hot-air balloon, jet, jumbo jet, seaplane

PARTS OF AIRCRAFT

cabin, cargo hold, cockpit, engine, fin, flap, flight deck, fuselage, joystick, passenger cabin, propeller, rotor, rudder, tail, tailplane, undercarriage, wing

PLACES WHERE AIRCRAFT TAKE OFF AND LAND

aerodrome, airfield, airport, airstrip, helipad, heliport, landing strip, runway

PEOPLE WHO FLY IN AIRCRAFT

pilot, aviator, balloonist, co-pilot, cabin crew, flight attendant, passengers

intend, mean, plan, propose, want, wish, seek

2 He **aimed** his bow and arrow at the target.

point, direct, take aim with, line up, level, train, focus

air noun

1 We shouldn't pollute the **air** we breathe.

atmosphere

2 This room needs some **air**.

fresh air, ventilation

3 There was an **air** of mystery about the place.

feeling, mood, look, appearance, sense

aircraft noun

alarm verb

The barking dog **alarmed** the sheep.

frighten, startle, scare, panic, agitate, distress, shock, surprise,

upset, worry

OPPOSITE reassure

alarm noun

1 Did you hear the **alarm**?

signal, alert, warning, siren

2 The sudden noise filled me with **alarm**.

fright, fear, panic, anxiety, apprehension, distress,

nervousness, terror, uneasiness

alien adjective

1 The desert landscape looked **alien** to us.

strange, foreign, unfamiliar,

different, exotic

OPPOSITE familiar

2 They saw the lights of an **alien** spaceship.

extraterrestrial

alien noun

WORD WEB

alien noun

I wrote a story about **aliens** from Mars.

extraterrestrial, alien

life-form, spaceman or

spacewoman, starman

or starwoman

AN ALIEN FROM ANOTHER PLANET MIGHT BE

humanoid, insect-like, lizard-like, reptilian, intelligent, primitive, super-intelligent, telepathic

BODY PARTS AN ALIEN MIGHT HAVE

antenna, blotches, scales, slime, sucker, tentacle, webbing

TRANSPORT AN ALIEN MIGHT USE

alien vessel, flying saucer, mothership, pod, spacecraft, spaceship, starship, time-machine, transporter beam

An alien might call someone from Earth an **Earthling**.



alien



answer noun

1 Did you get an **answer** to your letter?

reply, response, acknowledgement, reaction
A quick or angry answer is a **retort**

2 The **answers** to the quiz are on the next page.

solution, explanation

answer verb

1 You haven't **answered** my question.

give an answer to, reply to, respond to, react to, acknowledge

2 'I'm quite well,' I **answered**.

reply, respond, return
To answer quickly or angrily is to **retort**.

anxious adjective

1 Are you **anxious** about your exams?

nervous, worried, apprehensive, concerned, uneasy, fearful, edgy, fraught, tense, troubled
(informal) uptight, jittery

OPPOSITE calm

2 I'm **anxious** to do my best.

eager, keen, impatient, enthusiastic, willing

apologize verb

The ogre **apologized** for being rude.

make an apology, say sorry, express regret, repent, be penitent

apparent adjective

There was no **apparent** reason for the crash.

obvious, evident, clear, noticeable, detectable, perceptible, recognizable, conspicuous, visible

OPPOSITE concealed

appeal verb

to **appeal** for

The prisoners **appealed** for our help.

request, beg for, plead for, cry out for, entreat, ask earnestly for, pray for **to appeal to**

That kind of music doesn't **appeal** to me.

attract, interest, fascinate, tempt

appear verb

1 Snowdrops **appear** in the spring.
come out, emerge, become visible, come into view, develop, occur, show, crop up, spring up, surface

2 Our visitors didn't **appear** until midnight.

arrive, come, turn up
(informal) show up

3 It **appears** that the baby is asleep.

seem, look

4 I once **appeared** in a musical.
act, perform, take part, feature

appearance noun

1 They were startled by the **appearance** of the ghost.

approach, arrival, entrance, entry

2 Mr Hogweed had a grim **appearance**.

air, aspect, bearing, look

appetite noun

1 When I was ill, I completely lost my **appetite**.

hunger

2 Explorers have a great **appetite** for adventure.

desire, eagerness, enthusiasm, passion, keenness, wish, urge, taste, thirst, longing, yearning, craving, lust, zest

apply verb

1 The nurse told me to **apply** the ointment generously.

administer, put on, lay on, spread

2 My brother has **applied** for a new job.

make an application for, ask for, request

3 The rules **apply** to all our members.

be relevant, relate, refer

4 The vet **applied** all her skill to save the animal's life.

use, employ, exercise, utilize

appreciate verb

1 He **appreciates** good music.

enjoy, like, love

2 I **appreciate** her good qualities.

admire, respect, regard highly, approve of, value, esteem

OPPOSITE despise

3 I **appreciate** that you can't afford much.

realize, recognize, understand, comprehend, know, see

4 Dad hopes that the value of our house will **appreciate**.

grow, increase, go up, mount, rise

approach verb

1 The lioness **approached** her prey.

draw near to, move towards, come near to, advance on

2 I **approached** the head to ask if we could have a party.

speak to, contact, go to

3 The volunteers **approached** their work cheerfully.

begin, undertake, embark on, set about

approach noun

1 We could hear the **approach** of heavy footsteps.

arrival, advance, coming

2 Dad made an **approach** to the bank manager for a loan.

application, appeal, proposal

3 I like her positive **approach**.
attitude, manner, style, way

4 The easiest **approach** to the castle is from the west.

access, entry, entrance, way in

appropriate adjective

It's not **appropriate** to wear jeans to a wedding.

suitable, proper, fitting, apt, right, tactful, tasteful, well-judged

OPPOSITE inappropriate

approval noun

1 We cheered to show our **approval**.

appreciation, admiration, praise, high regard, acclaim, respect, support

OPPOSITE disapproval

2 The head gave her **approval** to our plan.

agreement, consent, authorization, assent, go-ahead, permission, support, blessing

OPPOSITE refusal

approve verb

The head **approved** my request for a day off school.

agree to, consent to, authorize, allow, accept, pass, permit, support, back

OPPOSITE refuse

approximate adjective

What is the **approximate** length of the journey?

estimated, rough, inexact, near

OPPOSITE exact

approximately adverb

The film will finish at **approximately** five o'clock.

roughly, about, around, round about, close to, nearly, more or less

area noun

1 From the plane we saw a big **area** of desert.

expanse, stretch, tract
A small area is a **patch**.

An area of water or ice is a **sheet**.

2 I live in an urban **area**.

district, locality, neighbourhood, region, zone, vicinity

argue verb

1 You two are always **arguing** over something.

quarrel, disagree, differ, fall out, fight, have an argument, squabble, wrangle, bicker

OPPOSITE agree

2 We **argued** over the price of the cloth.

bargain, haggle

3 He **argued** that it was my turn to walk the dog.

claim, assert, try to prove, maintain, reason, suggest

argument noun

1 They was an **argument** over who should pay for the meal.

disagreement, quarrel, dispute, row, clash, controversy, debate, difference, fight, squabble, altercation

2 Did you follow the **argument** of the book?

line of reasoning, theme, outline, gist

armour noun

WORD WEB

PARTS OF A MEDIEVAL KNIGHT'S ARMOUR

breastplate, cuirass (breast and back plate), gauntlet, greave (shin guard), habergeon (sleeveless coat), helmet, visor

Armour made of linked rings is **chain mail**.

An outfit of armour is a **suit of armour**.

armour

arrange verb

1 The books are **arranged** in alphabetical order.

sort, order, put in order, group, organize, categorize, classify, collate, display, sort out, set out, lay out, line up

2 Do you need any help **arranging** the party?

plan, organize, prepare, set up, see to

arrangement noun

1 They have improved the **arrangement** of the garden.

layout, organization, design, planning

2 Did you change the **arrangement** of my CDs?

order, grouping, display, distribution, spacing

3 We have an **arrangement** to use the swimming pool.

agreement, deal, bargain, contract, scheme

arrive verb

When is the train due to **arrive**?

appear, come, turn up, show up, get in

When a plane arrives it **lands** or **touches down**.

to arrive at

We **arrived at** the castle before midnight.

get to, reach

arrogant adjective

His **arrogant** manner annoys me.

boastful, conceited, proud, haughty, self-important, bumptious, pompous, snobbish, superior, vain

(informal) cocky, snooty, stuck-up

OPPOSITE modest

art - need to add Word Web back in here.

See below

article noun

1 Have you any **articles** for the jumble sale?

item, object, thing

2 Did you read my **article** in the magazine?

essay, report, piece of writing

artificial adjective

1 Organic gardeners don't use **artificial** fertilizers.

man-made, synthetic, unnatural, manufactured

OPPOSITE natural

2 She had an **artificial** flower in her buttonhole.

fake, false, imitation, unreal,

WORD WEB

artist noun

SOME ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

animator, blacksmith, carpenter, cartoonist, designer, draughtsman, draughtswoman, embroiderer, engraver, goldsmith, graphic designer, illustrator, knitter, mason, painter, photographer, potter, printer, quilter, sculptor, silversmith, weaver

artistic adjective

Mum's flower arrangements are very **artistic**.

creative, imaginative, aesthetic, attractive, beautiful, tasteful

OPPOSITE ugly

painting

potter

photographer

embroidery

embroidery

embroidery

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embroidery

bogus, counterfeit

OPPOSITE genuine, real

ashamed adjective

He was **ashamed** because of what he had done.

sorry, remorseful, repentant, embarrassed, shamefaced, abashed, mortified apologetic, penitent

(informal) red-faced

OPPOSITE unashamed, unrepentant

ask verb

1 I **asked** them to be careful with the parcel.

beg, entreat, appeal to, implore, plead with

2 'Are you ready?' I **asked**.

demand, enquire, inquire, query, question

3 I'm going to **ask** you to my party.

invite
(formal) request the pleasure of your company

asleep adjective

I didn't hear the phone because I was **asleep**.

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asleep

sleeping, dozing, having a nap, napping
(formal) slumbering
A patient asleep for an operation is **anaesthetized** or **under sedation**.
An animal asleep for the winter is **hibernating**.
OPPOSITE awake
to fall asleep
We waited until the giant fell asleep.
drop off, doze, nod off
To fall asleep quickly is **to go out like a light**.

assemble verb
1 A crowd **assembled** to watch the rescue.
gather, come together, converge, accumulate, crowd together, flock together, meet, convene
OPPOSITE disperse
2 We **assembled** our luggage at the front door.
collect, gather, bring together, pile up, put together
3 The general **assembled** his troops.
round up, rally, muster

assembly noun
There was a large **assembly** of people in the market square.
gathering, meeting, crowd, throng
An assembly for worship is a **service**.
A large assembly to show support for something, often out of doors, is a **rally**.
An assembly to discuss political matters is a **council** or **parliament**.
An assembly to discuss and learn about a particular topic is a **conference** or **congress**.

assistance noun
1 Do you need **assistance** with your luggage?
help, aid, support, encouragement
2 We bought new sports equipment with the **assistance** of a local firm.
backing, collaboration, cooperation, sponsorship, subsidy, support

assistant noun
The magician was training a new **assistant**.
helper, partner, colleague, associate, supporter

assorted adjective
I bought a bag of sweets with **assorted** flavours.
various, different, mixed, diverse

assortment noun
There was an **assortment** of sandwiches to choose from.

variety, mixture, selection, array, choice, collection, diversity
assume verb
1 I **assume** you'd like some chocolate.
suppose, presume, imagine, believe, guess, expect, gather, suspect, think
2 The bandit **assumed** a disguise.
put on, adopt, dress up in, wear

assure verb
I **assure** you that I will take care of your dog.
promise, give your word to

astonish verb
It **astonished** us to learn that the house was haunted.
amaze, astound, surprise, stagger, shock, dumbfound, leave speechless, startle, stun, take aback, take by surprise (informal) flabbergast, take your breath away

astonishing adjective
The volcano was an **astonishing** sight.
amazing, astounding, staggering, remarkable, surprising, extraordinary, incredible, breathtaking, phenomenal, sensational, stupendous, tremendous, wonderful

astronaut noun

WORD WEB

The **astronauts** climbed aboard the space shuttle.
spacesman or spacewoman

THINGS AN ASTRONAUT MIGHT USE OR WEAR
spacesuit, jet pack, oxygen tank, gloves, helmet, moonboots or spaceboots, visor

PLACES AN ASTRONAUT MIGHT VISIT
alien planet, moonbase, spacelab, space shuttle, space station, starbase

athletic adjective
You need to be **athletic** to run in a marathon.
fit, active, energetic, strong, muscular, powerful, robust, sturdy, vigorous, well-built (informal) sporty

OPPOSITE feeble, puny
atrocious adjective
Everyone was shocked by the **atrocious** crime.
wicked, terrible, dreadful, abominable, brutal, savage, barbaric, bloodthirsty, callous, cruel, diabolical, evil, fiendish, horrifying, merciless, outrageous, sadistic, terrible, vicious, villainous

attach verb
Attach this label to the parcel.
fasten, fix, join, tie, bind, secure, connect, link, couple, stick, affix, add, append
OPPOSITE detach

attack noun
1 The pirates' **attack** took us by surprise.
assault, strike, charge, rush, raid, ambush, invasion, onslaught
An attack with big guns or bombs is a **blitz** or **bombardment**.
An attack by planes is an **air raid**.
2 The newspaper published an **attack** on his character.
criticism, outburst, abuse, tirade
3 I had a **sneezing attack** in assembly.
bout, fit, spasm (informal) turn

attack verb
1 The travellers were **attacked** by highwaymen.
assault, beat up, mug, set on, assail
To attack someone else's territory is to **invade** or **raid** it.
To attack someone from a hidden place is to **ambush** them.
To attack the enemy with bombs or heavy guns is to **bombard** them.
To attack by rushing at the enemy is to **charge**.
To attack a place suddenly is to **storm** it.
If an animal attacks you, it might **save** you.
2 He **attacked** her reputation.
abuse, criticize, denounce
OPPOSITE defend

attempt verb
They will **attempt** to reconstruct a Viking ship.
try, endeavour, strive, seek, aim, make an effort

attend verb
Are you going to **attend** the end-of-term concert?
go to, appear at, be present at
to attend to
1 Please **attend** carefully to my instructions.
listen to, pay attention to, follow carefully, heed, mark, mind, note, notice, observe, think about
2 Who will **attend** to the washing up?
deal with, see to
3 The nurses **attended** to the wounded.
take care of, care for, look after, help, mind, tend

attitude noun
I'm trying to take a more positive **attitude** to life.
outlook, approach, behaviour, stance, frame of mind, disposition, view, position, manner, mood

attract verb
1 Do you think our exhibition will **attract** people?
interest, appeal to, fascinate, tempt, entice
2 Baby animals **attract** big crowds at the zoo.
draw, pull in

attractive adjective
1 Miranda was a very **attractive** young woman.
beautiful, pretty, good-looking, handsome, gorgeous, glamorous, striking, fetching, charming, lovely, delightful, pleasing, fascinating, captivating, enchanting
OPPOSITE unattractive, repulsive
2 There are some **attractive** bargains in the sale.
appealing, agreeable, interesting, desirable, tempting, irresistible

authority noun
1 I have the head's **authority** to go home early.
permission, consent, approval
2 The king had the **authority** to execute the prisoners.
power, right, influence
3 My uncle is an **authority** on steam trains.
expert, specialist

automatic adjective
1 We took our car through the **automatic** car wash.
automated, mechanical, programmed, computerized
2 My sneezing was an **automatic** response to the pepper.
instinctive, involuntary, impulsive, spontaneous, reflex, natural, unconscious, unthinking

available adjective
1 There are no more seats **available**.
obtainable, free
2 Is there a phone **available** in the library?
accessible, ready, usable, at hand, handy, within reach, convenient

average adjective
It was an **average** kind of day at school.
everyday, ordinary, normal, typical, usual, regular, commonplace, familiar
OPPOSITE unusual, extraordinary
avoid verb
1 The driver tried hard to **avoid** the collision.
get out of the way of, avert, dodge, keep clear of, steer clear of, fend off, shun
2 The outlaws **avoided** capture for months.
elude, evade, run away from, escape from
3 How did you manage to **avoid** the washing up?
get out of, shirk

awake adjective
Hester lay **awake** all night worrying.
wide awake, restless, sleepless, conscious, astir
Not being able to sleep is to be suffering from **insomnia**.
OPPOSITE asleep

award noun
Kirsty got a national **award** for gymnastics.
prize, trophy, medal

aware adjective
aware of
The spy was **aware** of the dangers of the mission.
acquainted with, conscious of, familiar with, informed about
OPPOSITE ignorant of

awful adjective
1 The weather was **awful** last weekend.
bad, dreadful, terrible, appalling, dire, abysmal (informal) rubbish, lousy
2 The teacher complained about our **awful** behaviour.
disgraceful, shameful, disobedient, naughty

3 Cinderella's stepmother was an **awful** woman.
unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, horrid, detestable, unkind, unfriendly
4 The country was shocked by the **awful** crime.
horrifying, shocking, atrocious, abominable, outrageous

5 I feel **awful** about forgetting your birthday.
sorry, ashamed, embarrassed, guilty, remorseful

awkward adjective
1 The parcel was an **awkward** shape.
bulky, inconvenient, unmanageable, unwieldy
OPPOSITE convenient

2 The giant was very **awkward** with his knife and fork.
clumsy, unskilful, bungling
OPPOSITE skilful

3 We found ourselves in a very **awkward** situation.
difficult, troublesome, trying, perplexing, tough
OPPOSITE straightforward, easy

4 Are you trying to be **awkward**?
obstinate, stubborn, uncooperative, unhelpful, exasperating

OPPOSITE cooperative
5 I felt **awkward** as I didn't know anyone at the party.
embarrassed, uncomfortable, uneasy, out of place
OPPOSITE comfortable, at ease



Bb

baby noun

infant, child
A baby who has just been born is a **new-born**.
A baby just learning to walk is a **toddler**.
The time when someone is a baby is their **babyhood**.

babyish adjective

My brother thinks that dolls are babyish.
childish, immature, infantile
OPPOSITE grown-up, mature

back noun

We always sit at the back of the bus.

end, rear, tail end
OPPOSITE front

back adjective

The back door of the cabin was locked.
end, rear, tail
The back legs of an animal are its **hind** legs.
OPPOSITE front

back verb

1 A big lorry was backing into our driveway.
go backwards, reverse
2 I'm backing the blue team to win the race.
bet on, put money on
3 The council is backing the plan to build a skate park.
support, sponsor, endorse

background noun

1 I drew a mermaid with the sea in the background.
OPPOSITE foreground
2 The first chapter deals with the background to the war.
circumstances of, history of, lead-up to

3 My mother's family has a Swedish background.

tradition, upbringing, ancestry

bad adjective

This has been a bad week for all of us.
awful, horrible, terrible
OPPOSITE good, fine, excellent

OVERUSED WORDS

bad adjective

Try to vary the words you use for **bad**. Here are some other words you could use.

FOR A bad person:

wicked, evil, cruel, malevolent, malicious, vicious, villainous, mean, nasty, beastly, monstrous, corrupt, deplorable, detestable, immoral, infamous, shameful, sinful *Gobo was a detestable king who was loathed by his subjects.*

A bad person is a **scoundrel**, **rogue**, or **rascal**.

A bad character in a story or film is a **villain** or (informal) **baddy**.

OPPOSITE good, virtuous

FOR A bad accident OR bad illness:

serious, severe, grave, distressing, acute *Ingrid has a severe case of chickenpox.*
OPPOSITE minor
FOR bad behaviour: naughty, mischievous, disobedient, disgraceful, wrong *That mischievous kitten drank my milk!*

OPPOSITE exemplary, angelic
FOR A bad experience OR bad news:

unpleasant, unwelcome, disagreeable, horrible, awful, terrible, dreadful, horrific, appalling, shocking, hideous, disastrous, ghastly, frightful, abominable, diabolical *The letter contained disagreeable news.*

Another word for a bad experience is an **ordeal**.

OPPOSITE good, excellent
FOR A bad habit OR SOMETHING THAT IS bad for you:

harmful, damaging, dangerous, undesirable, detrimental, injurious *Fizzy drinks can be harmful to your teeth.*

FOR bad weather:

harsh, hostile, unfavourable, adverse, miserable (informal) lousy *Penguins face hostile weather in the Antarctic.*

OPPOSITE fine, favourable

FOR FOOD THAT HAS gone bad:

mouldy, rotten, off, decayed, sour, spoiled, rancid *The strawberries have started to go mouldy.*
OPPOSITE fresh

TO feel bad ABOUT SOMETHING:

guilty, ashamed, sorry, remorseful, repentant *Scrooge feels repentant by the end of the story.*

OPPOSITE unashamed, unrepentant

bad-tempered adjective

Trolls are always bad-tempered before breakfast.

cross, grumpy, irritable, moody, quarrelsome, fractious, ill-tempered, short-tempered, cantankerous, crotchety, snappy, testy, sullen

OPPOSITE good-tempered, cheerful

band noun

1 The king was surrounded by a band of courtiers.

company, group, gang, party, troop, crew

2 I play piano in the junior jazz band.

group, ensemble, orchestra

3 The team captain wears a red arm band.

strip, stripe, ring, line, belt, hoop

bang noun

1 There was a loud bang as the balloon burst.

blast, boom, crash, thud, thump, pop, explosion, report

2 He got a bang on the head from the low ceiling.

bump, blow, hit, knock, thump, punch, smack, whack, clout (informal) wallop

bang verb



Miss Crabbit banged her fist on the desk and scowled.

hit, thump, strike, bash, slam, wham

banish verb

The king's brother was banished forever.

exile, expel, deport, send away, eject

bank noun

1 The temple was built on the banks of the River Nile.

edge, side, shore, margin, brink

2 We rolled our Easter eggs down a grassy bank.

slope, mound, ridge, embankment

banquet noun

There was a banquet on the queen's birthday.

dinner, feast

bar noun

1 Did you eat the whole bar of chocolate?

block, slab, chunk, wedge
A bar of gold or silver is an **ingot**.
A bar of soap is a **cake**.

2 The window had iron bars across it.

rod, pole, rail, stake, beam, girder

bar verb

1 Two athletes were barred from competing in the race.

ban, prohibit, exclude, keep out

2 A fallen tree barred our way.

block, hinder, impede, obstruct, stop, check

bare adjective

1 I put sunscreen on my bare arms and legs.

naked, nude, exposed, uncovered, unclothed, undressed

2 The wolf had a bare patch on its back.

bald, hairless

3 We slept outside on the bare mountain.

barren, bleak, treeless

4 Inside, the dungeon was cold and bare.

empty, unfurnished, vacant

5 There wasn't a bare patch of wall left.

blank, plain, clear, empty

6 There is only room to pack the bare essentials.

basic, minimum

barely adverb

We barely had time to get dressed.

hardly, scarcely, only just

bargain noun

1 We made a bargain with the captain to take us ashore.

deal, agreement, promise, pact

2 That camera you bought was a bargain.

good buy, special offer (informal) snip, steal

bargain verb

He refused to bargain with the pirates for his life.

argue, do a deal, haggle, negotiate

bark verb

The guard dog began to bark fiercely.

woof, yap, yelp, growl

barrel noun

The smugglers carried barrels of gunpowder.

cask, drum, tub, keg, butt

barrier noun

1 Spectators were asked to stay behind the barrier.

wall, fence, railing, barricade
A barrier across a road is a **roadblock**.

2 His shyness was a barrier to making friends.

obstacle, hurdle, drawback, handicap, hindrance, stumbling block

base noun

1 The footprints stop at the base of the pyramid.

bottom, foot

2 The dolls' house comes with a wooden base.

foundation, support

A base under a statue is a **pedestal** or **plinth**.

3 The mountaineers returned to their base.

headquarters, camp, depot

basic adjective

1 These are the basic moves in ice-skating.

main, chief, principal, key, central, essential, fundamental, crucial

2 My knowledge of French is very basic.

elementary, simple

bathe verb

1 It was too cold to bathe in the sea.

swim, go swimming, splash

2 I beat my brother at chess for the first time.

defeat, conquer, vanquish, win against, get the better of, overcome, overwhelm, rout, trounce (informal) hammer

3 Beat the eggs, milk, and sugar together.

whisk, whip, blend, mix, stir

battle noun

The battle between our countries raged for many years.

fight, clash, conflict, action, engagement, hostilities, struggle



beach noun

We found these shells on the beach.
sands, seashore, seaside, shore

beam noun

1 Wooden beams ran across the ceiling.

bar, timber, joist, plank, post, rafter, boom, spar, strut, support

2 A beam of sunlight entered the cave.

ray, shaft, stream, gleam

A strong narrow beam of light used in various devices is a **laser**.

bear verb

1 The rope won't bear my weight.

carry, support, hold, take

2 The messenger bore a letter from the king.

bring, carry, convey, transport, take, transfer

3 The gravestone bears an old inscription.

display, show, have

4 The stench in the cave was too much to bear.

put up with, cope with, stand, suffer, tolerate, endure, abide

5 The lioness has borne three cubs.

give birth to

beast noun

In the darkness, they heard a wild beast howl.

animal, creature

You might call a large or frightening beast a **brute** or **monster**.

beat verb

1 It's cruel to beat an animal with a stick.

hit, strike, thrash, batter, whip, lash, flog

2 I beat my brother at chess for the first time.

defeat, conquer, vanquish, win against, get the better of, overcome, overwhelm, rout, trounce (informal) hammer

3 Beat the eggs, milk, and sugar together.

whisk, whip, blend, mix, stir

4 Can you feel your heart beating?

pound, thump, palpitate

The bully threatened to beat me up.

assault, attack

beat *noun*

- 1 Can you feel the **beat** of your heart?
pulse, throb
2 *Reggae music has a strong **beat**.*
rhythm, accent, stress

beautiful *adjective*

- The fairy queen looked **beautiful** by moonlight.
attractive, good-looking, pretty, gorgeous, glamorous, radiant, elegant, enchanting, dazzling, stunning, magnificent, resplendent

A man who is pleasing to look at is *good-looking* or *handsome*.
OPPOSITE ugly, unattractive
It was a **beautiful** day for a bicycle trip.

- fine, excellent, glorious, marvellous, sunny, superb, splendid, wonderful
OPPOSITE dull, gloomy, drab

The Northern Lights are a **beautiful** sight.
glorious, magnificent, picturesque, scenic, spectacular, splendid
The nightingale has a **beautiful** song.
harmonious, mellifluous, melodious, sweet-sounding
OPPOSITE grating

beckon *verb*

The guard was **beckoning** me to approach.
signal, gesture, motion, gesticulate

become *verb*

- 1 I soon **became** frustrated with the video game.
begin to be, turn, get
2 Eventually, the tadpoles will **become** frogs.
grow into, change into, develop into, turn into

3 That style of hat **becomes** you.
look good on, suit, flatter

bed *noun*

- 1 The children slept on hard, wooden **beds**.
bunk, mattress
A bed for a baby is a *cot*, *cradle*, or *crib*.
Two single beds one above the other are *bunk beds*.
A bed on a ship or train is a *berth*.
A bed made of net or cloth hung up above the ground is a *hammock*.

- 2 We planted daffodils in the flower **beds**.
plot, patch, border
3 These creatures feed on the **bed** of the ocean.
bottom, floor
OPPOSITE surface

beg *verb*

He **begged** me not to let go of the rope.

ask, plead with, entreat, implore, beseech

begin *verb*

- 1 The hunters **began** their search at dawn.
start, commence, embark on, set about
OPPOSITE end, finish, conclude
2 When did the trouble **begin**?
start, commence, arise, emerge, appear, originate, spring up
OPPOSITE end, stop, cease

beginning *noun*

The house was built at the **beginning** of last century.
start, opening, commencement, introduction, establishment, foundation, initiation, launch, dawn
The beginning of the day is *dawn* or *daybreak*.
The beginning of a journey is the *starting point*.
The beginning of a stream or river is the *origin* or *source*.
A piece of writing at the beginning of a book is an *introduction*, *preface*, or *prologue*.
A piece of music at the beginning of a musical or opera is a *prelude* or *overture*.
OPPOSITE end, conclusion

behave *verb*
Our neighbour is **behaving** very strangely.
act, react, perform
to **behave** yourself
We promised to **behave** ourselves in the car.
be good, be on your best behaviour
behaviour *noun*
I give my puppy treats for good **behaviour**.
actions, conduct, manners, attitude

belief *noun*

- 1 She was a woman of strong religious **beliefs**.
faith, principle, creed, doctrine
2 It is my **belief** that he stole the money.
opinion, view, conviction, feeling, notion, theory
believable *adjective*
None of the characters in the book are **believable**.
credible, plausible
OPPOSITE unbelievable, implausible
believe *verb*
1 I don't **believe** anything he says.
accept, have faith in, rely on, trust
OPPOSITE disbelieve, doubt

2 I **believe** they used to live in Canada.
assume, feel, know, presume, reckon, suppose, think

belong *verb*

- 1 This ring **belonged** to my grandmother.
be owned by
2 Do you **belong** to the sports club?
be a member of, be connected with

belongings *plural noun*

Don't leave any **belongings** on the bus.
possessions, property, goods, things

bend *verb*

This drinking straw **bends** in the middle.
curve, turn, twist, curl, coil, loop, arch, warp, wind

A word for things which bend easily is *flexible* or (*informal*) *bendy*.
OPPOSITE straighten

to bend down

I **bent down** to tie my shoelaces.
stoop, bow, crouch, duck, kneel

bend *noun*

Watch out for the sharp **bend** in the road.
curve, turn, angle, corner, twist, zigzag

bent *adjective*

- 1 After the crash, the car was a mass of **bent** metal.
curved, twisted, coiled, looped, buckled, crooked, arched, folded, warped
(*informal*) wonky
2 The witch had a **bent** back and walked with a stick.
crooked, hunched, curved, arched, bowed

best *adjective*

- 1 She is our **best** goalkeeper.
top, leading, finest, foremost, supreme, star, outstanding, unequalled, unrivalled
OPPOSITE worst
2 We did what we thought was **best**.
most suitable, most appropriate

betray *verb*

- 1 He **betrayed** us by telling the enemy our plan.
be disloyal to, be a traitor to, cheat, conspire against, double-cross
Someone who betrays you is a *traitor*.
To betray your country is to commit *treason*.

2 The look in her eyes **betrayed** her true feelings.
reveal, show, indicate, disclose, divulge, expose, tell

better *adjective*

- 1 Which of these songs do you think is **better**?
superior, finer, preferable
2 I had a cold, but I'm **better** now.
recovered, cured, healed, improved, well

beware *verb*

Beware! There are thieves about.
be careful! watch out! look out! take care! be on your guard!

beware of

Beware of the bull.
watch out for, avoid, mind, heed, keep clear of

biased *adjective*

A referee should not make a **biased** decision.
prejudiced, partial, one-sided, partisan, unfair
OPPOSITE impartial

big *adjective*

The giant owned three pairs of **big** boots.
large, huge, great, massive, enormous, gigantic, colossal, mammoth
(*informal*) whopping, ginormous, humungous
OPPOSITE small, little, tiny

OVERUSED WORDS**big** *adjective*

Try to vary the words you use for **big**. Here are some other words you could use.

FOR A big person or big creature:
burly, giant, hefty, hulking, mighty, monstrous, towering
The **mighty** robot clanked as it moved.

FOR A big object:
bulky, heavy, hefty, weighty
What could be inside that **bulky** envelope?

FOR A big room or big box:
roomy, sizeable, spacious
Inside, the spaceship was surprisingly **roomy**.

OPPOSITE cramped
FOR A big distance:
immense, infinite, vast
A **vast** stretch of ocean lay before them.

FOR A big amount or big helping:
ample, considerable, substantial
We each got an **ample** helping of porridge.

OPPOSITE meagre, paltry
FOR A big decision or big moment:
grave, important, serious, significant
Yesterday was the most **significant** day in my short life.
OPPOSITE unimportant, minor

**WORD WEB****bird** *noun*

A female bird is a *hen*.
A male bird is a *cock*.
A young bird is a *chick*, *fledgling*, or *nestling*.
A family of chicks is a *brood*.
A group of birds is a *colony* or *flock*.
A group of flying birds is a *flight* or *skein*.
A person who studies birds is an *ornithologist*.

SOME COMMON BRITISH BIRDS

blackbird, bluetit, bullfinch, bunting, chaffinch, crow, cuckoo, dove, greenfinch, jackdaw, jay, linnet, magpie, martin, nightingale, pigeon, raven, robin, rook, skylark, sparrow, starling, swallow, swift, thrush, tit, wagtail, waxwing, woodpecker, wren, yellowhammer

BIRDS OF PREY

buzzard, eagle, falcon, hawk, kestrel, kite, merlin, osprey, owl, sparrowhawk, vulture

FARM AND GAME BIRDS

chicken, duck, goose, grouse, partridge, pheasant, quail, turkey

Birds kept by farmers are called *poultry*.

SEA AND WATER BIRDS

albatross, auk, bittern, coot, cormorant, crane, curlew, duck, gannet, goose, guillemot, gull, heron, kingfisher, kittiwake, lapwing, mallard, moorhen, oystercatcher, peewit, pelican, penguin, puffin, seagull, snipe, stork, swan, teal

BIRDS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

bird of paradise, budgerigar, canary, cockatoo, flamingo, hummingbird, ibis, kookaburra, macaw, mynah bird, parakeet, parrot, toucan

BIRDS WHICH CANNOT FLY

emu, kiwi, ostrich, peacock, penguin

PARTS OF A BIRD'S BODY

beak, bill, claw, talon, breast, crown, throat, crest, feather, down, plumage, plume, wing

SOME TYPES OF BIRD HOME

nest, nesting box, aviary, coop, roost

SOUNDS MADE BY BIRDS

cackle, caw, cheep, chirp, chirrup, cluck, coo, crow, gabble, honk, peep, pipe, quack, screech, squawk, trill, tweet, twitter, warble

A turkey *gobbles*.

An owl *hoots*.

SPECIAL NAMES

A female peacock is a *peahen*.
A young duck is a *duckling*.
A young goose is a *gosling*.
A young swan is a *cygnet*.
An eagle's nest is an *eyrie*.
A place where rooks nest is a *rookery*.

OVERUSED WORDS

You can use these words to describe a **bird**.

1 TO DESCRIBE how a bird moves:
circle, dart, flit, flutter, fly, glide, hop, hover, peck, perch, preen, skim, soar, swoop, waddle, wheel
A pair of swallows **flitted** among the rooftops.

2 TO DESCRIBE a bird's feathers:
bedraggled, downy, drab, fluffy, gleaming, iridescent, ruffled, smooth, speckled
The peacock displayed its **iridescent** tail.

birds of paradise



ostrich



eagle



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z**bit** *noun*

1 Mum divided the cake into eight **bits**.

piece, portion, part, section, segment, share, slice

2 These jeans are a **bit** long for me. a little, slightly, rather, fairly, somewhat, quite

bite *verb*

1 I **bite** a chunk out of my apple.

munch, nibble, chew, crunch, gnaw (informal) chomp

2 Take care. These animals can **bite**.

nip, pinch, pierce, wound When an animal tries to bite you it **snaps** at you.

When an insect bites you it **stings** you. A fierce animal **mauls** or **savages** its prey.

bitter *adjective*

1 The medicine had a **bitter** taste. sour, sharp, acid, acrid, tart

OPPOSITE sweet

2 His brother was still **bitter** about the quarrel.

resentful, embittered, disgruntled, aggrieved

OPPOSITE contented

3 The wind blowing in from the sea was **bitter**.

biting, cold, freezing, icy, piercing, raw, wintry

(informal) perishing

OPPOSITE mild

black *adjective, noun*

The pony had a shiny **black** coat. coal-black, jet-black, pitch-black, ebony, raven

You can also describe a black night as **pitch-dark**.

Someone in a bad mood is said to look **as black as thunder**.

Common similes are **as black as coal** and **as black as night**.

blame *verb*

Don't **blame** me if you miss the bus. accuse, criticize, condemn, reproach, scold

OPPOSITE praise

1 There are no **blank** pages left in my jotter.

empty, bare, clean, plain, unmarked, unused

2 The old woman gave us a **blank** look.

expressionless, faceless, vacant

blaze *noun*

Firefighters fought the **blaze** for hours.

fire, flames, inferno

blaze *verb*

Within a few minutes the campfire was **blazing**.

burn brightly, flare up

bleak *adjective*

1 The countryside was **bleak** and barren.

bare, barren, desolate, empty, exposed, stark

2 The future looks **bleak** for the club.

gloomy, hopeless, depressing, dismal, grim, miserable

OPPOSITE promising

blend *verb*

1 **Blend** the flour with a tablespoon of water.

beat together, mix, stir together, whip, whisk

2 The paint colours **blend** well with each other.

go together, match, fit, harmonize

OPPOSITE clash

blind *adjective*

Polar bear cubs are born **blind**.

sightless, unsighted, unseeing A common simile is **as blind as a bat**.

OPPOSITE sighted, seeing

blind to

The captain was **blind to** his own faults.

ignorant of, unaware of, oblivious to

OPPOSITE aware of

bliss *noun*

Having a whole day off school was sheer **bliss**.

joy, delight, pleasure, happiness, heaven, ecstasy

OPPOSITE misery

blob *noun*

The alien left **blobs** of green slime on the carpet.

drop, lump, spot, dollop, daub, globule

block *noun*

1 A **block** of ice fell from the glacier. chunk, hunk, lump, piece

2 There must be a **block** in the drainpipe.

blockage, jam, obstacle, obstruction

block *verb*

1 A tall hedge **blocked** our view of the house.

obstruct, hamper, hinder, interfere with

2 A mass of leaves had **blocked** the drain.

clog, choke, jam, plug, stop up, congest

(informal) bung up

bloodthirsty *adjective*

The **bloodthirsty** pirates rattled their swords.

brutal, cruel, barbaric, murderous, inhuman, pitiless, ruthless, savage, vicious

bloom *noun*

The pear tree was covered in white **blooms**.

flower, blossom, bud

bloom *verb*

The daffodils **bloomed** early this year.

blossom, flower, open

OPPOSITE fade

blot *noun*

The old map was covered with ink **blots**.

spot, blotch, mark, blob, splodge, smudge, smear, stain

blot *verb*

to **blot** something out

The new tower block **blots out** the view.

conceal, hide, mask, obliterate, obscure

blow *noun*

1 He was **knocked out** by a **blow** on the head.

knock, bang, bash, hit, punch, clout, slap, smack, swipe, thump (informal) wallop, whack

2 Losing the hockey match was a terrible **blow**.

shock, upset, setback, disappointment, catastrophe, misfortune, disaster, calamity

blow *verb*

The wind was **blowing** from the east.

blast, gust, puff, fan

To make a shrill sound by blowing is to **whistle**.

blunder *noun*

Forgetting her birthday was a terrible **blunder**.

mistake, error, fault, slip, slip-up, gaffe

(informal) howler

blunt *adjective*

1 This pencil is **blunt**.

dull, worn, unsharpened

OPPOSITE sharp, pointed

2 Her reply to my question was very **blunt**.

abrupt, frank, direct, outspoken, plain, tactless

OPPOSITE tactful

blurred *adjective*

The background of the photograph is all **blurred**.

indistinct, vague, blurry, fuzzy, hazy, out of focus

OPPOSITE clear, distinct

blush *verb*

The actor **blushed** with embarrassment.

flush, go red, colour

boast *verb*

The knight was always **boasting** about his fencing skills.

brag, show off, crow, gloat, swagger

(informal) blow your own trumpet

boastful *adjective*

Giants are **boastful** creatures and brag about everything.

arrogant, big-headed, conceited, vain, bumptious

(informal) cocky, swanky

OPPOSITE modest, humble

**WORD WEB****boat** *noun*

Several fishing **boats** were moored in the harbour.

ship, craft, vessel

SOME TYPES OF BOAT OR SHIP

barge, canoe, catamaran, cruise liner, dhow, dinghy, dugout, ferry, freighter, gondola, hovercraft, hydrofoil, junk, launch, lifeboat, motor boat, oil tanker, paper boat, punt, raft, rowing boat, schooner, skiff, speedboat, steamship, tanker, trawler, tug, yacht

MILITARY BOATS OR SHIPS

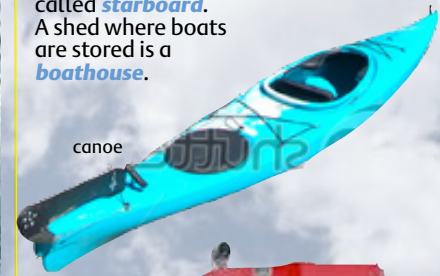
aircraft carrier, battleship, destroyer, frigate, gunboat, minesweeper, submarine, warship

SOME BOATS USED IN THE PAST

brigantine, clipper, coracle, cutter, galleon, galley, man-of-war, paddle steamer, schooner, trireme, windjammer



kayaking



canoe



lifeboat



dinghy



yacht



cruiseline

WORDS FOR PARTS OF A BOAT OR SHIP

boom, bridge, bulwark, cabin, crow's nest, deck, engine room, fo'c'sle or forecastle, funnel, galley, helm, hull, keel, mast, poop, porthole, propeller, quarterdeck, rigging, rudder, sail, tiller

SPECIAL NAMES

The front part of a boat is the **bow** or **pro**.

The back part of a boat is the **stern**.

body noun



WORD WEB

The study of the human body is **anatomy**.

The main part of your body except your head, arms, and legs is your **trunk** or **torso**.

The shape of your body is your **build**, **figure**, or **physique**.

A person's dead body is a **corpse**.
The dead body of an animal is a **carcass**.

OUTER PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY

abdomen, ankle, arm, armpit, breast, buttocks, calf, cheek, chest, chin, ear, elbow, eye, finger, foot, forehead, genitals, groin, hand, head, heel, hip, instep, jaw, knee, kneecap, knuckle, leg, lip, mouth, navel, neck, nipple, nose, pores, shin, shoulder, skin, stomach, temple, thigh, throat, waist, wrist

INNER PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY

arteries, bladder, bowels, brain, eardrum, glands, gullet, gums, guts, heart, intestines, kidneys, larynx, liver, lung, muscles, nerves, ovaries, pancreas, prostate, sinews, stomach, tendons, tongue, tonsil, tooth, uterus, veins, windpipe, womb

bog noun

We felt our boots sinking into the **bog**.

swamp, quagmire, quicksand, fen

boisterous adjective

Baby dragons can be loud and boisterous.

lively, noisy, rowdy, unruly, wild, disorderly

OPPOSITE restrained, calm

bold adjective

1 It was a **bold** move to attack the fortress.

brave, courageous, daring, adventurous, audacious, confident, enterprising, fearless, heroic, valiant, intrepid, plucky

OPPOSITE cowardly

2 The poster uses large letters in **bold** colours.

striking, strong, bright, loud, showy, conspicuous, eye-catching, noticeable, prominent

OPPOSITE inconspicuous, subtle

bolt verb

1 Did you remember to **bolt** the door?

fasten, latch, lock, secure, bar

2 The horses **bolted** when they heard the thunder.

dash away, dart, flee, sprint, run away, rush off

3 Don't **bolt** your food.

gobble, gulp, guzzle, wolf down

book verb

1 Have you **booked** a seat on the train?

order, reserve

2 I've **booked** the disco for the party.

arrange, engage, organize

border noun

1 The town is on the **border** between France and Germany.

boundary, frontier

2 I drew a thin line around the **border** of the picture.

edge, margin, perimeter

A decorative border round the top of a wall is a **frieze**.

A border round the bottom of a skirt is a **hem**.

A decorative border on fabric is a **frill**, **fringe**, or **trimming**.

boring adjective

The film was so **boring** I fell asleep.

dull, dreary, tedious, tiresome, unexciting, uninteresting, dry, monotonous, uninspiring, insipid, unimaginative, uneventful, humdrum

OPPOSITE interesting, exciting

bossy adjective

Stop being so **bossy** towards your sister.

domineering, bullying, dictatorial, officious, tyrannical

An informal name for a bossy person is **bossy boots**.

bother verb

1 Would it **bother** you if I played some music?

disturb, trouble, upset, annoy, irritate, pester, worry, vex, exasperate

(informal) bug, hassle

2 Don't **bother** to phone tonight.

make an effort, take trouble, concern yourself, care, mind

bother noun

It's such a **bother** to remember the password.

nuisance, annoyance, irritation, inconvenience, pest, trouble, difficulty, problem

(informal) hassle

bottom noun

1 We camped at the **bottom** of the mountain.

foot, base

OPPOSITE top, peak

2 The wreck sank to the **bottom** of the sea.

bed, floor

OPPOSITE surface

3 A wasp stung me on the **bottom**.

backside, behind, buttocks, rear, rump, seat

(informal) bum

bottom adjective

I got the **bottom** mark in the

maths test.

least, lowest

OPPOSITE top

bounce verb

The ball **bounced** twice before it reached the net.

rebound, ricochet, spring, leap

bound verb

The puppies **bounded** across the lawn.

leap, bounce, jump, spring, skip, gambol, caper, frisk

box noun

case, chest, crate, carton, packet

A small box for jewellery or treasure is a **casket**.

A large box for luggage is a **trunk**.

boy noun

lad, youngster, youth

(informal) kid

brain noun

You'll need to use your **brain** to solve this riddle.

intelligence, intellect, mind, reason, sense, wit

branch noun

1 A robin perched on a **branch** of the tree.

bough, limb

2 I've joined the local **branch** of the Kennel Club.

section, division, department, wing

branch verb

Follow the track until it **branches** into two.

divide, fork

brand noun

Which **brand** of ice cream do you like?

make, kind, sort, type, variety, label

The sign of a particular brand of goods is a **trademark**.

brave adjective

It was **brave** of you to save the cat from drowning.

courageous, heroic, valiant, fearless, daring, gallant, intrepid, plucky

A common simile is **as brave as a lion**.

OPPOSITE cowardly

bravery noun

The police dog was awarded a medal for **bravery**.

courage, heroism, valour, fearlessness, daring, nerve, gallantry, grit, pluck

(informal) guts, bottle

OPPOSITE cowardice

break noun

1 Can you see any **breaks** in the chain?

breach, crack, hole, gap, opening, split, rift, puncture, rupture, fracture, fissure

2 Let's take a **break** for coffee.

interval, pause, rest, lull,

time-out

(informal) breather

break verb

1 The vase fell off the shelf and **broke**.

smash, shatter, fracture, chip, crack, split, snap, splinter

(informal) bust

2 The burglar was arrested for **breaking** the law.

disobey, disregard, violate, flout

3 In her last race, she **broke** the world record.

beat, better, exceed, surpass, outdo

breathe verb

To breathe in is to **inhale**.

To breathe out is to **exhale**.

To breathe heavily when you have been running is to **pant** or **puff**.

The formal word for breathing is **respiration**.

breed verb

1 Salmon swim upstream to **breed** every year.

reproduce, have young, multiply, procreate, spawn

2 Bad hygiene **breeds** disease.

cause, produce, generate, encourage, promote, cultivate, induce

breed noun

What **breed** of dog is that?

kind, sort, type, variety

The evidence of how a dog has been bred is its **pedigree**.

breezy adjective

This morning the weather was bright and **breezy**.

windy, blowy, blustery, gusty, fresh, draughty

bridge noun

A bridge you can walk over is a **footbridge**.

A bridge to carry water is an **aqueduct**.

A long bridge carrying a road or railway is a **viaduct**.

brief adjective

1 We paid a **brief** visit to our cousins on the way home.

short, quick, hasty, fleeting, temporary

2 Give me a **brief** account of what happened.

short, concise, abbreviated, condensed, compact, succinct

bright adjective

1 We saw the **bright** lights of the town in the distance.

shining, brilliant, blazing, dazzling, glaring, gleaming

OPPOSITE dull, dim, weak

2 **Bright** colours will make the poster stand out.

strong, intense, vivid

Colours that shine in the dark

are **luminous** colours.

OPPOSITE dull, faded, muted

3 Her teachers thought she was very **bright**.

clever, intelligent, gifted, sharp, quick-witted

(informal) brainy

A common simile is **as bright as a button**.

OPPOSITE stupid, dull-witted

4 Miranda gave me a **bright** smile.

cheerful, happy, lively, merry, jolly, radiant

OPPOSITE sad, gloomy

5 The day was cold, but **bright**.

sunny, fine, fair, clear, cloudless

OPPOSITE dull, cloudy, overcast

brilliant adjective

1 The fireworks gave off a **brilliant** light.

bright, blazing, dazzling, glaring, gleaming, glittering, glorious, shining, splendid, vivid

OPPOSITE dim, dull

2 Brunel was a **brilliant** engineer.

clever, exceptional, outstanding, gifted, talented

OPPOSITE incompetent, talentless

3 (informal) I saw a **brilliant** film last week.

excellent, marvellous, outstanding, wonderful, superb

(informal) fantastic, fabulous

bring verb

1 Can you **bring** the shopping in from the car?

carry, fetch, deliver, bear, transport

2 You can **bring** a friend to the party.

invite, conduct, escort, guide, lead

3 The war has **brought** great sorrow to our people.

cause, produce, lead to, result in, generate

to bring something about

The new coach **brought about** some changes.

cause, effect, create, introduce, be responsible for **to bring someone up**

In the story, Tarzan is **brought up** by apes.

rear, raise, care for, foster, look after, nurture, educate, train **to bring something up**

I wish you hadn't **brought up** the subject of money.

mention, talk about, raise, broach

brisk adjective

1 Mr Hastie went for a **brisk** walk every evening.

lively, fast-paced, energetic, invigorating, vigorous, refreshing, bracing

OPPOSITE slow, leisurely

2 The flower shop does a **brisk** trade around Easter.

busy, lively, bustling, hectic

OPPOSITE quiet, slack, slow

broad adjective

1 The streets in the city were **broad** and straight.

wide, open, large, roomy, spacious, vast, extensive

OPPOSITE narrow

2 Just give me a **broad** outline of what happened.

general, rough, vague, loose, indefinite, imprecise

OPPOSITE specific, detailed

broken adjective

1 Don't use that computer—it's **broken**.

faulty, defective, damaged, out of order

OPPOSITE working

2 After losing all his money, Forbes was a **broken** man.

crushed, defeated, beaten, spiritless

brush verb

1 Jill spent ages **brushing** her hair for the party.

groom, comb, tidy

2 A bird **brushed** against my cheek as it flew past.

touch, contact, rub, scrape

brutal adjective

The bandits launched a **brutal** attack.

savage, vicious, cruel, barbaric, bloodthirsty, callous, ferocious, inhuman, merciless, pitiless, ruthless, sadistic

OPPOSITE gentle, humane

bubble verb

A green liquid **bubbled** in the witch's cauldron.

boil, seethe, gurgle, froth, foam

bubbly adjective

1 **Bubbly** drinks get up my nose.

fizzy, sparkling, effervescent

2 Sophie has a bright and **bubbly** personality.

cheerful, lively, vivacious, spirited, animated

buckle noun

The pirate wore a belt with a large silver **buckle**.

clasp, fastener, fastening, clip, catch

buckle verb

1 Please **buckle** your seat belts.

fasten, secure, clasp, clip, do up, hook up

2 The bridge **buckled** when the giant stepped onto it.

bend, warp, twist, crumple, cave in, collapse

budge verb

The window was stuck and wouldn't **budge**.

give way, move, shift, stir

bug *noun*

- 1 Birds help to control **bugs** in the garden.
insect, pest
2 (informal) I can't get rid of this stomach **bug**.
infection, virus, germ, disease, illness
3 There are a few **bugs** in the computer program.
fault, error, defect, flaw
(informal) gremlin

build *verb*

Dad is going to **build** a shed in the garden.

construct, erect, put together, put up, set up, assemble

to build up

1 I'm **building up** a collection of DVDs.

accumulate, assemble, collect, put together

2 We felt the tension **building up** in the crowd.

increase, intensify, rise, grow, mount up, escalate

build *noun*

Charlotte was a girl of slender **build**.

body, form, frame, figure, physique

**WORD WEB****building** *noun*

The new **building** will have seven storeys.

construction, structure, dwelling

A person who designs buildings is an **architect**.

BUILDINGS WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

apartment, barracks, bungalow, castle, cottage, farmhouse, flat, fort, fortress, house, mansion, palace, skyscraper, tenement, terrace, tower, villa

BUILDINGS WHERE PEOPLE WORK

factory, garage, lighthouse, mill, shop, store, warehouse

BUILDINGS WHERE PEOPLE WORSHIP

abbey, cathedral, chapel, church, monastery, mosque, pagoda, shrine, synagogue, temple

OTHER TYPES OF BUILDING

cabin, cafe, cinema, college, gallery, hotel, inn, library, museum, observatory, police station, post office, power station, prison, pub or public house, restaurant, school, shed, theatre



lighthouse

bulge *noun*

There was a large **bulge** in the robber's sack.

bump, hump, lump, swelling, protuberance

bulge *verb*

The creature had eyes which **bulged** out of its head.

stick out, swell, puff out, protrude

bulky *adjective*

The parcel is too **bulky** to go through the letterbox.

big, large, hefty, substantial, sizeable, cumbersome, unwieldy

OPPOSITE small, compact

bully *verb*

Some of the children were afraid of being **bullied**.

persecute, torment, intimidate, terrorize, push around

bump *verb*

1 The baby **bumped** his head on the table.

hit, strike, knock, bang

2 My bicycle **bumped** up and down over the cobbles.

bounce, shake, jerk, jolt

to bump into

1 The taxi **bumped** into the car in front of it.

collide with, bang into, run into, crash into

PARTS YOU MIGHT FIND INSIDE A BUILDING

balcony, basement, cellar, conservatory, corridor, courtyard, crypt, dungeon, foyer, gallery, lobby, porch, quadrangle, room, staircase, veranda

PARTS YOU MIGHT FIND OUTSIDE A BUILDING

arch, balustrade, bay window, bow window, buttress, chimney, colonnade, column, dome, dormer window, drainpipe, eaves, foundations, gable, gutter, masonry, parapet, pediment, pillar, pipes, roof, tower, turret, vault, wall, window, windowsill

CASTLES AND FORTIFIED BUILDINGS

château, citadel, fort, fortress, motte and bailey, palace, stronghold, tower

PARTS OF A CASTLE

bailey, barbican, battlement, buttress, courtyard, donjon, drawbridge, dungeon, gate, gateway, keep, magazine, moat, motte, parapet, portcullis, postern, rampart, tower, turret, wall, watchtower

skyscraper

2 I **bumped** into one of my friends in the bookshop.

meet, come across, run into

bump *noun*

1 We felt a **bump** as the plane landed.

thud, thump, bang, blow, knock

2 How did you get that **bump** on your head?

lump, swelling, bulge

bumpy *adjective*

1 The car jolted up and down on the **bumpy** road.

rough, uneven, irregular, lumpy

OPPOSITE smooth, even

2 We had a **bumpy** ride in a jeep over muddy tracks.

bouncy, jerky, jolting, lurching, choppy

bunch *noun*

1 The jailer jangled a **bunch** of keys.

bundle, cluster, collection, set

2 She picked a **bunch** of flowers.

bouquet, posy, spray

3 (informal) They're a friendly **bunch** of people.

group, set, circle, band, gang, crowd

bundle *noun*

I found a **bundle** of old newspapers.

bunch, batch, pile, stack, collection, pack, bale

burn *verb*

1 We could see the campfire **burning** in the distance.

be alight, be on fire, blaze, flame, flare, flicker

To burn without flames is to **glow** or **smoulder**.

2 The captain ordered them to **burn** the enemy ship.

set fire to, incinerate, reduce to ashes

To start something burning is to **ignite**, **kindle**, or **light** it.

To burn something slightly is to **char**, **scorch**, or **singe** it.

To hurt someone with boiling liquid or steam is to **scald** them.

To burn a dead body is to **cremate** it.

To burn a mark on an animal is to **brand** it.

burst *verb*

The balloon **burst** when my brother sat on it.

puncture, rupture, break, give way, split, tear

bury *verb*

1 The document was **buried** under a pile of old letters.

cover, conceal, hide, secrete



bunch

2 They say the old witch was **buried** in that graveyard.

inter, entomb

bushy *adjective*

The troll had **bushy** green eyebrows.

hairy, thick, dense, shaggy, bristly

business *noun*

1 My uncle runs a restaurant **business**.

company, firm, organization

2 The new bookshop does a lot of **business**.

trade, trading, buying and selling, commerce

3 What sort of **business** do you want to go into?

work, job, career, employment, industry, occupation, profession, trade

4 He left early to attend to some urgent **business**.

matter, issue, affair, problem, point, concern, question

bustle *verb*

Miss Flyte **bustled** about the kitchen making tea.

rush, dash, hurry, scurry, scuttle, fuss

busy *adjective*

1 Mum is **busy** making my birthday cake just now.

occupied, engaged, employed, working, slaving away, beavering away

(informal) hard at it, up to your eyes

A common simile is **as busy as a bee**.

OPPOSITE idle

2 Christmas is a very **busy** time for shops.

active, hectic, frantic, lively

OPPOSITE quiet, restful

3 Is the town always this **busy** on Saturdays?

crowded, bustling, hectic, lively, teeming

OPPOSITE quiet, peaceful

buy *verb*

I'm saving up to **buy** a skateboard.

get, pay for, purchase, acquire

OPPOSITE sell

cabin *noun*

The outlaws hid in a **cabin** in the woods.

hut, shack, shed, lodge, chalet, shelter

cafe *noun*

We had lunch in a **cafe** overlooking the river.

cafeteria, coffee shop, tearoom,

snack bar, buffet, canteen, bistro, brasserie

cage *noun*

A large cage or enclosure for birds is an **aviary**.

A cage or enclosure for poultry is a **coop**.

A cage or enclosure for animals is a **pen**.

A cage or box for a pet rabbit is a **hutch**.

calculate *verb*

I **calculated** that it would take an hour to walk home.

work out, compute, figure out, reckon, add up, count, total

To calculate something roughly is to **estimate**.

call *noun*

1 We heard a **call** for help from inside the cave.

cry, exclamation, scream, shout, yell

2 Grandad made an unexpected **call**.

visit, stop, stay

3 There's not much **call** for suncream in winter.

demand, need

call *verb*

1 'Stop that racket!' **called** the janitor.

cry out, exclaim, shout, yell

2 It was too late at night to **call** my friends.

phone, ring, telephone

3 The headteacher **called** me to her office.

summon, invite, send for, order

4 The doctor **called** to see if I was feeling better.

visit, pay a visit, drop in, drop by

5 They **called** the baby Jessica.

name, baptize, christen, dub

6 What is your new book going to be **called**?

name, title, entitle

calm *adjective*

1 The weather was too **calm** to fly our kites.

still, quiet, peaceful, tranquil, serene, windless

OPPOSITE stormy, windy

2 The sea was **calm**, and we had a pleasant voyage.

smooth, still, flat, motionless, tranquil

OPPOSITE rough, choppy

3 I tried to stay **calm** before my judo exam.

cool, level-headed, patient, relaxed, sedate, unemotional, unexcitable, untroubled

OPPOSITE anxious, nervous

cancel *verb*

We had to **cancel** the race because of the weather.

abandon, call off, scrap, drop

(informal) scrub, ditch, axe

To cancel something after it has already begun is to **abort** it.

To put something off until later is to **postpone** it.

To cancel items on a list is to **cross out**, **delete**, or **erase** them.

capture *verb*

1 The bank robbers were **captured** by police this morning.

catch, arrest, apprehend, seize, take prisoner

(informal) nab, nick

2 The castle has never been **captured** by enemy forces.

occupy, seize, take, take over, win

care *noun*

1 The old wizard's face was full of **care**.

worry, anxiety, trouble, concern, burden, responsibility, sorrow, stress

2 I took great **care** with my handwriting.

attention, concentration, thoroughness, thought, meticulousness

OPPOSITE carelessness

3 Jake left his pet hamster in my **care**.

charge, keeping, protection, safe keeping, supervision

to take care

Please **take care** crossing the road.

be careful, be on your guard, look out, watch out **to take care of someone or something**

My granny **takes care** of me after school.

care for, look after, mind, watch over, attend to, tend

care *verb*

Do you **care** which team wins the World Cup?

mind, bother, worry, be interested, be troubled, be bothered, be worried

to care for someone or something

1 The veterinary hospital **cares** for sick animals.

take care of, look after, attend to, tend, nurse

2 I don't really **care** for broccoli.

like, be fond of, be keen on, love

career *noun*

Max had a successful **career** as a racing driver.

job, occupation, profession, trade, business, employment, calling

careful *adjective*

1 You must be more **careful** with your spelling.

accurate, conscientious, thorough, thoughtful, meticulous, painstaking, precise

OPPOSITE careless, inaccurate

2 Dad kept a **careful** watch on the bonfire.

attentive, cautious, watchful, alert, wary, vigilant

careless adjective
 OPPOSITE careful, inattentive
to be careful
 Please **be careful** with those scissors.
 take care, be on your guard, look out, watch out

careless adjective
 1 This is a very **careless** piece of work.
 messy, untidy, thoughtless, inaccurate, slapdash, shoddy, scrappy, sloppy, slovenly
 OPPOSITE careful, accurate
 2 I was **careless** and cut my finger.
 inattentive, thoughtless, absent-minded, heedless, irresponsible, negligent, reckless
 OPPOSITE careful, attentive

carnival noun
 The whole village comes out for the annual **carnival**.
 fair, festival, f  te, gala, parade, procession, show, celebration, pageant

carry verb
 1 I helped Mum to **carry** the shopping to the car.
 take, transfer, lift, fetch, bring, lug
 2 Aircraft **carry** passengers and goods.
 transport, convey
 3 The rear axle **carries** the greatest weight.
 bear, support, hold up
to carry on
 We **carried on** in spite of the rain.
 continue, go on, persevere, persist, keep on, remain, stay, survive **to carry something out**
 The soldiers **carried out** the captain's orders.
 perform, do, execute, accomplish, achieve, complete, finish

carve verb
 1 The statue was **carved** out of stone.
 sculpt, chisel, hew
 2 Mum **carved** the chicken for Sunday dinner.
 cut, slice

case noun
 1 I loaded my **case** into the boot of the car.
 suitcase, trunk
 A number of suitcases that you take on holiday is your **baggage** or **luggage**.
 2 What's in those **cases** in the attic?
 box, chest, crate, carton, casket
 3 This has been a clear **case** of mistaken identity.
 instance, occurrence, example, illustration
 4 It was one of Sherlock Holmes's most famous **cases**.
 inquiry, investigation
 5 She presented a good **case** for abolishing hunting.
 argument, line of reasoning

casual adjective
 1 It was just a **casual** remark, so don't take it too seriously.
 accidental, chance, unexpected, unintentional, unplanned
 OPPOSITE deliberate
 2 The restaurant had a **casual** atmosphere.
 easy-going, informal, relaxed
 OPPOSITE formal
 3 The teacher complained about our **casual** attitude.
 apathetic, careless, slack, unenthusiastic
 OPPOSITE enthusiastic

catastrophe noun
 The drought is a **catastrophe** for the farmers.
 disaster, calamity, misfortune, mishap, tragedy

catch verb
 1 My friends yelled at me to **catch** the ball.
 clutch, grab, grasp, grip, hang on to, hold, seize, snatch, take
 2 One of the anglers **caught** a fish.
 hook, net, trap
 3 The police hoped to **catch** the thief red-handed.
 arrest, capture, corner (informal) nab
 4 I hope you don't **catch** my cold.
 become infected by, contract, get (informal) go down with
 5 You must hurry if you want to **catch** the bus.
 be in time for, get on

catch noun
 1 The angler got a large **catch** of salmon.
 haul
 2 The car is so cheap that there must be a **catch**.
 problem, obstacle, snag, difficulty, disadvantage, drawback, trap, trick
 3 All the windows are fitted with safety **catches**.
 fastening, latch, lock, bolt, hook

cause noun
 1 What was the **cause** of the trouble?
 origin, source, start
 You can also talk about the **reasons** for the trouble.
 2 You've got no **cause** to complain.
 grounds, basis, motive
 3 The sponsored walk is for a good **cause**.
 purpose, object

cause verb
 A single spark from the fire could **cause** an explosion.
 bring about, create, generate, lead to, give rise to, result in, provoke, arouse

caution noun
 1 We decided to proceed with **caution**.

care, attention, watchfulness, wariness, vigilance
 2 The traffic warden let him off with a **caution**.
 warning, reprimand, telling-off (informal) ticking-off

cautious adjective
 My grandad is a **cautious** driver.
 careful, attentive, watchful, wary, vigilant, hesitant
 OPPOSITE reckless
cease verb
 The fighting **ceased** at midnight.
 come to an end, end, finish, stop, halt
 OPPOSITE begin

celebrate verb
 1 Let's **celebrate**!
 enjoy yourself, have a good time, be happy, rejoice
 2 What shall we do to **celebrate** Granny's birthday?
 commemorate, observe, keep

celebration noun
 We had a big **celebration** for my cousin's wedding.
 festivity, party, feast, festival, banquet, jamboree

celebrity noun
 The awards were handed out by a TV **celebrity**.
 famous person, personality, public figure, VIP, star, idol

cemetery noun
 A famous author is buried in the local **cemetery**.
 graveyard, burial ground, churchyard
 A place where dead people are cremated is a **crematorium**.

central adjective
 1 We are now in the **central** part of the building.
 middle, core, inner, interior
 OPPOSITE outer
 2 Who are the **central** characters in the story?
 chief, crucial, essential, fundamental, important, main, major, principal, vital
 OPPOSITE unimportant

centre noun
 The library is in the **centre** of the town. The burial chamber is in the **centre** of the pyramid.
 middle, heart, core, inside, interior
 The centre of a planet or a piece of fruit is the **core**.
 The centre of an atom or a living cell is the **nucleus**.
 The centre of a wheel is the **hub**.
 The point at the centre of a seesaw is the **pivot**.
 The edible part in the centre of a nut is the **kernel**.
 OPPOSITE edge, outside, surface

ceremony noun
 1 We watched the **ceremony** of the opening of parliament.

rite, ritual, formalities
 A ceremony where someone is given a prize is a **presentation**.
 A ceremony where someone is given a special honour is an **investiture**.
 A ceremony to celebrate something new is an **inauguration** or **opening**.
 A ceremony where someone becomes a member of a society is an **initiation**.
 A ceremony to make a church or other building sacred is a **dedication**.
 A ceremony to remember a dead person or a past event is a **commemoration**.
 A ceremony held in a church is a **service**.
 2 They had a quiet wedding without a lot of **ceremony**.
 formality, pomp, pageantry, spectacle

certain adjective
 1 My mum was **certain** she would win the cookery competition.
 confident, convinced, positive, sure, determined
 OPPOSITE uncertain
 2 We have **certain** proof that the painting is a forgery.
 definite, clear, convincing, absolute, unquestionable, reliable, trustworthy, undeniable, infallible, genuine, valid
 OPPOSITE unreliable
 3 The damaged plane faced **certain** disaster.
 inevitable, unavoidable
 OPPOSITE possible
 4 Her new book is **certain** to be a bestseller.
 bound, sure

chain noun
 1 The anchor was attached to a **chain**.
 One ring in a chain is a **link**.
 A chain used to link railway wagons together is a **coupling**.
 2 The police formed a **chain** to keep the crowd back.
 line, row, cordon
 3 Holmes described the **chain** of events that led to the murder.
 series, sequence, succession, string

champion noun
 1 She is the **current** world

champion at ice-skating.
 title-holder, prizewinner, victor, winner, conqueror
 2 Martin Luther King was a **champion** of civil rights.
 supporter, advocate, defender, upholder, patron, backer

championship noun
 Fifteen schools took part in the karate **championship**.
 competition, contest, tournament

chance noun
 1 They say there's a **chance** of rain later.
 possibility, likelihood, probability, prospect, danger, risk
 2 I haven't had a **chance** to reply yet.
 opportunity, time, occasion
 3 The director took a **chance** in hiring an unknown actor.
 gamble, risk
by chance
 I found the house quite **by chance**.
 by accident, accidentally, by coincidence
 An unfortunate chance is **bad luck** or a **misfortune**.
 A fortunate chance is **good luck** or a **fluke**.

change verb
 1 They've **changed** the programme for the concert.
 alter, modify, rearrange, reorganize, adjust, adapt, vary
 2 The town has **changed** a lot since Victorian times.
 alter, become different, develop, grow, move on
 3 Can I **change** these jeans for a bigger size, please?
 exchange, replace, switch, substitute (informal) swap
to change into
 Tadpoles **change into** frogs.
 become, turn into, be transformed into

change noun
 There has been a slight **change** of plan.
 alteration, modification, variation, difference, break
 A change to something worse is a **deterioration**.
 A change to something better is an **improvement** or a **reform**.
 A very big change is a **revolution** or **transformation** or **U-turn**.
 A change in which one person or thing is replaced by another is a **substitution**.

chaos noun
 After the earthquake, the city was in **chaos**.
 confusion, disorder, mayhem, uproar, tumult, pandemonium,

anarchy, bedlam, muddle, shambles
 OPPOSITE order

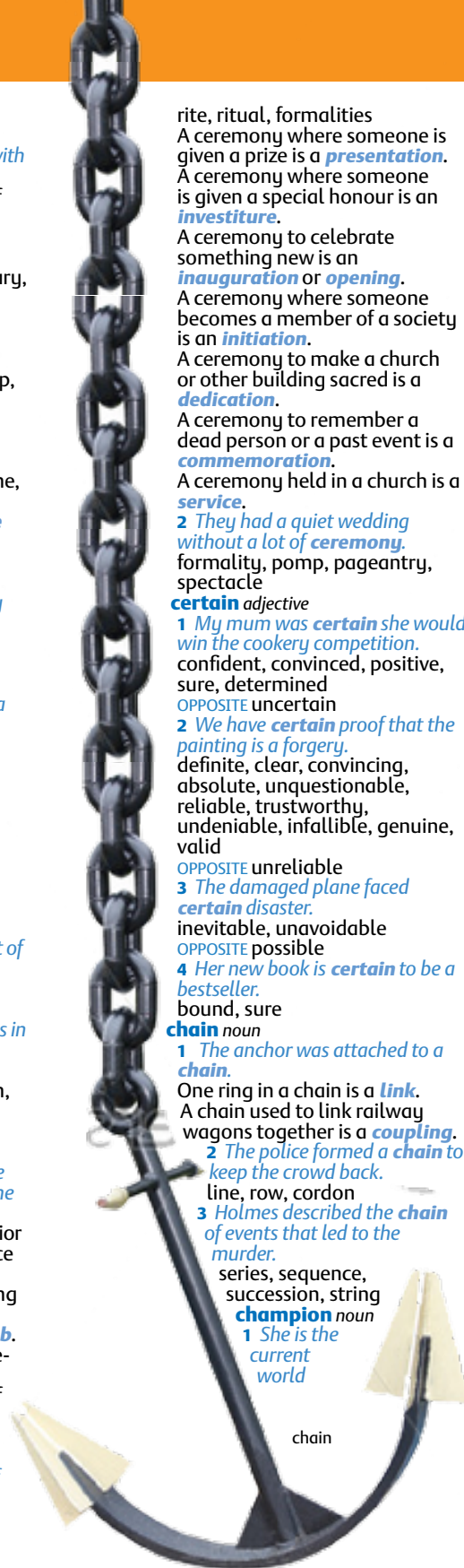
chaotic adjective
 Alice finds that life in Wonderland is **chaotic**.
 confused, disorderly, disorganized, muddled, topsy-turvy, untidy, unruly, riotous
 OPPOSITE orderly, organized

chapter noun
 I read a **chapter** of my book last night.
 part, section, division
 One section of a play is an **act** or **scene**.
 One part of a serial is an **episode** or **instalment**.

character noun
 1 Her **character** is quite different from her sister's.
 personality, temperament, nature, disposition, make-up, manner
 2 Our neighbour is a well-known **character** in our street.
 figure, personality, individual, person
 3 Which **character** would you like to play in Peter Pan?
 part, role

charge noun
 1 The admission **charge** is five euros.
 price, rate
 The charge made for a ride on public transport is the **fare**.
 The charge made to post a letter or parcel is the **postage**.
 A charge made to join a club is a **fee** or **subscription**.
 A charge made for certain things by the government is a **duty** or a **tax**.
 A charge made to use a private road, bridge, or tunnel is a **toll**.
 2 The robbers face several criminal **charges**.
 accusation, allegation
 3 Many soldiers were killed in the **charge**.
 assault, attack, onslaught, raid
 4 My best friend left her hamster in my **charge**.
 care, keeping, protection, custody, trust
to be in charge of something
 An experienced sailor was **in charge** of the crew.
 manage, lead, command, direct, supervise, run

charge verb
 1 The library **charges** ten pence for a photocopy.
 ask for, make you pay
 2 A man has been **charged** with attempted robbery
 accuse (of)



3 The cavalry **charged** the enemy line.
 attack, assault, storm, rush
charm verb
*Winnie the Pooh has **charmed** readers all over the world.*
 bewitch, captivate, delight, enchant, entrance, fascinate, please
charming adjective
*We drove through some **charming** scenery.*
 delightful, attractive, pleasant, pleasing, likeable, appealing
chart noun
1 The explorer stopped to consult his **chart**.
 map
2 This **chart** shows the average rainfall for each month.
 diagram, graph, table
chase verb
*The wolves **chased** a deer through the forest.*
 pursue, run after, follow, track, trail, hunt
chatty adjective
*Frank is usually shy, but today he's quite **chatty**.*
 talkative, communicative
cheap adjective
1 We got a **cheap** flight to London.
 inexpensive, affordable, bargain, cut-price, discount, reasonable
2 These tyres are made from **cheap** rubber.
 inferior, shoddy, second-rate, worthless, trashy
 (informal) tacky, tatty
cheat verb
1 She was **cheated** into buying a fake diamond ring.
 deceive, trick, swindle, double-cross, hoax
 (informal) con, diddle, fleece, fool, rip off
2 Anyone who **cheats** in the quiz will be disqualified.
 copy, crib
cheat noun
*Don't trust him—he's a **cheat**.*
 cheater, deceiver, swindler, fraud, impostor, hoaxter
check verb
1 Have you **checked** your work carefully?
 examine, inspect, look over, scrutinize
2 The heavy snow **checked** their progress towards the Pole.
 hamper, hinder, block, obstruct, delay, hold back, slow, slow down, halt, stop
check noun
*I need to run some **checks** on your computer.*

test, examination, inspection, check-up
cheeky adjective
*Don't be so **cheeky**!*
 disrespectful, facetious, flippant, impertinent, impolite, impudent, insolent, insulting, irreverent, mocking, rude, saucy, shameless
cheer verb
1 We **cheered** when our team scored a goal.
 clap, applaud, shout, yell
2 The good news **cheered** us.
 comfort, console, gladden, delight, please, encourage, uplift
cheerful adjective
*The sun was shining, and we set out in a **cheerful** mood.*
 happy, good-humoured, light-hearted, merry, jolly, joyful, joyous, glad, pleased, optimistic, lively, elated, animated, bright, buoyant, jovial, gleeful, chirpy
chest noun
*I found some old books in a **chest** in the attic.*
 box, crate, case, trunk
chew verb
*Are you still **chewing** that toffee?*
 eat, gnaw, munch
chief noun
*The pirates chose Redbeard as their **chief**.*
 leader, ruler, head, commander, captain, chieftain, master, governor, president, principal
 (informal) boss
chief adjective
1 The **chief** ingredients in a trifle are jelly, custard, and cream.
 main, central, key, principal, crucial, basic, essential, important, vital, major, primary, foremost, fundamental, indispensable, necessary, significant, predominant, prominent
2 Albert was Queen Victoria's **chief** advisor.
 head, senior
child noun
1 The book festival is aimed especially at **children**.
 boy or girl, infant, juvenile, youngster, youth, lad or lass
 (informal) kid, tot, nipper
 A child who expects to inherit a title or fortune from parents is an **heir** or **heiress**.
 A child whose parents are dead is an **orphan**.
 A child looked after by a guardian is a **ward**.
2 How many **children** do you have?

son or daughter, descendant, offspring
 A child who expects to inherit a title or fortune from parents is an **heir** or **heiress**.
 A child whose parents are dead is an **orphan**.
 A child looked after by a guardian is a **ward**.
childish adjective
*It's **childish** to make rude noises.*
 babyish, immature, juvenile, infantile
chilly adjective
1 It's a **chilly** evening, so wrap up well.
 cold, cool, frosty, icy, crisp, fresh, raw, wintry
 (informal) nippy
2 The librarian gave me a very **chilly** look.
 unfriendly, hostile, unwelcoming, unsympathetic
chip noun
1 There were **chips** of broken glass on the pavement.
 bit, piece, fragment, scrap, sliver, splinter, flake, shaving
2 This mug's got a **chip** in it.
 crack, nick, notch, flaw
chip verb
*I **chipped** a cup while I was washing up.*
 crack, nick, notch, damage
choice noun
1 My bike had a flat tyre, so I had no **choice** but to walk.
 alternative, option
2 She wouldn't be my **choice** as team captain.
 preference, selection, pick, vote
3 The greengrocer has a good **choice** of vegetables.
 range, selection, assortment, array, mixture, variety, diversity
choke verb
1 This tie is so tight it's **choking** me.
 strangle, suffocate, stifle, throttle
2 Thick fumes made the firefighters **choke**.
 cough, gasp
choose verb
1 We had a show of hands to **choose** a winner.
 select, appoint, elect, vote for
2 I **chose** the blue shoes to go with my dress.
 decide on, select, pick out, opt for, plump for, settle on, single out
3 Lola **chose** to stay at home.
 decide, make a decision, determine, prefer, resolve
chop verb
1 **Chop** the celery into large chunks.
 cut, split
2 They **chopped** down the

undergrowth to make a path.
 hack, slash
 To chop down a tree is to **fell** it.
 To chop off an arm or leg is to **amputate** it.
 To chop a branch off a tree is to **lop** it.
 To chop food into small pieces is to **dice** or **mince** it.
chunk noun
*I bit a **chunk** out of my apple.*
 piece, portion, lump, block, hunk, slab, wedge
circle noun
1 We arranged the chairs in a **circle**.
 ring, round, hoop, loop, band
 A flat, solid circle is a **disc**.
 A three-dimensional round shape is a **sphere**.
 An egg shape is an **oval** or **ellipse**.
 The distance round a circle is the **circumference**.
 The distance across a circle is the **diameter**.
 The distance from the centre to the circumference is the **radius**.
 A circular movement is a **revolution** or **rotation**.
 A circular trip round the world is a **circumnavigation**.
 A circular trip of a satellite round a planet is an **orbit**.
2 She has a wide **circle** of friends.
 group, set, crowd
city noun
 The chief city of a country or region is the **metropolis**.
 An area of houses outside the central part of a city is the **suburbs**.
 A word meaning 'to do with a town or city' is **urban**.
 A word meaning 'to do with a city and its suburbs' is **metropolitan**.
claim verb
1 You can **claim** your prize for the raffle here.
 ask for, request, collect, demand, insist on
2 The professor **claims** to be an expert on dinosaurs.
 declare, assert, allege, maintain, argue, insist
clap verb
1 The audience **clapped** loudly at the end of the concert.
 applaud, cheer
2 Suddenly, a hand **clapped** me on the shoulder.
 slap, hit, pat, smack
class noun
1 There are 26 children in our **class**.
 form, set, stream
 The other pupils in your class are your **classmates**.

2 There are many different **classes** of plants.
 category, group, classification, division, set, sort, type, kind, species
3 The ancient Romans divided people into social **classes**.
 level, rank, status
clean adjective
1 Can you bring me a **clean** cup, please?
 spotless, washed, scrubbed, swept, tidy, immaculate, hygienic, sanitary
 An informal word meaning 'very clean' is **squeaky-clean**.
 A common simile is **as clean as a whistle**.
2 I began my diary on a **clean** piece of paper.
 blank, unused, unmarked, empty, bare, fresh, new
3 This plaster will keep the wound **clean**.
 sterile, sterilized, uninfected
4 You can get **clean** water from this tap.
 pure, clear, fresh, unpolluted, uncontaminated
5 The referee said he wanted a **clean** fight.
 fair, honest, honourable, sporting, sportsmanlike
clean verb
1 We **cleaned** the house from top to bottom. I tried to **clean** the mud off my boots.
 wash, wipe, mop, scour, scrub, polish, dust, sweep, vacuum, rinse, wring out, hose down, sponge, shampoo, swill
 To clean clothes is to **launder** them.
2 The nurse **cleaned** the wound with an antiseptic wipe.
 cleanse, bathe, disinfect, sanitize, sterilize
3 The plumber **cleaned** the blocked drain.
 unblock, unclog, clean out, open up
4 If the fire alarm goes, **clear** the building.
 empty, evacuate
5 The fog **cleared** slowly.
 disappear, vanish, disperse, evaporate, melt away
6 The forecast said that the weather will **clear**.
 become clear, brighten, fair up

A common simile is **as clear as crystal**.
 A simile which means the opposite is **as clear as mud**.
clear adjective
1 It was a beautiful **clear** day.
 bright, sunny, cloudless, unclouded
 A clear night is a **moonlit** or **starlit** night.
2 The instructions on the map were quite **clear**.
 plain, understandable, intelligible, lucid, unambiguous
3 The actor spoke his words with a **clear** voice.
 distinct, audible
 A common simile is **as clear as a bell**.
4 My camera takes nice **clear** pictures.
 sharp, well defined, focused
5 The signature on this letter is not **clear**.
 illegible
6 There's a **clear** difference between a male blackbird and a female.
 obvious, definite, noticeable, conspicuous, perceptible, pronounced
7 They made sure the road was **clear** for the ambulance.
 open, empty, free, passable, uncrowded, unobstructed
8 The referee said he wanted a **clean** fight.
 fair, honest, honourable, sporting, sportsmanlike
clear verb
1 I **cleared** the weeds from the flower bed.
 get rid of, remove, eliminate, strip
2 The plumber **cleared** the blocked drain.
 unblock, unclog, clean out, open up
3 I **cleared** the misty windows.
 clean, wipe, polish
4 If the fire alarm goes, **clear** the building.
 empty, evacuate
5 The fog **cleared** slowly.
 disappear, vanish, disperse, evaporate, melt away
6 The forecast said that the weather will **clear**.
 become clear, brighten, fair up





climb

7 He was **cleared** of all the charges against him.

8 The runners **cleared** the first hurdle.

go over, get over, jump over, pass over, vault

to clear up

Please **clear up** this mess before you go.

clean up, tidy up, put right, put straight

clever adjective

1 Dr Hafiz is very **clever** and can read hieroglyphics.

intelligent, bright, gifted, able, knowledgeable

(informal) brainy, smart

OPPOSITE unintelligent

An informal name for a clever person is a **brainbox**.

An uncomplimentary synonym is **clever clogs** or **smartypants**.

2 The elves were very **clever** with their fingers.

accomplished, capable, gifted, skilful, talented

If you are clever at a lot of things, you are **versatile**.

OPPOSITE unskilful

3 They are **clever** enough to get away with it.

quick, sharp, shrewd, smart

Uncomplimentary synonyms are **artful**, **crafty**, **cunning**, **wily**.

OPPOSITE stupid

climax noun

The **climax** of the film is a stunning car chase.

high point, highlight, peak, crisis

OPPOSITE anticlimax

climb verb

1 It took us several hours to **climb** the mountain.

ascend, clamber up, go up, scale

2 The plane **climbed** into the clouds.

lift off, soar, take off

3 The road **climbs** steeply up to the castle.

rise, slope

to climb down

3 It's harder to **climb down** rock than to get up it.

descend, get down from

We all told him he was wrong, so he had to **climb down**.

admit defeat, give in, surrender



WORD WEB

clothes plural noun

What **clothes** are you taking on holiday?

clothing, garments, outfits, dress, attire, garb, finery

(informal) gear, togs, get-up

A set of clothes to wear is a **costume**, **outfit**, or **suit**.

An official set of clothes worn for school or work is a **uniform**.

SOME ITEMS OF CLOTHING

blouse, caftan, camisole, chador or chuddar, dhoti, dress, dungarees, frock, gown, jeans, jersey, jodhpurs, jumper, kilt, kimono, leggings, miniskirt, pinafore, polo shirt, pullover, robe, sari, sarong, shirt, shorts, skirt, slacks, smock, suit, sweater, sweatshirt, trousers, trunks, T-shirt, tunic, waistcoat

OUTER CLOTHES

anorak, apron, blazer, cagoule, cape, cardigan, cloak, coat, dressing gown, duffel coat, fleece, gilet, hoodie, greatcoat, jacket, mackintosh, oilskins, overalls, overcoat, parka, poncho, raincoat, shawl, stole, tracksuit, windcheater

cling verb

to cling to someone or **something**

1 The baby koala **clung** to its mother.

clasp, grasp, clutch, embrace, hug

2 Ivy **clings** to the wall.

adhere to, fasten on to, stick to

clip verb

1 The sheets of paper were **clipped** together.

pin, staple

2 Dad **clipped** the hedges in the back garden.

cut, trim

To cut unwanted twigs off a tree or bush is to **prune** it.

close adjective

1 Our house is **close** to the shops.

near, nearby, not far

To be actually by the side of something is to be **adjacent**.

OPPOSITE far, distant

2 Anisha and I are **close** friends.

intimate, dear, devoted, fond, affectionate

3 The police made a **close** examination of the stolen car.

careful, detailed, painstaking, minute, thorough

OPPOSITE casual

4 It was an exciting race because it was so **close**.

UNDERWEAR

boxer shorts, bra, briefs, crop top, drawers, knickers, pants, petticoat, slip, socks, stockings, tights, underpants, vest

CLOTHES FOR SLEEPING IN

nightdress or informal nightie, pyjamas

CLOTHES WORN IN THE PAST

corset, doublet, frock coat, gauntlet, ruff, toga

ACCESSORIES WORN WITH CLOTHES

belt, braces, cravat, earmuffs, glove, sash, scarf, shawl, tie

PARTS OF A GARMENT

bodice, button, buttonhole, collar, cuff, hem, lapel, pocket, seam, sleeve, waistband, zip

THINGS USED TO DECORATE CLOTHES

beads, frills, fringes, lace, ruffles, sequins, tassels

SOME KINDS OF HAT

balaclava, baseball cap, bearskin, beret, boater, bonnet, bowler, cap, deerstalker, fez, helmet, mitre, mortarboard, panama hat, skull cap, sombrero, sou'wester, stetson, sun-hat, tam-o'shanter, top hat, trilby, turban

WRITING TIPS

You can use these words to describe **clothes**:

baggy, casual, chic, dowdy, drab, fashionable, fine, flashy, flattering, frilly, frumpy, glamorous, ill-fitting, loose, luxurious, old-fashioned, ornate, ragged, roomy, shabby, skimpy, smart, sporty, stylish, tattered or in tatters, threadbare, tight-fitting, trendy, worn

equal, even, level, well-matched

5 Open the window—it's very **close** in here.

humid, muggy, stuffy, clammy, airless, stifling, suffocating

OPPOSITE airy

close verb

1 Don't forget to **close** the lid.

shut, fasten, seal, secure

2 The road has been **closed** to traffic for the parade.

barricade, block, obstruct, stop up

3 The band **closed** the concert with my favourite song.

finish, end, complete, conclude, stop, terminate

(informal) wind up

cloudy adjective

1 The day was cold and **cloudy**.

dull, overcast, grey, dark, dismal, gloomy, sunless

OPPOSITE cloudless

2 We couldn't see any fish in the **cloudy** water.

muddy, murky, hazy, milky

OPPOSITE clear, transparent

club noun

1 The warrior brandished a wooden **club**.

stick, baton, truncheon

2 Would you like to join our book **club**?

group, society, association, organization, circle, union

clue noun

1 I don't know the answer. Can you give me a **clue**?

hint, suggestion, indication, pointer, tip, idea

2 'This footprint is an important **clue**,' said the detective.

piece of evidence, lead

clumsy adjective

The **clumsy** gnome was always breaking things.

careless, awkward, ungainly, inept

An informal name for a clumsy person is **butterfingers**.

OPPOSITE graceful

clutter noun

We'll have to clear up all this **clutter**.

mess, muddle, junk, litter, rubbish, odds and ends

coach verb

He was **coached** by a former champion.

train, teach, instruct

coarse adjective

1 The blanket was made of **coarse** woollen material.

rough, harsh, scratchy, bristly, hairy

OPPOSITE soft

2 We were shocked by their **coarse** table manners.

rude, offensive, impolite, improper, indecent, crude, vulgar

OPPOSITE polite, refined

coat noun

1 The detective was wearing a thick winter **coat**.

2 The fox had a reddish brown **coat**.

hide, pelt, skin, fur, hair

A sheep's coat is a **fleece**.

3 The front door needs a **coat** of paint.

layer, coating, covering

coat verb

We ate marshmallows **coated** with chocolate.

cover, spread, smear, glaze

coax verb

Sam **coaxed** the hamster back into

its cage.

persuade, tempt, entice

coil noun

The snake twisted itself into a **coil**.

spiral, twist, curl, twirl, screw, corkscrew, whirl, whorl, roll, scroll

A coil of wool or thread is a **skein**.

coil verb

The snake **coiled** itself round a branch.

curl, loop, roll, spiral, turn, twist, twirl, wind, writhe

cold adjective

1 Wrap up warm in this **cold** weather.

freezing, chilly, frosty, icy, raw, arctic, bitter, cool, crisp, snowy, wintry

(informal) perishing

A common simile is **as cold as ice**.

OPPOSITE hot, warm

2 I tried to shelter from the **cold** wind.

biting, bitter, keen, penetrating, piercing

3 I was **cold** in spite of my woolly hat.

freezing, frozen, chilly, chilled, shivering, shivery

To be so cold that you become ill is to suffer from **hypothermia**.

OPPOSITE hot, warm

4 The cyclops gave us a **cold** stare from his one eye.

unfriendly, unkind, unfeeling, distant, cool, heartless,

indifferent, reserved, stony, uncaring, unemotional,

unsympathetic

OPPOSITE warm, friendly

collapse verb

1 Many buildings **collapsed** in the earthquake.

fall down, fall in, cave in, give way, crumple, buckle, disintegrate, tumble down

2 Some of the runners **collapsed** in the heat.

faint, pass out, fall over, keel over

collect verb

1 Squirrels **collect** nuts for the winter.

gather, accumulate, hoard, heap, pile up, store up, stockpile, amass

2 A crowd **collected** to watch the fire.

assemble, gather, come together, converge

OPPOSITE scatter, disperse

3 We **collected** a large sum for charity.

raise, take in

4 She **collected** the car from the garage.

fetch, get, obtain, bring

OPPOSITE drop off, hand in

collection noun

Would you like to see my fossil **collection**?

assortment, set, accumulation, array, hoard, pile

A collection of books is a **library**.

A collection of poems or short stories is an **anthology**.

collide verb

to collide with

The runaway trolley **collided with** a wall.

bump into, crash into, run into, smash into, hit, strike

collision noun

The **collision** dented the front wheel of my bike.

bump, crash, smash, knock, accident

A collision involving a lot of vehicles is a **piling-up**.

colossal adjective

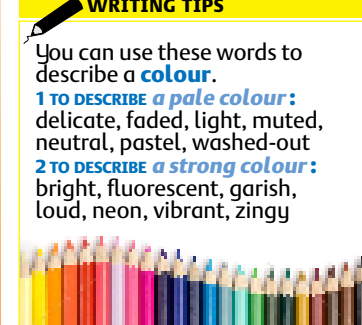
A **colossal** statue towered above us.

huge, enormous, gigantic, immense, massive, giant,

mammoth, monumental, towering, vast

OPPOSITE small, tiny

colour noun



WRITING TIPS

You can use these words to describe a **colour**.

1 **TO DESCRIBE a pale colour**:

delicate, faded, light, muted, neutral, pastel, washed-out

2 **TO DESCRIBE a strong colour**:

bright, fluorescent, garish, loud, neon, vibrant, zingy

colourful adjective

1 The rose garden is **colourful** in the summer.

multicoloured, showy, vibrant, bright, brilliant, gaudy

OPPOSITE colourless

2 The book gives a **colourful** account of life on an island.

exciting, interesting, lively, vivid, striking, rich, picturesque

OPPOSITE dull

column noun

1 The roof of the temple was supported by stone **columns**.

pillar, post, support, shaft

2 A **column** of soldiers wound its way across the desert.

line, file, procession, row, string

3 I sometimes read the sports **column** in the newspaper.

article, piece, report, feature

combine verb

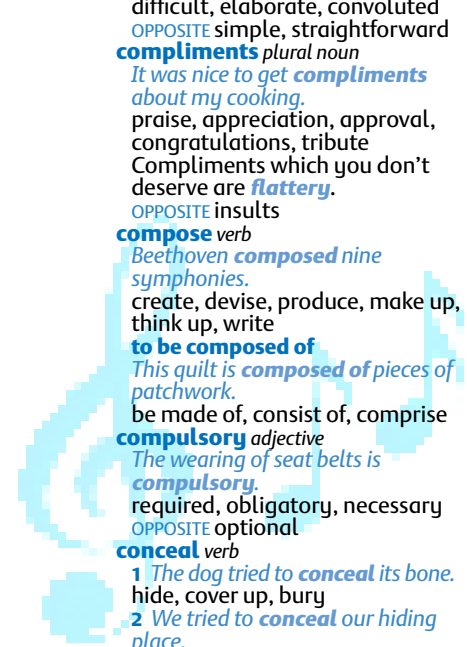
1 We **combined** our pocket money to buy a kite.

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y
z

put together, add together, join, merge, unite, amalgamate
OPPOSITE divide
2 *Combine the mixture with water to make a paste.*
 mix, stir together, blend, mingle, bind
OPPOSITE separate
come verb
1 *We expect our guests to come in the afternoon.*
 arrive, appear, visit
OPPOSITE go
2 *When you hear a cuckoo, you know that summer is coming.*
 advance, draw near
to come about
Can you tell me how the accident came about?
 happen, occur, take place, result
to come across
I came across an old friend of mine.
 find, discover, chance upon, meet, bump into **to come to**
1 *Tell me when you come to the last chapter.*
 reach, get to, arrive at
2 *What did the repair bill come to?*
 add up to, amount to, total
comfort noun
1 *My teddy bear was a comfort to me when I was ill.*
 reassurance, consolation, encouragement, support, relief
2 *If I had a million pounds, I could live in comfort.*
 ease, luxury, contentment, well-being, prosperity, luxury, affluence
comfort verb
The coach tried to comfort the team after they lost.
 cheer up, console, reassure, encourage, hearten, sympathize with, soothe
comfortable adjective
1 *The bed was so comfortable that Goldilocks fell fast asleep.*
 cosy, snug, relaxing, easy, soft, warm, roomy, padded, plush (informal) comfy
OPPOSITE uncomfortable
2 *We'll need comfortable clothes for travelling.*
 casual, informal, loose-fitting
3 *Our cat leads a comfortable life.*
 contented, happy, pleasant, agreeable, well-off, prosperous, luxurious, affluent
command noun
1 *The general gave the command to attack.*
 order, instruction, commandment, edict
2 *Captain Nemo has command of the whole crew.*
 charge, control, authority (over), power (over), management, supervision

3 *My sister has a good command of Spanish.*
 knowledge, mastery, grasp, understanding, ability (in), skill (in)
command verb
1 *The officer commanded his troops to fire.*
 order, instruct, direct, tell, bid
2 *The captain commands the ship.*
 control, direct, be in charge of, govern, head, lead, manage, administer, supervise
comment noun
He made some nasty comments about his boss.
 remark, statement, observation, opinion, mention, reference
 A hostile comment is a **criticism**.
commit verb
The thieves were planning to commit another robbery.
 carry out, do, perform, execute
common adjective
1 *Colds are a common complaint in winter.*
 commonplace, everyday, frequent, normal, ordinary, familiar, well known, widespread
OPPOSITE rare
2 *'Good morning' is a common way to greet people.*
 typical, usual, regular, routine, standard, customary, conventional, habitual, traditional
OPPOSITE uncommon
3 *My friends and I have a common interest in music.*
 shared, mutual, joint
commotion noun
Football supporters were causing a commotion outside.
 disturbance, row, fuss, trouble, disorder, unrest, agitation, turmoil, uproar, racket, rumpus, upheaval, riot, fracas, furore, hullabaloo, brouhaha, pandemonium, bedlam
communicate verb
1 *Steve communicated his boredom with a yawn.*
 express, make known, indicate, convey, disclose, announce, pass on, proclaim, publish, report
2 *Nowadays, we communicate by email.*
 contact each other, correspond, be in touch
company noun
1 *My cousin works for a computer company.*
 business, firm, corporation, organization, establishment
2 *Shrek shunned the company of other ogres.*
 fellowship, companionship, friendship, society

compare verb
Can you compare these sets of figures?
 contrast, juxtapose, relate, set side by side
to compare with
This copy can't compare with the original painting.
 compete with, rival, emulate, equal, match
compete verb
Five schools will be competing in the hockey tournament.
 participate, perform, take part, enter
to compete against
We are competing against a strong team this week.
 oppose, play against, contend with
competent adjective
You have to be a competent swimmer to join the club.
 able, capable, skilful, skilled, accomplished, proficient, experienced, expert, qualified, trained
OPPOSITE incompetent
competitor noun
The competitors lined up for the start of the race.
 contestant, contender, challenger, participant, opponent, rival
 People who take part in an exam are **candidates** or **entrants**.
complain verb
Miss Grouch spent most of her life complaining.
 moan, protest, grumble, grouse, gripe, whinge, make a fuss
to complain about
I wrote a letter complaining about the noise.
 protest about, object to, criticize, find fault with
OPPOSITE praise
complaint noun
1 *They received hundreds of complaints about the film.*
 criticism, objection, protest, moan, grumble
2 *You have a nasty stomach complaint.*
 disease, illness, ailment, sickness, infection (informal) upset
complete adjective
1 *Your training as a witch is not yet complete.*
 completed, ended, finished, accomplished, concluded
OPPOSITE unfinished
2 *Have you got a complete set of cards?*
 whole, entire, full, intact
OPPOSITE incomplete
3 *My birthday party was a complete disaster.*



total, utter, sheer, absolute, thorough, downright, perfect, pure
complete verb
We have completed all the tasks on the sheet.
 finish, end, conclude, carry out, perform
complex adjective
Defusing a bomb is a complex task.
 complicated, difficult, elaborate, detailed, intricate, involved (informal) fiddly
OPPOSITE simple
complicated adjective
The plot of the film is very complicated.
 complex, intricate, involved, difficult, elaborate, convoluted
OPPOSITE simple, straightforward
compliments plural noun
It was nice to get compliments about my cooking.
 praise, appreciation, approval, congratulations, tribute
 Compliments which you don't deserve are **flattery**.
OPPOSITE insults
compose verb
Beethoven composed nine symphonies.
 create, devise, produce, make up, think up, write
to be composed of
This quilt is composed of pieces of patchwork.
 be made of, consist of, comprise
compulsory adjective
The wearing of seat belts is compulsory.
 required, obligatory, necessary
OPPOSITE optional
conceal verb
1 *The dog tried to conceal its bone.*
 hide, cover up, bury
2 *We tried to conceal our hiding place.*
 disguise, mask, screen, camouflage, make invisible
3 *Don't conceal the truth.*
 keep quiet about, keep secret, hush up, suppress
conceited adjective
He was so conceited when he won first prize!
 boastful, arrogant, proud, vain, self-satisfied (informal) big-headed, cocky
OPPOSITE modest
concentrate verb
I had to concentrate to hear what she was saying.
 be attentive, think hard, focus
concern verb
1 *This conversation doesn't concern you.*
 affect, involve, be important to, matter to, be relevant to, relate to

2 *It concerns me that we are destroying the rain forests.*
 bother, distress, trouble, upset, worry
concern noun
1 *My private life is no concern of theirs.*
 affair, business
2 *Global warming is a great concern to us all.*
 worry, anxiety, fear
3 *She's the head of a business concern.*
 company, firm, enterprise, establishment
concerned adjective
1 *After waiting an hour, Julia began to feel concerned.*
 worried, bothered, troubled, anxious, upset, distressed
2 *We're writing a letter to all those concerned.*
 involved, connected, related, affected
conclusion noun
1 *The conclusion of the film was a bit puzzling.*
 close, end, finale, finish, completion, culmination
2 *'What is your conclusion, Inspector?'*
 decision, judgement, opinion, verdict, deduction
condemn verb
1 *The manager condemned the behaviour of the players.*
 criticize, disapprove of, denounce, deplore, reproach
OPPOSITE praise
2 *The judge condemned the men to death.*
 sentence
OPPOSITE acquit
condition noun
1 *Is your bike in good condition?*
 state, order, repair
2 *A dog needs exercise to stay in good condition.*
 fitness, health, shape
3 *It's a condition of membership that you pay a subscription.*
 requirement, obligation, term
confess verb
The goblin confessed that he had stolen the gold.
 admit, own up to, acknowledge, reveal
confidence noun
1 *We can face the future with confidence.*
 hope, optimism, faith
OPPOSITE doubt
2 *I wish I had her confidence.*
 self-confidence, assurance, boldness, conviction
confident adjective
1 *I am confident that we will win.*
 certain, sure, positive, optimistic

OPPOSITE doubtful
2 *She is a confident sort of person.*
 self-confident, assertive, bold, fearless, unafraid
confirm verb
1 *The strange events confirmed his belief in ghosts.*
 prove, justify, support, back up, reinforce
OPPOSITE disprove
2 *I phoned to confirm my appointment at the dentist.*
 verify, make official
OPPOSITE cancel
confront verb
I decided to confront her and demand an apology.
 challenge, stand up to, face up to
OPPOSITE avoid
confuse verb
1 *I was confused by the directions on the map.*
 puzzle, bewilder, mystify, baffle, perplex
2 *You must be confusing me with someone else.*
 mix up, muddle
confusion noun
1 *There was great confusion when the lights went out.*
 chaos, commotion, fuss, uproar, turmoil, pandemonium, bedlam, hullabaloo
2 *There was a look of confusion on her face.*
 bewilderment, puzzlement, perplexity
congratulate verb
We congratulated the winners.
 praise, applaud, compliment
OPPOSITE criticize
connect verb
1 *What's the best way to connect these wires?*
 join, attach, fasten, link, couple, fix together, tie together
OPPOSITE separate
2 *The fingerprints connected him with the crime.*
 make a connection between, associate, relate
connection noun
There is a close connection between our two families.
 association, relationship, link
conquer verb
1 *Extra troops were sent to conquer the enemy forces.*
 beat, defeat, overcome, vanquish, get the better of, overwhelm, crush, rout, thrash
2 *Gaul was conquered by Julius Caesar.*
 seize, capture, take, win, occupy, possess
conscientious adjective
Elves are very conscientious workers.

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hard working, careful, dependable, reliable, responsible, dutiful, meticulous, painstaking, thorough
OPPOSITE careless

conscious adjective

1 The patient was **conscious** throughout the operation.
awake, alert, aware
OPPOSITE unconscious
2 She made a **conscious** effort to improve her work.
deliberate, intentional, planned
OPPOSITE accidental

consequence noun

1 He drank the potion without thinking of the **consequences**.
effect, result, outcome, sequel, upshot
2 The loss of a few pence is of no **consequence**.
importance, significance

consider verb

1 The detective **considered** the problem carefully.
think about, examine, contemplate, ponder on, reflect on, study, weigh up, meditate about
2 I **consider** this to be my best work.
believe, judge, reckon

considerate adjective

It was **considerate** of you to lend me your umbrella.
kind, kind-hearted, helpful, obliging, sympathetic, thoughtful, unselfish, caring, charitable, neighbourly
OPPOSITE selfish

consist verb
to consist of

1 The planet **consists** largely of craters.
be made of, be composed of, comprise, contain, include, incorporate
2 His job **consists** mostly of answering the phone.
involve

consistent adjective

1 These plants **need** to be kept at a **consistent** temperature.
steady, constant, regular, stable, unchanging
2 Fortunately, our goalkeeper is a **consistent** player.
predictable, dependable, reliable

console verb

He did his best to **console** me when my dog died.
comfort, soothe, sympathize with, support

conspicuous adjective

1 The clock tower is a **conspicuous** landmark.
prominent, notable, obvious, eye-catching, unmistakable, visible

2 I had made some **conspicuous** mistakes.

clear, noticeable, obvious, evident, glaring

constant adjective

1 There is a **constant** noise of traffic on the motorway.
continual, continuous, never-ending, non-stop, ceaseless, incessant, interminable, endless, everlasting, permanent, perpetual, unending, persistent, relentless
OPPOSITE changeable

2 My dog has been my **constant** friend for many years.

faithful, loyal, dependable, reliable, firm, true, trustworthy, devoted
OPPOSITE unreliable

construct verb

We **constructed** a tree-house in the back garden.

build, erect, assemble, make, put together, put up, set up
OPPOSITE demolish



consult verb

1 You should **consult** the dentist about your sore tooth.
ask, get advice from, speak to
2 If you don't know how to spell a word, **consult** your dictionary.
refer to

contact verb

I'll **contact** you when I have some news.
call, call on, get in touch with, communicate with, notify, speak to, talk to, correspond with, phone, ring, write to

contain verb

1 This box **contains** various odds and ends.
hold
2 A dictionary **contains** words and definitions.
include, incorporate, comprise, consist of

contemplate verb

1 The princess **contemplated** herself in the mirror.
look at, view, observe, survey, watch, stare at, gaze at
2 The robbers **contemplated** what to do next.
think about, consider, ponder, study, reflect on, weigh up, meditate about

contempt noun

The knight stared at his enemy with **contempt**.

a look of **contempt**.

hatred, scorn, loathing, disgust, dislike, distaste
OPPOSITE admiration

contented adjective

After her meal, the cat looked very **contented**.
happy, pleased, content, satisfied, fulfilled, serene, peaceful, relaxed, comfortable, tranquil, untroubled
OPPOSITE discontented

contest noun

The tennis final was an exciting **contest**.

competition, challenge, fight, bout, encounter, struggle, game, match, tournament

contestant noun

There are twenty **contestants** in the spelling competition.
competitor, participant, player, contender

continual adjective

I get sick of their **continual** arguing.
constant, persistent, perpetual, repeated, frequent, recurrent, eternal, unending
OPPOSITE occasional

continue verb

1 We **continued** our search until it got dark.
keep up, prolong, sustain, persevere with, pursue (informal) stick at
2 This rain can't **continue** for long.
carry on, last, persist, endure, keep on, go on, linger
3 We'll **continue** our meeting after lunch.
resume, proceed with, pick up

continuous adjective

We had **continuous** rain all through our holiday.
never-ending, non-stop, ceaseless, everlasting, incessant, unbroken, unceasing, uninterrupted
An illness which continues for a long time is a **chronic** illness.
OPPOSITE intermittent

contract noun

The actress has signed a **contract** for a new film.
agreement, deal, undertaking
A contract between two countries is an **alliance** or **treaty**.

A contract to end a dispute about money is a **settlement**.

contract verb

1 Metal **contracts** when it gets colder.
reduce, lessen, shrink, tighten
OPPOSITE expand
2 The crew **contracted** a mysterious illness.
catch, develop, get

contrast verb

1 We were asked to **contrast** two of our favourite poems.
compare, juxtapose, distinguish between
2 Her handwriting **contrasts** with mine.
clash, differ (from)

contrast noun

There is a sharp **contrast** between the two paintings.
difference, distinction, opposition
OPPOSITE similarity

contribute verb

Will you **contribute** something to our charity collection?
donate, give, provide (informal) chip in
to contribute to
The sunny weather **contributed** to our enjoyment.
add to, help, aid, encourage, enhance

control noun

The captain had complete **control** over the crew.
authority, power, command, government, management, direction, leadership, guidance

control verb

1 The government **controls** the country's affairs.
be in control of, be in charge of, manage, run, command, direct, lead, guide, govern, administer, regulate, rule, superintend, supervise
2 Can't you **control** that dog?
manage, handle, restrain
3 They built a dam to **control** the floods.
check, curb, hold back, contain

convenient adjective

1 Is there a **convenient** place to put my umbrella?
suitable, appropriate, available, nearby, accessible
OPPOSITE inconvenient
2 Mum has a **convenient** tool for opening jars.
handy, helpful, useful, labour-saving, neat

conventional adjective

The **conventional** way to greet someone is to shake hands.
customary, traditional, usual, accepted, common, normal, ordinary, everyday, routine, standard, regular, habitual
OPPOSITE unconventional

conversation noun

An informal conversation is a **chat** or **gossip**.
A more formal conversation is a **discussion**.
A very formal conversation is a **conference**.
Conversation in a play or novel is **dialogue**.



WORD WEB

cook verb

To cook food for guests or customers is to **cater** for them.
Cooking as a business is **catering**.
The art or skill of cooking is **cookery**.

SOME WAYS TO COOK FOOD

bake, barbecue, boil, braise, brew, broil, casserole, deep-fry, fry, grill, poach, roast, sauté, simmer, steam, stew, toast

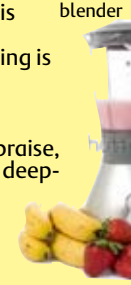
OTHER WAYS TO PREPARE FOOD

baste, blend, chop, dice, grate, grind, infuse, knead, liquidize, marinade, mince, mix, peel,

purée, sieve, sift, stir, whisk

SOME ITEMS THAT ARE USED FOR COOKING

baking tin or tray, barbecue, blender, bowl, carving knife, casserole, cauldron, chopping board, colander, cooker, dish, food processor, frying pan, grill, ladle, liquidizer, microwave, mincer, oven, pan, pot, rolling pin, saucepan, skewer, spatula, spit, strainer, toaster, whisk, wok, wooden spoon



convert verb

1 We have **converted** our attic into a games room.
change, adapt, alter, transform
2 I never used to like football, but my cousin **converted** me.
change someone's mind, persuade, convince, win over

convince verb

The prisoner **convinced** them that he was innocent.
persuade, assure, satisfy, make believe, win round

convincing adjective

I tried to think of a **convincing** excuse.
persuasive, believable, credible, plausible

cool verb

cool adjective

1 The weather is **cool** for the time of year.
chilly, coldish
OPPOSITE hot, warm
2 Would you like a **cool** glass of lemonade?
chilled, iced, refreshing
OPPOSITE hot
3 Clifford remained **cool** when everyone else panicked.
calm, level-headed, relaxed, unexcitable, unflustered (informal) laid-back
A common simile is **as cool as a cucumber**.
OPPOSITE frantic

cooperate verb

4 (informal) Those rollerskates are really **cool**!
chic, fashionable, smart (informal) trendy
to cooperate with
The scouts **cooperated** with each other to build a fire.
work with or together with,

collaborate with, aid, assist, support

cope verb

Shall I help you, or can you **cope** on your own?
manage, carry on, get by, make do, survive
to cope with
I can't **cope** with all this homework!
deal with, handle, manage, get through

copy noun

That isn't the original painting—it's a **copy**.
replica, reproduction, duplicate, imitation, likeness
A copy made to deceive someone is a **fake** or a **forgery**.
A living organism which is identical to another is a **clone**.

copy verb

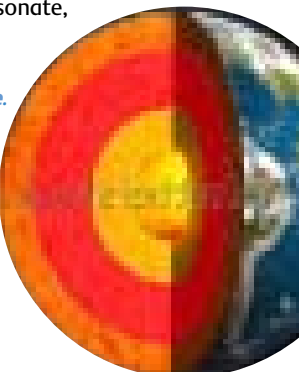
1 I **copied** the poem into my jotter.
duplicate, reproduce, write out
To copy something in order to deceive is to **fake** or **forge** it.
2 My parrot can **copy** my voice.
imitate, impersonate, mimic

core noun

It is very hot at the earth's **core**.
centre, middle, inside, heart, nucleus

corner noun

1 I'll meet you at the **corner** of the road.
turn, turning, junction, crossroads, intersection
The place where



core

two lines meet is an **angle**.
2 I sat in a quiet **corner** and read her letter.
 alcove, recess, nook
correct adjective
1 Your answers are all **correct**.
 right, accurate, exact, faultless
2 I hope he has given us **correct** information.
 true, genuine, authentic, precise, reliable, factual
3 What is the **correct** way to address this letter?
 proper, acceptable, regular, appropriate, suitable
 OPPOSITE wrong
correct verb
1 I have to **correct** my spelling mistakes.
 alter, put right, make better, improve
2 Miss Nicol spent the day **correcting** exam papers.
 mark
correspond verb
to correspond with
1 Her version of the story doesn't **correspond with** mine.
 agree with, match, be similar to, be consistent with, tally with
2 Carol **corresponds with** a friend in Paris.
 write to, communicate with, send letters to
corrupt adjective
Corrupt officials had accepted millions of pounds in bribes.
 dishonest, criminal, untrustworthy
 (informal) bent, crooked
 OPPOSITE honest
cost noun
The bill shows the total cost.
 price, charge, amount, payment, fee, figure, expense, expenditure, tariff
 The cost of travelling on public transport is the **fare**.
costume noun
The Irish dancers were wearing national costumes.
 outfit, dress, clothing, suit, attire, garment, garb
 (informal) get-up
 A costume you dress up in for a party is **fancy dress**.
 A set of clothes worn by soldiers or members of an organization is a **uniform**.
cosy adjective
It's good to feel cosy in bed when it's cold outside.
 comfortable, snug, soft, warm, secure
 OPPOSITE uncomfortable
count verb
1 I'm **counting** the days until my birthday.
 add up, calculate, compute,

estimate, reckon, figure out, work out, total
2 It's playing well that **counts**, not winning.
 be important, be significant, matter
to count on
You can count on me to support you.
 depend on, rely on, trust, bank on
country noun
1 England and Wales are separate **countries**.
 nation, state, land, territory
 A country ruled by a king or queen is a **kingdom**, **monarchy**, or **realm**.
 A country governed by leaders elected by the people is a **democracy**.
 A democratic country with a President is a **republic**.
2 We went for a picnic in the **country**.
 countryside, landscape, outdoors, scenery
 A word meaning 'to do with the country' is **rural** and its opposite is **urban**.
 OPPOSITE town, city
courage noun
The rescue dogs showed great courage.
 bravery, boldness, daring, fearlessness, nerve, pluck, valour, heroism, grit
 (informal) guts
 OPPOSITE cowardice
course noun
1 The hot-air balloon was drifting off its **course**.
 direction, path, route, way, progress, passage
2 The war changed the **course** of history.
 development, progression, sequence, succession
cover verb
1 A coat of paint will **cover** the graffiti.
 conceal, disguise, hide, obscure, mask, blot out
2 She **covered** her face with her hands.
 shield, screen, protect, shade, veil
3 An encyclopedia **covers** many subjects.
 deal with, include, contain, incorporate
cover noun
1 The **cover** of the book was torn.
 wrapper
 A cover for a letter is an **envelope**.
 A cover for a book is a **jacket**.
 A cover to keep papers in is a **file** or **folder**.

2 On the bare hillside, there was no **cover** from the storm.
 shelter, protection, defence, shield, refuge, sanctuary
covering noun
There was a light covering of snow on the hills.
 coating, coat, layer, blanket, carpet, film, sheet, skin, veil
cowardly adjective
It was cowardly to run away.
 timid, faint-hearted, spineless, gutless
 (informal) yellow, chicken
 OPPOSITE brave
cover verb
A frightened creature was covering in the corner.
 cringe, shrink, crouch, flinch, quail
crack noun
1 There's a **crack** in this cup.
 break, chip, fracture, flaw, chink, split
2 The outlaw hid in a **crack** between two rocks.
 gap, opening, crevice, rift, cranny
3 The detective heard the **crack** of a pistol shot.
 bang, fire, explosion, snap, pop
4 She gave the robber a **crack** on the head.
 blow, bang, knock, smack, whack
5 I had a **crack** at writing a poem.
 try, attempt, shot, go
crack verb
A brick fell down and cracked the pavement.
 break, fracture, chip, split, shatter, splinter
craft noun
1 I'd like to learn the **craft** of weaving.
 art, skill, technique, expertise, handicraft
2 All sorts of craft were in the harbour.
 boats, ships, vessels
crafty adjective
The evil sorceress had a crafty plan.
 cunning, clever, shrewd, scheming, sneaky, sly, tricky, wily, artful
cram verb
1 We can't **cram** any more people in—the car is full.
 pack, squeeze, crush, force, jam, compress
2 My sister is **cramming** for her maths exam.
 revise, study
 (informal) swot
cramped adjective
The seating on the train was a bit cramped.
 confined, narrow, restricted, tight, uncomfortable, crowded

(informal) poky
 OPPOSITE roomy
crash noun
1 I heard a loud **crash** from the kitchen.
 bang, smash
2 We saw a nasty **crash** on the motorway.
 accident, collision, smash, bump
 A crash involving a lot of vehicles is a **pile-up**.
 A train crash may involve a **derailment**.
crash verb
The car crashed into a lamp-post.
 bump, smash, collide, knock
crawl verb
I saw a caterpillar crawling along a leaf.
 creep, edge, inch, slither, clamber



craze noun
This game is the latest craze in the playground.
 fad, trend, vogue, fashion, enthusiasm, obsession, passion

crazy adjective
1 The dog went **crazy** when it was stung by a wasp.
 mad, insane, frenzied, hysterical, frantic, berserk, delirious, wild
 (informal) loopy, nuts
2 It was a **crazy** idea to try to build a space rocket!
 absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, daft, idiotic, senseless, silly, stupid, foolhardy, preposterous
 (informal) bonkers, barmy, wacky
 OPPOSITE sensible
create verb
1 The cats were **creating** a racket outside.
 make, cause, produce
2 We have **created** a website for our chess club.
 set up, start up, bring about, bring into existence, originate
 You **write** a poem or story.
 You **compose** music.
 You **draw** or **paint** a picture.
 You **carve** a statue.
 You **invent** or **think up** a new idea.
 You **design** a new product.
 You **devise** a plan.
 You **found** a new club or organization.
 You **manufacture** goods.
 You **generate** electricity.
 You **build** or **construct** a model

or a building.
creative adjective
My aunt is a very creative person.
 artistic, imaginative, inventive, original, inspired
 OPPOSITE unimaginative
creator noun
Walt Disney was the creator of Mickey Mouse.
 inventor, maker, originator, producer, deviser
 The creator of a design is an **architect** or **designer**.
 The creator of goods for sale is a **manufacturer**.
creature noun
A wild-looking creature emerged from the swamp.
 animal, beast, being
creep verb
1 I watched the lizard **creep** back into its hiding place.
 crawl, edge, inch, slither, wriggle
2 I **crept** out of bed without waking the others.
 move quietly, sneak, tiptoe, slip, slink, steal
creepy adjective
There were creepy noises coming from the cellar.
 scary, frightening, eerie, ghostly, weird, sinister, uncanny, unearthly
 (informal) spooky
crisis noun
The election result caused a crisis in the country.
 emergency, problem, difficulty, predicament
crisp adjective
1 Fry the bacon until it's **crisp**.
 crispy, crunchy, brittle
 OPPOSITE soft, soggy, limp
2 It was a **crisp** winter morning.
 cold, fresh, frosty
critical adjective
1 Some people made **critical** comments about my hairstyle.
 negative, disapproving, derogatory, uncomplimentary, unfavourable
 OPPOSITE complimentary
2 This match is **critical** for our team's chances of success.
 crucial, important, vital, serious, decisive
 OPPOSITE unimportant
criticize verb
She criticized us for being so careless.
 blame, condemn, disapprove of, find fault with, reprimand, reproach, scold, berate
 OPPOSITE praise
crooked adjective
1 The wizard bent his wand into a **crooked** shape.
 bent, twisted, warped, knarled
 OPPOSITE straight

2 (informal) **The crooked salesman** was selling fake diamonds.
 criminal, dishonest, corrupt, illegal, unlawful
 (informal) bent
 OPPOSITE honest
cross verb
1 There is a bus stop where the two roads **cross**.
 criss-cross, intersect
2 You can **cross** the river at the footbridge.
 go across, pass over, traverse, ford, span
cross adjective
My mum will be cross if we're late.
 angry, annoyed, upset, vexed, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, irritable, grumpy, testy, irate
 OPPOSITE pleased
crouch verb
The outlaws crouched silently in the bushes.
 squat, kneel, stoop, bend, duck, bob down, hunch, huddle
crowd noun
1 A **crowd** of people waited outside the theatre.
 gathering, group, assembly, bunch, cluster, throng, mob, multitude, crush, horde, swarm
2 There was a huge **crowd** for the tennis final.
 audience, spectators, gate, attendance
crowd verb
1 People **crowded** on the pavement to watch the parade.
 gather, collect, assemble, congregate, mass, flock, muster
2 Hundreds of people **crowded** into the hall.
 push, pile, squeeze, pack, cram, crush, jam, bundle, herd



crowded adjective
The shops are always crowded at Christmas time.
 full, packed, teeming, swarming, overflowing, jammed, congested
 OPPOSITE empty
crude adjective
1 The refinery processes **crude** oil.
 raw, natural, unprocessed, unrefined
 OPPOSITE refined
2 We made a **crude** shelter out of twigs.

rough, clumsy, makeshift, primitive
OPPOSITE skilful
3 The teacher told them to stop using **crude** language.
 rude, obscene, coarse, dirty, foul, impolite, indecent, vulgar
OPPOSITE polite
cruel adjective
 I think hunting is a **cruel** way to kill animals.
 brutal, savage, vicious, fierce, barbaric, bloodthirsty, barbarous, heartless, ruthless, merciless, inhuman, sadistic, uncivilized, beastly
OPPOSITE kind, humane, gentle
crumb noun
 We put out some **crumbs** of bread for the birds.
 bit, fragment, scrap, morsel
crumble verb
1 The walls of the castle were beginning to **crumble**.
 disintegrate, break up, collapse, fall apart, decay, decompose
2 The farmer **crumbled** some bread into his soup.
 crush, grind, pound, pulverize
crunch verb
1 The dog was **crunching** on a bone.
 chew, munch, chomp, grind
2 I heard heavy footsteps **crunching** up the path.
 crush, grind, pound, smash
crush verb
1 He **crushed** his anorak into his schoolbag.
 squash, squeeze, mangle, pound, press, bruise, crunch, scrunch
 To crush something into a soft mess is to **dash** or **pulp** it.
 To crush something into a powder is to **grind** or **pulverize** it.
 To crush something out of shape is to **crumple** or **smash** it.
2 Our soldiers **crushed** the attacking army.
 defeat, conquer, vanquish, overcome, overwhelm, quash, trounce, rout
crush noun
 There was a **crush** of people at the front gates.
 crowd, press, mob, throng, jam, congestion
cry verb
1 Someone was **crying** for help from the burning house.
 call, shout, yell, exclaim, roar, bawl, bellow, scream, screech, shriek
2 The baby started to **cry** when she dropped her toy.
 sob, weep, bawl, blubber, wail, shed tears, snivel
 When someone starts to cry, their eyes **well up with tears**.

cry noun
 The wounded man let out a **cry** of pain.
 call, shout, yell, roar, howl, exclamation, bellow, scream, screech, shriek, yelp
cuddle verb
 My baby brother **cuddles** a teddy bear in bed.
 hug, hold closely, clasp, embrace, caress, nestle against, snuggle against
cunning adjective
 The pirates had a **cunning** plan to seize the ship.
 clever, crafty, devious, wily, ingenious, shrewd, artful, scheming, sly, tricky
cup noun
 A tall cup with straight sides is a **mug**.
 A tall cup without a handle is a **beaker** or **tumbler**.
 A decorative drinking cup is a **goblet**.
cure verb
1 These pills will **cure** your headache.
 ease, heal, help, improve, make better, relieve
OPPOSITE aggravate
2 No-one can **cure** the problem with my computer.
 correct, mend, sort, repair, fix, put an end to, put right
cure noun
 I wish they could find a **cure** for colds.
 remedy, treatment, antidote, medicine, therapy
curious adjective
1 We were all very **curious** about the secret chamber.
 inquisitive, inquiring, interested (in), intrigued, agog
 An uncomplimentary word is **nosy**.
OPPOSITE uninterested, indifferent
2 What is that **curious** smell?
 odd, strange, peculiar, abnormal, queer, unusual, extraordinary, funny, mysterious, puzzling, weird
curl verb
1 The snake **curled** itself around a branch.
 wind, twist, loop, coil, wrap, curve, turn, twine
2 Steam **curled** upwards from the cauldron.
 coil, spiral, twirl, swirl, furl, snake, writhe, ripple
curl noun
 The girl's hair was a mass of golden **curls**.
 wave, ringlet, coil, loop, twist, roll, scroll, spiral
curly adjective
 My new doll has **curly** black hair.

curled, curling, wavy, frizzy, crinkly, ringletted
OPPOSITE straight
current noun
 The wooden raft drifted along with the **current**.
 flow, tide, stream
 A current of air is a **draught**.
current adjective
1 The shop sells all the **current** teenage fashions.
 modern, contemporary, present-day, up to date, topical, prevailing, prevalent
OPPOSITE past, old-fashioned
2 Have you got a **current** passport?
 valid, usable, up to date
OPPOSITE out of date
3 Who is the **current** prime minister?
 present, existing
OPPOSITE past, former
curse noun
1 Long ago, a wizard put a **curse** on the family.
 jinx, hex
2 When the gardener hit his finger, he let out a **curse**.
 swearword, oath
curve noun
 Try to draw a straight line without any **curves**.
 bend, curl, loop, turn, twist, arch, arc, bow, bulge, wave
 A curve in the shape of a new moon is a **crescent**.
 A curve on a road surface is a **camber**.
curve verb
 The road ahead **curves** round to the right.
 bend, wind, turn, twist, curl, loop, swerve, veer, snake, meander
curved adjective
 The wall was painted with a series of **curved** lines.
 curving, curvy, curled, looped, coiled, rounded, bulging, bent, arched, bowed, twisted, crooked, spiral, winding, meandering, serpentine, snaking, undulating
 A surface which is curved like the inside of a circle is **concave**.
 A surface which is curved like the outside of a circle is **convex**.
custom noun
1 It's our **custom** to give presents at Christmas.
 tradition, practice, habit, convention, fashion, routine, way
2 The shop is having a sale to attract more **custom**.
 customers, buyers, trade, business
cut verb
1 The woodcutter **cut** the tree trunk to make logs.

chop, slit, split, chip, notch, axe, hack, hew, cleave
 To cut off a limb is to **amputate** or **sever** it.
 To cut down a tree is to **fell** it.
 To cut branches off a tree is to **lop** them.
 To cut twigs off a growing plant is to **prune** it.
 To cut something up to examine it is to **dissect** it.
 To cut stone to make a statue is to **carve** it.
 To cut an inscription in stone is to **engrave** it.
2 The cook **cut** the apples into small pieces.
 chop, slice, dice, grate, mince, shred
3 I'm going to get my hair **cut** in the holidays.
 trim, clip, crop, snip, shave
 To cut wool off a sheep is to **shear** it.
 To cut grass is to **mow** it.
 To cut corn is to **harvest** or **reap** it.
4 Josh **cut** his foot on a sharp stone.
 gash, slash, nick, stab, pierce, wound
5 This letter is too long—I'll need to **cut** it.
 shorten, condense, edit
6 The shop has **cut** its prices by 10%.
 lower, reduce, decrease
 If you cut something by half, you **halve** it.
cut noun
 I got a nasty **cut** when I was slicing bread.
 gash, wound, injury, nick, slash, scratch, slit, snip

Dd

damage verb
 Many books were **damaged** in the fire.
 harm, spoil, mar, break, impair, weaken, disfigure, deface, mutilate, scar
 To damage something beyond repair is to **destroy**, **ruin**, or **wreck** it.
 To damage something deliberately is to **sabotage** or **vandalize** it.
damp adjective
1 Don't wear those clothes if they are **damp**.
 moist, soggy, clammy, dank
2 I don't like this **damp** weather.
 drizzly, foggy, misty, rainy, wet



Weather which is both damp and warm is **humid** or **muggy**
weather.

OPPOSITE dry

dance verb

I could have **danced** for joy.

caper, cavort, frisk, frolic, gambol, hop about, jig about, jump about, leap, prance, skip, whirl

danger noun

1 Who knows what **dangers** lie ahead?

peril, jeopardy, trouble, crisis, hazard, menace, pitfall, threat, trap

OPPOSITE safety

2 The forecast says there's a **danger** of frost.

chance, possibility, risk

dangerous adjective

1 We were in a **dangerous** situation.

hazardous, perilous, risky, precarious, treacherous, unsafe, alarming, menacing

(informal) hairy
2 The police arrested him for **dangerous** driving.

careless, reckless
3 A **dangerous** criminal had escaped from prison.

violent, desperate, ruthless, treacherous

4 It's wicked to empty **dangerous** chemicals into the river.

harmful, poisonous, deadly, toxic
OPPOSITE harmless, safe

dangle verb

There was a bunch of keys **dangling** from the chain.

hang, swing, sway, droop, wave about, flap, trail

dare verb

1 I wouldn't **dare** to make a parachute jump.

have the courage, take the risk
2 They **dared** me to climb the tree.
 challenge, defy

daring adjective

It was a very **daring** plan.

bold, brave, adventurous, courageous, fearless, intrepid, plucky, valiant

A daring person is a **daredevil**.
OPPOSITE timid

dark adjective

1 It was a very **dark** night.

black, dim, murky, shadowy, gloomy, dingy
OPPOSITE bright

2 She wore a **dark** green coat.
OPPOSITE pale, light

dash verb

1 We **dashed** home because it was raining.

hurry, run, rush, race, hasten, sprint, speed, tear, zoom

2 She **dashed** her cup against the wall.

throw, hurl, knock, smash

data plural noun

*I entered all the **data** into the computer.*
information, details, facts
Data can be in the form of **figures**, **numbers**, or **statistics**.

dawn noun

*1 I was woken at **dawn** by the birds singing outside.*
daybreak, sunrise, first light
OPPOSITE dusk, sunset
*2 It was the **dawn** of the modern age.*
beginning, start, birth, origin

day noun

*1 Badgers sleep during the **day**.*
daytime
OPPOSITE night
*2 Things were different in my grandfather's **day**.*
age, time, era, epoch, period

dazed adjective

*He had a **dazed** expression on his face.*
confused, bewildered, muddled, perplexed

dazzle verb

*1 My eyes were **dazzled** by the bright lights.*
daze, blind
*2 The acrobats **dazzled** the audience with their skill.*
amaze, astonish, impress, fascinate, awe

dead adjective

*1 A **dead** fish floated by the side of the river.*
deceased, lifeless
Instead of 'the king who has just died', you can say 'the **late** king'.
A dead body is a **carcass** or **corpse**.
A common simile is **as dead as a doornail**.
OPPOSITE alive
*2 This battery is **dead**.*
flat, not working, worn out
*3 The town centre is **dead** at this time of night.*
dull, boring, uninteresting, slow
OPPOSITE lively

deadly adjective

*The witch gave her a **deadly** dose of poison.*
lethal, fatal, harmful, dangerous, destructive
OPPOSITE harmless

deafening adjective

*We complained about the **deafening** noise.*
loud, blaring, booming, thunderous, penetrating

deal verb

*1 Who is going to **deal** the cards?*
give out, distribute, share out
*2 My uncle used to **deal** in second-hand cars.*
do business, trade
to deal with something
*1 I can **deal** with this problem.*

cope with, sort out, attend to, see to, handle, manage, control, grapple with, look after, solve
*2 The book **deals** with the history of Rome.*
be concerned with, cover, explain about

deal noun

*She made a **deal** with the garage for her new car.*
arrangement, agreement, contract, bargain

dear adjective

*1 She is a very **dear** friend.*
close, loved, valued, beloved
OPPOSITE distant
*2 I didn't buy the watch because it was too **dear**.*
expensive, costly (informal) pricey
OPPOSITE cheap

debate noun

*We had a **debate** about animal rights.*
discussion, argument, dispute
Something which people argue about a lot is a **controversy**.

debate verb

*1 We **debated** whether it is right to kill animals for food.*
discuss, argue
*2 I **debated** what to do next.*
consider, ponder, deliberate, weigh up, reflect on

decay verb

*Dead leaves fall to the ground and **decay**.*
decompose, rot, disintegrate, break down

**deceitful** adjective

*Don't trust him—he's a **deceitful** person.*
dishonest, underhand, insincere, duplicitous, false, cheating, hypocritical, lying, treacherous, two-faced, sneaky
OPPOSITE honest

deceive verb

*The spy had been **deceiving** them for years.*
fool, trick, delude, dupe, hoodwink, cheat, double-cross, mislead, swindle, take in (informal) con, diddle

decent adjective

*1 I did the **decent** thing and owned up.*
honest, honourable

*2 My friend's jokes were not **decent**.*
polite, proper, respectable,

acceptable, appropriate, suitable, fitting
OPPOSITE indecent
*3 I haven't had a **decent** meal for ages!*
satisfactory, agreeable, good, nice
OPPOSITE bad

decide verb

*1 We **decided** to finish our work instead of going out to play.*
choose, make a decision, make up your mind, opt, elect, resolve
*2 The referee **decided** that the player was offside.*
conclude, judge, rule
*3 The last lap **decided** the result of the race.*
determine, settle

decision noun

*1 Can you tell me what your **decision** is?*
choice, preference
*2 The judge announced his **decision**.*
conclusion, judgement, verdict, findings

decisive adjective

*1 A **decisive** piece of evidence proved that he was innocent.*
crucial, convincing, definite
OPPOSITE uncertain
*2 A referee needs to be **decisive**.*
firm, forceful, strong-minded, resolute, quick-thinking
OPPOSITE hesitant

declare verb

*He **declared** that he was innocent.*
announce, state, assert, make known, pronounce, proclaim, swear

decline verb

*1 Our enthusiasm **declined** as the day went on.*
become less, decrease, diminish, lessen, weaken, dwindle, flag, wane, tail off
OPPOSITE increase
*2 Why did you **decline** my invitation to lunch?*
refuse, reject, turn down
OPPOSITE accept

decorate verb

*1 We **decorated** the Christmas tree with tinsel.*
ornament, adorn, beautify, prettify, deck, festoon
To decorate a dish of food is to **garnish** it.
To decorate clothes with lace or ribbon is to **trim** them.
*2 Dad is going to **decorate** my bedroom next weekend.*

paint, paper, or wallpaper (informal) do up, make over
*3 The firefighters were **decorated** for their bravery.*
award or give a medal to, honour, reward

decrease verb

*1 We **decreased** speed.*
reduce, cut, lower, slacken
*2 Our enthusiasm **decreased** as the day went on.*
become less, decline, decrease, diminish, lessen, weaken, dwindle, flag, wane, tail off, shrink, subside
OPPOSITE increase

dedicate verb

*He **dedicates** himself entirely to his art.*
commit, devote

deed noun

*They thanked the rescue team for their heroic **deed**.*
act, action, feat, exploit, effort, achievement

deep adjective

*1 The pond is quite **deep** in the middle.*
OPPOSITE shallow
*2 The letter expressed his **deep** regret.*
intense, earnest, genuine, sincere
OPPOSITE insincere
*3 Veronica fell into a **deep** sleep.*
heavy, sound
OPPOSITE light
*4 The actor spoke in a **deep** and sombre voice.*
low, bass
OPPOSITE high

defeat verb

*The Greeks attacked and **defeated** the Trojans.*
beat, conquer, vanquish, triumph over, win a victory over, overcome, overpower, crush, rout, trounce
To defeat someone in chess is to **checkmate** them.
To be defeated is to **lose**.

defeat noun

*The team suffered a humiliating **defeat**.*

failure, humiliation, rout, trouncing
OPPOSITE victory

defect noun

*Cars are tested for **defects** before they leave the factory.*
fault, flaw, imperfection, shortcoming, failure, weakness
A defect in a computer program is a **bug**.

defence noun

*1 What was the accused woman's **defence**?*
justification, excuse, explanation, argument, case
*2 The castle was built as a **defence***

against enemy attack.
protection, guard, safeguard, fortification, barricade, shield

defend verb

*1 They tried to **defend** themselves against the enemy.*
protect, guard, keep safe
OPPOSITE attack
*2 He gave a speech **defending** his actions.*
justify, support, stand up for, make a case for
OPPOSITE accuse

defiant adjective

*The prisoner cursed with a **defiant** look in his eye.*
rebellious, insolent, aggressive, challenging, disobedient, obstinate, quarrelsome, uncooperative, stubborn, mutinous
OPPOSITE submissive, compliant

definite adjective

*1 Is it **definite** that we're going to move?*
certain, sure, fixed, settled, decided
*2 The doctor saw **definite** signs of improvement.*
clear, distinct, noticeable, obvious, marked, positive, pronounced, unmistakable
OPPOSITE indefinite
definitely adverb
*I'll **definitely** phone you tomorrow.*
certainly, for certain, positively, surely, unquestionably, without doubt, without fail
OPPOSITE perhaps

defy verb

*1 The rebel army decided to **defy** the king.*
disobey, refuse to obey, resist, stand up to, confront
OPPOSITE obey
*2 I **defy** you to come up with a better idea.*
challenge, dare
*3 The jammed door **defied** our efforts to open it.*
resist, withstand, defeat, frustrate, beat

delay verb

*1 Don't let me **delay** you.*
detain, hold up, keep waiting, make late, hinder, slow down
*2 They **delayed** the race because of bad weather.*
postpone, put off, defer
*3 You'll miss the bus if you **delay**.*
hesitate, linger, pause, wait, dawdle, loiter (informal) hang about or around, drag your feet

delay noun

*There has been a **delay** with the building work.*
hold-up, wait, pause

deliberate adjective

*1 That remark was a **deliberate** insult.*
intentional, planned, calculated, conscious, premeditated
OPPOSITE accidental, unintentional
*2 He walked with **deliberate** steps across the room.*
careful, steady, cautious, slow, unhurried
OPPOSITE hasty, careless

deliberately verb

*Did you say that **deliberately** to hurt my feelings?*
on purpose, intentionally
OPPOSITE accidentally, unintentionally
delicate adjective
*1 The blouse has **delicate** embroidery on the cuffs.*
dainty, exquisite, intricate, neat
*2 Take care not to damage the **delicate** material.*
fragile, fine, flimsy, thin

*3 **Delicate** plants should be protected from frost.*
sensitive, tender
OPPOSITE tough, hardy

*4 The child was born with a **delicate** constitution.*
frail, weak, feeble, sickly, unhealthy
OPPOSITE strong

*5 The pianist's fingers had a **delicate** touch.*
gentle, light, soft

delicious adjective

*The food at the banquet was **delicious**.*
tasty, appetizing, mouth-watering, delectable (informal) scrumptious, yummy
OPPOSITE horrible, disgusting

delight noun

*Imagine my **delight** when I saw my friend again!*
happiness, joy, pleasure, enjoyment, bliss, ecstasy

delight verb

*The puppet show **delighted** the children.*
please, charm, entertain, amuse, divert, enchant, entrance, fascinate, thrill
OPPOSITE dismay

delighted adjective

*The **delighted** crowd cheered the winners.*
pleased, happy, joyful, thrilled, ecstatic, elated, exultant

deliver verb

*1 Does anyone **deliver** mail to the island?*
convey, bring, hand over, distribute, present, supply, take round
*2 The head **delivered** a lecture on good behaviour.*
give, make, read out

demand verb

- 1 I **demand**ed a refund for my train fare.
insist on, claim, call for, require, want
2 'What do you want?' **demand**ed a voice inside.

demand noun

- 1 The king refused the **demands** of his people.
request, claim, requirement
2 There is not much **demand** for ice lollies in winter.
need, call

demolish verb

- They **demolished** a building to make way for the road.
destroy, flatten, knock down, level, pull down, tear down, bulldoze

OPPOSITE build, construct

demonstrate verb

- 1 The teacher **demonstrated** how warm air rises.
show, exhibit, illustrate
2 Animal rights campaigners were **demonstrating** in the street.
protest, march, parade

demonstration noun

- 1 I watched a **demonstration** of the new computer game.
show, display, presentation
2 Everyone joined the **demonstration** against world poverty.
protest, rally, march, parade (informal) demo

den noun

- We built a **den** in the garden.
hideout, shelter, hiding place, secret place
The den of a wild animal is its **lair**.

dense adjective

- 1 The accident happened in **dense** fog.
thick, heavy
2 A **dense** crowd waited in the square.
compact, packed, solid
3 I'm being rather **dense** today!
stupid, slow

dent noun

- There was a large **dent** in the car door.
indentation, depression, hollow, dip, dimple

deny verb

- 1 The boy **denied** that he had stolen the money.
reject, dispute, disagree with, contradict, dismiss, oppose
OPPOSITE admit, accept
2 Her parents don't **deny** her anything.
refuse, deprive of, withhold
OPPOSITE give

depart verb

- 1 What time is the train due to **depart**?
leave, set off, get going, set out, start, begin a journey
OPPOSITE arrive, get in
2 It looks as if the robbers **departed** in a hurry.
leave, exit, go away, retreat, withdraw, make off (informal) clear off, scam, scarper
OPPOSITE arrive

depend verb

- to depend on someone**
I **depend** on you to help me.
rely on, count on, bank on, trust
to depend on something
My success will **depend** on good luck.
be decided by, rest on, hinge on

dependable adjective

- Are these friends of yours **dependable**?
reliable, trustworthy, loyal, faithful, trusty, honest, sound, steady
OPPOSITE unreliable

depressed adjective

- After his friends left, he began to feel **depressed**.
disheartened, dejected, discouraged, downcast, downhearted, unhappy, sad, low, gloomy, glum, melancholy, miserable, despondent, desolate, in despair (informal) down
OPPOSITE cheerful

derelict adjective

- They plan to pull down those **derelict** buildings.
dilapidated, crumbling, decrepit, neglected, deserted, abandoned, ruined

descend verb

- 1 After admiring the view, we began to **descend** the mountain.
climb down, come down, go down, move down
To descend through the air is to **drop** or **fall**.
To descend through water is to **sink**.
2 The road **descends** gradually into the valley.
drop, fall, slope, dip, incline
OPPOSITE ascend
to be descended from someone
She's **descended** from a French family.
come from, originate from

describe verb

- 1 An eyewitness **described** how the accident happened.
report, tell about, depict, explain, outline
2 Friends **described** him as a quiet, shy man.
portray, characterize, represent, present

description noun

- 1 I wrote a **description** of our day at the seaside.
report, account, story
2 Write a **description** of your favourite character in the play.
portrait, representation, sketch

descriptive adjective

- The author writes in a very **descriptive** style.
expressive, colourful, detailed, graphic, vivid

desert verb

- He **deserted** his friends when they needed him most.
abandon, leave, forsake, betray (informal) walk out on
To desert someone in a place they can't get away from is to **maroon** or **strand** them.

deserted adjective

- By midnight, the streets of the town were **deserted**.
empty, unoccupied, uninhabited, vacant
OPPOSITE crowded

deserve verb

- You **deserve** a break after all your hard work.
be worthy of, be entitled to, have earned, merit, warrant

design noun

- 1 This is the winning **design** for the new art gallery.
plan, drawing, outline, blueprint, sketch
A first example of something, used as a model for making others, is a **prototype**.

design verb

- 2 Do you like the **design** of this wallpaper?
style, pattern, arrangement, composition
She **designs** all her own clothes.
create, develop, invent, devise, conceive, think up

desire verb

- The magic mirror will show you what you most **desire**.
wish for, long for, want, crave, fancy, hanker after, yearn for, pine for, set your heart on, have a yen for

desire noun

- My greatest **desire** is to swim with dolphins.
wish, want, longing, ambition, craving, fancy, hankering, urge, yearning
A desire for food is **appetite** or **hunger**.
A desire for drink is **thirst**.
Excessive desire for money or other things is **greed**.

desolate adjective

- 1 Jamie felt **desolate** when his goldfish died.
depressed, dejected, miserable, sad, melancholy, hopeless, wretched, forlorn
OPPOSITE cheerful

desolate place.

- 2 No-one wants to live in that **desolate** place.
bleak, depressing, dreary, gloomy, dismal, cheerless, inhospitable, deserted, uninhabited, abandoned, godforsaken
OPPOSITE pleasant

despair noun

- The defeated knight was overcome by **despair**.
depression, desperation, gloom, hopelessness, misery, anguish, dejection, melancholy, pessimism, wretchedness
OPPOSITE hope

desperate adjective

- 1 The shipwrecked crew were in a **desperate** situation.
difficult, critical, grave, serious, severe, drastic, dire, urgent, extreme
2 The hills were home to a band of **desperate** outlaws.
dangerous, violent, reckless

despise verb

- I **despise** people who cheat at cards.
hate, loathe, feel contempt for, deride, have a low opinion of, look down on, scorn, sneer at
OPPOSITE admire

destiny noun

- Was it **destiny** that brought us together?
fate, fortune

destroy verb

- 1 An avalanche **destroyed** the village.
demolish, devastate, crush, flatten, knock down, level, pull down, shatter, smash, sweep away
2 He tried to **destroy** the good work we had done.
ruin, wreck, sabotage, undo

destruction noun

- 1 The hurricane caused **destruction** all along the coast.
devastation, damage, demolition, ruin, wrecking
OPPOSITE creation
2 Global warming may cause the **destruction** of many animal species.
elimination, annihilation, obliteration, extermination, extinction
OPPOSITE conservation

detach verb

- The camera lens can be **detached** for cleaning.
remove, separate,

- disconnect, take off, release, undo, unfasten, part
To detach a caravan from a vehicle is to **unhitch** it.
To detach railway wagons from a locomotive is to **uncouple** them.
To detach something by cutting it off is to **sever** it.
OPPOSITE attach

detail noun

- Her account of what happened was **accurate** in every **detail**.
fact, feature, particular, aspect, item, point, respect

detective noun

- WORD WEB**
Detective Dewar solved the case of the stolen tiara.
investigator, sleuth (informal) private eye
THINGS A DETECTIVE MIGHT LOOK FOR
clues, evidence, eyewitness, fingerprints, footprints, murder weapon, tracks, criminal, crook, culprit, felon, suspect, mastermind
THINGS A DETECTIVE MIGHT DO
analyse, comb (an area), deduce, deduct, detect, dig up, ferret out, follow a hunch, follow a lead or a tip-off, interrogate or question (a witness), investigate, pursue, shadow, solve (a case), stake out (a hiding place), tail or track down (a suspect)

- An informal name for a story in which a detective solves a crime is a **whodunnit**.

deteriorate verb

- 1 The queen's health had begun to **deteriorate**.
worsen, decline, degenerate, get worse, go downhill
2 The walls will **deteriorate** if we don't maintain them.

deteriorate improve**determination** noun

- Marathon runners show great **determination**.
resolve, commitment, will-power, courage, dedication, drive, grit, perseverance, persistence, spirit (informal) guts

determined adjective

- 1 Boudicca must have been a **determined** woman.
resolute, decisive, firm, strong-minded, assertive, persistent, tough
OPPOSITE weak-minded
2 I'm **determined** to finish the race.
committed, resolved

detest verb

- I **detest** the smell of boiled cabbage.
dislike, hate, loathe
Informal expressions are **can't bear** and **can't stand**.
OPPOSITE love

develop verb

- 1 The zoo is **developing** its education programme.
expand, extend, enlarge, build up, diversify
2 Her piano playing has **developed** this year.
improve, progress, evolve, advance, get better
3 The plants will **develop** quickly in the spring.
grow, flourish
4 How did he **develop** that posh accent?

device noun

- The TV comes with a remote control **device**.
tool, implement, instrument, appliance, apparatus, gadget, contraption (informal) gizmo

devious adjective

- 1 The mad professor had a **devious** plan to take over the world.
cunning, deceitful, dishonest, furtive, scheming, sly, sneaky, treacherous, wily
2 Because of the roadworks, we took a **devious** route home.
indirect, roundabout, winding, meandering
OPPOSITE direct
devoted adjective
She's a **devoted** supporter of our team.

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loyal, faithful, dedicated, enthusiastic, committed
OPPOSITE apathetic
devour verb
He **devoured** a whole plateful of sandwiches.
eat, consume, guzzle, gobble up, gulp down, swallow
(informal) scoff, wolf down
diagram noun
We drew a **diagram** of the life cycle of a frog.
chart, plan, sketch, outline
diary noun
I write all about my birthday party in my **diary**.
journal, daily record
A diary describing a voyage or mission is a **log** or **logbook**.
A diary in which you insert pictures and souvenirs is a **scrapbook**.
A diary published on a website is a **blog**.
die verb
1 My sister's hamster **died** last week.
expire, pass away, perish
(informal) snuff it, kick the bucket, croak
To die of hunger is to **starve**.
2 The flowers will **die** if they don't have water.
wither, wilt, droop, fade
to **die out**
When did the dinosaurs **die out**?
become extinct, cease to exist, come to an end, disappear, vanish
differ verb
The two men **differed** in their beliefs.
disagree, conflict, argue, clash, contradict each other, oppose each other, quarrel
OPPOSITE agree
to **differ from**
My style of painting **differs from** hers.
be different from, contrast with
difference noun
1 Can you see any **difference** between these two colours?

contrast, distinction
OPPOSITE similarity
2 This money will make a **difference** to their lives.
change, alteration, modification, variation
different adjective
1 We have **different** views about global warming.
differing, contradictory, opposite, clashing, conflicting
2 It's important that the teams wear **different** colours.
contrasting, dissimilar, distinguishable
3 The packet contains sweets of **different** flavours.
various, assorted, mixed, several, diverse, numerous, miscellaneous
4 Let's go somewhere **different** on holiday this year.
new, original, fresh
5 Everyone's handwriting is **different**.
distinct, distinctive, individual, special, unique
difficult adjective
1 This crossword is really **difficult**. We were faced with a **difficult** problem.
hard, complicated, complex, involved, intricate, baffling, perplexing, puzzling
(informal) tricky, thorny, knotty
OPPOSITE simple
2 It is a **difficult** climb to the top of the hill.
challenging, arduous, demanding, taxing, exhausting, formidable, gruelling, laborious, strenuous, tough
OPPOSITE easy
3 Mum says I was a **difficult** child when I was little.
troublesome, awkward, trying, tiresome, annoying, disruptive, obstinate, stubborn, uncooperative, unhelpful
OPPOSITE cooperative
difficulty noun
1 The explorers were used to facing **difficulty**.
trouble, adversity, challenges, hardship
2 There are some **difficulties** with your application.
problem, complication, hitch, obstacle, snag
dig verb
1 We spent the afternoon **digging** the garden.
cultivate, fork over, turn over
2 Rabbits **dig** holes in the ground.
burrow, excavate, tunnel, gouge out, hollow out, scoop out

3 Did you **dig** me in the back?
poke, prod, jab
dignified adjective
Lady Snodgrass was a very **dignified** old lady.
refined, stately, distinguished, noble, sedate, solemn, proper, grave, grand, august
OPPOSITE undignified
dim adjective
1 I could see the **dim** outline of a figure in the mist.
indistinct, faint, blurred, fuzzy, hazy, shadowy, vague
OPPOSITE clear
2 The light in the cave was rather **dim**.
dark, dull, dingy, murky, gloomy
OPPOSITE bright
din noun
I can't hear you because of that awful **din**!
noise, racket, row, clatter, hullabaloo
dingy adjective
How can we brighten up this **dingy** room?
dull, drab, dreary, dowdy, colourless, dismal, gloomy, murky
OPPOSITE bright
dinosaur noun

**WORD WEB**

SOME TYPES OF DINOSAUR
apatosaurus, archaopteryx, brachiosaurus, diplodocus, gallimimus, Iguanodon, megalosaurus, pterodactylus, stegosaurus, triceratops, tyrannosaurus rex, velociraptor

BODY PARTS WHICH A DINOSAUR MAY HAVE
dorsal plates, bony frill, fleshy fin, horn, wings, crest

A person who studies dinosaurs and other fossils is a **palaeontologist**.

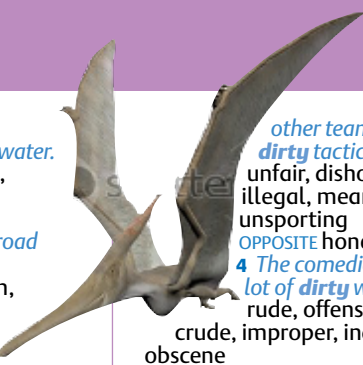
dip verb
I **dipped** my hand in the water.
immerse, lower, plunge, submerge, dunk
dip noun
1 There was a **dip** in the road ahead.
hollow, hole, depression, slope
2 It was so hot we decided to have a **dip** in the sea.
swim, bathe
direct adjective
1 It would be quicker to take the **direct** route.
straight, shortest
OPPOSITE indirect
2 Please give me a **direct** answer.
straightforward, frank, honest, sincere, blunt, plain, outspoken, candid, unambiguous
OPPOSITE evasive
direct verb
1 Can you **direct** me to the station?
guide, point, show the way, give directions to
2 A new manager has been appointed to **direct** the company.
manage, run, be in charge of, control, administer, superintend, supervise, take charge of
To direct an orchestra is to **conduct** it.
3 The conductor **directed** us to begin playing.
instruct, command, order, tell
dirt noun
1 The floor was covered in **dirt**.
filth, grime, mess, muck, mud, dust
2 Chickens scratched about in the **dirt**.
earth, soil, clay, loam, mud
dirty adjective
1 Those **dirty** clothes need to be washed.
unclean, filthy, grimy, grubby, soiled, stained, messy, mucky, muddy, sooty, foul
(informal) manky, grotty
OPPOSITE clean
2 We refused to drink the **dirty** water.
impure, polluted, murky, cloudy
OPPOSITE pure
3 The

other team used **dirty** tactics.
unfair, dishonest, illegal, mean, unsporting
OPPOSITE honest
4 The comedian used a lot of **dirty** words.
rude, offensive, coarse, crude, improper, indecent, obscene
OPPOSITE decent
disadvantage noun
It's a **disadvantage** to be small if you play basketball.
drawback, handicap, hindrance, inconvenience, downside, snag
disagree verb
My sister and I often **disagree** about music.
argue, differ, clash, quarrel, squabble, bicker, fall out
OPPOSITE agree
to **disagree with**
He **disagrees with** everything I say.
argue with, contradict, oppose, object to
disagreement noun
We had a **disagreement** over who should pay for the meal.
argument, dispute, difference of opinion, quarrel, row, clash, squabble, conflict
OPPOSITE agreement
disappear verb
1 The markings will **disappear** as the chicks grow older.
become invisible, vanish, fade, clear, disperse, dissolve
2 The thief **disappeared** around the corner.
run away, escape, flee, go away, withdraw
OPPOSITE appear
disappoint verb
She didn't want to **disappoint** her fans by cancelling the show.
let down, fail, dissatisfy, displease, upset
OPPOSITE please, satisfy
disappointed adjective
I'm **disappointed** that you can't come to my party.
saddened, unhappy, upset, let down, unsatisfied, displeased
OPPOSITE pleased, satisfied
disapprove verb
to **disapprove of**
My aunt **disapproves of** watching television.
object to, take exception to, dislike, deplore, condemn, criticize, denounce, frown on
(informal) take a dim view of
OPPOSITE approve of
discipline noun
Discipline is important in the army.
order, control

discourage verb
1 Don't let her criticism **discourage** you.
demoralize, depress
(informal) put you off
2 The burglar alarm will **discourage** thieves.
deter, dissuade, prevent, restrain, stop, hinder
discover verb
I **discovered** some old toys in the attic.
find, come across, spot, stumble across, uncover
To discover something that has been buried is to **unearth** it.
To discover something that has been under water is to **dredge** it up.
To discover something you have been pursuing is to **track it down**.
OPPOSITE hide



discovery noun
Scientists have made an exciting new **discovery**.
find, breakthrough
discrimination noun
1 She shows **discrimination** in her choice of music.
good taste, good judgement
2 The school has a policy against racial **discrimination**.
prejudice, bias, intolerance, unfairness
Discrimination against people because of their sex is **sexism**.
Discrimination against people because of their race is **racism**.
discuss verb
I **discussed** the idea with my parents.
talk about, confer about, debate
discussion noun
We had a lively **discussion** about pocket money.



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