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pledge NOUN
1 *Labour's pledge to spend billions on education*
► promise, undertaking, assurance, commitment, guarantee
2 *She gave her rings as a pledge.*
► surety, security, bond, deposit, bail

pledge VERB
They all pledged their loyalty to the Queen.
► promise, swear, vow, guarantee, undertake

plentiful ADJECTIVE
a plentiful supply of fruit
► abundant, copious, ample, liberal, profuse, generous, lavish, rich, bountiful, prolific, inexhaustible
OPPOSITES ARE sparse, scarce

plenty NOUN
1 *a time of plenty*
► prosperity, wealth, affluence, opulence, luxury, well-being, comfort
2 **plenty of** *There is plenty of time before they arrive.*
► a lot of, a great deal of, much, enough, (*more informal*) lots of, (*more informal*) heaps of, (*more informal*) loads of, (*more informal*) masses of

pliable ADJECTIVE
1 *a pliable material*
► flexible, bendable, pliant, supple, plastic, springy, (*more informal*) bendy
AN OPPOSITE IS stiff
2 *a pliable mind*
► adaptable, impressionable, responsive, suggestible, compliant, flexible, tractable, biddable, accommodating
AN OPPOSITE IS rigid

plight NOUN
the plight of the homeless
► difficulty, predicament, danger, trouble, extremity, quandary, straits

plod VERB
1 *Mary plodded up the path.*
► trudge, tramp, lumber, stomp
2 *It will take hours to plod through the whole book.*
► plough, wade, trawl, labour, persevere, grind on

plot NOUN
1 *He grew vegetables in a plot behind the house.*
► piece of ground, patch, allotment, smallholding, lot
2 *The novel has a complicated plot.*
► storyline, story, outline, action, thread, scenario, narrative
3 *A plot was revealed against the government.*
► conspiracy, intrigue, plan, scheme, cabal, machination

plot VERB
1 *The president's brother was plotting his downfall.*
► plan, scheme, concoct, devise, hatch
2 *He was accused of plotting against the government.*
► conspire, scheme, intrigue
3 *They plotted their course on the map.*
► chart, mark, map

plough VERB
1 *Farmers ploughed the fields.*
► cultivate, till, work, turn over
2 *A van had ploughed into a shop window.*
► plunge, crash, career, smash, bulldoze

ploy NOUN
It was just a ploy to get rid of Doreen.
► trick, ruse, move, device, stratagem, manoeuvre

pluck NOUN
It must have taken a lot of pluck to walk along a path marked 'danger'.
► courage, daring, nerve, audacity, boldness, heroism, (*more informal*) bottle, (*more informal*) grit, (*more informal*) guts

pluck VERB
1 *She began to pluck hairs off her skirt.*
► pick, pull, take off, snatch
2 *He sang and plucked a guitar.*
► pick, twang, strum, finger
3 *The girls stood plucking fruit from the trees.*
► pick, gather, collect, harvest, garner

plucky ADJECTIVE
a plucky young woman's tale of escape
► brave, courageous, bold, daring, intrepid, valiant, resolute
OPPOSITES ARE timid, cowardly

plug NOUN
1 *He put a plug in the top of the bottle.*
► stopper, cork, bung
2 (*informal*) *They put in a plug for their new song.*
► advertisement, piece of publicity, mention, (*informal*) puff, (*informal*) boost

plumb ADVERB
The arrow hit the target plumb in the middle.
► exactly, precisely, dead, (*more informal*) slap

plumb VERB
They seem to have plumbed the depths of despair.
► penetrate, probe, sound, explore, measure

plummet VERB
A stone came loose and plummeted to the ground.
► plunge, fall, hurtle, drop, crash, dive

plump ADJECTIVE
a plump little boy
► chubby, podgy, tubby, fat, dumpy, rotund, round, overweight, stout, portly, pudgy
OPPOSITES ARE thin, slim, skinny

plump VERB
Jill plumped down on the sofa and fell asleep.
► sink, drop, flop, fall, collapse
plump for *I'm going to plump for the vegetarian meal.*
► choose, opt for, go for, pick, decide on

plunder VERB
Pirates plundered towns and villages near the coast.
► loot, pillage, raid, ransack, ravage, despoil, rifle, rob, sack, steal from

plunder NOUN
The army was bent on plunder and murder.
► looting, robbery, pillage, pillaging, marauding

plunge VERB
1 *The plane plunged to the ground.*
► dive, plummet, fall, hurtle, drop, crash, swoop, nosedive
2 *I plunged into the lake.*
► dive, leap, jump, throw yourself, hurl yourself
3 *He plunged the knife into the man's back.*
► thrust, force, stab, shove, stick, push
4 *She plunged a hand in the water.*
► dip, immerse, submerge, sink

poach VERB
The new company was poaching staff from its rivals.
► steal, purloin, filch, (*more informal*) pinch, (*more informal*) nick

pocket NOUN
There were some pockets of resistance to the new regime.
► area, patch, centre, cluster

pocket VERB
The management was accused of pocketing all the profits.
► take, steal, appropriate, help yourself to, take for yourself

podgy ADJECTIVE
She looked a bit podgy.
► plump, chubby, tubby, fat, dumpy, rotund, round, overweight, pudgy
OPPOSITES ARE thin, slim, skinny

poem NOUN
He read her some of his poems.
► verse, rhyme, poetry
NAMES FOR TYPES OF POEM
longer narrative poems: epic, ballad, lay, chanson.
poems for singing: chanson, madrigal, lay, dithyramb (ancient choral hymn), ballad.
laments: elegy.
short pastoral and romantic poems: eclogue, pastoral, georgic, idyll.
short poems and rhymes: lyric, ode, sonnet (of fourteen lines), nursery rhyme, epigram, limerick, clerihew, nonsense verse, lay.
Japanese poems: haiku, tanka.
NAMES FOR POETIC FEATURES
verse, stanza; rhyme, enjambement, free verse, rhythm, couplet, imagery, metre, alliteration (use of similar sounds at the beginning of a sequence of words), assonance (similarity of syllables in words, e.g. *stone* and *cold*), simile, metaphor; blank verse (without end-of-line rhymes), concrete poetry (with the meaning echoed by visual patterns in the words).

poet NOUN
She wrote stories and was a poet.
► writer of verse, rhymester, rhymer, lyricist, versifier, bard

poetic ADJECTIVE
poetic language
► expressive, lyrical, poetical, emotive, metrical, imaginative
AN OPPOSITE IS prosaic

poetry NOUN
a book of poetry
► poems, verses, rhymes

poignant ADJECTIVE
a poignant moment of farewell
► touching, moving, affecting, sad, tender, emotional, pitiful, pathetic, sorrowful

point NOUN
1 *the point of the needle*
► tip, end, sharp end, spike, extremity
2 *points of light*
► spot, speck, dot, fleck
3 *At this point, the door opened.*
► moment, instant, time, stage
4 *I wish they would get to the point.*
► essence, crux, meaning, thrust
5 *a few points of detail*
► detail, item, issue, factor, consideration, particular, facet, feature
6 *She admitted he had some good points*
► characteristic, feature, attribute, aspect, peculiarity, side
7 *There didn't seem much point in staying.*
► purpose, reason, object, aim, goal, advantage, benefit
8 *They could get on the train at a point further up the line.*
► place, position, location, spot, site, locality

point VERB
1 **point** or **point to** *An official pointed the way. He pointed to a picture on the stairs.*
► indicate, point out, draw attention to, show, signal
2 *She saw the man was pointing a gun at her.*
► aim, direct, level, train
3 *I'll point you in the right direction.*
► direct, guide, lead, steer

point-blank ADJECTIVE
1 *The gun was fired at point-blank range.*
► close
2 *Their request met with a point-blank refusal.*
► blunt, direct, straight, plain, frank, open, explicit, forthright

point-blank ADVERB
She told him point-blank that it was over.
► bluntly, directly, straight, straight out, frankly, openly, plainly, clearly, forthrightly

pointed ADJECTIVE
1 *He used the pointed end of a stick.*
► sharp, tapered, spiky