verb

abolish

to officially end a law, a system or an institution

noun

abortion

the deliberate ending of a pregnancy at an early stage

noun

absence

the fact of somebody being away from a place where they are usually expected to be; the occasion or period of time when somebody is away

adjective

absent

not in a place because of illness, etc.

verb

absorb

to take in a liquid, gas or other substance from the surface or space around

adjective

abstract

based on general ideas and not on any particular real person, thing or situation

adjective

absurd

extremely silly; not logical and sensible

noun

abundance

a large quantity that is more than enough

noun

abuse

the use of something in a way that is wrong or harmful

verb

abuse

to make bad use of something, or to use so much of something that it harms your health

noun

academy

a school or college for special training

verb

accelerate

to happen faster or earlier; to make something happen faster or earlier

noun

accent

a way of pronouncing the words of a language that shows which country, area or social class a person comes from; how well somebody pronounces a particular language

noun

acceptance

the act of accepting a gift, an invitation, an offer, etc.

adjective

accessible

that can be reached, entered, used, seen, etc.

adverb

accidentally

by chance; in a way that was not planned

verb

accommodate

to provide somebody with a room or place to sleep, live or sit

verb

accomplish

to succeed in doing or completing something

noun

accomplishment

an impressive thing that is done or achieved after a lot of work

noun

accordance

according to a rule or the way that somebody says that something should be done

/əˈkɑːmədeɪt/

The hotel can accommodate up to 500 guests.

The aircraft is capable of accommodating 28 passengers.

/əˈkɑːmplɪʃ/

The first part of the plan has been safely accomplished.

/əˈkɑːmplɪʃmənt/

It was one of the President's greatest accomplishments.

/əˈkɔːrdns/

in accordance with legal requirements

We acted in accordance with my parents' wishes.

/ˈæksent/

a northern/Dublin/Scottish accent

a strong/broad accent (= one that is easy to notice)

/əkˈseptəns/

Please confirm your acceptance of this offer in writing.

/əkˈsesəbl/

The remote desert area is accessible only by helicopter.

/ˌæksɪˈdentəli/

As I turned around, I accidentally hit him in the face.

/əˈbjuːs/

alcohol/drug abuse

/əˈbjuːz/

to abuse alcohol/drugs

He systematically abused his body with heroin and cocaine.

/əˈkædəmi/

She trained at the Royal Academy of Music.

a police/military academy

/əkˈseləreɪt/

Inflation continues to accelerate.

accelerate something Exposure to the sun can accelerate the ageing process.

/əbˈzɔːrb/

absorb something Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air.

/ˈæbstrækt/

abstract knowledge/principles

/əbˈsɜːrd/

That uniform makes the guards look absurd.

Of course it's not true, what an absurd idea.

/əˈbʌndəns/

The brochure promised beautiful walks with an abundance of wildlife.

/əˈbɑːlɪʃ/

This tax should be abolished.

/əˈbɔːrʃn/

to support/oppose abortion

a woman's right to abortion

/ˈæbsəns/

in somebody's absence The decision was made in my absence (= while I was not there).

/ˈæbsənt/

He was absent from work for two weeks.

Local people were conspicuously absent from the meeting.

adverb

accordingly

in a way that is appropriate to what has been done or said in a particular situation

noun

accountability

the fact of being responsible for your decisions or actions and expected to explain them when you are asked

adjective

accountable

responsible for your decisions or actions and expected to explain them when you are asked

noun

accountant

a person whose job is to keep or check financial accounts

verb

accumulate

to gradually get more and more of something over a period of time

noun

accumulation

the process of gradually increasing or getting more and more of something over a period of time

noun

accuracy

the state of being exact or correct; the ability to do something with skill and without making mistakes

adverb

accurately

in a way that is correct and true in every detail

noun

accusation

a statement saying that you think a person is guilty of doing something wrong or illegal; the fact of accusing somebody

noun

the accused

a person who is on trial for committing a crime

adjective

acid

that contains acid or has the essential characteristics of an acid; that has a pH of less than seven

noun

acid

a chemical, usually a liquid, that contains hydrogen and has a pH of less than seven

noun

acquisition

the act of getting something, especially knowledge, a skill, etc.

noun

acre

a unit for measuring an area of land; 4 840 square yards or about 4 050 square metres

verb

activate

to make something such as a device or chemical process start working

noun

activation

the act of making something such as a device or chemical process start working

noun

activist

a person who works to achieve political or social change, especially as a member of an organization with particular aims

adjective

acute

very serious or severe

noun

adaptation

the action or process of changing something, or of being changed, to suit a new purpose or situation

noun

addiction

the condition of being unable to stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful

/ˈæktɪvɪst/ human/civil/animal rights activists	**/əˈkjuːt/** There is an acute shortage of water. acute pain	**/ˌædæpˈteɪʃn/** the adaptation of buildings for military purposes	**/əˈdɪkʃn/** cocaine addiction addiction to something He is now fighting his addiction to alcohol.
/ˌækwɪˈzɪʃn/ theories of child language acquisition	**/ˈeɪkər/** 3 000 acres of parkland a three-acre wood	**/ˈæktɪveɪt/** The burglar alarm is activated by movement. The gene is activated by a specific protein.	**/ˌæktɪˈveɪʃn/** The activation of several target genes results in two major effects.
/ˌækjuˈzeɪʃn/ I don't want to make an accusation until I have some proof.	**/ði əˈkjuːzd/** The accused was found innocent. All the accused have pleaded guilty.	**/ˈæsɪd/** Rye is tolerant of poor, acid soils.	**/ˈæsɪd/** The acid burned a hole in her coat. Stomach acids can break down the poison.
/əˈkjuːmjəleɪt/ I seem to have accumulated a lot of books. By investing wisely she accumulated a fortune.	**/əˌkjuːmjəˈleɪʃn/** the accumulation of wealth	**/ˈækjərəsi/** They questioned the accuracy of the information in the file.	**/ˈækjərətli/** The article accurately reflects public opinion. The report accurately reflects the current state of the industry.
/əˈkɔːrdɪŋli/ We have to discover his plans and act accordingly.	**/əˌkaʊntəˈbɪləti/** proposals for greater police accountability	**/əˈkaʊntəbl/** The state spends taxpayers' money and should be held accountable.	**/əˈkaʊntənt/** We talked to the company's chief accountant. the investigating accountant's report

adverb

additionally

in a way that is more than was first mentioned or is usual

adjective

adequate

enough in quantity, or good enough in quality, for a particular purpose or need

adverb

adequately

in a way that is enough in quantity, or good enough in quality, for a particular purpose or need

verb

adhere

to stick to something

adjective

adjacent

next to something

verb

adjust

to change something slightly to make it more suitable for a new set of conditions or to make it work better

noun

adjustment

a small change made to something in order to correct or improve it

verb

administer

to manage and organize the affairs of a company, an organization, a country, etc.

adjective

administrative

connected with organizing the work of a business or an institution

noun

administrator

a person whose job is to manage and organize the public or business affairs of a company or an institution, or a person who works in an office dealing with records, accounts, etc

noun

admission

the act of accepting somebody into an institution, organization, etc.; the right to enter a place or to join an institution or organization

noun

adolescent

a young person who is developing from a child into an adult

noun

adoption

the act of adopting a child; the fact of being adopted

adjective

adverse

negative and unpleasant; not likely to produce a good result

noun

advocate

a person who supports or speaks in favour of somebody or of a public plan or action

verb

advocate

to support something publicly

adjective

aesthetic

connected with beauty and art and the understanding of beautiful things

noun

affection

the feeling of liking or loving somebody/something very much and caring about them

adjective

affordable

cheap enough that people can afford to pay it or buy it

noun

aftermath

the situation that exists as a result of an important (and usually unpleasant) event, especially a war, an accident, etc.

/esˈθetɪk/

the aesthetic appeal of the songs

an aesthetic appreciation of the landscape

/əˈfekʃn/

Children need lots of love and affection.

He didn't show his wife any affection.

/əˈfɔːrdəbl/

We offer quality products at affordable prices.

There is a lack of affordable housing in the city.

/ˈæftərmæθ/

in the aftermath of something A lot of rebuilding took place in the aftermath of the war.

/əˈdɑːpʃn/

She put the baby up for adoption.

The number of adoptions has fallen markedly since the 1970s.

/ədˈvɜːrs/

adverse change/circumstances/weather conditions

Lack of money will have an adverse effect on our research programme.

/ˈædvəkət/

advocate for something/somebody an advocate for hospital workers

/ˈædvəkeɪt/

advocate something The group does not advocate the use of violence.

/ədˈmɪnɪstreɪtɪv/

an administrative job/assistant/error

/ədˈmɪnɪstreɪtər/

Such organizational decisions are made by the hospital administrators.

/ədˈmɪʃn/

Hospital admission is not necessary in most cases.

/ˌædəˈlesnt/

adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18 and the problems they face

/əˈdʒeɪsnt/

The planes landed on adjacent runways.

numbers that are adjacent in the sequence

/əˈdʒʌst/

adjust something Watch out for sharp bends and adjust your speed accordingly.

/əˈdʒʌstmənt/

I've made a few adjustments to the design.

Some adjustment of the lens may be necessary.

/ədˈmɪnɪstər/

to administer a charity/fund/school

the high cost of administering medical services

/əˈdɪʃənəli/

Additionally, the bus service will run on Sundays, every two hours.

/ˈædɪkwət/

They'll need an adequate supply of hot water.

The room was small but adequate.

/ˈædɪkwətli/

Are you adequately insured?

/ədˈhɪr/

Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria adhere to the surface of the red cells.

noun

aggression

feelings of anger and hate that may result in threatening or violent behaviour

adjective

agricultural

connected with the science or practice of farming

noun

agriculture

the science or practice of farming

noun

aide

a person who helps another person, especially a politician, in their job

noun

AIDS

an illness that attacks the body's ability to resist infection and that usually causes death (the abbreviation for 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome')

conjunction

albeit

although

adjective

alert

able to think quickly; quick to notice things

noun

alert

a situation in which people are watching for danger and ready to deal with it

verb

alert

to warn somebody about a dangerous situation or one that requires immediate action

adjective

alien

strange and frightening; different from what you are used to

noun

alien

a person who is not a citizen of the country in which they live or work

verb

align

to arrange something in the correct position, or to be in the correct position, in relation to something else, especially in a straight line

noun

alignment

arrangement in a straight line

adjective

alike

very similar

adverb

alike

in a very similar way

noun

allegation

a public statement that is made without giving proof, accusing somebody of doing something that is wrong or illegal

verb

allege

to state something as a fact but without giving proof

adverb

allegedly

expressed as though something is a fact but without giving any proof

noun

alliance

an agreement between countries, political parties, etc. to work together in order to achieve something that they all want

verb

allocate

to give something officially to somebody/something for a particular purpose

/əˈledʒ/ allege (that)… The prosecution alleges (that) she was driving carelessly.	**/əˈledʒɪdli/** crimes allegedly committed during the war	**/əˈlaɪəns/** to form/make an alliance	**/ˈæləkeɪt/** allocate something (for something) A large sum has been allocated for buying new books for the library.
/əˈlaɪnmənt/ the alignment of the sun, moon and earth at a particular time	**/əˈlaɪk/** My sister and I do not look alike. Airports are all alike to me.	**/əˈlaɪk/** They tried to treat all their children alike.	**/ˌæləˈgeɪʃn/** to investigate/deny/withdraw an allegation
/əˈlɜːrt/ alert somebody Neighbours quickly alerted the emergency services.	**/ˈeɪliən/** an alien environment	**/ˈeɪliən/** an illegal alien	**/əˈlaɪn/** Make sure the shelf is aligned with the top of the cupboard.
/eɪdz/ AIDS research/education/victims He developed full-blown AIDS five years after contracting HIV.	**/ˌɔːlˈbiːɪt/** He finally agreed, albeit reluctantly, to help us.	**/əˈlɜːrt/** Suddenly he found himself awake and fully alert. Two alert scientists spotted the mistake.	**/əˈlɜːrt/** on the alert (for something) Police are warning the public to be on the alert for suspicious packages.
/əˈgreʃn/ The research shows that computer games may cause aggression.	**/ˌægrɪˈkʌltʃərəl/** agricultural policy/land/production/development	**/ˈægrɪkʌltʃər/** The number of people employed in agriculture has fallen in the last decade.	**/eɪd/** White House aides

noun

allocation

an amount of money, space, etc. that is given to somebody for a particular purpose

noun

allowance

an amount of money that is given to somebody regularly or for a particular purpose

noun

ally

a country that has agreed to help and support another country, especially in case of a war

preposition

alongside

next to or at the side of something

adverb

altogether

(used to emphasize something) completely; in every way

noun

aluminium

a chemical element. Aluminium is a light, silver-grey metal used for making pans, etc.

adjective

amateur

doing something for pleasure or interest, not as a job

noun

amateur

a person who takes part in a sport or other activity for pleasure, not as a job

noun

ambassador

an official who lives in a foreign country as the senior representative there of their own country

noun

ambulance

a vehicle with special equipment, used for taking sick or injured people to a hospital

verb

amend

to change a law, document, statement, etc. slightly in order to correct a mistake or to improve it

noun

amendment

a small change or improvement that is made to a document or proposed new law; the process of changing a document or proposed new law

preposition

amid

in the middle of or during something, especially something that causes excitement or fear

adjective

amusing

funny and giving pleasure

noun

analogy

a comparison of one thing with another thing that has similar features; a feature that is similar

noun

analyst

a person whose job involves examining facts or materials in order to give an opinion on them

noun

ancestor

a person in your family who lived a long time ago

noun

anchor

a heavy metal object that is attached to a rope or chain and dropped over the side of a ship or boat to keep it in one place

noun

angel

a spirit who is believed to be a servant of God, and is sent by God to deliver a message or perform a task. Angels are often shown dressed in white, with wings.

noun

animation

the process of making films, videos and computer games in which drawings, models or images of people and animals seem to move

/ˈænsestər/

His ancestors had come to America from Ireland.

/ˈæŋkər/

to drop anchor

We raised the anchor and set sail.

/ˈeɪndʒl/

a host of angels

She looks like an angel.

/ˌænɪˈmeɪʃn/

computer/cartoon animation

/əˈmɪd/

He finished his speech amid tremendous applause.

The firm collapsed amid allegations of fraud.

/əˈmjuːzɪŋ/

an amusing story/game/incident

She writes very amusing letters.

/əˈnælədʒi/

analogy (between A and B) The teacher drew an analogy between the human heart and a pump.

/ˈænəlɪst/

a political/financial analyst

a food/market analyst

/æmˈbæsədər/

the British Ambassador to Italy/in Rome

a former ambassador to the UN

/ˈæmbjələns/

Call an ambulance!

the ambulance service

/əˈmend/

He asked to see the amended version.

The law has been amended to read as follows:…

/əˈmendmənt/

to introduce/propose/table an amendment (= to suggest it)

/ˌɔːltəˈgeðər/

The train went slower and slower until it stopped altogether.

/ˌæljəˈmɪniəm/

aluminium saucepans/window frames

aluminium foil (= for example, for wrapping food in)

/ˈæmətər/

an amateur photographer

/ˈæmətər/

The tournament is open to both amateurs and professionals.

/ˌæləˈkeɪʃn/

We have spent our entire allocation for the year.

/əˈlaʊəns/

an allowance of $20 a day

a clothing/living/travel allowance

/ˈælaɪ/

our European/NATO allies

a loyal ally of the United States

/əˌlɔːŋˈsaɪd/

A police car pulled up alongside us.

a lifeboat moored alongside the yacht

adverb

annually

once a year

adjective

anonymous

with a name that is not known or that is not made public

verb

anticipate

to expect something

noun

anxiety

the state of feeling nervous or worried that something bad is going to happen

noun

apology

a word or statement saying sorry for something that has been done wrong or that causes a problem

noun

apparatus

the tools or other pieces of equipment that are needed for a particular activity or task

adjective

appealing

attractive or interesting

noun

appetite

physical desire for food

verb

applaud

to show your approval of somebody/something by clapping your hands (= hitting your open hands together several times)

adjective

applicable

that can be said to be true in the case of somebody/something

noun

applicant

a person who makes a formal request for something (= applies for it), especially for a job, a place at a college or university, etc.

verb

appoint

to choose somebody for a job or position of responsibility

noun

appreciation

pleasure that you have when you recognize and enjoy the good qualities of somebody/something

adverb

appropriately

in a way that is suitable, acceptable or correct for the particular circumstances

adjective

arbitrary

not seeming to be based on a reason, system or plan and sometimes seeming unfair

adjective

architectural

relating to architecture and buildings

noun

archive

a collection of historical documents or records of a government, a family, a place or an organization; the place where these records are stored

noun

arena

a place with a flat open area in the middle and seats around it where people can watch sports and entertainment

adverb

arguably

used (often before a comparative or superlative adjective) when you are stating an opinion that you believe you could give reasons to support

verb

arm

to provide weapons for yourself/somebody in order to fight a battle or a war

/ˈɑːrkaɪv/

the National Sound Archive

archive film

/əˈriːnə/

a concert at Wembley Arena

an indoor sports arena

/ˈɑːrgjuəbli/

He is arguably the best actor of his generation.

/ɑːrm/

The country was arming against the enemy.

/əˌpriːʃiˈeɪʃn/

She shows little appreciation of good music.

in appreciation The crowd murmured in appreciation.

/əˈprəʊpriətli/

The government has been accused of not responding appropriately to the needs of the homeless.

/ˈɑːrbɪtreri/

The choice of players for the team seemed completely arbitrary.

/ˌɑːrkɪˈtektʃərəl/

architectural features

/əˈplɔːd/

He started to applaud and the others joined in.

applaud somebody They rose to applaud the speaker.

/ˈæplɪkəbl/

Give details of children where applicable (= if you have any).

/ˈæplɪkənt/

There were over 500 applicants for the job.

Successful applicants will receive notification within the week.

/əˈpɔɪnt/

appoint somebody They have appointed a new head teacher at my son's school.

/əˈpɑːlədʒi/

to offer/make/demand/accept an apology

You owe him an apology for what you said.

/ˌæpəˈrætəs/

a piece of laboratory apparatus

Firefighters needed breathing apparatus to enter the burning house.

/əˈpiːlɪŋ/

Spending the holidays in Britain wasn't a prospect that I found particularly appealing.

/ˈæpɪtaɪt/

He suffered from headaches and loss of appetite.

The walk gave me a good appetite.

/ˈænjuəli/

The exhibition is held annually.

/əˈnɑːnɪməs/

an anonymous donor

The money was donated by a local businessman who wishes to remain anonymous.

/ænˈtɪsɪpeɪt/

anticipate something We don't anticipate any major problems.

/æŋˈzaɪəti/

acute/intense/deep anxiety

Some hospital patients experience high levels of anxiety.

noun

array

a group or collection of things or people, often one that is large or impressive

noun

arrow

a thin stick with a sharp point at one end, which is shot from a bow

verb

articulate

to express or explain your thoughts or feelings clearly in words

noun

artwork

pictures and photographs prepared for books, magazines, etc.

noun

ash

the grey or black powder that is left after something, especially tobacco, wood or coal, has burnt

adverb

aside

to one side; out of the way

noun

aspiration

a strong desire to have or do something

verb

aspire

to have a strong desire to achieve or to become something

noun

assassination

the murder of an important or famous person, especially for political reasons

noun

assault

the crime of attacking somebody physically

verb

assault

to attack somebody violently, especially when this is a crime

verb

assemble

to come together as a group; to bring people or things together as a group

noun

assembly

a group of people who have been elected to meet together regularly and make decisions or laws for a particular region or country

verb

assert

to state clearly and definitely that something is true

noun

assertion

a statement saying that you strongly believe something to be true

noun

asset

a person or thing that is valuable or useful to somebody/something

verb

assign

to give somebody something that they can use, or some work or responsibility

noun

assistance

help or support

noun

assumption

a belief or feeling that something is true or that something will happen, although there is no proof

noun

assurance

a statement that something will certainly be true or will certainly happen, particularly when there has been doubt about it

/əˈsaɪn/

assign something (to somebody) The teacher assigned a different task to each of the children.

/əˈsɪstəns/

technical/economic/military assistance

financial assistance for people on low incomes

/əˈsʌmpʃn/

an underlying/implicit assumption

We need to challenge some of the basic assumptions of Western philosophy.

/əˈʃʊrəns/

They called for assurances that the government is committed to its education policy.

/əˈsembli/

state/legislative/federal/local assemblies

Power has been handed over to provincial and regional assemblies.

/əˈsɜːrt/

assert that… She continued to assert that she was innocent.

/əˈsɜːrʃn/

He was correct in his assertion that the minister had been lying.

/ˈæset/

In his job, patience is an invaluable asset.

Being able to speak a foreign language is a major asset.

/əˌsæsɪˈneɪʃn/

The president survived a number of assassination attempts.

/əˈsɔːlt/

Both men were charged with assault.

sexual assaults

/əˈsɔːlt/

He has been charged with assaulting a police officer.

/əˈsembl/

All the students were asked to assemble in the main hall.

/æʃ/

cigarette ash

black volcanic ash

/əˈsaɪd/

She pulled the curtain aside.

Stand aside and let these people pass.

/ˌæspəˈreɪʃn/

I didn't realize you had political aspirations.

/əˈspaɪər/

aspire (to something) She aspired to a scientific career.

/əˈreɪ/

a vast array of bottles of different shapes and sizes

/ˈærəʊ/

a bow and arrow

to fire/shoot an arrow

/ɑːrˈtɪkjuleɪt/

She struggled to articulate her thoughts.

It is the school’s duty to articulate its practices to parents.

/ˈɑːrtwɜːrk/

Can you let me have the finished artwork for the poster by Friday?

verb

assure

to tell somebody that something is definitely true or is definitely going to happen, especially when they have doubts about it

adjective

astonishing

very surprising; difficult to believe

noun

asylum

protection that a government gives to people who have left their own country, usually because they were in danger for political reasons

noun

atrocity

a cruel and violent act, especially in a war

noun

attachment

a document that you send to somebody using email

verb

attain

to succeed in getting something, usually after a lot of effort

noun

attendance

the act of being present at a place, for example at school

noun

attorney

a lawyer, especially one who can act for somebody in court

noun

attribute

a quality or feature of somebody/something

verb

attribute

to say or believe that something is the result of a particular thing

noun

auction

a public sale in which things are sold to the person who offers the most money for them

adjective

audio

connected with sound that is recorded

noun

audit

an official examination of business and financial records to see that they are true and correct

adjective

authentic

known to be real and what somebody claims it is and not a copy

verb

authorize

to give official permission for something, or for somebody to do something

noun

auto

a car

adjective

automatic

having controls that work without needing a person to operate them

adverb

automatically

without needing a person to operate controls

noun

autonomy

the freedom for a country, a region or an organization to govern itself independently

noun

availability

the fact that something is possible to get, buy or find

/ˌɔːtəˈmætɪk/

automatic doors

a fully automatic driverless train

/ˌɔːtəˈmætɪkli/

The heating switches off automatically.

/ɔːˈtɑːnəmi/

a campaign in Wales for greater autonomy

/əˌveɪləˈbɪləti/

the availability of cheap flights

(British English) This offer is subject to availability.

/ˈɔːdɪt/

an annual audit

a tax audit

/ɔːˈθentɪk/

I don't know if the painting is authentic.

/ˈɔːθəraɪz/

authorize something I can authorize payments up to £5 000.

/ˈɔːtəʊ/

the auto industry

/ˈætrɪbjuːt/

Patience is one of the most important attributes in a teacher.

/əˈtrɪbjuːt/

She attributes her success to hard work and a little luck.

/ˈɔːkʃn/

an auction of paintings

at auction A classic Rolls-Royce fetched (= was sold for) £25 000 at auction.

/ˈɔːdiəʊ/

audio and video recordings/files/clips

The audio quality was poor.

/əˈtætʃmənt/

No attachment was included.

/əˈteɪn/

Most of our students attained five ‘A’ grades in their exams.

/əˈtendəns/

Attendance at these lectures is not compulsory.

Teachers must keep a record of students' attendances.

/əˈtɜːrni/

The prosecuting attorney began with a short opening statement.

/əˈʃʊr/

assure somebody (that)… You think I did it deliberately, but I assure you (that) I did not.

/əˈstɑːnɪʃɪŋ/

She ran 100m in an astonishing 10.6 seconds.

I find it absolutely astonishing that you didn't like it.

/əˈsaɪləm/

to seek/apply for/be granted asylum

There was a nationwide debate on whether the asylum laws should be changed.

/əˈtrɑːsəti/

In the war, both sides committed atrocities.

atrocities against the civilian population

verb

await

to wait for somebody/something

noun

awareness

knowing something; knowing that something exists and is important

adjective

awkward

making you feel embarrassed

noun

backdrop

everything that can be seen around an event or scene

noun

backing

help and support from somebody to do something; financial support for something

noun

backup

extra help or support that you can get if necessary

noun

badge

a small piece of metal or plastic, with a design or words on it, that a person wears or carries to show that they belong to an organization, support something, have achieved something, have a particular rank, etc

noun

bail

money that somebody agrees to pay if a person accused of a crime does not appear at their trial

adjective

balanced

keeping or showing a balance so that different things or different parts of something exist in equal or correct amounts

noun

ballet

a style of dancing that tells a dramatic story with music but no talking or singing

noun

balloon

a small bag made of very thin rubber that becomes larger and rounder when you fill it with air or gas. Balloons are brightly coloured and used as decorations or toys.

noun

ballot

the system of voting in writing and usually in secret; an occasion on which a vote is held

noun

banner

a long piece of cloth with a message on it that is carried between two poles or hung in a public place to show support for something

adjective

bare

not covered by any clothes

adverb

barely

in a way that is just possible but only with difficulty

noun

bargain

a thing bought for less than the usual price

noun

barrel

a large round container, usually made of wood or metal, with flat ends and, usually, curved sides

noun

basement

a room or rooms in a building, partly or completely below the level of the ground

noun

basket

a container for holding or carrying things. Baskets are made of long thin pieces of material that bends and twists easily, for example plastic, wire or wicker.

noun

bass1

the lowest tone or part in music, for instruments or voices

/ˈbærəl/

a beer/wine barrel

They filled the barrels with cider.

/ˈbeɪsmənt/

Kitchen goods are sold in the basement.

a basement flat/apartment

/ˈbæskɪt/

a shopping basket

a picnic basket

/beɪs/

He always plays his stereo with the bass turned right up.

/ˈbænər/

A huge banner over the street said ‘Welcome home’.

/ber/

She likes to walk around in bare feet.

They wore shabby clothes and their feet were bare.

/ˈberli/

He could barely read and write.

The music was barely audible.

/ˈbɑːrgən/

I picked up a few good bargains in the sale.

The car was a bargain at that price.

/ˈbælənst/

The programme presented a balanced view of the two sides of the conflict.

/bæˈleɪ/

She wants to be a ballet dancer.

ballet shoes

/bəˈluːn/

to blow up/burst/pop a balloon

My balloon has burst!

/ˈbælət/

The chairperson is chosen by secret ballot.

The union cannot call a strike unless it holds a ballot of members.

/ˈbækɪŋ/

The police gave the proposals their full backing.

They have won financial backing from the EU.

/ˈbækʌp/

The police had backup from the army.

We can use him as a backup if one of the other players drops out.

/bædʒ/

She wore a badge saying ‘Vote for Coates’.

All employees have to wear name badges.

/beɪl/

Can anyone put up bail for you?

She was released on £2 000 bail.

/əˈweɪt/

He is in custody awaiting trial.

Her latest novel is eagerly awaited.

/əˈwernəs/

awareness of something an awareness of the importance of eating a healthy diet

/ˈɔːkwərd/

There was an awkward silence.

I felt awkward because they obviously wanted to be alone.

/ˈbækdrɑːp/

The mountains provided a dramatic backdrop for our picnic.

noun

bat

a piece of wood with a handle, made in various shapes and sizes, and used for hitting the ball in games such as baseball, cricket and table tennis

verb

bat

to hit a ball with a bat, especially in a game of baseball or cricket

noun

battlefield

a place where a battle is being fought or has been fought

noun

bay

a part of the sea, or of a large lake, partly surrounded by a wide curve of the land

noun

beam

a line of light, electromagnetic waves or particles

noun

beast

an animal, especially one that is large or dangerous, or one that is unusual

noun

behalf

in order to help somebody

adjective

beloved

loved very much

noun

bench

a long seat for two or more people, usually made of wood

noun

benchmark

something that can be measured and used as a standard that other things can be compared with

preposition

beneath

in or to a lower position than somebody/something; under somebody/something

adjective

beneficial

improving a situation; having a helpful or useful effect

noun

beneficiary

a person who gains as a result of something

preposition

beside

next to or at the side of somebody/something

adverb

besides

used for making an extra comment that adds to what you have just said

preposition

besides

in addition to somebody/something; apart from somebody/something

verb

betray

to give information about somebody/something to an enemy

noun

bias

a strong feeling in favour of or against one group of people, or one side in an argument, often not based on fair judgement

noun

bid1

an offer by a person or a company to pay a particular amount of money for something

verb

bid1

to offer to pay a particular price for something, especially at an auction

/bɪˈtreɪ/

betray somebody/something He was offered money to betray his colleagues.

/ˈbaɪəs/

accusations of political bias in news programmes (= that reports are unfair and show favour to one political party)

/bɪd/

bid for something A German firm launched a takeover bid for the company.

/bɪd/

bid (something) (for something) I bid £2 000 for the painting.

/ˌbenɪˈfɪʃieri/

Who will be the main beneficiary of the cuts in income tax?

/bɪˈsaɪd/

He sat beside her all night.

a mill beside a stream

/bɪˈsaɪdz/

I don't really want to go. Besides, it's too late now.

/bɪˈsaɪdz/

We have lots of things in common besides music.

Besides working as a doctor, he also writes novels in his spare time.

/bentʃ/

a park bench

/ˈbentʃmɑːrk/

Tests at the age of seven provide a benchmark against which the child's progress at school can be measured.

/bɪˈniːθ/

They found the body buried beneath a pile of leaves.

/ˌbenɪˈfɪʃl/

A good diet is beneficial to health.

They finally came to a mutually beneficial agreement.

/biːm/

narrow beams of light/sunlight

the beam of a torch/flashlight

/biːst/

wild/savage/ferocious beasts

mythical beasts such as unicorns and dragons

/bɪˈhæf/

He began a petition in behalf of the farmers.

/bɪˈlʌvɪd/

in memory of our dearly beloved son, John

They were glad to be back in their beloved Ireland.

/bæt/

a baseball/cricket bat

/bæt/

He bats very well.

Who's batting first for the Orioles?

/ˈbætlfiːld/

heavy casualties on the battlefield

He was wounded on the battlefield.

/beɪ/

the Bay of Bengal

Hudson Bay

verb

bind

to tie somebody/something with rope, string, etc. so that they/it cannot move or are held together strongly

noun

biography

the story of a person's life written by somebody else; this type of writing

adjective

biological

connected with the science of biology

noun

bishop

a senior priest in charge of the work of the Church in a city or district

adjective

bizarre

very strange or unusual

noun

blade

the flat part of a knife, tool or machine, which has a sharp edge or edges for cutting

noun

blanket

a large cover, often made of wool, used especially on beds to keep people warm

noun

blast

an explosion or a powerful movement of air caused by an explosion

verb

blast

to violently destroy or break something into pieces, using explosives

verb

bleed

to lose blood, especially from a wound or an injury

noun

blend

a mixture of different types of the same thing

verb

blend

to mix two or more substances together

verb

bless

to ask God to protect somebody/something

noun

blessing

God's help and protection, or a prayer asking for this

noun

blow

a hard hit with the hand, a weapon, etc.

verb

boast

to talk in a way that shows you are too proud of something that you have or can do

adjective

bold

brave and confident; not afraid to say what you feel or to take risks

noun

bombing

an occasion when a bomb is dropped or left somewhere; the act of doing this

noun

bonus

an extra amount of money that is added to a payment, especially to somebody's wages or salary as a reward

noun

booking

an arrangement that you make in advance to buy a ticket to travel somewhere, go to the theatre, etc.

/bəʊld/

It was a bold move on their part to open a business in France.

/ˈbɑːmɪŋ/

recent bombings in major cities

The neighbourhood was badly damaged by enemy bombing.

/ˈbəʊnəs/

a £100 Christmas bonus

productivity bonuses

/ˈbʊkɪŋ/

a booking form/hall/clerk

Can I make a booking for Friday?

/bles/

They brought the children to Jesus and he blessed them.

/ˈblesɪŋ/

to pray for God’s blessing

The bishop said the blessing.

/bləʊ/

She received a severe blow on the head.

He was knocked out by a single blow to the head.

/bəʊst/

I don't want to boast, but I can actually speak six languages.

/blæst/

They blasted a huge crater in the runway.

They had to blast a tunnel through the mountain.

/bliːd/

My finger's bleeding.

She slowly bled to death.

/blend/

a blend of tea

/blend/

blend A with B Blend the flour with the milk to make a smooth paste.

/bɪˈzɑːr/

a bizarre situation/incident/story

bizarre behaviour

/bleɪd/

The machine comes with a plastic guard over the blade to protect the operator.

/ˈblæŋkɪt/

It’s cold tonight—can I have another blanket?

The baby was wrapped in a blanket.

/blæst/

a bomb blast

27 schoolchildren were injured in the blast.

/baɪnd/

bind somebody/something to something She was bound to a chair.

/baɪˈɑːgrəfi/

Boswell’s biography of Johnson

a biography by Antonia Fraser

/ˌbaɪəˈlɑːdʒɪkl/

the biological sciences

/ˈbɪʃəp/

the Bishop of Oxford

Bishop Pritchard

noun

boom

a sudden increase in trade and economic activity; a period of wealth and success

noun

boost

something that helps or encourages somebody/something

verb

boost

to make something increase, or become better or more successful

verb

bounce

if something bounces or you bounce it, it moves quickly away from a surface it has just hit or you make it do this

adjective

bound

certain or likely to happen, or to do or be something

noun

boundary

a real or imagined line that marks the limits or edges of something and separates it from other things or places; a dividing line

noun

bow1

the act of bending your head or the upper part of your body forward in order to say hello or goodbye to somebody or to show respect

verb

bow1

to move your head or the top half of your body forwards and downwards as a sign of respect or to say hello or goodbye

noun

breach

a failure to do something that must be done by law

verb

breach

to not keep to an agreement or not keep a promise

noun

breakdown

an occasion when a vehicle or machine stops working

noun

breakthrough

an important development that may lead to an agreement or achievement

noun

breed

a particular type of animal that has been developed by people in a certain way, especially a type of dog, cat or farm animal

verb

breed

to have sex and produce young

noun

brick

baked clay used for building walls, houses and other buildings; an individual block of this

adverb

briefly

for a short time

noun

broadband

a way of connecting to the internet that allows you to receive information, including pictures, etc

noun

broadcaster

a person whose job is presenting or talking on television or radio programmes

adverb

broadly

generally, without considering details

noun

browser

a computer program that lets you look at or read documents on the World Wide Web

/ˈbrɔːdbænd/

plans to provide rural areas with fast broadband

/ˈbrɔːdkæstər/

She is a writer and broadcaster on environmental matters.

/ˈbrɔːdli/

Broadly speaking, I agree with you.

broadly similar/comparable/equivalent/consistent

/ˈbraʊzər/

What do you use as your default browser?

/briːd/

Labradors and other large breeds of dog

a breed of cattle/sheep

/briːd/

Many animals breed only at certain times of the year.

/brɪk/

The school is built of brick.

a pile of bricks

/ˈbriːfli/

He had spoken to Emma only briefly.

She met John briefly on Friday night.

/briːtʃ/

a breach of contract/copyright/warranty

They are in breach of Article 119.

/briːtʃ/

The government is accused of breaching the terms of the treaty.

/ˈbreɪkdaʊn/

a breakdown on the motorway

a breakdown recovery service

/ˈbreɪkθruː/

to make/achieve a breakthrough

a significant breakthrough in negotiations

/baʊnd/

There are bound to be changes when the new system is introduced.

/ˈbaʊndri/

After the war the national boundaries were redrawn.

/baʊ/

She gave a slight bow of her head in greeting.

The messenger made a formal bow and left the room.

/baʊ/

bow (to/before somebody/something) He bowed low to the assembled crowd.

/buːm/

Living standards improved rapidly during the post-war boom.

/buːst/

a great/tremendous/welcome boost

The tax cuts will give a much needed boost to the economy.

/buːst/

to boost exports/profits

to boost productivity/spending

/baʊns/

The ball bounced twice before he could reach it.

bounce off something Short sound waves bounce off even small objects.

adjective

brutal

violent and cruel

noun

buck

a US, Australian or New Zealand dollar; a South African rand; an Indian rupee

noun

buddy

a friend

noun

buffer

a thing or person that reduces a shock or protects somebody/something against difficulties

noun

bug

any small insect

noun

bulk

the main part of something; most of something

noun

burden

a duty, responsibility, etc. that causes worry, difficulty or hard work

noun

bureaucracy

the system of official rules and ways of doing things that a government or an organization has, especially when these seem to be too complicated

noun

burial

the act or ceremony of burying a dead body

verb

burst

to break open or apart, especially because of pressure from inside; to make something break in this way

noun

cabin

a small room on a ship in which you live or sleep

noun

cabinet

a group of senior members of a government that is responsible for advising and deciding on government policy

noun

calculation

the act or process of using numbers to find out an amount

noun

canal

a long straight passage dug in the ground and filled with water for boats and ships to travel along; a smaller passage used for carrying water to fields, crops, etc.

noun

candle

a round stick of wax with a piece of string (called a wick) through the middle that is lit to give light as it burns

noun

canvas

a strong heavy rough material used for making tents, sails, etc. and by artists for painting on

noun

capability

the ability or qualities necessary to do something

noun

capitalism

an economic system in which a country's businesses and industry are controlled and run for profit by private owners rather than by the government

adjective

capitalist

based on the principles of capitalism

noun

carbon

a chemical element. Carbon is found in all living things, existing in a pure state as diamond and graphite.

/ˌkeɪpəˈbɪləti/

Age affects the range of a person's capabilities.

capability to do something She has the capability to become a very fine actor.

/ˈkæpɪtəlɪzəm/

the growth of industrial capitalism in the West

/ˈkæpɪtəlɪst/

a capitalist society/system/economy

/ˈkɑːrbən/

carbon fibre

iron with a high carbon content

/ˌkælkjuˈleɪʃn/

Cathy did a rough calculation.

By my calculation(s), we made a profit of £20 000 last year.

/kəˈnæl/

the Panama/Suez Canal

an irrigation canal

/ˈkændl/

a flickering candle

The room was lit by candles.

/ˈkænvəs/

tents made from heavy canvas

/ˈberiəl/

a burial place/mound/site

Her body was sent home for burial.

/bɜːrst/

That balloon will burst if you blow it up any more.

/ˈkæbɪn/

I lay in my cabin feeling miserably seasick.

/ˈkæbɪnət/

a cabinet meeting

(British English) a cabinet minister

/bʌg/

There's a bug crawling up your arm.

/bʌlk/

The bulk of the population lives in cities.

The great bulk of the work has now been done.

/ˈbɜːrdn/

to bear/carry/ease/reduce/share the burden

/bjʊˈrɑːkrəsi/

unnecessary/excessive bureaucracy

We need to reduce paperwork and bureaucracy in the company.

/ˈbruːtl/

a brutal attack/murder/rape/killing

a brutal and repressive regime

/bʌk/

They cost ten bucks.

We're talking big bucks (= a lot of money) here.

/ˈbʌdi/

an old college buddy of mine

Howard and Mick were drinking buddies.

/ˈbʌfər/

buffer against something Support from family and friends acts as a buffer against stress.

noun

cargo

the goods carried in a ship, an aircraft or a motor vehicle

noun

carriage

a separate section of a train for carrying passengers

verb

carve

to make objects, patterns, etc. by cutting away material from a piece of wood or stone, or another hard material

noun

casino

a public building or room where people play gambling games for money

adjective

casual

not formal

noun

casualty

a person who is killed or injured in war or in an accident

noun

catalogue

a complete list of items, for example of things that people can look at or buy

verb

cater

to provide food and drinks for a social event

noun

cattle

cows and bulls that are kept as farm animals for their milk or meat

noun

caution

care that you take in order to avoid danger or mistakes; the fact of not taking any risks

adjective

cautious

being careful about what you say or do, especially to avoid danger or mistakes; not taking any risks

noun

cave

a large hole in the side of a hill or cliff or under the ground

verb

cease

to stop happening or existing; to stop something from happening or existing

noun

cemetery

an area of land used for burying dead people, especially one that is not next to a church

noun

certainty

the state of being certain

noun

certificate

an official document that may be used to prove that the facts it states are true

adjective

challenging

difficult in an interesting way that tests your ability

noun

chamber

a hall in a public building that is used for formal meetings

noun

championship

a competition to find the best player or team in a particular sport

noun

chaos

a complete lack of order

/ˈtʃælɪndʒɪŋ/

challenging work/questions/problems

I have had a challenging and rewarding career as a teacher.

/ˈtʃeɪmbər/

The members left the council chamber.

the Senate/House chamber

/ˈtʃæmpiənʃɪp/

the National Basketball Association Championship

He won a silver medal at the European Championships.

/ˈkeɪɑːs/

economic/political/domestic chaos

Heavy snow has caused total chaos on the roads.

/siːs/

Welfare payments cease as soon as an individual starts a job.

/ˈsemətеri/

He was buried in a private cemetery.

/ˈsɜːrtnti/

There is no certainty that the president's removal would end the civil war.

/sərˈtɪfɪkət/

a birth/marriage/death certificate

certificate of something a certificate of motor insurance

/ˈkætl/

a herd of cattle

twenty head of cattle (= twenty cows)

/ˈkɔːʃn/

extreme/great caution

with caution Statistics should be treated with caution.

/ˈkɔːʃəs/

The government has been cautious in its response to the report.

/keɪv/

the mouth (= the entrance) of the cave

The area contains vast underground cave systems.

/ˈkæʒuəl/

casual clothes (= comfortable clothes that you choose to wear in your free time)

/ˈkæʒuəlti/

Our primary objective is reducing road casualties.

/ˈkætəlɔːg/

a mail-order catalogue (= a book showing goods for sale to be sent to people’s homes)

/ˈkeɪtər/

(British English) cater for somebody/something Most of our work now involves catering for weddings.

/ˈkɑːrgəʊ/

The tanker began to spill its cargo of oil.

a cargo ship

/ˈkærɪdʒ/

a railway carriage

/kɑːrv/

carve something a carved doorway

/kəˈsiːnəʊ/

a new hotel and casino in Las Vegas

verb

characterize

to be typical of a person, place or thing

noun

charm

the power of pleasing or attracting people

adjective

charming

very pleasant or attractive

noun

charter

a written statement describing the rights that a particular group of people should have

noun

chase

an act of running or driving after somebody/something in order to catch them or it

verb

chase

to run, drive, etc. after somebody/something in order to catch them or it

noun

cheek

either side of the face below the eyes

noun

cheer

a shout of joy, support or praise

verb

cheer

to shout loudly, in order to show support or praise for somebody, or to encourage them

noun

choir

a group of people who sing together, for example in church services or public performances

verb

chop

to cut something into pieces with a sharp tool such as a knife

adjective

chronic

lasting for a long time; difficult to cure

noun

chunk

a thick, solid piece that has been cut or broken off something

noun

circuit

a line, route or journey around a place

verb

circulate

when a liquid, gas or air circulates or is circulated, it moves continuously around a place or system

noun

circulation

the movement of blood around the body

noun

citizenship

the legal right to belong to a particular country

adjective

civic

officially connected with a town or city

adjective

civilian

connected with people who are not members of the armed forces or the police

noun

civilian

a person who is not a member of the armed forces or the police

/ˈsɪtɪzənʃɪp/

They were granted full French citizenship.

You can apply for citizenship after five years' residency.

/ˈsɪvɪk/

civic buildings/leaders

/səˈvɪliən/

He left the army and returned to civilian life.

The bombs resulted in large numbers of civilian casualties.

/səˈvɪliən/

Two soldiers and one civilian were killed in the explosion.

/tʃʌŋk/

a chunk of cheese/masonry

/ˈsɜːrkɪt/

The race ended with eight laps of a city centre circuit.

/ˈsɜːrkjəleɪt/

The condition prevents the blood from circulating freely.

/ˌsɜːrkjəˈleɪʃn/

Regular exercise will improve blood circulation.

to have good/bad circulation

/tʃɪr/

We all cheered as the team came on to the field.

Cheering crowds greeted their arrival.

/ˈkwaɪər/

She sings in the school choir.

He joined the church choir when he was eight.

/tʃɑːp/

chop something He was chopping logs for firewood.

/ˈkrɑːnɪk/

chronic bronchitis/arthritis/asthma

/tʃeɪs/

The thieves were caught by police after a short chase.

/tʃeɪs/

chase somebody/something My dog likes chasing rabbits.

/tʃiːk/

chubby/rosy/pink cheeks

He kissed her on both cheeks.

/tʃɪr/

A great cheer went up from the crowd.

cheers of encouragement

/ˈkærəktəraɪz/

the rolling hills that characterize this part of England

/tʃɑːrm/

He was a man of great charm.

The hotel is full of charm and character.

/ˈtʃɑːrmɪŋ/

The cottage is tiny, but it's charming.

She's a charming person.

/ˈtʃɑːrtər/

the European Social Charter of workers' rights

a rail passenger's charter

noun

civilization

a state of human society that is very developed and organized

verb

clarify

to make something clearer or easier to understand

noun

clarity

the quality of being expressed clearly

noun

clash

a short fight between two groups of people

noun

classification

the act or process of putting people or things into a group or class (= of classifying them)

verb

classify

to arrange something in groups according to features that they have in common

noun

clerk

a person whose job is to serve customers in a shop

noun

cliff

a high area of rock with a very steep side, often at the edge of the sea or ocean

verb

cling

to hold on tightly to somebody/something

noun

clinic

a building or part of a hospital where people can go for special medical treatment or advice

adjective

clinical

relating to the examination and treatment of patients and their illnesses

noun

clip

a short part of a film that is shown separately

noun

closure

the situation when a factory, school, hospital, etc. shuts permanently

noun

cluster

a group of things of the same type that grow or appear close together

noun

coalition

a government formed by two or more political parties working together

adjective

coastal

of or near a coast

noun

cocktail

a drink usually made from a mixture of one or more spirits (= strong alcoholic drinks) and fruit juice. It can also be made without alcohol.

adjective

cognitive

connected with mental processes of understanding

verb

coincide

to take place at the same time

noun

coincidence

the fact of two things happening at the same time by chance, in a surprising way

/ˈkɑːkteɪl/ a cocktail bar/cabinet/lounge/shaker	**/ˈkɑːgnətɪv/** a child's cognitive development cognitive psychology	**/ˌkəʊɪnˈsaɪd/** It's a pity our trips to New York don't coincide.	**/kəʊˈɪnsɪdəns/** a strange/an extraordinary/a remarkable coincidence
/ˈkləʊʒər/ factory closures The hospital has been threatened with closure.	**/ˈklʌstər/** The telescope is focused on a dense cluster of stars at the edge of the galaxy.	**/ˌkəʊəˈlɪʃn/** The two parties have formed a coalition. a two-party coalition	**/ˈkəʊstl/** coastal waters/resorts/scenery a coastal path (= one that follows the line of the coast)
/klɪŋ/ cling to somebody/something survivors clinging to a raft	**/ˈklɪnɪk/** Your local family planning clinic can give you advice about birth control.	**/ˈklɪnɪkl/** clinical research (= done on patients, not just considering theory)	**/klɪp/** Here is a clip from her latest movie.
/ˌklæsɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ a style of music that defies classification (= is like no other)	**/ˈklæsɪfaɪ/** The books in the library are classified according to subject.	**/klɜːrk/** The clerk at the counter gave me too little change.	**/klɪf/** the cliff edge/top the chalk cliffs of southern England
/ˌsɪvələˈzeɪʃn/ the technology of modern civilization The Victorians regarded the railways as bringing progress and civilization.	**/ˈklærəfaɪ/** clarify something to clarify a situation/problem/issue	**/ˈklærəti/** a lack of clarity in the law The brilliant clarity of his argument could not be faulted.	**/klæʃ/** Clashes broke out between police and demonstrators.

verb

collaborate

to work together with somebody in order to produce or achieve something

noun

collaboration

the act of working with another person or group of people to create or produce something

adjective

collective

done or shared by all members of a group of people; involving a whole group or society

noun

collector

a person who collects things, either as a hobby or as a job

noun

collision

an accident in which two vehicles or people crash into each other

adjective

colonial

connected with or belonging to a country that controls another country

noun

colony

a country or an area that is governed by people from another, more powerful, country

adjective

colourful

full of bright colours or having a lot of different colours

noun

columnist

a journalist who writes regular articles for a newspaper or magazine

noun

combat

fighting or a fight, especially during a time of war

verb

combat

to stop something unpleasant or harmful from happening or from getting worse

adjective

comic

humorous and making you laugh

noun

comic

a magazine, usually for children, that tells stories through pictures

noun

commander

a person who is in charge of something, especially an officer in charge of a particular group of soldiers or a military operation

verb

commence

to begin to happen; to begin something

noun

commentary

a spoken description of an event that is given while it is happening, especially on the radio or television

noun

commentator

a person who describes an event while it is happening, especially on television or radio

noun

commerce

trade, especially between countries; the buying and selling of goods and services

noun

commissioner

a member of a commission (= an official group of people who are responsible for controlling something or finding out about something)

noun

commodity

a product or a raw material that can be bought and sold

/ˈkɑːmənteɪtər/

a television/sports commentator

He's one of the great sports commentators of our time.

/ˈkɑːmɜːrs/

Leaders of industry and commerce met at the summit in Paris.

/kəˈmɪʃənər/

the Church Commissioners (= the group of people responsible for controlling the financial affairs of the Church of England)

/kəˈmɑːdəti/

rice, flour and other basic commodities

a drop in commodity prices

/ˈkɑːmɪk/

a comic book superhero

/kəˈmændər/

military/allied/field/flight commanders

the commander of the expedition

/kəˈmens/

The meeting is scheduled to commence at noon.

I will be on leave during the week commencing 15 February.

/ˈkɑːmənteri/

a sports commentary

/ˈkɑːləmnɪst/

a newspaper columnist

/ˈkɑːmbæt/

in combat He was killed in combat.

armed/unarmed combat (= with/without weapons)

/ˈkɑːmbæt/

measures to combat crime/inflation/unemployment/disease

/ˈkɑːmɪk/

a comic monologue/story

The play is both comic and tragic.

/kəˈlɪʒn/

collision between A and B a collision between two trains

/kəˈləʊniəl/

a colonial power

Tunisia achieved independence from French colonial rule in 1956.

/ˈkɑːləni/

former British colonies

/ˈkʌlərfl/

colourful shop windows

The male birds are more colourful than the females.

/kəˈlæbəreɪt/

Researchers around the world are collaborating to develop a new vaccine.

/kəˌlæbəˈreɪʃn/

It was a collaboration that produced extremely useful results.

/kəˈlektɪv/

collective leadership/decision-making/responsibility

/kəˈlektər/

a stamp collector

ticket/tax collectors

adjective

communist

connected with communism

noun

companion

a person or an animal that travels with you or spends a lot of time with you

adjective

comparable

similar to somebody/something else and able to be compared

adjective

comparative

measured or judged by how similar or different it is to something else

noun

compassion

a strong feeling of sympathy for people or animals who are suffering and a desire to help them

verb

compel

to force somebody to do something; to make something necessary

adjective

compelling

that makes you pay attention to it because it is so interesting and exciting

verb

compensate

to provide something good to balance or reduce the bad effects of damage, loss, etc.

noun

compensation

something, especially money, that somebody gives you because they have hurt you, or damaged something that you own; the act of giving this to somebody

noun

competence

the ability to do something well

adjective

competent

having enough skill or knowledge to do something well or to the necessary standard

verb

compile

to produce a book, list, report, etc. by bringing together different items, articles, songs, etc.; to collect information in order to produce a book, list, etc.

verb

complement

to add to something in a way that improves it or makes it more attractive

noun

completion

the act or process of finishing something; the state of being finished and complete

noun

complexity

the state of being formed of many parts; the state of being difficult to understand

noun

compliance

the practice of obeying rules or requests made by people in authority

noun

complication

a thing that makes a situation more complicated or difficult

verb

comply

to obey a rule, an order, etc.; to meet particular standards

verb

compose

to write music

noun

composer

a person who writes music, especially classical music

/ˌkɑːmplɪˈkeɪʃn/

The bad weather added a further complication to our journey.

/kəmˈplaɪ/

They refused to comply with the UN resolution.

All furniture must comply with the fire safety regulations.

/kəmˈpəʊz/

Mozart composed his last opera shortly before he died.

/kəmˈpəʊzər/

Verdi was a prolific composer of operas.

/ˈkɑːmplɪment/

The excellent menu is complemented by a good wine list.

/kəmˈpliːʃn/

the completion of the new hospital building

Satisfactory completion of the course does not ensure you a job.

/kəmˈpleksəti/

the increasing complexity of modern telecommunication systems

/kəmˈplaɪəns/

compliance (with something) procedures that must be followed to ensure full compliance with the law

/ˌkɑːmpenˈseɪʃn/

to claim/award/receive compensation

The employer has a duty to pay full compensation for injuries received at work.

/ˈkɑːmpɪtəns/

to gain a high level of competence in English

professional/technical competence

/ˈkɑːmpɪtənt/

He's very competent in his work.

/kəmˈpaɪl/

We are trying to compile a list of suitable people for the job.

/kəmˈpæʃn/

to feel/show compassion

She was known as a hard woman with no compassion, no emotion.

/kəmˈpel/

compel somebody to do something The law can compel fathers to make regular payments for their children.

/kəmˈpelɪŋ/

Her latest book makes compelling reading.

His eyes were strangely compelling.

/ˈkɑːmpenseɪt/

Nothing can compensate for the loss of a loved one.

/ˈkɑːmjənɪst/

communist ideology

/kəmˈpænjən/

travelling companions

Geoff was my companion on the journey.

/ˈkɑːmpərəbl/

A comparable house in the south of the city would cost twice as much.

/kəmˈpærətɪv/

Then he was living in comparative comfort (= compared with others or with his own life at a previous time).

noun

composition

the different parts that something is made of; the way in which the different parts are organized

noun

compound

a thing consisting of two or more separate things combined together

adjective

comprehensive

including all, or almost all, the items, details, facts, information, etc., that may be involved

verb

comprise

to have somebody/something as parts or members

noun

compromise

an agreement made between two people or groups in which each side gives up some of the things they want
so that both sides are happy at the end

verb

compromise

to give up some of your demands in order to reach an agreement after disagreeing with somebody

adjective

compulsory

that must be done because of a law or a rule

verb

compute

to calculate something

verb

conceal

to hide somebody/something

verb

concede

to admit that something is true, logical, etc. after first denying it or resisting it

verb

conceive

to form an idea, a plan, etc. in your mind

noun

conception

an understanding or a belief of what something/somebody is or what something/somebody should be

noun

concession

something that you allow or do, or allow somebody to have, in order to end an argument or to make a situation
less difficult

adjective

concrete

made of concrete

noun

concrete

building material that is made by mixing together cement, sand, small stones and water

verb

condemn

to say very strongly that you think something is bad, usually for moral reasons

verb

confer

to discuss something with somebody, in order to exchange opinions or get advice

verb

confess

to admit, especially formally or to the police, that you have done something wrong or illegal

noun

confession

a statement that a person makes, admitting that they are guilty of a crime; the act of making such a statement

noun

configuration

an arrangement of the parts of something or a group of things; the form or shape that this
arrangement produces

/kənˈfɜːr/

He wanted to confer with his colleagues before reaching a decision.

/kənˈfes/

After hours of questioning, the suspect confessed.

/kənˈfeʃn/

After hours of questioning by police, she made a full confession.

/kənˌfɪgjəˈreɪʃn/

configuration of something The design is based on four configurations of squares.

/kənˈseʃn/

The firm will be forced to make concessions if it wants to avoid a strike.

/ˈkɑːnkriːt/

a concrete floor

/ˈkɑːnkriːt/

a slab of concrete

The pathway is formed from large pebbles set in concrete.

/kənˈdem/

condemn somebody/something The government issued a statement condemning the killings.

/kənˈsiːl/

conceal somebody/something The paintings were concealed beneath a thick layer of plaster.

/kənˈsiːd/

+ speech ‘Not bad,’ she conceded grudgingly.

concede (that)… He was forced to concede (that) there might be difficulties.

/kənˈsiːv/

He conceived the idea of transforming the old power station into an arts centre.

/kənˈsepʃn/

conception of something Marx’s conception of social justice

/ˈkɑːmprəmaɪz/

After lengthy talks the two sides finally reached a compromise.

/ˈkɑːmprəmaɪz/

Neither side is prepared to compromise.

/kəmˈpʌlsəri/

English is a compulsory subject at this level.

compulsory education/schooling

/kəmˈpjuːt/

The losses were computed at £5 million.

These measurements can be used to compute the average size.

/ˌkɑːmpəˈzɪʃn/

the chemical composition of the soil

the composition of the board of directors

/ˈkɑːmpaʊnd/

compounds derived from rainforest plants

The air smelled like a compound of diesel and petrol fumes.

/ˌkɑːmprɪˈhensɪv/

a comprehensive list of addresses

a comprehensive study

/kəmˈpraɪz/

comprise something The collection comprises 327 paintings.

verb

confine

to keep somebody/something inside the limits of a particular activity, subject, area, etc.

noun

confirmation

a statement, letter, etc. that shows that something is true, correct or definite

verb

confront

to appear and need to be dealt with by somebody

noun

confrontation

a situation in which there is anger between people or groups who disagree because they have different opinions

noun

confusion

a state of not being certain about what is happening, what you should do, what something means, etc.

verb

congratulate

to tell somebody that you are pleased about their success or achievements

noun

congregation

a group of people who are gathered together in a church for a religious service, not including the priest and choir

adjective

congressional

related to or belonging to a congress or the Congress in the US

verb

conquer

to take control of a country or city and its people by force

noun

conscience

the part of your mind that tells you whether your actions are right or wrong

noun

consciousness

the state of being able to use your senses and mental powers to understand what is happening

adjective

consecutive

following one after another in a continuous series

noun

consensus

an opinion that all members of a group agree with

noun

consent

permission to do something, especially given by somebody in authority

verb

consent

to agree to something or give your permission for something

adverb

consequently

as a result; therefore

noun

conservation

the protection of the natural environment

verb

conserve

to protect something and prevent it from being changed or destroyed

adjective

considerable

great in amount, size, importance, etc.

adverb

considerably

much; a lot

/ˌkɑːnsərˈveɪʃn/ to be interested in wildlife conservation	**/kənˈsɜːrv/** new laws to conserve wildlife in the area	**/kənˈsɪdərəbl/** The project wasted a considerable amount of time and money.	**/kənˈsɪdərəbli/** The need for sleep varies considerably from person to person.
/kənˈsensəs/ consensus (about/on something) She is skilled at achieving consensus on sensitive issues.	**/kənˈsent/** The written consent of a parent is required.	**/kənˈsent/** When she told them what she intended, they readily consented.	**/ˈkɑːnsɪkwentli/** This poses a threat to agriculture and the food chain, and consequently to human health.
/ˈkɑːŋkər/ The Normans conquered England in 1066. In 330 BC Persia was conquered by Alexander the Great.	**/ˈkɑːnʃəns/** to have a clear/guilty conscience (= to feel that you have done right/wrong)	**/ˈkɑːnʃəsnəs/** I can't remember any more—I must have lost consciousness.	**/kənˈsekjətɪv/** She was absent for nine consecutive days. He is beginning his fourth consecutive term of office.
/kənˈfjuːʒn/ The announcement caused a lot of confusion.	**/kənˈgrætʃəleɪt/** I congratulated them all on their results.	**/ˌkɑːŋgrɪˈgeɪʃn/** The congregation stood to sing the hymn.	**/kənˈgreʃənl/** a congressional committee/bill the midterm Congressional elections
/kənˈfaɪn/ be confined to (doing) something The work will not be confined to the Glasgow area.	**/ˌkɑːnfərˈmeɪʃn/** I'm still waiting for confirmation of the test results.	**/kənˈfrʌnt/** What is to be done about the economic problems confronting the country?	**/ˌkɑːnfrənˈteɪʃn/** confrontation (with somebody) She wanted to avoid another confrontation with her father.

noun

consistency

the quality of always behaving in the same way or of having the same opinions, standard, etc.; the quality of being consistent

adverb

consistently

always the same

verb

consolidate

to make a position of power or success stronger so that it is more likely to continue

noun

conspiracy

a secret plan by a group of people to do something harmful or illegal

noun

constituency

a district that elects its own representative to parliament

verb

constitute

to be considered to be something

noun

constitution

the system of laws and basic principles that a state, a country or an organization is governed by

noun

constraint

a thing that limits something, or limits your freedom to do something

verb

consult

to go to somebody for information or advice

noun

consultant

a person who knows a lot about a particular subject and is employed to give advice about it to other people

noun

consultation

the act of discussing something with somebody or with a group of people before making a decision about it

noun

consumption

the act of using energy, food or materials; the amount used

verb

contemplate

to think about whether you should do something, or how you should do something

noun

contempt

the feeling that somebody/something is without value and deserves no respect at all

verb

contend

to say that something is true, especially in an argument

noun

contender

a person or team with a chance of winning a competition

adjective

content2

happy and satisfied with what you have

noun

contention

anger between people who disagree

adverb

continually

in a way that is repeated many times so that it is annoying

noun

contractor

a person or company that has a contract to do work or provide goods or services for another company

/kənˈtent/

He seemed more content, less bitter.

/kənˈtenʃn/

One area of contention is the availability of nursery care.

/kənˈtɪnjuəli/

They argue continually about money.

/ˈkɑːntræktər/

a building/roofing/electrical contractor

a defence/security/military/civilian contractor

/ˈkɑːntəmpleɪt/

contemplate something You're too young to be contemplating retirement.

/kənˈtempt/

with contempt She looked at him with contempt.

I shall treat that suggestion with the contempt it deserves.

/kənˈtend/

I would contend that the minister's thinking is flawed on this point.

/kənˈtendər/

contender (for something) a contender for a gold medal in the Olympics

/kənˈsʌlt/

consult somebody If the pain continues, consult your doctor.

/kənˈsʌltənt/

a technology/design consultant

She is clearly being coached by image consultants.

/ˌkɑːnslˈteɪʃn/

a consultation document/paper/period/process

/kənˈsʌmpʃn/

the production of fuel for domestic consumption (= to be used in the country where it is produced)

/kənˈstɪtʃuənsi/

Unemployment is high in her constituency.

He owns a house in his Darlington constituency.

/ˈkɑːnstɪtuːt/

Does such an activity constitute a criminal offence?

/ˌkɑːnstɪˈtuːʃn/

your right to vote under the constitution

According to the constitution…

/kənˈstreɪnt/

constraints of time/money/space

financial/economic/legal/political constraints

/kənˈsɪstənsi/

She has played with great consistency all season.

We need to ensure the consistency of service to our customers.

/kənˈsɪstəntli/

Her work has been of a consistently high standard.

/kənˈsɑːlɪdeɪt/

With this new movie he has consolidated his position as the country's leading director.

/kənˈspɪrəsi/

conspiracy (to do something) a conspiracy to overthrow the government

noun

contradiction

a lack of agreement between facts, opinions, actions, etc.

adjective

contrary1

different from something; against something

noun

contrary1

the opposite fact, event or situation

noun

contributor

a person who writes articles for a magazine, book or website, or who talks on a radio or television programme or at a meeting

adjective

controversial

causing a lot of angry public discussion and disagreement

noun

controversy

public discussion and argument about something that many people strongly disagree about, think is bad, or are shocked by

noun

convenience

the quality of being useful, easy or suitable for somebody

noun

convention

the way in which something is done that most people in a society expect and consider to be polite or the right way to do it

adjective

conventional

tending to follow what is done or considered acceptable by society in general; normal and ordinary, and perhaps not very interesting

noun

conversion

the act or process of changing something from one form, use or system to another

verb

convey

to make ideas, feelings, etc. known to somebody

verb

convict

to decide and state officially in court that somebody is guilty of a crime

noun

conviction

the act of finding somebody guilty of a crime in court; the fact of having been found guilty

adjective

convincing

that makes somebody believe that something is true

verb

cooperate

to work together with somebody else in order to achieve something

adjective

cooperative

involving doing something together or working together with others towards a shared aim

verb

coordinate

to organize the different parts of an activity and the people involved in it so that it works well

noun

coordination

the act of making parts of something, groups of people, etc. work together in an efficient and organized way

noun

coordinator

a person who organizes the different parts of an activity and the people involved in it so that it works well

noun

cop

a police officer

/kəʊˈɔːrdɪneɪt/

coordinate something They appointed a new manager to coordinate the work of the team.

/kəʊˌɔːrdɪˈneɪʃn/

The aim was to improve the coordination of services.

/kəʊˈɔːrdɪneɪtər/

The campaign needs an effective coordinator.

/kɑːp/

Somebody call the cops!

children playing cops and robbers

/kənˈvɪkʃn/

He plans to appeal against his conviction.

conviction for something She has six previous convictions for theft.

/kənˈvɪnsɪŋ/

a convincing argument/explanation/case

She sounded very convincing to me (= I believed what she said).

/kəʊˈɑːpəreɪt/

The two groups agreed to cooperate with each other.

/kəʊˈɑːpərətɪv/

Cooperative activity is essential to effective community work.

/kənˈvenʃənl/

conventional behaviour/morality

She's very conventional in her views.

/kənˈvɜːrʒn/

Their main business is the conversion of farm buildings into family homes.

/kənˈveɪ/

convey something Colours like red convey a sense of energy and strength.

/kənˈvɪkt/

be convicted (of something) He was convicted of fraud.

/ˌkɑːntrəˈvɜːrʃl/

a highly controversial topic

one of the most controversial of London's new office blocks

/ˈkɑːntrəvɜːrsi/

to arouse/cause controversy

a bitter controversy over/about the site of the new airport

/kənˈviːniəns/

We have provided seats for the convenience of our customers.

/kənˈvenʃn/

the rigid social conventions of Victorian Britain

She is a young woman who enjoys flouting conventions.

/ˌkɑːntrəˈdɪkʃn/

contradiction (between A and B) There is a contradiction between the two sets of figures.

/ˈkɑːntreri/

Contrary to popular belief, many cats dislike milk.

/ˈkɑːntreri/

In the end the contrary was proved true: he was innocent and she was guilty.

/kənˈtrɪbjətər/

a regular contributor to this magazine

I am a contributor to several blogs.

verb

cope

to deal successfully with something difficult

noun

copper

a chemical element. Copper is a soft red-brown metal used for making electric wires, pipes and coins.

noun

copyright

if a person or an organization holds the copyright on a piece of writing, music, etc

noun

corporation

a large business company

noun

correction

a change that makes something more accurate than it was before

verb

correlate

if two or more facts, figures, etc. correlate or if a fact, figure, etc. correlates with another, the facts are closely connected and affect or depend on each other

noun

correlation

a connection between two things in which one thing changes as the other does

verb

correspond

to be the same as or match something

noun

correspondence

the letters, emails, etc. a person sends and receives

noun

correspondent

a person who reports news from a particular country or on a particular subject for a newspaper or a television or radio station

adjective

corresponding

matching or connected with something that you have just mentioned

noun

corridor

a long narrow passage in a building, with doors that open into rooms on either side

adjective

corrupt

willing to use their power to do dishonest or illegal things in return for money or to get an advantage

noun

corruption

dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially of people in authority

adjective

costly

costing a lot of money, especially more than you want to pay

noun

councillor

a member of a city or county council

noun

counselling

professional advice about a problem

noun

counsellor

a person who has been trained to advise people with problems, especially personal problems

noun

counter

a long flat surface over which goods are sold or business is done in a shop, bank, etc.

verb

counter

to reply to somebody by trying to prove that what they said is not true

/ˈkaʊnsəlɪŋ/

The couple decided to go for relationship counselling.

/ˈkaʊnsələr/

I went to see a debt counsellor and she agreed to come to the bank with me.

/ˈkaʊntər/

behind the counter I asked the woman behind the counter if they had any postcards.

/ˈkaʊntər/

counter somebody/something Such arguments are not easily countered.

/kəˈrʌpt/

It was seen as the only way to overthrow a corrupt regime.

/kəˈrʌpʃn/

allegations of bribery and corruption

The new district attorney has promised to fight police corruption.

/ˈkɔːstli/

Buying new furniture may prove too costly.

/ˈkaʊnsələr/

Councillor Ann Jones

Talk to your local councillor about the problem.

/ˌkɔːrəˈspɑːndəns/

personal/private correspondence

The editor welcomes correspondence from readers on any subject.

/ˌkɔːrəˈspɑːndənt/

She's the BBC's political correspondent.

a foreign/war/sports correspondent

/ˌkɔːrəˈspɑːndɪŋ/

A change in the money supply brings a corresponding change in expenditure.

/ˈkɔːrɪdɔːr/

His room is along the corridor.

/kəˈrekʃn/

I've made a few small corrections to your report.

The paper had to publish a correction to the story.

/ˈkɔːrəleɪt/

The figures do not seem to correlate.

/ˌkɔːrəˈleɪʃn/

correlation between A and B There is a direct correlation between exposure to sun and skin cancer.

/ˌkɔːrəˈspɑːnd/

Your account and hers do not correspond.

/kəʊp/

I got to the stage where I wasn't coping any more.

/ˈkɑːpər/

a copper mine

copper pipes

/ˈkɑːpiraɪt/

Copyright expires seventy years after the death of the author.

/ˌkɔːrpəˈreɪʃn/

multinational corporations

the Chrysler corporation

noun

counterpart

a person or thing that has the same position or function as somebody/something else in a different place or situation

adjective

countless

very many; too many to be counted or mentioned

noun

coup

a sudden change of government that is illegal and often violent

noun

courtesy

polite behaviour that shows respect for other people

noun

coverage

the reporting of news and sport in the media

noun

crack

a line on the surface of something where it has broken but not split into separate parts

verb

crack

to break without dividing into separate parts; to break something in this way

noun

craft

an activity involving a special skill at making things with your hands

verb

craft

to make something using special skills, especially with your hands

verb

crawl

to move forward on your hands and knees or with your body close to the ground

noun

creativity

the use of skill and imagination to produce something new or to produce art

noun

creator

a person who has made or invented a particular thing

noun

credibility

the quality that somebody/something has that makes people believe or trust them

adjective

credible

that can be believed or trusted

verb

creep

to move slowly, quietly and carefully, because you do not want to be seen or heard

adverb

critically

in a way that says what you think is bad about somebody/something

noun

critique

a piece of written criticism of a set of ideas, a work of art, etc.

noun

crown

an object in the shape of a circle, usually made of gold and precious stones, that a king or queen wears on his or her head on official occasions

adjective

crude

in its natural state, before it has been processed or refined

noun

cruise

a journey by sea, visiting different places, especially as a holiday

/krɪˈtiːk/

She wrote a feminist critique of Freud's theories.

/kraʊn/

The crown was placed upon the new monarch's head.

the emperor's jewel-encrusted crown

/kruːd/

crude oil/metal

/kruːz/

I'd love to go on a round-the-world cruise.

a luxury cruise ship

/ˌkredəˈbɪləti/

to gain/lack/lose credibility

The prosecution did its best to undermine the credibility of the witness.

/ˈkredəbl/

a credible explanation/witness

It is just not credible that she would cheat.

/kriːp/

I crept up the stairs, trying not to wake my parents.

/ˈkrɪtɪkli/

She spoke critically of her father.

/kræft/

be crafted (from something) All the furniture is crafted from natural materials.

/krɔːl/

Our baby is just starting to crawl.

A man was crawling away from the burning wreckage.

/ˌkriːeɪˈtɪvəti/

Creativity and originality are more important than technical skill.

/kriˈeɪtər/

Walt Disney, the creator of Mickey Mouse

/ˈkʌvərɪdʒ/

media/newspaper/press coverage

tonight’s live coverage of the hockey game

/kræk/

This cup has a crack in it.

Cracks began to appear in the walls.

/kræk/

The ice cracked as I stepped onto it.

crack something He has cracked a bone in his arm.

/kræft/

traditional crafts like basket-weaving

a craft fair/workshop

/ˈkaʊntərpɑːrt/

The Foreign Minister held talks with his Chinese counterpart.

/ˈkaʊntləs/

I've warned her countless times.

The new treatment could save Emma's life and the lives of countless others.

/kuː/

He seized power in a military coup in 2008.

to stage/mount a coup

/ˈkɜːrtəsi/

I was treated with the utmost courtesy by the staff.

verb

cruise

to travel in a ship or boat visiting different places, especially as a holiday

verb

crush

to press something so hard that it is damaged or injured, or loses its shape

noun

crystal

a small piece of a substance with many even sides, that is formed naturally when the substance becomes solid

noun

cue

an action or event that is a signal for somebody to do something

adjective

cult

very popular with a particular group of people

noun

cult

a way of life, an attitude, an idea, etc. that has become very popular

verb

cultivate

to prepare and use land for growing plants or crops

noun

curiosity

a strong desire to know about something

adjective

curious

having a strong desire to know about something

noun

curriculum

the subjects that are included in a course of study or taught in a school, college, etc.

noun

custody

the legal right or duty to take care of or keep somebody/something; the act of taking care of something/somebody

adjective

cute

pretty and attractive

noun

cutting

an article or a story that you cut from a newspaper or magazine and keep

adjective

cynical

believing that people only do things to help themselves rather than for good or honest reasons

adjective

dairy

made from milk

noun

dairy

milk, cheese and other milk products

noun

dam

a barrier that is built across a river in order to stop the water from flowing, used especially to make a reservoir (= a lake for storing water) or to produce electricity

adjective

damaging

causing damage; having a bad effect on somebody/something

verb

dare

to be brave enough to do something

noun

darkness

the state of being dark, without any light

/dæm/

the Narmada dam in India

The dam burst.

/ˈdæmɪdʒɪŋ/

damaging consequences/effects

/der/

She said it as loudly as she dared.

dare (to) do something He didn’t dare (to) say what he thought.

/ˈdɑːrknəs/

After a few minutes our eyes got used to the darkness.

/ˈkʌtɪŋ/

newspaper/press cuttings

/ˈsɪnɪkl/

a cynical view/smile

cynical about something Do you have to be so cynical about everything?

/ˈderi/

dairy products/produce

/ˈderi/

The doctor told me to eat less red meat and dairy.

/ˈkjʊriəs/

He is such a curious boy, always asking questions.

/kəˈrɪkjələm/

The school curriculum should be as broad as possible.

/ˈkʌstədi/

Who will have custody of the children?

The parents were given joint custody of the two children.

/kjuːt/

a cute little baby

She's so cute!

/kʌlt/

a cult movie/book

The singer has become a cult figure in America.

/kʌlt/

the cult of physical fitness

the cult of youth

/ˈkʌltɪveɪt/

The land around here has never been cultivated.

The land here has been intensively cultivated for generations.

/ˌkjʊriˈɑːsəti/

Children show curiosity about everything.

I felt a certain curiosity to see what would happen next.

/kruːz/

(+ adv./prep.) They cruised down the Nile.

cruise something We spent two weeks cruising the Bahamas.

/krʌʃ/

The car was completely crushed under the truck.

Several people were crushed to death in the accident.

/ˈkrɪstl/

ice/salt crystals

/kjuː/

cue (for something) Jon's arrival was a cue for more champagne.

noun

database

an organized set of data that is stored in a computer and can be looked at and used in various ways

noun

dawn

the time of day when light first appears

noun

deadline

a point in time by which something must be done

adjective

deadly

causing or likely to cause death

noun

dealer

a person whose business is buying and selling a particular product

noun

debris

pieces of wood, metal, building materials, etc. that are left after something has been destroyed

noun

debut

the first public appearance of a performer or sports player

noun

decision-making

the process of deciding about something important, especially in a group of people or in an organization

adjective

decisive

very important for the final result of a particular situation

noun

deck

the top outside floor of a ship or boat

noun

declaration

an official or formal statement, especially about the plans of a government or an organization; the act of making such a statement

adjective

dedicated

working hard at something because it is very important to you

noun

dedication

the hard work and effort that somebody puts into an activity or a purpose because they think it is important

noun

deed

a thing that somebody does that is usually very good or very bad

verb

deem

to have a particular opinion about somebody/something

noun

default

what happens or appears if you do not make any other choice or change, especially in a computer program

noun

defect

a fault in something or in the way it has been made that means that it is not perfect

noun

defender

a player who must stop the other team from scoring in games such as football (soccer), hockey, etc.

adjective

defensive

protecting somebody/something against attack

noun

deficiency

the state of not having, or not having enough of, something that is essential

/ˈdiːfekt/

a speech defect

a defect in the glass

/dɪˈfendər/

a passionate defender of human rights

/dɪˈfensɪv/

As a defensive measure he built a series of coastal forts and watchtowers.

/dɪˈfɪʃnsi/

deficiency (in something) Vitamin deficiency in the diet can cause illness.

/ˌdedɪˈkeɪʃn/

hard work and dedication

/diːd/

It's a stirring tale of heroic deeds.

a brave/charitable deed

/diːm/

deem somebody/something + noun The evening was deemed a great success.

/dɪˈfɔːlt/

The default is fifty lines.

The default option is to save your work every five minutes.

/dɪˈsaɪsɪv/

a decisive factor/victory/battle

/dek/

on deck I was the only person on deck at that time of night.

/ˌdekləˈreɪʃn/

to issue/sign a declaration

the declaration of war

/ˈdedɪkeɪtɪd/

a dedicated teacher

dedicated to something She is dedicated to her job.

/ˈdiːlər/

an art/antique dealer

dealer in something He's a dealer in second-hand cars.

/dəˈbriː/

Emergency teams are still clearing the debris from the plane crash.

/deɪˈbjuː/

He will make his debut for the first team this week.

/dɪˈsɪʒn meɪkɪŋ/

responsibility for decision-making

All the staff should be involved in the decision-making process.

/ˈdeɪtəbeɪs/

The database is updated monthly.

The new database contains 200 000 images.

/dɔːn/

at dawn They start work at dawn.

It's almost dawn.

/ˈdedlaɪn/

I prefer to work to a deadline.

deadline for something The deadline for applications is 30 April.

/ˈdedli/

a deadly weapon/disease

He was charged with possession of a deadly weapon.

noun

deficit

the amount by which money spent or owed is greater than money earned in a particular period of time

verb

defy

to refuse to obey or show respect for somebody in authority, a law, a rule, etc.

noun

delegate

a person who is chosen or elected to represent the views of a group of people and vote and make decisions for them

noun

delegation

a group of people who represent the views of an organization, a country, etc.

verb

delete

to remove something that has been written or printed, or that has been stored on a computer

adjective

delicate

easily damaged or broken

noun

democracy

a system of government in which the people of a country can vote to elect their representatives

adjective

democratic

controlled by representatives who are elected by the people of a country; connected with this system

noun

demon

an evil spirit

noun

demonstration

a public meeting or a march (= an organized walk by many people) at which people show that they are
protesting against or supporting somebody/something

noun

denial

a statement that something is not true or does not exist; the action of denying something

verb

denounce

to strongly criticize somebody/something that you think is wrong, illegal, etc.

adjective

dense

containing a lot of people, things, plants, etc. with little space between them

noun

density

the quality of being dense; the degree to which something is dense

verb

depart

to leave a place, especially to start a trip

noun

dependence

the state of needing the help and support of somebody/something in order to survive or be successful

adjective

dependent

needing somebody/something in order to survive or be successful

verb

depict

to show an image of somebody/something in a picture

verb

deploy

to move soldiers or weapons into a position where they are ready for military action

noun

deployment

the act of moving soldiers or weapons into a position where they are ready for military action

/dɪˈpendənt/

a woman with several dependent children

/dɪˈpɪkt/

depict somebody/something (as somebody/something) a painting depicting the Virgin and Child

/dɪˈplɔɪ/

2 000 troops were deployed in the area.

At least 5 000 missiles were deployed along the border.

/dɪˈplɔɪmənt/

the deployment of peacekeeping forces

troop deployments

/dens/

a dense crowd/forest

areas of dense population

/ˈdensəti/

The population density in this city is very high.

low density forest

/dɪˈpɑːrt/

depart (for…) (from…) Flights for Rome depart from Terminal 3.

/dɪˈpendəns/

Our relationship was based on mutual dependence.

financial/economic dependence

/ˈdiːmən/

The people believed the girl was possessed by demons.

/ˌdemənˈstreɪʃn/

to take part in/go on a demonstration

to hold/stage a demonstration

/dɪˈnaɪəl/

denial (of something) the prisoner’s repeated denials of the charges against him

/dɪˈnaʊns/

denounce somebody/something She publicly denounced the government's handling of the crisis.

/dɪˈliːt/

Your name has been deleted from the list.

This command deletes files from the directory.

/ˈdelɪkət/

delicate china teacups

The eye is one of the most delicate organs of the body.

/dɪˈmɑːkrəsi/

parliamentary democracy

the principles of democracy

/ˌdeməˈkrætɪk/

a democratic country

a democratic system

/ˈdefɪsɪt/

a budget/trade deficit

in deficit The trade balance has been in deficit for the past five years.

/dɪˈfaɪ/

I wouldn't have dared to defy my teachers.

Hundreds of people today defied the ban on political gatherings.

/ˈdelɪgət/

Congress delegates rejected the proposals.

/ˌdelɪˈgeɪʃn/

the Dutch delegation to the United Nations

a delegation of teachers

noun

deposit

a sum of money that is given as the first part of a larger payment

verb

deposit

to put money into a bank account

noun

depression

a medical condition in which a person feels very sad and anxious and often has physical symptoms such as being unable to sleep, etc.

verb

deprive

noun

deputy

a person who is the next most important person below a business manager, a head of a school, a political leader, etc. and who does that person's job when they are away

verb

derive

verb

descend

to come or go down from a higher to a lower level

noun

descent

an action of coming or going down

verb

designate

to say officially that somebody/something has a particular character or name; to describe somebody/something in a particular way

adjective

desirable

that you would like to have or do; worth having or doing

noun

desktop

a screen on a computer that shows the icons of programs and files that can be used

adverb

desperately

in a way that shows you have little hope and are ready to do anything without worrying about danger to yourself or others

noun

destruction

the act of destroying something; the process of being destroyed

adjective

destructive

causing destruction or damage

verb

detain

to keep somebody in an official place, such as a police station, a prison or a hospital, and prevent them from leaving

noun

detection

the process of discovering or noticing something, especially something that is not easy to see, hear, etc.; the fact of being discovered or noticed

noun

detention

the state of being kept in a place, especially a prison, and prevented from leaving

verb

deteriorate

to become worse

noun

determination

the quality that makes you continue trying to do something even when this is difficult

verb

devastate

to completely destroy a place or an area

/dɪˈtenʃn/

They were sentenced to 12 months' detention in a young offender institution.

/dɪˈtɪriəreɪt/

Her health deteriorated rapidly, and she died shortly afterwards.

/dɪˌtɜːrmɪˈneɪʃn/

fierce/grim/dogged determination

He fought the illness with courage and determination.

/ˈdevəsteɪt/

The bomb devastated much of the old part of the city.

/dɪˈstrʌkʃn/

the destruction of the rainforests

a tidal wave bringing death and destruction in its wake

/dɪˈstrʌktɪv/

The war demonstrated the destructive power of modern weapons.

/dɪˈteɪn/

One man has been detained for questioning.

/dɪˈtekʃn/

crime prevention and detection

Last year the detection rate for car theft was just 13 per cent.

/ˈdezɪgneɪt/

be designated (as) something This area has been designated (as) a National Park.

/dɪˈzaɪərəbl/

She chatted for a few minutes about the qualities she considered desirable in a secretary.

/ˈdesktɑːp/

desktop icons

/ˈdespərətli/

She looked desperately around for a weapon.

/ˈdepjuti/

I'm acting as deputy till the manager returns.

She was appointed deputy head of the school.

/dɪˈraɪv/

/dɪˈsend/

The plane began to descend.

/dɪˈsent/

The plane began its descent to Heathrow.

(figurative) the country's swift descent into anarchy

/dɪˈpɑːzɪt/

They normally ask you to pay $100 (as a) deposit.

All deposits are non-refundable.

/dɪˈpɑːzɪt/

Millions were deposited in Swiss bank accounts.

You can withdraw and deposit money in any of our branches.

/dɪˈpreʃn/

She was diagnosed as having clinical depression.

She suffered from severe depression after losing her job.

/dɪˈpraɪv/

noun

devil

the most powerful evil being

verb

devise

to invent something new or a new way of doing something

verb

devote

verb

diagnose

to say exactly what an illness or the cause of a problem is

noun

diagnosis

the act of discovering or identifying the exact cause of an illness or a problem

verb

dictate

to tell somebody what to do, especially in an annoying way

noun

dictator

a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has gained it using military force

verb

differ

to be different from somebody/something

verb

differentiate

to recognize or show that two things are not the same

noun

dignity

a calm and serious manner that deserves respect

noun

dilemma

a situation that makes problems, often one in which you have to make a very difficult choice between things of equal importance

noun

dimension

a measurement in space, for example how high, wide or long something is

verb

diminish

to become smaller, weaker, etc.; to make something become smaller, weaker, etc.

verb

dip

to put something quickly into a liquid and take it out again

noun

diplomat

a person whose job is to represent his or her country in a foreign country, for example, in an embassy

adjective

diplomatic

connected with managing relations between countries (= diplomacy)

noun

directory

a book or electronic resource containing lists of information, usually in alphabetical order, for example people's phone numbers or the names and addresses of businesses in a particular area

noun

disability

a physical or mental condition that means you cannot use a part of your body completely or easily, or that you cannot learn easily

adjective

disabled

unable to use a part of your body completely or easily because of a physical condition, an illness, an injury, etc.; unable to learn easily

noun

disagreement

a situation where people have different opinions about something and often argue

/dəˈrektəri/

a telephone/trade directory

a directory of European Trade Associations

/ˌdɪsəˈbɪləti/

a physical/mental disability

with a disability people with severe learning disabilities

/dɪsˈeɪbld/

physically/mentally disabled

a new home for severely disabled people

/ˌdɪsəˈgriːmənt/

disagreement (about/on/over/as to something) Disagreement arose about exactly how to plan the show.

/dɪˈmɪnɪʃ/

The world's resources are rapidly diminishing.

His influence has diminished with time.

/dɪp/

dip something (into something) He dipped the brush into the paint.

/ˈdɪpləmæt/

Washington's top diplomat in Havana

a Western diplomat in Islamabad

/ˌdɪpləˈmætɪk/

a diplomatic crisis

Attempts are being made to settle the dispute by diplomatic means.

/ˌdɪfəˈrenʃieɪt/

differentiate (between) A and B It's difficult to differentiate between the two varieties.

/ˈdɪgnəti/

She accepted the criticism with quiet dignity.

He brings a quiet dignity to the role.

/dɪˈlemə/

I could see no way of resolving this moral dilemma.

/daɪˈmenʃn/

We measured the dimensions of the kitchen.

computer design tools that work in three dimensions

/ˌdaɪəgˈnəʊsɪs/

a diagnosis of lung cancer

They are waiting for the doctor's diagnosis.

/ˈdɪkteɪt/

dictate something (to somebody) They are in no position to dictate terms (= tell other people what to do).

/ˈdɪkteɪtər/

The country suffered at the hands of a series of military dictators.

/ˈdɪfər/

They hold differing views.

A differs from B French differs from English in this respect.

/ˈdevl/

belief in the Devil

/dɪˈvaɪz/

A new system has been devised to control traffic in the city.

/dɪˈvəʊt/

/ˌdaɪəgˈnəʊs/

diagnose something The test is used to diagnose a variety of diseases.

verb

disappoint

to make somebody feel sad because something that they hope for or expect to happen does not happen or is not as good as they hoped

noun

disappointment

the feeling of being sad because something has not happened or been as good, successful, etc. as you expected or hoped

adjective

disastrous

very bad, harmful or unsuccessful

verb

discard

to get rid of something that you no longer want or need

verb

discharge

to give somebody official permission to leave the police or the armed forces; to make somebody leave the police or the armed forces

verb

disclose

to give somebody information about something, especially something that was previously secret

noun

disclosure

the act of making something known or public that was previously secret or private

verb

discourage

to try to prevent something or to prevent somebody from doing something, especially by making it difficult to do or by showing that you do not approve of it

noun

discourse

a long and serious treatment or discussion of a subject in speech or writing

noun

discretion

the freedom or power to decide what should be done in a particular situation

noun

discrimination

the practice of treating somebody or a particular group in society less fairly than others

noun

dismissal

the act of dismissing somebody from their job; an example of this

noun

disorder

an illness that causes a part of the body to stop functioning correctly

verb

displace

to take the place of somebody/something

noun

disposal

the act of getting rid of something

verb

dispose

to arrange things or people in a particular way or position

noun

dispute

an argument between two people, groups or countries; discussion about a subject on which people disagree

verb

dispute

to question whether something is true or legally or officially acceptable

verb

disrupt

to make it difficult for something to continue in the normal way

noun

disruption

a situation in which it is difficult for something to continue in the normal way; the act of stopping something from continuing in the normal way

/dɪˈspjuːt/

industrial/pay disputes

dispute between A and B a dispute between the two countries about the border

/dɪˈspjuːt/

dispute something These figures have been disputed.

/dɪsˈrʌpt/

Demonstrators succeeded in disrupting the meeting.

/dɪsˈrʌpʃn/

We aim to help you move house with minimum disruption to yourself.

/dɪsˈɔːrdər/

a blood/bowel disorder

eating disorders

/dɪsˈpleɪs/

be displaced (by somebody/something) Gradually factory workers have been displaced by machines.

/dɪˈspəʊzl/

The council is responsible for waste disposal and street cleaning.

/dɪˈspəʊz/

The visitors disposed themselves in a circle round the statue.

/ˈdɪskɔːrs/

discourse on something a discourse on issues of gender and sexuality

/dɪˈskreʃn/

I'll leave it up to you to use your discretion.

/dɪˌskrɪmɪˈneɪʃn/

age/racial/gender/sex discrimination (= because of somebody's age, race or sex)

/dɪsˈmɪsl/

He still hopes to win his claim against unfair dismissal.

/dɪsˈtʃɑːrdʒ/

be discharged from something He was discharged from the army following his injury.

/dɪsˈkləʊz/

disclose something (to somebody) The spokesman refused to disclose details of the takeover to the press.

/dɪsˈkləʊʒər/

the newspaper's disclosure of defence secrets

The bank will need full disclosure of your financial situation and assets.

/dɪsˈkɜːrɪdʒ/

discourage (doing) something a campaign to discourage smoking among teenagers

/ˌdɪsəˈpɔɪnt/

disappoint (somebody) Her decision to cancel the concert is bound to disappoint her fans.

/ˌdɪsəˈpɔɪntmənt/

Book early for the show to avoid disappointment.

To our great disappointment, it rained every day of the trip.

/dɪˈzæstrəs/

a disastrous harvest/fire/result

Lowering interest rates could have disastrous consequences for the economy.

/dɪˈskɑːrd/

discard somebody/something The room was littered with discarded newspapers.

verb

dissolve

to mix with a liquid and become part of it

adjective

distant

far away in space or time

adjective

distinct

easily or clearly heard, seen, felt, etc.

noun

distinction

a clear difference or contrast especially between people or things that are similar or related

adjective

distinctive

having a quality or characteristic that makes something different and easily noticed

verb

distinguish

to recognize the difference between two people or things

verb

distort

to change the shape, appearance or sound of something so that it is strange or not clear

verb

distract

to take somebody's attention away from what they are trying to do

noun

distress

a feeling of great worry or unhappiness; great mental pain

verb

distress

to make somebody feel very worried or unhappy

verb

disturb

to interrupt somebody when they are trying to work, sleep, etc.

adjective

disturbing

making you feel anxious and upset or shocked

noun

dive

a jump into deep water with your head first and your arms in front of you

verb

dive

to jump into water with your head and arms going in first

adjective

diverse

very different from each other and of various kinds

noun

diversity

a range of many people or things that are very different from each other

verb

divert

to make somebody/something change direction

adjective

divine

coming from or connected with God or a god

noun

divorce

the legal ending of a marriage

verb

divorce

to end your marriage to somebody legally

/daɪˈvɜːrt/

be diverted The course of the stream has now been diverted.

/dɪˈvaɪn/

divine law/love/will

divine intervention (= help from God to change a situation)

/dɪˈvɔːrs/

The marriage ended in divorce in 1996.

an increase in the divorce rate (= the number of divorces in a year)

/dɪˈvɔːrs/

They're getting divorced.

She's divorcing her husband.

/daɪv/

a spectacular high dive (= from high above the water)

/daɪv/

dive (from/off something) (into something) We dived into the river to cool off.

/daɪˈvɜːrs/

People from diverse cultures were invited to the event.

/daɪˈvɜːrsəti/

the biological diversity of the rainforests

a great/wide/rich diversity of opinion

/dɪˈstres/

The newspaper article caused the actor considerable distress.

/dɪˈstres/

distress somebody It was clear that the letter had deeply distressed her.

/dɪˈstɜːrb/

I'm sorry to disturb you, but can I talk to you for a moment?

/dɪˈstɜːrbɪŋ/

a disturbing piece of news

a profoundly disturbing experience

/dɪˈstɪŋktɪv/

clothes with a distinctive style

The male bird has distinctive white markings on its head.

/dɪˈstɪŋgwɪʃ/

distinguish between A and B At what age are children able to distinguish between right and wrong?

/dɪˈstɔːrt/

a fairground mirror that distorts your shape

The loudspeaker seemed to distort his voice.

/dɪˈstrækt/

You're distracting me from my work.

Don't talk to her—she's very easily distracted.

/dɪˈzɑːlv/

Salt dissolves in water.

Heat gently until the sugar dissolves.

/ˈdɪstənt/

the distant sound of music

distant stars/planets

/dɪˈstɪŋkt/

There was a distinct smell of gas.

His voice was quiet but every word was distinct.

/dɪˈstɪŋkʃn/

distinctions between traditional and modern societies

noun

doctrine

a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, a political party, etc.

noun

documentation

the documents that are required for something, or that give evidence or proof of something

noun

domain

an area of knowledge or activity; especially one that somebody is responsible for

noun

dominance

the fact of being more important, powerful or easy to notice than somebody/something else

adjective

dominant

more important, powerful or easy to notice than other things

noun

donation

something that is given to a person or an organization such as a charity, in order to help them; the act of giving something in this way

noun

donor

a person or an organization that makes a gift of money, clothes, food, etc. to a charity, etc.

noun

dose

an amount of a medicine or a drug that is taken once, or regularly over a period of time

noun

dot

a small round mark, especially one that is printed

adjective

downtown

in, towards or typical of the centre of a city, especially its main business area

adverb

downtown

in or towards the centre of a city, especially its main business area

noun

downtown

the centre of a city, especially its main business area

verb

drain

to make something empty or dry by removing the liquid from it; to become empty or dry in this way

adverb

dramatically

very suddenly and to a very great and often surprising degree

verb

drift

to move along smoothly and slowly in water or air

adjective

driving

strong and powerful; having a strong influence in making something happen

noun

drought

a long period of time when there is little or no rain

verb

drown

to die because you have been underwater too long and you cannot breathe; to kill somebody by holding them underwater

adjective

dual

having two parts or aspects

verb

dub

to give somebody/something a particular name, often in a humorous or critical way

/draʊt/

Farmers are facing ruin after two years of severe drought.

/draʊn/

Two children drowned after falling into the river.

/ˈduːəl/

his dual role as composer and conductor

She has dual nationality (= is a citizen of two different countries).

/dʌb/

The media dubbed anorexia ‘the slimming disease’.

/dreɪn/

Drain and rinse the pasta.

The marshes have been drained.

/drəˈmætɪkli/

Prices have fallen dramatically.

Prices have increased dramatically in the last few years.

/drɪft/

Clouds drifted across the sky.

The empty boat drifted out to sea.

/ˈdraɪvɪŋ/

Who was the driving force (= the person with the strongest influence) in the band?

/dɑːt/

There are dots above the letters i and j.

Text and graphics are printed at 300 dots per inch.

/ˌdaʊnˈtaʊn/

a downtown store

/ˌdaʊnˈtaʊn/

to go/work downtown

/ˌdaʊnˈtaʊn/

a hotel in the heart of downtown

/ˈdɑːmɪnənt/

The firm has achieved a dominant position in the world market.

/dəʊˈneɪʃn/

a generous/large/small donation

donation to somebody/something to make a donation to charity

/ˈdəʊnər/

international aid donors (= countries that give money, etc. to help other countries)

/dəʊs/

a high/low/lethal dose

Repeat the dose after 12 hours if necessary.

/ˈdɑːktrɪn/

the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty

He challenged the Christian doctrine of Original Sin.

/ˌdɑːkjumenˈteɪʃn/

I couldn't enter the country because I didn't have all the necessary documentation.

/dəʊˈmeɪn/

Financial matters are her domain.

Physics used to be very much a male domain.

/ˈdɑːmɪnəns/

political/economic dominance

America's rise to global dominance

adjective

dull

not interesting or exciting

adjective

dumb

stupid

verb

dump

to get rid of something you do not want, especially in a place that is not suitable

noun

duo

two people who perform together or are often seen or thought of together

noun

duration

the length of time that something lasts or continues

adjective

dynamic

having a lot of energy and a strong personality

noun

dynamic

the way in which people or things behave and react to each other in a particular situation

adjective

eager

very interested and excited by something that is going to happen or about something that you want to do; showing this

noun

earnings

the money that you earn for the work that you do

noun

ease

lack of difficulty

verb

ease

to become less unpleasant, painful or severe; to make something less unpleasant, etc.

noun

echo

the reflecting of sound off a wall or inside a particular space so that a noise appears to be repeated; a sound that is reflected back in this way

verb

echo

if a sound echoes, it is reflected off a wall, the side of a mountain, etc. so that you can hear it again

adjective

ecological

connected with the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their environment

noun

economics

the study of how a society organizes its money, trade and industry

noun

economist

a person who studies or writes about economics

adjective

editorial

connected with the task of preparing something such as a newspaper, a book or a television or radio programme, to be published or broadcast

noun

educator

a person whose job is to teach or educate people

noun

effectiveness

the fact of producing the result that is wanted or intended; the fact of producing a successful result

noun

efficiency

the quality of doing something well with no waste of time or money

/ˌedɪˈtɔːriəl/

the magazine’s editorial staff

Some debates in Parliament are shown live and are outside editorial control.

/ˈedʒukeɪtər/

adult educators (= who teach adults)

/ɪˈfektɪvnəs/

to check the effectiveness of the security system

/ɪˈfɪʃnsi/

improvements in efficiency at the factory

I was impressed by the efficiency with which she handled the crisis.

/ˈekəʊ/

Her footsteps echoed in the empty room.

The gunshot echoed through the forest.

/ˌiːkəˈlɑːdʒɪkl/

We risk upsetting the ecological balance of the area.

/ˌiːkəˈnɑːmɪks/

He studied politics and economics at Yale.

Keynesian/Marxist economics

/ɪˈkɑːnəmɪst/

the World Bank's chief economist

Many economists are predicting the economy will improve.

/ˈɜːrnɪŋz/

a rise in average earnings

She is claiming compensation for loss of earnings.

/iːz/

with ease He passed the exam with ease.

The ease with which she learns languages is astonishing.

/iːz/

The pain immediately eased.

ease something This should help ease the pain.

/ˈekəʊ/

There was an echo on the phone and I couldn't hear clearly.

/duˈreɪʃn/

The school was used as a hospital for the duration of the war.

/daɪˈnæmɪk/

a dynamic leader

He was a dynamic young advertising executive.

/daɪˈnæmɪk/

the dynamics of political change

group dynamics (= the way in which members of a group react to each other)

/ˈiːgər/

eager crowds outside the stadium

Small eager faces looked up and listened.

/dʌl/

Life in a small town could be deadly dull.

The countryside was flat, dull and uninteresting.

/dʌm/

That was a pretty dumb thing to do.

If the police question you, act dumb (= pretend you do not know anything).

/dʌmp/

Too much toxic waste is being dumped at sea.

The dead body was just dumped by the roadside.

/ˈduːəʊ/

the comedy duo Laurel and Hardy

the goal-scoring duo of Coates and Winterbotham

adverb

efficiently

in a good and careful way, with no waste of time, money or energy

noun

ego

your sense of your own value and importance

adjective

elaborate

very complicated and detailed; carefully prepared and organized

noun

elbow

the joint between the upper and lower parts of the arm where it bends in the middle

adjective

electoral

connected with elections

noun

electronics

the branch of science and technology that studies electric currents in electronic equipment

adjective

elegant

attractive and showing a good sense of style

adjective

elementary

in or connected with the first stages of a course of study

verb

elevate

to give somebody/something a higher position or rank, often more important than they deserve

adjective

eligible

a person who is eligible for something or to do something, is able to have or do it because they have the right qualifications, are the right age, etc.

verb

eliminate

to remove or get rid of something

noun

elite

a small group of people in a society, etc. who are powerful and have a lot of influence, because they are rich, intelligent, etc.

verb

embark

to get onto a ship or plane; to put somebody/something onto a ship or plane

noun

embarrassment

shy, uncomfortable or guilty feelings; a feeling of being embarrassed

noun

embassy

a group of officials led by an ambassador who represent their government in a foreign country

verb

embed

to fix something in a substance or solid object

verb

embody

to express or represent an idea or a quality

verb

embrace

to put your arms around somebody as a sign of love or friendship

noun

emergence

the fact of somebody/something moving out of or away from something and becoming possible to see

noun

emission

the production or sending out of light, heat, gas, etc.

/ɪmˈbɑːdi/

embody something a politician who embodied the hopes of black youth

/ɪmˈbreɪs/

They embraced and promised to keep in touch.

embrace somebody She embraced her son warmly.

/ɪˈmɜːrdʒəns/

the island’s emergence from the sea 3 000 years ago

/ɪˈmɪʃn/

the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

/ɪmˈbɑːrk/

We stood on the pier and watched as they embarked.

/ɪmˈbærəsmənt/

I nearly died of embarrassment when he said that.

/ˈembəsi/

embassy officials

to inform the embassy of the situation

/ɪmˈbed/

be embedded in something an operation to remove glass that was embedded in his leg

/ˈelɪveɪt/

elevate somebody/something (to something) He elevated many of his friends to powerful positions within the government.

/ˈelɪdʒəbl/

eligible (for something) Only those over 70 are eligible for the special payment.

/ɪˈlɪmɪneɪt/

eliminate something Credit cards eliminate the need to carry a lot of cash.

/eɪˈliːt/

a member of the ruling/intellectual elite

Public opinion is influenced by the small elite who control the media.

/ɪˈlektərəl/

electoral systems/reforms

/ɪˌlekˈtrɑːnɪks/

the electronics industry

About 45 000 people worked in electronics in Scotland.

/ˈelɪgənt/

She was tall and elegant.

The diners all looked effortlessly elegant.

/ˌelɪˈmentri/

an elementary English course

a book for elementary students

/ɪˈfɪʃntli/

a very efficiently organized event

Resources must be used efficiently to avoid waste.

/ˈiːgəʊ/

He has the biggest ego of anyone I've ever met.

Winning the prize really boosted her ego.

/ɪˈlæbərət/

elaborate designs

She had prepared a very elaborate meal.

/ˈelbəʊ/

She jabbed him with her elbow.

He rested his elbows on his knees.

adverb

emotionally

in a way that is connected with people's feelings (= with the emotions)

noun

empire

a group of countries or states that are controlled by one leader or government

adjective

empirical

based on experiments or experience rather than ideas or theories

verb

empower

to give somebody the power or authority to do something

verb

enact

to pass a law

verb

encompass

to include a large number or range of things

noun

encouragement

the act of encouraging somebody to do something; something that encourages somebody

adjective

encouraging

that gives somebody support, courage or hope

noun

endeavour

an attempt to do something, especially something new or difficult

adjective

endless

very large in size or amount and seeming to have no end

verb

endorse

to say publicly that you support a person, statement or course of action

noun

endorsement

a public statement or action showing that you support somebody/something

verb

endure

to experience and deal with something that is painful or unpleasant without giving up

verb

enforce

to make sure that people obey a particular law or rule

noun

enforcement

the act of making people obey a particular law or rule

noun

engagement

an agreement to marry somebody; the period during which two people are engaged

adjective

engaging

interesting or pleasant in a way that attracts your attention

adjective

enjoyable

giving pleasure

verb

enquire

to ask somebody for some information

verb

enrich

to improve the quality of something, often by adding something to it

/ɪnˈgeɪdʒɪŋ/ an engaging smile	**/ɪnˈdʒɔɪəbl/** an enjoyable weekend/experience highly/really/thoroughly/very enjoyable	**/ɪnˈkwaɪər/** enquire about somebody/something I called the station to enquire about train times.	**/ɪnˈrɪtʃ/** The study of science has enriched all our lives.
/ɪnˈdʊr/ endure something They had to endure a long wait before the case came to trial.	**/ɪnˈfɔːrs/** enforce something It's the job of the police to enforce the law.	**/ɪnˈfɔːrsmənt/** strict enforcement of regulations law enforcement officers	**/ɪnˈgeɪdʒmənt/** Their engagement was announced in the local paper.
/ɪnˈdevər/ There have been great advances in the field of scientific endeavour.	**/ˈendləs/** endless patience endless opportunities for making money	**/ɪnˈdɔːrs/** I wholeheartedly endorse his remarks. Members of all parties endorsed a ban on land mines.	**/ɪnˈdɔːrsmənt/** The election victory is a clear endorsement of their policies.
/ɪˈnækt/ (be) enacted (by somebody/something) legislation enacted by parliament	**/ɪnˈkʌmpəs/** The job encompasses a wide range of responsibilities.	**/ɪnˈkɜːrɪdʒmənt/** a few words of encouragement He needs all the support and encouragement he can get.	**/ɪnˈkɜːrɪdʒɪŋ/** This month's unemployment figures are not very encouraging.
/ɪˈməʊʃənəli/ emotionally disturbed children I try not to become emotionally involved.	**/ˈempaɪər/** These invasions almost led to the collapse of the Roman Empire.	**/ɪmˈpɪrɪkl/** empirical evidence/knowledge/research an empirical study	**/ɪmˈpaʊər/** be empowered (to do something) The courts were empowered to impose the death sentence for certain crimes.

verb

enrol

to arrange for yourself or for somebody else to officially join a course, school, etc.

verb

ensue

to happen after or as a result of another event

noun

enterprise

a company or business

adjective

entertaining

that you enjoy watching, listening to, doing or experiencing

noun

enthusiast

a person who is very interested in something and spends a lot of time doing it

verb

entitle

to give somebody the right to have or to do something

noun

entity

something that exists separately from other things and has its own identity

noun

entrepreneur

a person who makes money by starting or running businesses, especially when this involves taking financial risks

noun

envelope

a flat paper container used for sending letters in, with a part that you stick down to close it

noun

epidemic

a large number of cases of a particular disease or medical condition happening at the same time in a particular community

noun

equality

the fact of being equal in rights, status, advantages, etc.

noun

equation

a statement showing that two amounts or values are equal, for example $2x + y = 54$

verb

equip

to provide yourself/somebody/something with the things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity

adjective

equivalent

equal in value, amount, meaning, importance, etc.

noun

equivalent

a thing, amount, word, etc. that is equal in value, meaning or purpose to something else

noun

era

a period of time, usually in history, that is different from other periods because of particular characteristics or events

verb

erect

to build something

verb

erupt

when a volcano erupts or burning rocks, smoke, etc. erupt or are erupted, the burning rocks, etc. are thrown out from the volcano

verb

escalate

to become greater, worse, more serious, etc.; to make something greater, worse, more serious, etc.

noun

essence

the most important quality or feature of something, that makes it what it is

/ɪˈrekt/

The church was erected in 1582.

/ɪˈrʌpt/

The volcano could erupt at any time.

erupt from something Ash began to erupt from the crater.

/ˈeskəleɪt/

the escalating costs of healthcare

escalate into something The fighting escalated into a full-scale war.

/ˈesns/

His paintings capture the essence of France.

/ɪˈkwɪp/

equip something to be fully/poorly equipped

She got a bank loan to rent and equip a small workshop.

/ɪˈkwɪvələnt/

250 grams or an equivalent amount in ounces

the price we would pay elsewhere for a broadly equivalent house

/ɪˈkwɪvələnt/

Send €20 or the equivalent in your own currency.

equivalent of something the modern equivalent of the Roman baths

/ˈɪrə/

the Victorian/modern/post-war era

/ˈenvələʊp/

Writing paper and envelopes are provided in your room.

/ˌepɪˈdemɪk/

the outbreak of a flu epidemic

An epidemic of measles broke out, and over 200 children died.

/iˈkwɑːləti/

racial/social/gender equality

We need to ensure equality of opportunity in all areas of work.

/ɪˈkweɪʒn/

the numbers on the right-hand side of the equation

/ɪnˈθuːziæst/

a football enthusiast

enthusiast of something an enthusiast of jazz

/ɪnˈtaɪtl/

be entitled to something You will be entitled to your pension when you reach 65.

/ˈentəti/

The unit has become part of a larger department and no longer exists as a separate entity.

/ˌɑːntrəprəˈnɜːr/

A creative entrepreneur, he was continually dreaming up new projects.

/ɪnˈrəʊl/

You need to enrol before the end of August.

(British English) to enrol on a course

/ɪnˈsuː/

An argument ensued.

The riot police swooped in and chaos ensued.

/ˈentərpraɪz/

He is in charge of an enterprise with a turnover of $26 billion.

/ˌentərˈteɪnɪŋ/

an entertaining speech/evening

I found the talk both informative and entertaining.

adverb

essentially

when you think about the true, important or basic nature of somebody/something

noun

establishment

an organization, a large institution or a hotel

adjective

eternal

without an end; existing or continuing forever

noun

ethic

moral principles that control or influence a person's behaviour

adjective

ethnic

connected with or belonging to a group of people that share a cultural tradition

verb

evacuate

to move people from a place of danger to a safer place

noun

evaluation

the act of forming an opinion of the amount, value or quality of something after thinking about it carefully

adjective

evident

clear; easily seen

verb

evoke

to bring a feeling, a memory or an image into your mind

noun

evolution

the slow steady development of plants, animals, etc. during the history of the earth, as they adapt to changes in their environment

adjective

evolutionary

connected with evolution; connected with slow steady development and change

verb

evolve

to develop gradually, especially from a simple to a more complicated form; to develop something in this way

verb

exaggerate

to make something seem larger, better, worse or more important than it really is

verb

exceed

to be greater than a particular number or amount

noun

excellence

the quality of being extremely good

noun

exception

a person or thing that is not included in a general statement

adjective

exceptional

unusually good

adjective

excess

in addition to an amount that is necessary, usual or legal

noun

excess

more than is necessary, reasonable or acceptable

adjective

excessive

greater than what seems reasonable or appropriate

/ɪkˈsepʃənl/ At the age of five he showed exceptional talent as a musician.	**/ˈekses/** Excess food is stored as fat. Driving with excess alcohol in the blood is a serious offence.	**/ɪkˈses/** You can throw away any excess. excess of something Are you suffering from an excess of stress in your life?	**/ɪkˈsesɪv/** They complained about the excessive noise coming from the upstairs flat.
/ɪgˈzædʒəreɪt/ The hotel was really filthy and I'm not exaggerating.	**/ɪkˈsiːd/** The price will not exceed £100.	**/ˈeksələns/** a reputation for academic excellence	**/ɪkˈsepʃn/** Most of the buildings in the town are modern, but the church is an exception.
/ɪˈvəʊk/ The music evoked memories of her youth. His case is unlikely to evoke public sympathy.	**/ˌevəˈluːʃn/** the evolution of the human species Darwin’s theory of evolution	**/ˌevəˈluːʃəneri/** evolutionary theory evolutionary change	**/ɪˈvɑːlv/** evolve (from something) (into something) The idea evolved from a drawing I discovered in the attic.
/ˈeθnɪk/ ethnic background/origin ethnic strife/tensions/violence (= between different ethnic groups)	**/ɪˈvækjueɪt/** evacuate something Police evacuated nearby buildings.	**/ɪˌvæljuˈeɪʃn/** an evaluation of the healthcare system The technique is not widely practised and requires further evaluation.	**/ˈevɪdənt/** The orchestra played with evident enjoyment.
/ɪˈsenʃəli/ There are three essentially different ways of tackling the problem.	**/ɪˈstæblɪʃmənt/** The visa is for foreign nationals wishing to study at a university, college or similar educational establishment.	**/ɪˈtɜːrnl/** the promise of eternal life in heaven She's an eternal optimist (= she always expects that the best will happen).	**/ˈeθɪk/** professional/business/medical ethics to draw up a code of ethics

verb

exclude

to deliberately not include something in what you are doing or considering

noun

exclusion

the act of preventing somebody/something from entering a place or taking part in something

adjective

exclusive

only to be used by one particular person or group; only given to one particular person or group

adverb

exclusively

for only one particular person, group or use

verb

execute

to kill somebody, especially as a legal punishment

noun

execution

the act of killing somebody, especially as a legal punishment

verb

exert

to use power or influence to affect somebody/something

noun

exhibit

an object or a collection of objects put in a public place, for example a museum, so that people can see it

verb

exhibit

to show something in a public place for people to enjoy or to give them information

noun

exile

the state of being sent to live in another country that is not your own, especially for political reasons or as a punishment

noun

exit

a way out of a public building or vehicle

verb

exit

to go out; to leave a building, stage, vehicle, etc.

adjective

exotic

from or in another country, especially a tropical one; seeming exciting and unusual because it seems to be connected with foreign countries

noun

expansion

an act of increasing or making something increase in size, amount or importance

noun

expenditure

the act of spending or using money; an amount of money spent

adjective

experimental

based on new ideas, forms or methods that are used to find out what effect they have

noun

expertise

expert knowledge or skill in a particular subject, activity or job

verb

expire

to be no longer legally acceptable because the period of time for which it could be used has ended

adjective

explicit

clear and easy to understand, so that you have no doubt what is meant

adverb

explicitly

clearly or directly, so that the meaning is easy to understand

/ˌekspɜːrˈtiːz/

professional/scientific/technical, etc. expertise

We have the expertise to help you run your business.

/ɪkˈspaɪər/

When does your driving licence expire?

Our lease on the house expires next month.

/ɪkˈsplɪsɪt/

He gave me very explicit directions on how to get there.

/ɪkˈsplɪsɪtli/

The report states explicitly that the system was to blame.

/ɪgˈzɑːtɪk/

brightly-coloured exotic flowers/plants/birds

She travels to all kinds of exotic locations all over the world.

/ɪkˈspænʃn/

a period of rapid economic expansion

Despite the recession the company is confident of further expansion.

/ɪkˈspendɪtʃər/

a reduction in public/government/military expenditure

/ɪkˌsperɪˈmentl/

The school's experimental teaching methods include letting the children decide what to study.

/ɪgˈzɪbɪt/

exhibit something (at/in…) They will be exhibiting their new designs at the trade fairs.

/ˈeksaɪl/

a place of exile

He returned after 40 years of exile.

/ˈeksɪt/

Where's the exit?

There is a fire exit on each floor of the building.

/ˈeksɪt/

(+ adv./prep.) The bullet entered her back and exited through her chest.

/ˈeksɪkjuːt/

be executed (for something) He was executed for treason.

/ˌeksɪˈkjuːʃn/

He faced execution by hanging for murder.

Over 200 executions were carried out last year.

/ɪgˈzɜːrt/

He exerted all his authority to make them accept the plan.

/ɪgˈzɪbɪt/

The museum contains some interesting exhibits on Spanish rural life.

/ɪkˈskluːd/

The cost of borrowing has been excluded from the inflation figures.

/ɪkˈskluːʒn/

exclusion (of somebody/something) (from something) He was disappointed with his exclusion from the England squad.

/ɪkˈskluːsɪv/

The hotel has exclusive access to the beach.

exclusive rights to televise the World Cup

/ɪkˈskluːsɪvli/

The resort caters almost exclusively for a high-society public.

verb

exploit

to treat a person or situation as an opportunity to gain an advantage for yourself

noun

exploitation

a situation in which somebody treats somebody else in an unfair way, especially in order to make money from their work

adjective

explosive

easily able or likely to explode

noun

explosive

a substance that is able or likely to cause an explosion

noun

exposure

the state of being in a place or situation where there is no protection from something harmful or unpleasant

noun

extension

the act of increasing the area of activity, group of people, etc. that is affected by something

adjective

extensive

covering a large area; great in amount

adverb

extensively

in a way that covers a large area

noun

extract

a short passage from a book, piece of music, etc. that gives you an idea of what the whole thing is like

verb

extract

to remove or obtain a substance from something, for example by using an industrial or a chemical process

noun

extremist

a person whose opinions, especially about religion or politics, are extreme, and who may do things that are violent or illegal for what they believe

noun

fabric

material made by weaving wool, cotton, silk, etc., used for making clothes, curtains, etc. and for covering furniture

adjective

fabulous

extremely good

verb

facilitate

to make an action or a process possible or easier

noun

faction

a small group of people within a larger one, whose members have some different aims and beliefs to those of the larger group

noun

faculty

a department or group of related departments in a college or university

verb

fade

to become or to make something become paler or less bright

adjective

failed

not successful

noun

fairness

the quality of treating people equally or in a way that is reasonable

adjective

fake

not what somebody claims it is; appearing to be something it is not

/feɪd/

The curtains had faded in the sun.

fade from something All colour had faded from the sky.

/feɪld/

a failed writer

a failed coup

/ˈfernəs/

The fairness of the judicial system is being questioned.

/feɪk/

There were a few stalls selling fake designer clothing.

/ˈfæbjələs/

They put on a fabulous performance.

Jana is a fabulous cook.

/fəˈsɪlɪteɪt/

The new trade agreement should facilitate more rapid economic growth.

/ˈfækʃn/

There are rival factions within the administration.

/ˈfæklti/

the Faculty of Law

students who are doing degrees in the Arts Faculty

/ˈekstrækt/

The following extract is taken from her new novel.

/ɪkˈstrækt/

a machine that extracts excess moisture from the air

/ɪkˈstriːmɪst/

left-wing/right-wing/political/religious extremists

/ˈfæbrɪk/

They sell a wide variety of printed cotton fabric.

/ɪkˈspəʊʒər/

prolonged exposure to harmful radiation

At high exposures, the chemical can affect the liver and kidneys.

/ɪkˈstenʃn/

the extension of new technology into developing countries

/ɪkˈstensɪv/

The house has extensive grounds.

The fire caused extensive damage.

/ɪkˈstensɪvli/

She has travelled extensively.

/ɪkˈsplɔɪt/

He exploited his father's name to get himself a job.

/ˌeksplɔɪˈteɪʃn/

the exploitation of children

/ɪkˈspləʊsɪv/

an explosive device (= a bomb)

an explosive mixture of chemicals

/ɪkˈspləʊsɪv/

plastic explosives

The bomb was packed with several pounds of high explosive.

noun

fame

the state of being known and talked about by many people

noun

fantasy

a pleasant situation that you imagine but that is unlikely to happen

noun

fare

the money that you pay to travel by bus, plane, taxi, etc.

adjective

fatal

causing or ending in death

noun

fate

the things, especially bad things, that will happen or have happened to somebody/something

adjective

favourable

making people have a good opinion of somebody/something

noun

feat

an action or a piece of work that needs skill, strength or courage

adjective

federal

having a system of government in which the individual states of a country have control over their own affairs, but are controlled by a central government for national decisions, etc

adjective

feminist

having or based on the belief that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men

noun

feminist

a person who supports the belief that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men

noun

fever

a medical condition in which a person has a temperature that is higher than normal

noun

fibre

the part of food that helps to keep a person healthy by keeping the bowels working and moving other food quickly through the body

adjective

fierce

angry and aggressive in a way that is frightening

noun

film-maker

a person who directs or produces films

noun

filter

a device containing paper, sand, chemicals, etc. that a liquid or gas is passed through in order to remove any materials that are not wanted

verb

filter

to pass liquid, light, etc. through a special device, especially to remove something that is not wanted

noun

fine

a sum of money that must be paid as punishment for breaking a law or rule

verb

fine

to make somebody pay money as an official punishment

noun

firearm

a gun that can be carried

noun

firefighter

a person whose job is to put out fires

/faɪn/

I got a parking fine for parking on double yellow lines.

/faɪn/

fine somebody (something) The magistrate fined him $400.

/ˈfaɪərɑːrm/

The police were issued with firearms.

/ˈfaɪərfaɪtər/

Firefighters were called to a house in Summertown.

/fɪrs/

a fierce dog

Two fierce eyes glared at them.

/ˈfɪlm meɪkər/

/ˈfɪltər/

an air/oil filter

a coffee/water filter

/ˈfɪltər/

All drinking water must be filtered.

Use a sun block that filters UVA effectively.

/ˈfemənɪst/

feminist demands/ideas/theories

the feminist movement

/ˈfemənɪst/

Nineteenth-century feminists demanded equal education and employment opportunities for single women.

/ˈfiːvər/

He has a high fever.

Aspirin should help reduce the fever.

/ˈfaɪbər/

dietary fibre

Dried fruits are especially high in fibre.

/feɪt/

The fate of the three men is unknown.

She sat outside, waiting to find out her fate.

/ˈfeɪvərəbl/

She made a favourable impression on his parents.

The biography shows him in a favourable light.

/fiːt/

The tunnel is a remarkable feat of engineering.

to accomplish/achieve/perform astonishing feats

/ˈfedərəl/

a federal republic

/feɪm/

to achieve/win instant fame

Daisy Ridley of ‘Star Wars’ fame (= famous for ‘Star Wars’)

/ˈfæntəsi/

He spoke of his childhood fantasies about becoming a famous football player.

/fer/

bus/taxi fares

train/rail fares

/ˈfeɪtl/

a fatal accident/blow/illness

a potentially fatal form of cancer

noun

firework

a small device containing powder that burns or explodes and produces bright coloured lights and loud noises, used especially at celebrations

adjective

firm

fairly hard; not easy to press into a different shape

adverb

firmly

in a strong or definite way

noun

fit

a sudden attack of an illness, such as epilepsy, in which somebody becomes unconscious and their body may make violent movements

noun

fixture

a sports event that has been arranged to take place on a particular date and at a particular place

noun

flavour

how food or drink tastes

noun

flaw

a mistake in something that means that it is not correct or does not work correctly

adjective

flawed

having a flaw; not perfect or correct

verb

flee

to leave a person or place very quickly, especially because you are afraid of possible danger

noun

fleet

a group of military ships commanded by the same person

noun

flesh

the soft substance between the skin and bones of animal or human bodies

noun

flexibility

the ability to change to suit new conditions or situations

verb

flourish

to develop quickly and become successful or common

noun

fluid

a liquid; a substance that can flow

adjective

fond

having warm or loving feelings for somebody, especially somebody you have known for a long time

noun

fool

a person who you think behaves or speaks in a way that lacks intelligence or good judgement

noun

footage

part of a film showing a particular event

verb

forbid

to order somebody not to do something; to order that something must not be done

noun

forecast

a statement about what will happen in the future, based on information that is available now

verb

forecast

to say what you think will happen in the future based on information that you have now

/ˈfʊtɪdʒ/

old film footage of the moon landing

People see live footage of the war at home on their televisions.

/fərˈbɪd/

forbid somebody (from doing something) He forbade them from mentioning the subject again.

/ˈfɔːrkæst/

The sales forecasts are encouraging.

It is difficult to make long-term forecasts for a fast-growing industry.

/ˈfɔːrkæst/

forecast something Experts are forecasting a recovery in the economy.

/ˈflɜːrɪʃ/

Few businesses are flourishing in the present economic climate.

/ˈfluːɪd/

body fluids (= for example, blood)

The doctor told him to drink plenty of fluids.

/fɑːnd/

Over the years, I have grown quite fond of her.

I've always been very fond of your mother.

/fuːl/

Don't be such a fool!

I felt a fool when I realized my mistake.

/fliː/

She burst into tears and fled.

flee from somebody/something a camp for refugees fleeing from the war

/fliːt/

a fleet of destroyers

Nelson destroyed the Franco-Spanish fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar.

/fleʃ/

The trap had cut deeply into the rabbit's flesh.

Tigers are flesh-eating animals.

/ˌfleksəˈbɪləti/

The new system offers a much greater degree of flexibility in the way work is organized.

/ˈfɪkstʃər/

There are plans to make the race an annual fixture.

/ˈfleɪvər/

The tomatoes give extra flavour to the sauce.

in flavour It is stronger in flavour than other Dutch cheeses.

/flɔː/

The argument is full of fundamental flaws.

flaw in something The report reveals fatal flaws in security at the airport.

/flɔːd/

seriously/fundamentally/fatally flawed

a flawed argument

/ˈfaɪərwɜːrk/

(British English) to let off a few fireworks

(North American English) to set off a few fireworks

/fɜːrm/

a firm bed/mattress

These peaches are still firm.

/ˈfɜːrmli/

'I can manage,' she said firmly.

It is now firmly established as one of the leading brands in the country.

/fɪt/

to have an epileptic fit

He suffered from headaches and fainting fits.

noun

foreigner

a person who comes from a different country

verb

forge

to put a lot of effort into making something successful or strong so that it will last

noun

format

the general arrangement, plan, design, etc. of something

noun

formation

the action of forming something; the process of being formed

adverb

formerly

in the past

noun

formula

a series of letters, numbers or symbols that represent a rule or law

verb

formulate

to create or prepare something carefully, giving particular attention to the details

adverb

forth

away from a place; out

adjective

forthcoming

going to happen, be published, etc. very soon

adjective

fortunate

having or bringing an advantage, an opportunity, a piece of good luck, etc.

noun

forum

an event or medium where people can exchange opinions and ideas on a particular issue; a meeting organized for this purpose

noun

fossil

the parts of a dead animal or a plant that have become hard and turned into rock

verb

foster

to encourage something to develop

noun

foundation

a principle, an idea or a fact that something is based on and that it grows from

noun

founder

a person who starts an organization, institution, etc. or causes something to be built

noun

fraction

a small part or amount of something

adjective

fragile

easily broken or damaged

noun

fragment

a small part of something that has broken off or comes from something larger

noun

framework

the parts of a building or an object that support its weight and give it shape

noun

franchise

formal permission given by a company to somebody who wants to sell its goods or services in a particular area

/ˈfrædʒl/

fragile china/glass/bones

Be careful not to drop it

/ˈfrægmənt/

fragment (of something) Police found fragments of glass near the scene.

/ˈfreɪmwɜːrk/

built on a wooden framework

The ship's elaborate metal framework was exposed.

/ˈfrɑntʃaɪz/

a franchise agreement/company

a catering/rail franchise

/ˈfɑːstər/

The club's aim is to foster better relations within the community.

/faʊnˈdeɪʃn/

Respect and friendship provide a solid foundation for marriage.

/ˈfaʊndər/

the founder and president of the company

a wife and husband who are joint founders of the company

/ˈfrækʃn/

Only a small fraction of a bank's total deposits will be withdrawn at any one time.

/ˌfɔːrθˈkʌmɪŋ/

the forthcoming elections

a list of forthcoming books

/ˈfɔːrtʃənət/

Remember those less fortunate than yourselves.

/ˈfɔːrəm/

forum (on something) to hold an international forum on drug abuse

/ˈfɑːsl/

fossils over two million years old

/ˈfɔːrmərli/

Namibia, formerly known as South West Africa

I learnt that the house had formerly been an inn.

/ˈfɔːrmjələ/

This formula is used to calculate the area of a circle.

/ˈfɔːrmjuleɪt/

formulate something to formulate a policy/theory/plan/proposal

/fɔːrθ/

They set forth at dawn.

Huge chimneys belched forth smoke and grime.

/ˈfɔːrənər/

The fact that I was a foreigner was a big disadvantage.

/fɔːrdʒ/

a move to forge new links between management and workers

/ˈfɔːrmæt/

The format of the new quiz show has proved popular.

/fɔːrˈmeɪʃn/

the formation of a new government

evidence of recent star formation in the galaxy

adverb

frankly

in an honest and direct way that people might not like

noun

fraud

the crime of cheating somebody in order to get money or goods illegally

adverb

freely

without anyone trying to prevent or control something

adjective

frequent

happening or doing something often

adjective

frustrated

feeling annoyed and impatient because you cannot do or achieve what you want

adjective

frustrating

causing you to feel annoyed and impatient because you cannot do or achieve what you want

noun

frustration

the feeling of being frustrated

verb

fulfil

to do or achieve what was hoped for or expected

adjective, adverb

full-time

for all the hours of a week during which people normally work or study, rather than just for a part of it

adjective

functional

practical and useful; with little or no decoration

adverb

fundamentally

in every way that is important; completely

noun

fundraising

the activity of collecting money for a charity or organization, often by organizing social events or entertainments

noun

funeral

a ceremony, often a religious one, for burying or cremating (= burning) a dead person

adjective

furious

very angry

noun

gallon

a unit for measuring liquid

noun

gambling

the activity of playing games of chance for money and of betting on horses, etc.

noun

gaming

playing computer games

noun

gathering

a meeting of people for a particular purpose

adjective

gay

sexually attracted to people of the same sex

noun

gaze

a long, steady look at somebody/something

/ˈgeɪmɪŋ/ online/mobile/console gaming	**/ˈgæðərɪŋ/** a social/family gathering He was asked to speak at a gathering of religious leaders.	**/geɪ/** gay men I didn't know he was gay.	**/geɪz/** He met her gaze (= looked at her while she looked at him).
/ˈfjuːnərəl/ Hundreds of people attended the funeral. a funeral procession	**/ˈfjʊriəs/** Their incompetence made me furious.	**/ˈgælən/** The tankers carried 130 000 gallons of fuel.	**/ˈgæmblɪŋ/** online/internet gambling The police are trying to stop all illegal gambling.
/ˌfʊl ˈtaɪm/ students in full-time education a full-time employee	**/ˈfʌŋkʃənl/** Bathrooms don't have to be purely functional. The office was large and functional rather than welcoming.	**/ˌfʌndəˈmentəli/** The two approaches are fundamentally different. By the 1960s the situation had changed fundamentally.	**/ˈfʌndreɪzɪŋ/** The hospice is planning a major fundraising event for June.
/ˈfrʌstreɪtɪd/ It's very easy to get frustrated in this job. His apathy just made her even more frustrated.	**/ˈfrʌstreɪtɪŋ/** It's frustrating to have to wait so long. The frustrating thing is, they probably won’t even be in when we get there.	**/frʌˈstreɪʃn/** in frustration Dave thumped the table in frustration.	**/fʊlˈfɪl/** to fulfil your dream/ambition/potential
/ˈfræŋkli/ He spoke frankly about the ordeal. They frankly admitted their responsibility.	**/frɔːd/** She was charged with credit card fraud. It was said that the property had been obtained by fraud.	**/ˈfriːli/** the country’s first freely elected president EU citizens can travel freely between member states.	**/ˈfriːkwənt/** He is a frequent visitor to this country. Her calls became less frequent.

verb

gaze

to look steadily at somebody/something for a long time, either because you are very interested or surprised, or because you are thinking of something else

noun

gear

equipment in a vehicle that changes the relation between engine speed (or pedal speed on a bicycle) and the speed of the wheels moving forwards or backwards

noun

gender

the fact of being male or female, especially when considered with reference to social and cultural differences, rather than differences in biology

noun

gene

a unit inside a cell that controls a particular quality in a living thing that has been passed on from its parents

adjective

generic

shared by, including or typical of a whole group of things; not specific

adjective

genetic

connected with genes (= the units in the cells of a living thing that control its physical characteristics) or genetics (= the study of genes)

noun

genius

unusually great intelligence, skill or artistic ability

noun

genocide

the murder of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group, with the aim of destroying that nation or group

adjective

genuine

real; exactly what it appears to be; not artificial

adverb

genuinely

truly; in a way that is exactly what it appears to be and is not artificial

noun

gesture

a movement that you make with your hands, your head or your face to show a particular meaning

noun

gig

a performance by musicians playing popular music or jazz in front of an audience; a similar performance by a comedian

noun

glance

a quick look

verb

glance

to look quickly at something/somebody

noun

glimpse

a sight of somebody/something for a very short time, when you do not see the person or thing completely

noun

globalization

the fact that different cultures and economic systems around the world are becoming connected and similar to each other because of the influence of large multinational companies and of improved communication

noun

globe

the world (used especially to emphasize its size)

adjective

glorious

deserving or bringing great success and making somebody/something famous

noun

glory

great success that brings somebody praise and honour and makes them famous

adjective

golden

made of gold

/gləʊb/

tourists from every corner of the globe

/ˈglɔːriəs/

We congratulate you on this glorious victory.

This is a glorious chapter in our country's history.

/ˈglɔːri/

Olympic glory in the 100 metres

I do all the work and he gets all the glory.

/ˈgəʊldən/

a golden crown

/glæns/

to take/have a glance at the newspaper headlines

a cursory/brief/casual/furtive glance

/glæns/

She glanced at her watch.

He glanced around the room.

/glɪmps/

glimpse (of somebody/something) He caught a glimpse of her in the crowd.

/ˌgləʊbələˈzeɪʃn/

/ˈdʒenjuɪn/

Is the painting a genuine Picasso?

/ˈdʒenjuɪnli/

There are some genuinely funny moments in the film.

/ˈdʒestʃər/

He made a rude gesture at the driver of the other car.

/gɪg/

They're doing a gig in Boston tonight.

an Arctic Monkeys gig

/dʒəˈnerɪk/

‘Vine fruit’ is the generic term for currants and raisins.

/dʒəˈnetɪk/

genetic and environmental factors

genetic abnormalities

/ˈdʒiːniəs/

the genius of Shakespeare

a statesman of genius

/ˈdʒenəsaɪd/

Refugees gave accounts of the mass genocide.

genocide against somebody genocide against ethnic minorities

/geɪz/

She gazed at him in amazement.

He sat for hours just gazing into space.

/gɪr/

Careless use of the clutch may damage the gears.

The car pulled up with a screech of brakes and a grinding of gears.

/ˈdʒendər/

issues of class, race and gender

traditional concepts of gender

/dʒiːn/

a dominant/recessive gene

genes that code for the colour of the eyes

noun

goodness

the quality of being good

adjective

gorgeous

very beautiful and attractive; giving great pleasure

noun

governance

the activity of governing a country or controlling a company or an organization; the way in which a country is governed or a company or institution is controlled

noun

governor

a person who is the official head of a country or region that is governed by another country

noun

grace

an attractive quality of movement that is smooth and done with control; a simple and beautiful quality

adjective

graphic

connected with drawings and design, especially in the production of books, magazines, websites, etc.

noun

graphics

designs, drawings or pictures that are used especially in the production of books, magazines, websites, etc.

noun

grasp

a strong hold of somebody/something or control over somebody/something

verb

grasp

to take a strong hold of somebody/something

adjective

grave1

very serious and important; giving you a reason to feel worried

noun

grave1

a place in the ground where a dead person is buried

noun

gravity

the force that attracts objects in space towards each other, and that on the earth pulls them towards the centre of the planet, so that things fall to the ground when they are dropped

adverb

greatly

very much

noun

greenhouse

a building with glass sides and a glass roof for growing plants in

noun

grid

a pattern of straight lines, usually crossing each other to form squares

noun

grief

a very sad feeling, especially when somebody dies

noun

grin

a wide smile

verb

grin

to smile widely

verb

grind

to break or press something into very small pieces between two hard surfaces or using a special machine

noun

grip

an act of holding somebody/something tightly; a particular way of doing this

/grɪn/

She gave a broad grin.

a wry/sheepish grin

/grɪn/

They grinned with delight when they heard our news.

/graɪnd/

to grind coffee/corn

The animal has teeth that grind its food into a pulp.

/grɪp/

Keep a tight grip on the rope.

to loosen/release/relax your grip

/ˈgreɪtli/

People's reaction to the film has varied greatly.

a greatly increased risk

/ˈgriːnhaʊs/

/grɪd/

New York’s grid of streets

/griːf/

She was overcome with grief when her husband died.

/græsp/

He grasped my hand and shook it warmly.

Kay grasped him by the wrist.

/greɪv/

The police have expressed grave concern about the missing child's safety.

/greɪv/

We visited Grandma's grave.

British war graves in France and Belgium

/ˈgrævəti/

Newton’s law of gravity

/greɪs/

She moves with the natural grace of a ballerina.

a debut album of uncommon grace and beauty

/ˈgræfɪk/

graphic design

a graphic designer

/ˈgræfɪks/

Text and graphics are prepared separately and then combined.

/græsp/

I grabbed him, but he slipped from my grasp.

She felt a firm grasp on her arm.

/ˈgʊdnəs/

the essential goodness of human nature

evidence of God’s goodness

/ˈgɔːrdʒəs/

a gorgeous girl/man

a gorgeous view

/ˈgʌvərnəns/

He emphasized the company's commitment to high standards of corporate governance.

/ˈgʌvərnər/

the former governor of the colony

He was confirmed as the provincial governor for another five-year term.

verb

grip

to hold something tightly

noun

grocery

a shop that sells food and other things used in the home. In American English 'grocery store' is often used to mean 'supermarket'.

adjective

gross

being the total amount of something before anything is taken away

noun

guerrilla

a member of a small group of soldiers who are not part of an official army and who fight against official soldiers, usually to try to change the government

noun

guidance

help or advice that is given to somebody, especially by somebody older or with more experience

noun

guideline

a set of rules or instructions that are given by an official organization telling you how to do something, especially something difficult

noun

guilt

the unhappy feelings caused by knowing or thinking that you have done something wrong

noun

gut

the tube in the body through which food passes when it leaves the stomach

noun

habitat

the place where a particular type of animal or plant is normally found

verb

hail

to describe somebody/something as being very good or special, especially in newspapers, etc.

adverb

halfway

at an equal distance between two points; in the middle of a period of time

noun

halt

an act of stopping the movement or progress of somebody/something

verb

halt

to stop; to make somebody/something stop

noun

handful

the amount of something that can be held in one hand

noun

handling

the way that somebody deals with or treats a situation, a person, an animal, etc.

adjective

handy

easy to use or to do

noun

harassment

the act of annoying or worrying somebody by putting pressure on them or saying or doing unpleasant things to them

noun

harbour

an area of water on the coast, protected from the open sea by strong walls, where ships can shelter

noun

hardware

the machines and electronic parts in a computer or other electronic system

noun

harmony

a state of peaceful existence and agreement

/həˈræsmənt/

sexual/racial harassment

workplace/street harassment (= that happens at work/in the street)

/ˈhɑːrbər/

Several boats lay at anchor in the harbour.

to enter/leave harbour

/ˈhɑːrdwer/

We supply computer hardware to businesses.

The laptop drawing tablet is a very useful piece of hardware.

/ˈhɑːrməni/

social/racial harmony

in harmony They lived together in perfect harmony.

/hɔːlt/

She walked towards him and then halted.

‘Halt!’ the Major ordered (= used as a command to soldiers).

/ˈhændfʊl/

a handful of rice

She scooped up handfuls of loose earth.

/ˈhændlɪŋ/

I was impressed by his handling of the affair.

This horse needs firm handling.

/ˈhændi/

a handy little tool

handy hints/tips for removing stains

/ˈhæbɪtæt/

The panda's natural habitat is the bamboo forest.

The marshes provide a rich habitat for water plants.

/heɪl/

be hailed (as) something The conference was hailed as a great success.

/ˌhæfˈweɪ/

It's about halfway between London and Bristol.

He left halfway through the ceremony.

/hɔːlt/

Work came to a halt when the machine broke down.

The thought brought her to an abrupt halt.

/ˈgaɪdns/

guidance for teachers on how to use video in the classroom

/ˈgaɪdlaɪn/

The government has drawn up guidelines on the treatment of the mentally ill.

/gɪlt/

She had feelings of guilt about leaving her children and going to work.

/gʌt/

It can take up to 72 hours for food to pass through the gut.

/grɪp/

grip something ‘Please don't go,’ he said, gripping her arm.

/ˈgrəʊsəri/

the corner grocery store

/grəʊs/

gross weight (= including the container or wrapping)

/gəˈrɪlə/

urban guerrillas (= those who fight in towns)

guerrilla war/warfare (= fought by guerrillas on one or both sides)

adjective

harsh

cruel, severe and unkind

noun

harvest

the time of year when the crops are gathered in on a farm, etc.; the act of cutting and gathering crops

verb

harvest

to cut and gather a crop; to catch a number of animals or fish to eat

noun

hatred

a very strong feeling of dislike for somebody/something

verb

haunt

if the ghost of a dead person haunts a place, people say that they have seen it there

noun

hazard

something that can be dangerous or cause damage

noun

headquarters

a place from which an organization or a military operation is controlled; the people who work there

verb

heal

to become healthy again; to make something healthy again

noun

healthcare

the service of providing medical care

verb

heighten

if a feeling or an effect heightens, or something heightens it, it becomes stronger or increases

noun

helmet

a type of hard hat that protects the head, worn, for example, by a police officer, a soldier or a person riding a bike or motorbike or playing some sports

adverb

hence

for this reason

noun

herb

a plant whose leaves, flowers or seeds are used to add taste to food, in medicines or for their pleasant smell.

parsley, mint and oregano are all herbs.

noun

heritage

the history, traditions, buildings and objects that a country or society has had for many years and that are considered an important part of its character

adjective

hidden

something that is hidden is kept or located in a place where it cannot be seen

noun

hierarchy

a system, especially in a society or an organization, in which people are organized into different levels of importance from highest to lowest

adjective

high-profile

receiving or involving a lot of attention and discussion in the media

noun

highway

a main road for travelling long distances, especially one connecting and going through cities and towns

adjective

hilarious

extremely funny

noun

hint

something that you say or do in an indirect way in order to show somebody what you are thinking

/ˌhaɪ ˈprəʊfaɪl/

a high-profile campaign

/ˈhaɪweɪ/

Plans were being made for the construction of a new interstate highway system.

/hɪˈleriəs/

a hilarious joke/story

Lynn found the whole situation hilarious.

/hɪnt/

He gave a broad hint (= one that was obvious) that he was thinking of retiring.

/ɜːrb/

a herb garden

(North American English) an herb garden

/ˈherɪtɪdʒ/

Spain’s rich cultural heritage

The building is part of our national heritage.

/ˈhɪdn/

Hidden dangers lurk in the ocean depths.

A reporter wearing a hidden camera got footage of the abuse.

/ˈhaɪərɑːrki/

the social/political hierarchy

She's quite high up in the management hierarchy.

/ˈhelθ ker/

the costs of healthcare for the elderly

community healthcare

/ˈhaɪtn/

Tension has heightened after the recent bomb attack.

/ˈhelmɪt/

Police in riot helmets lined the streets.

A protective helmet should be worn at all times.

/hens/

We suspect they are trying to hide something, hence the need for an independent inquiry.

/hɔːnt/

A headless rider haunts the country lanes.

I’ll come back to haunt you!

/ˈhæzərd/

a fire/safety hazard

/ˈhedkwɔːrtərz/

The firm’s headquarters is/are in London.

Several companies have their headquarters in the area.

/hiːl/

It took a long time for the wounds to heal.

heal up The cut healed up without leaving a scar.

/hɑːrʃ/

The punishment was harsh and unfair.

The minister received some harsh criticism.

/ˈhɑːrvɪst/

harvest time

Farmers are extremely busy during the harvest.

/ˈhɑːrvɪst/

The nuts are ready to harvest in September.

In the US, more than 130 000 tons of live oysters are harvested each year.

/ˈheɪtrɪd/

He looked at me with intense hatred.

There was fear and hatred in his voice.

verb

hint

to suggest something in an indirect way

noun

hip

the area at either side of the body between the top of the leg and the middle part of the body

noun

historian

a person who studies or writes about history; an expert in history

noun

homeland

the country where a person was born

adjective

homeless

having no home, and therefore typically living on the streets

noun

honesty

the quality of being honest

noun

hook

a curved piece of metal, plastic or wire for hanging things on, catching fish with, etc.

verb

hook

to fasten or hang something on something else using a hook; to be fastened or hanging in this way

adjective

hopeful

believing that something you want will happen

adverb

hopefully

used to express what you hope will happen

noun

horizon

the furthest that you can see, where the sky seems to meet the land or the sea

noun

horn

a hard pointed part that grows, usually in pairs, on the heads of some animals, such as sheep and cows. Horns are often curved.

noun

hostage

a person who is captured and held prisoner by a person or group, and who may be injured or killed if people do not do what the person or group is asking

adjective

hostile

aggressive or unfriendly and ready to argue or fight

noun

hostility

aggressive or unfriendly feelings or behaviour

adjective

humanitarian

connected with helping people who are suffering and improving the conditions that they are living in

noun

humanity

people in general

adjective

humble

showing you do not think that you are as important as other people

noun

hunger

the state of not having enough food to eat, especially when this causes illness or death

noun

hydrogen

a chemical element. Hydrogen is a gas that is the lightest of all the elements. It combines with oxygen to form water.

/hjuːˈmænəti/

He was found guilty of crimes against humanity.

/ˈhʌmbl/

Be humble enough to learn from your mistakes.

my humble tribute to this great man

/ˈhʌŋgər/

Around fifty people die of hunger every day in the camp.

/ˈhaɪdrədʒən/

/ˈhɑːstɪdʒ/

Three children were taken hostage during the bank robbery.

/ˈhɑːstl/

The speaker got a hostile reception from the audience.

/hɑːˈstɪləti/

There was a barely veiled hostility in her tone.

/hjuːˌmænɪˈteriən/

to provide humanitarian aid to the war zone

humanitarian issues

/ˈhəʊpfl/

hopeful (that…) I feel hopeful that we'll find a suitable house very soon.

/ˈhəʊpfəli/

Hopefully, we'll arrive before dark.

/həˈraɪzn/

The sun sank below the horizon.

A ship appeared on the horizon.

/hɔːrn/

a large bull with curved horns

/ˈhəʊmləs/

The scheme has been set up to help homeless people.

/ˈɑːnəsti/

She answered all my questions with her usual honesty.

/hʊk/

a picture/curtain/coat hook

a fish hook

/hʊk/

hook something + adv./prep. We hooked the trailer to the back of the car.

/hɪnt/

hint at something What are you hinting at?

hint (that)… They hinted (that) there might be more job losses.

/hɪp/

She stood with her hands on her hips.

These jeans are too tight around the hips.

/hɪˈstɔːriən/

No serious historian today accepts this theory.

Revisionist historians have questioned the accepted version of events.

/ˈhəʊmlænd/

Many refugees have been forced to flee their homeland.

noun

hypothesis

an idea or explanation of something that is based on a few known facts but that has not yet been proved to be true or correct

noun

icon

a small symbol on a computer or smartphone screen that represents a program or a file

noun

ID

an official way of showing who you are, for example a document with your name, date of birth and often a photograph on it (the abbreviation for ‘identity’ or ‘identification’)

adjective

identical

similar in every detail

noun

identification

the process of showing, proving or recognizing who or what somebody/something is

adjective

ideological

based on or connected with an ideology

noun

ideology

a set of ideas that an economic or political system is based on

noun

idiot

a very stupid person

noun

ignorance

a lack of knowledge or information about something

noun

illusion

a false idea or belief, especially about somebody or about a situation

noun

imagery

language that produces pictures in the minds of people reading or listening

adjective

immense

extremely large or great

noun

immigration

the process of coming to live permanently in a different country from the one you were born in; the number of people who do this

adjective

imminent

likely to happen very soon

adjective

immune

that cannot catch or be affected by a particular disease or illness

verb

implement

to make something that has been officially decided start to happen or be used

noun

implementation

the act of making something that has been officially decided start to happen or be used

noun

implication

a possible effect or result of an action or a decision

verb

imprison

to put somebody in a prison or another place from which they cannot escape

noun

imprisonment

the act of putting somebody in a prison or another place from which they cannot escape; the state of being there

/ˌɪmplɪmenˈteɪʃn/ the implementation of the new system	**/ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃn/** They failed to consider the wider implications of their actions.	**/ɪmˈprɪzn/** be imprisoned (for something) They were imprisoned for possession of drugs.	**/ɪmˈprɪznmənt/** to be sentenced to life imprisonment for murder
/ˌɪmɪˈgreɪʃn/ legal/illegal immigration We are strongly supportive of immigration and multiculturalism.	**/ˈɪmɪnənt/** the imminent threat of invasion The system is in imminent danger of collapse.	**/ɪˈmjuːn/** Adults are often immune to German measles.	**/ˈɪmplɪment/** to implement changes/decisions/policies/reforms A new work programme for young people will be implemented.
/ˈɪgnərəns/ They fought a long battle against prejudice and ignorance.	**/ɪˈluːʒn/** under the illusion that… She's under the illusion that (= believes wrongly that) she'll get the job.	**/ˈɪmɪdʒəri/** poetic imagery	**/ɪˈmens/** There is still an immense amount of work to be done.
/aɪˌdentɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ The identification of the crash victims was a long and difficult task.	**/ˌaɪdiəˈlɑːdʒɪkl/** ideological differences This was rejected for ideological reasons.	**/ˌaɪdiˈɑːlədʒi/** Marxist/capitalist ideology	**/ˈɪdiət/** When I lost my passport, I felt such an idiot. Not that switch, you idiot!
/haɪˈpɑːθəsɪs/ to formulate/confirm a hypothesis a hypothesis about the function of dreams	**/ˈaɪkɑːn/** Click on the printer icon with the mouse. Tap the app icon on your phone to open it.	**/ˌaɪ ˈdiː/** You must carry ID at all times. The police checked IDs at the gate.	**/aɪˈdentɪkl/** a row of identical houses The two pictures are similar, although not identical.

noun

inability

the fact of not being able to do something

adjective

inadequate

not enough; not good enough

adjective

inappropriate

not suitable or appropriate in a particular situation

noun

incentive

something that encourages you to do something

noun

incidence

the extent to which something happens or has an effect

adjective

inclined

wanting to do something

noun

inclusion

the fact of including somebody/something; the fact of being included

verb

incorporate

to include something so that it forms a part of something

adjective

incorrect

not accurate or true

verb

incur

if you incur something unpleasant, you are in a situation in which you have to deal with it

noun

independence

freedom from political control by other countries

noun

index

a list of names or topics that are referred to in a book, etc., usually arranged at the end of a book in alphabetical order or listed in a separate file or book

noun

indication

a remark or sign that shows that something is happening or what somebody is thinking or feeling

noun

indicator

a sign that shows you what something is like or how a situation is changing

noun

indictment

a sign that a system, society, etc. is very bad or very wrong

adjective

indigenous

coming from a particular place and having lived there for a long time before other people came there; relating to, belonging to or developed by these people

verb

induce

to persuade or influence somebody to do something

verb

indulge

to allow yourself to have or do something that you like, especially something that is considered bad for you

noun

inequality

the unfair difference between groups of people in society, when some have more wealth, status or opportunities than others

adjective

inevitable

that you cannot avoid or prevent

/ɪnˈduːs/

Nothing would induce me to take the job.

/ɪnˈdʌldʒ/

indulge in something They went into town to indulge in some serious shopping.

/ˌɪnɪˈkwɑːləti/

We need to tackle inequality of opportunity wherever we find it.

/ɪnˈevɪtəbl/

It was an inevitable consequence of the decision.

it is inevitable that It was inevitable that there would be job losses.

/ˌɪndɪˈkeɪʃn/

indication of something They gave no indication of how the work should be done.

/ˈɪndɪkeɪtər/

The economic indicators are better than expected.

These atmospheric waves are a reliable indicator of weather changes.

/ɪnˈdaɪtmənt/

The poverty in our cities is a damning indictment of modern society.

/ɪnˈdɪdʒənəs/

the indigenous peoples/languages of an area

Indigenous Australians/Canadians

/ˌɪnkəˈrekt/

incorrect information/spelling

His version of what happened is incorrect.

/ɪnˈkɜːr/

She had incurred the wrath of her father by marrying without his consent.

/ˌɪndɪˈpendəns/

Cuba gained independence from Spain in 1898.

/ˈɪndeks/

Look it up in the index.

Author and subject indexes are available on a library database.

/ˈɪnsɪdəns/

an area with a high incidence of crime

/ɪnˈklaɪnd/

She was inclined to trust him.

He writes only when he feels inclined to.

/ɪnˈkluːʒn/

His inclusion in the team is in doubt.

/ɪnˈkɔːrpəreɪt/

incorporate something The new car design incorporates all the latest safety features.

/ˌɪnəˈbɪləti/

the government’s inability to provide basic services

/ɪnˈædɪkwət/

inadequate supplies

/ˌɪnəˈprəʊpriət/

inappropriate behaviour/language

/ɪnˈsentɪv/

There is no incentive for people to save fuel.

adverb

inevitably

as is certain to happen

adjective

infamous

well known for being bad or evil

noun

infant

a baby or very young child

verb

infect

to make a disease or an illness spread to a person, an animal or a plant

verb

infer

to reach an opinion or decide that something is true on the basis of information that is available

noun

inflation

a general rise in the prices of services and goods in a particular country, resulting in a fall in the value of money; the rate at which this happens

verb

inflict

to make somebody/something suffer something unpleasant

adjective

influential

having a lot of influence on somebody/something

noun

info

information

noun

infrastructure

the basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organization to run smoothly, for example buildings, transport and water and power supplies

noun

inhabitant

a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

adjective

inherent

that is a basic or permanent part of somebody/something and that cannot be removed

verb

inherit

to receive money, property, etc. from somebody when they die

verb

inhibit

to prevent something from happening or make it happen more slowly or less frequently than normal

verb

initiate

to make something begin

verb

inject

to put a drug or other substance into a person's or an animal's body using a syringe

noun

injection

an act of injecting somebody with a drug or other substance

noun

injustice

the fact of a situation being unfair and of people not being treated equally; an unfair act or an example of unfair treatment

noun

ink

coloured liquid for writing, drawing and printing

noun

inmate

one of the people living in an institution such as a prison or a psychiatric hospital

/ɪnˈdʒekʃn/

to give somebody an injection

He was treated with penicillin injections.

/ɪnˈdʒʌstɪs/

We are committed to fighting against poverty and injustice.

/ɪŋk/

in ink written in ink

different coloured inks

/ˈɪnmeɪt/

The jail has 500 inmates.

He was attacked by a fellow inmate.

/ɪnˈherɪt/

inherit something from somebody She inherited a fortune from her father.

/ɪnˈhɪbɪt/

A lack of oxygen may inhibit brain development in the unborn child.

/ɪˈnɪʃieɪt/

to initiate legal proceedings against somebody

The government has initiated a programme of economic reform.

/ɪnˈdʒekt/

inject something (into yourself/somebody/something) Adrenaline was injected into the muscle.

/ˈɪnfəʊ/

For more info, click here.

I couldn't find any contact info for the company.

/ˈɪnfrəstrʌktʃər/

/ɪnˈhæbɪtənt/

the oldest inhabitant of the village

It is a town of about 10 000 inhabitants.

/ɪnˈherənt/

the difficulties inherent in a study of this type

Violence is inherent in our society.

/ɪnˈfɜːr/

infer something (from something) Much of the meaning must be inferred from the context.

/ɪnˈfleɪʃn/

the fight against rising inflation

to control/curb inflation

/ɪnˈflɪkt/

inflict something on/upon somebody/something They inflicted a humiliating defeat on the home team.

/ˌɪnfluˈenʃl/

a highly influential book

/ɪnˈevɪtəbli/

Inevitably, the press exaggerated the story.

/ˈɪnfəməs/

a general who was infamous for his brutality

the most infamous concentration camp

/ˈɪnfənt/

a nursery for infants under two

their infant son

/ɪnˈfekt/

infect somebody/something (with something) It is not possible to infect another person through kissing.

noun

innovation

the introduction of new things, ideas or ways of doing something

adjective

innovative

introducing or using new ideas, ways of doing something, etc.

noun

input

time, knowledge, ideas, etc. that you put into work, a project, etc. in order to make it succeed; the act of putting something in

verb

insert

to put something into something else or between two things

noun

insertion

the act of putting something inside something else; a thing that is put inside something else

noun

insider

a person who knows a lot about a group or an organization, because they are part of it

verb

inspect

to look closely at something/somebody, especially to check that everything is as it should be

noun

inspection

an official visit to a school, factory, etc. in order to check that rules are being obeyed and that standards are acceptable

noun

inspector

an officer of middle rank in the police force

noun

inspiration

the process that takes place when somebody sees or hears something that causes them to have exciting new ideas or makes them want to create something, especially in art, music or literature

noun

installation

the act of fixing equipment or furniture in position so that it can be used

adjective

instant

happening immediately

adverb

instantly

immediately

noun

instinct

a natural quality that makes people and animals tend to behave in a particular way using the knowledge and abilities that they were born with rather than thought or training

adjective

institutional

connected with a large important organization, for example a university or bank

verb

instruct

to tell somebody to do something, especially in a formal or official way

adjective

instrumental

important in making something happen

adjective

insufficient

not large, strong or important enough for a particular purpose

noun

insult

a remark or an action that is said or done in order to offend somebody

verb

insult

to say or do something that offends somebody

/ˌɪnstrəˈmentl/

The Conservation Trust performs an instrumental role in the protection of rural environments.

/ˌɪnsəˈfɪʃnt/

insufficient time

The management paid insufficient attention to working conditions.

/ˈɪnsʌlt/

The crowd were shouting insults at the police.

/ɪnˈsʌlt/

I have never been so insulted in my life!

She felt insulted by the low offer.

/ˈɪnstəntli/

Her voice is instantly recognizable.

The driver was killed instantly.

/ˈɪnstɪŋkt/

She did not seem to have any of the usual maternal instincts.

/ˌɪnstɪˈtuːʃənl/

institutional investors

/ɪnˈstrʌkt/

instruct somebody to do something The letter instructed him to report to headquarters immediately.

/ɪnˈspektər/

Inspector Maggie Forbes

He reached the rank of inspector.

/ˌɪnspəˈreɪʃn/

Dreams can be a rich source of inspiration for an artist.

/ˌɪnstəˈleɪʃn/

installation costs

Installation of the new system will take several days.

/ˈɪnstənt/

This account gives you instant access to your money.

/ɪnˈsɜːrʃn/

An examination is carried out before the insertion of the tube.

/ɪnˈsaɪdər/

The situation was described by one insider as ‘absolute chaos’.

/ɪnˈspekt/

inspect something/somebody The teacher walked around inspecting their work.

/ɪnˈspekʃn/

Regular inspections are carried out at the prison.

/ˌɪnəˈveɪʃn/

an age of technological innovation

The company is very interested in product design and innovation.

/ˈɪnəveɪtɪv/

There will be a prize for the most innovative design.

/ˈɪnpʊt/

I'd appreciate your input on this.

/ɪnˈsɜːrt/

insert something (in/into something) Insert coins into the slot and press for a ticket.

adjective

intact

complete and not damaged

noun

intake

the amount of food, drink, etc. that you take into your body

adjective

integral

being an essential part of something

verb

integrate

to combine two or more things so that they work together; to combine with something else in this way

adjective

integrated

in which many different parts are closely connected and work successfully together

noun

integration

the act or process of combining two or more things so that they work together

noun

integrity

the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles

adjective

intellectual

connected with or using a person's ability to think in a logical way and understand things

noun

intellectual

a person who is well educated and enjoys activities in which they have to think seriously about things

verb

intensify

to increase in degree or strength; to make something increase in degree or strength

noun

intensity

the state or quality of being intense

adjective

intensive

involving a lot of work or activity done in a short time

noun

intent

what you intend to do

verb

interact

to communicate with somebody, especially while you work, play or spend time with them

noun

interaction

the act of communicating with somebody, especially while you work, play or spend time with them

adjective

interactive

that allows information to be passed continuously and in both directions between a computer or other device and the person who uses it

noun

interface

the way a computer program presents information to a user or receives information from a user, in particular the layout of the screen and the menus

verb

interfere

to get involved in and try to influence a situation that should not really involve you, in a way that annoys other people

noun

interference

the act of getting involved in and trying to influence a situation that should not really involve you, in a way that annoys other people

adjective

interim

intended to last for only a short time until somebody/something more permanent is found

/ˈɪntərfeɪs/ the user interface	**/ˌɪntərˈfɪr/** I wish my mother would stop interfering and let me make my own decisions.	**/ˌɪntərˈfɪrəns/** interference (in something) They resent foreign interference in the internal affairs of their country.	**/ˈɪntərɪm/** an interim government/measure/report The vice-president took power in the interim period before the election.
/ɪnˈtent/ She denies possessing the drug with intent to supply.	**/ˌɪntərˈækt/** Teachers have a limited amount of time to interact with each child.	**/ˌɪntərˈækʃn/** the interaction between performers and their audience	**/ˌɪntərˈæktɪv/** interactive displays/video using ICT to create an interactive learning experience
/ˌɪntəˈlektʃuəl/ He was a leading intellectual of his day.	**/ɪnˈtensɪfaɪ/** Violence intensified during the night. The fighting in the area has intensified sharply.	**/ɪnˈtensəti/** intensity of light/sound/colour intensity of feeling/concentration/relief	**/ɪnˈtensɪv/** an intensive language course two weeks of intensive training
/ˈɪntɪgreɪtɪd/ an integrated programme of patient care an integrated transport system (= including buses, trains, taxis, etc.)	**/ˌɪntɪˈgreɪʃn/** The aim is to promote closer economic integration.	**/ɪnˈtegrəti/** personal/professional/artistic integrity She behaved with absolute integrity.	**/ˌɪntəˈlektʃuəl/** Gifted children typically show great intellectual curiosity and a wide range of interests.
/ɪnˈtækt/ Most of the house remains intact even after two hundred years.	**/ˈɪnteɪk/** high fluid intake to reduce your daily intake of salt	**/ˈɪntɪgrəl/** Music is an integral part of the school's curriculum.	**/ˈɪntɪgreɪt/** integrate into/with something These programs will integrate with your existing software.

adjective

interior

connected with the inside part of something

noun

interior

the inside part of something

adjective

intermediate

located between two places, things, states, etc.

noun

interpretation

the particular way in which something is understood or explained

noun

interval

a period of time between two events

verb

intervene

to become involved in a situation in order to improve or help it

noun

intervention

action taken to improve or help a situation

adjective

intimate

having a close and friendly relationship

adjective

intriguing

very interesting because of being unusual or not having an obvious answer

verb

invade

to enter a country, town, etc. using military force in order to take control of it

noun

invasion

the act of an army entering another country by force in order to take control of it

noun

investigator

a person who examines a situation such as an accident or a crime to find out the truth

noun

investor

a person or an organization that invests money in something

adjective

invisible

that cannot be seen

verb

invoke

to mention or use a law, rule, etc. as a reason for doing something

noun

involvement

the act of taking part in something or dealing with somebody

adjective

ironic

showing that you really mean the opposite of what you are saying; expressing irony

adverb

ironically

in a way that shows that you really mean the opposite of what you are saying; in a way that expresses irony

noun

irony

the funny or strange aspect of a situation that is very different from what you expect; a situation like this

adjective

irrelevant

not important to or connected with a situation

/aɪˈrɑːnɪk/ an ironic comment	**/aɪˈrɑːnɪkli/** He smiled ironically.	**/ˈaɪrəni/** It was one of life's little ironies.	**/ɪˈreləvənt/** totally/completely/largely irrelevant irrelevant remarks
/ɪnˈvestər/ small investors (= private people) institutional investors	**/ɪnˈvɪzəbl/** a wizard who could make himself invisible She felt invisible in the crowd.	**/ɪnˈvəʊk/** It is unlikely that libel laws will be invoked.	**/ɪnˈvɑːlvmənt/** involvement in something US involvement in European wars
/ɪnˈtriːgɪŋ/ These discoveries raise intriguing questions. an intriguing possibility	**/ɪnˈveɪd/** Troops invaded on August 9th that year. invade something When did the Romans invade Britain?	**/ɪnˈveɪʒn/** the German invasion of Poland in 1939 the threat of invasion	**/ɪnˈvestɪgeɪtər/** air safety investigators a private investigator (= a detective)
/ˈɪntərvl/ The interval between major earthquakes might be 200 years.	**/ˌɪntərˈviːn/** She might have been killed if the neighbours hadn't intervened.	**/ˌɪntərˈvenʃn/** calls for government intervention to save the steel industry	**/ˈɪntɪmət/** intimate friends We're not on intimate terms with our neighbours.
/ɪnˈtɪriər/ interior walls	**/ɪnˈtɪriər/** the interior of a building/a car The original interior of the hotel has been replaced.	**/ˌɪntərˈmiːdiət/** an intermediate stage/step in a process	**/ɪnˌtɜːrprəˈteɪʃn/** Her evidence suggests a different interpretation of the events.

verb

isolate

to separate somebody/something physically or socially from other people or things

adjective

isolated

far away from any others

noun

isolation

the act of separating somebody/something; the state of being separate

noun

jail

a prison

verb

jail

to put somebody in prison

noun

jet

a plane driven by jet engines

adjective

joint

involving two or more people together

noun

joint

a place where two bones are joined together in the body in a way that enables them to bend and move

noun

journalism

the work of collecting and writing news stories for newspapers, magazines, radio, television or online news sites;
the news stories that are written

adjective

judicial

connected with a court, a judge or legal judgement

noun

junction

the place where two or more roads or railway lines meet

noun

jurisdiction

the authority that an official organization has to make legal decisions about somebody/something

noun

jury

a group of members of the public who listen to the facts of a case in a court and decide whether or not somebody is
guilty of a crime, or whether a claim has been proved

adjective

just

that most people consider to be morally fair and reasonable

noun

justification

a good reason why something exists or is done

verb

kidnap

to take somebody away illegally and keep them as a prisoner, especially in order to get money or something else
for returning them

noun

kidney

either of the two organs in the body that remove waste products from the blood and produce urine

noun

kingdom

a country that has a king or queen as head of state (= official leader of the country)

noun

kit

a set of tools or equipment that you use for a particular purpose

noun

lad

a boy or young man

/ˈkɪdni/

a kidney infection

/ˈkɪŋdəm/

the United Kingdom

the kingdom of God (= heaven)

/kɪt/

a first-aid kit

a drum kit

/læd/

Things have changed since I was a lad.

He's a nice lad.

/ˈdʒʊri/

members of the jury

The jury has/have returned a verdict of guilty.

/dʒʌst/

a just decision/law/society

/ˌdʒʌstɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/

justification for doing something I can see no possible justification for any further tax increases.

/ˈkɪdnæp/

Two businessmen have been kidnapped by terrorists.

/ˈdʒɜːrnəlɪzəm/

I'd like a career in journalism.

This story was a good piece of investigative journalism.

/dʒuˈdɪʃl/

judicial powers

the judicial process/system

/ˈdʒʌŋkʃn/

It was near the junction of City Road and Old Street.

/ˌdʒʊrɪsˈdɪkʃn/

jurisdiction over somebody/something The English court had no jurisdiction over the defendants.

/dʒeɪl/

be jailed (for something) He was jailed for life for murder.

/dʒet/

a jet aircraft/fighter/airliner

The accident happened as the jet was about to take off.

/dʒɔɪnt/

a joint account (= a bank account in the name of more than one person, for example shared by a couple)

/dʒɔɪnt/

inflammation of the knee joint

My joints are really stiff this morning.

/ˈaɪsəleɪt/

isolate somebody/yourself/something Patients with the disease should be isolated.

/ˈaɪsəleɪtɪd/

isolated rural areas

/ˌaɪsəˈleɪʃn/

geographical isolation

an isolation hospital/ward (= for people with infectious diseases)

/dʒeɪl/

She spent a year in jail.

He has been released from jail.

noun

ladder

a piece of equipment for climbing up and down a wall, the side of a building, etc., consisting of two lengths of wood or metal that are joined together by steps or rungs

noun

landing

an act of bringing an aircraft or a spacecraft down to the ground after a journey

noun

landlord

a person or company from whom you rent a room, a house, an office, etc.

noun

landmark

something, such as a large building, that you can see clearly from a distance and that will help you to know where you are

noun

lane

a narrow road in the country

noun

lap

the top part of your legs that forms a flat surface when you are sitting down

adjective

large-scale

involving many people or things, especially over a wide area

noun

laser

a device that gives out light in which all the waves oscillate (= change direction and strength) together, typically producing a powerful beam of light that can be used for cutting metal, in medical operations, etc

adverb

lately

recently; in the recent past

adjective

latter

used to refer to the second of two things or people mentioned

noun

latter

the second of two things or people mentioned

noun

lawn

an area of ground covered in short grass in a garden or park, or used for playing a game on

noun

lawsuit

a claim or complaint against somebody that a person or an organization can make in court

noun

layout

the way in which the parts of something such as the page of a book, a website, a garden or a building are arranged

noun

leaflet

a printed sheet of paper or a few printed pages that are given free to advertise or give information about something

noun

leak

a small hole that lets liquid or gas flow in or out of something by accident

verb

leak

to allow liquid or gas to get in or out through a small hole

noun

leap

a long or high jump

verb

leap

to jump high or a long way

noun

legacy

money or property that is given to you by somebody when they die

/liːk/

a leaking pipe

The roof was leaking.

/liːp/

a leap of six metres

She took a flying leap and landed on the other side of the stream.

/liːp/

+ adv./prep. A dolphin leapt out of the water.

We leaped over the stream.

/ˈlegəsi/

They each received a legacy of $5 000.

/ˈlɔːsuːt/

He filed a lawsuit against his record label.

to bring/settle/dismiss a lawsuit

/ˈleɪaʊt/

the layout of streets

the magazine’s attractive new page layout

/ˈliːflət/

We picked up a few leaflets on local places of interest.

/liːk/

a leak in the roof

a leak in the gas pipe

/ˈleɪtli/

Have you seen her lately?

It's only lately that she's been well enough to go out.

/ˈlætər/

He chose the latter option.

The latter point is the most important.

/ˈlætər/

He presented two solutions. The latter seems much better.

/lɔːn/

In summer we have to mow the lawn twice a week.

The hotel boasts two tennis courts and a croquet lawn.

/leɪn/

winding country lanes

We drove along a muddy lane to reach the farmhouse.

/læp/

on somebody's lap There's only one seat so you'll have to sit on my lap.

/ˌlɑːrdʒ ˈskeɪl/

Large areas of the forest will be cleared for ranching as part of a large-scale development plan.

/ˈleɪzər/

a laser beam

a laser navigation device

/ˈlædər/

to climb up/fall off a ladder

/ˈlændɪŋ/

a perfect/smooth/safe landing

the first Apollo moon landing

/ˈlændlɔːrd/

a buy-to-let landlord (= who buys houses and flats in order to rent them out)

/ˈlændmɑːrk/

The Empire State Building is a familiar landmark on the New York skyline.

noun

legend

a story from ancient times about people and events, that may or may not be true; this type of story

adjective

legendary

very famous and talked about a lot by people

noun

legislation

a law or a set of laws passed by a parliament

adjective

legislative

connected with the act of making and passing laws

noun

legislature

a group of people who have the power to make and change laws

adjective

legitimate

for which there is a fair and acceptable reason

adjective

lengthy

very long, and often too long, in time or size

noun

lens

a curved piece of glass or plastic that makes things look larger, smaller or clearer when you look through it

adjective

lesbian

sexually attracted to other women; connected with lesbians

adjective

lesser

not as great in size, amount or importance as something/somebody else

adjective

lethal

causing or able to cause death

adjective

liable

legally responsible for paying the cost of something

adjective

liberal

willing to understand and respect other people's behaviour, opinions, etc

noun

liberal

a person who understands and respects other people's opinions and behaviour, especially when they are different from their own

noun

liberation

the act or process of freeing a country or a person from the control of somebody else

noun

liberty

freedom to live as you choose without too many limits from government or authority

verb

license

to give somebody official permission to do, own, or use something

adjective

lifelong

lasting or existing all through your life

noun

lifetime

the length of time that somebody lives or that something lasts

noun

lighting

the arrangement or type of light in a place

/ˈlaɪsns/

license something The new drug has not yet been licensed in the US.

/ˈlaɪflɔːŋ/

Paul became his lifelong friend.

Her lifelong ambition had been to learn how to fly.

/ˈlaɪftaɪm/

a lifetime of experience

in/during somebody's lifetime His diary was not published during his lifetime.

/ˈlaɪtɪŋ/

electric/natural lighting

good/poor lighting

/ˈlɪbərəl/

liberal attitudes/views/opinions

/ˈlɪbərəl/

He liked to think of himself as a liberal.

/ˌlɪbəˈreɪʃn/

a war of liberation

/ˈlɪbərti/

the fight for justice and liberty

The concept of individual liberty is enshrined in the constitution.

/ˈlezbiən/

the lesbian and gay community

a lesbian relationship/couple

/ˈlesər/

people of lesser importance

/ˈliːθl/

She had been given a lethal dose of poison.

Any sharp pointed instrument is potentially a lethal weapon.

/ˈlaɪəbl/

You will be liable for any damage caused.

The court ruled he could not be held personally liable for his wife's debts.

/ˈledʒɪsleɪtʃər/

a democratically elected legislature

the national/state legislature

/lɪˈdʒɪtɪmət/

a legitimate grievance

It seemed a perfectly legitimate question.

/ˈleŋkθi/

lengthy delays

I had to go through the lengthy process of obtaining a visa.

/lenz/

a pair of glasses with tinted lenses

/ˈledʒənd/

The film is based on the legend of Robin Hood.

the heroes of Greek legend

/ˈledʒənderi/

a legendary figure

the legendary Bob Dylan

/ˌledʒɪsˈleɪʃn/

an important piece of legislation

New legislation on the sale of drugs will be introduced next year.

/ˈledʒɪsleɪtɪv/

a legislative assembly/body/council

legislative powers

noun

likelihood

the chance of something happening; how likely something is to happen

adverb

likewise

the same; in a similar way

noun

limb

an arm or a leg; a similar part of an animal, such as a wing

noun

limitation

the act or process of limiting or controlling somebody/something

noun

line-up

the people who are going to take part in a particular event

adjective

linear

of or in lines

verb

linger

to continue to exist for longer than expected

noun

listing

a list, especially an official or published list of people or things, often arranged in alphabetical order

noun

literacy

the ability to read and write

adverb

literally

in a literal way

adjective

literary

connected with literature

noun

litre

a unit for measuring volume, equal to 1.76 British pints or 2.11 American pints

noun

litter

small pieces of rubbish such as paper, cans and bottles, that people have left lying in a public place

noun

liver

a large organ in the body that cleans the blood and produces bile

noun

lobby

a large area inside the entrance of a public building where people can meet and wait

verb

lobby

to try to influence a politician or the government and, for example, persuade them to support or oppose a change in the law

noun

log

a thick piece of wood that is cut from or has fallen from a tree

verb

log

to put information in an official record or write a record of events

noun

logic

a way of thinking or explaining something

noun

logo

a printed design or symbol that a company or an organization uses as its special sign

/lɔːg/

logs for the fire

/lɔːg/

The police log all phone calls.

/ˈlɑːdʒɪk/

I fail to see the logic behind his argument.

The two parts of the plan were governed by the same logic.

/ˈləʊgəʊ/

All over the world there are red and white paper cups bearing the company logo.

/ˈlɪtər/

There will be fines for people who drop litter.

/ˈlɪvər/

liver disease

He had a liver transplant at the age of 12.

/ˈlɑːbi/

a hotel lobby

Long-distance calls can only be made from the lobby of the hotel.

/ˈlɑːbi/

Farmers will lobby Congress for higher subsidies.

Women's groups are lobbying to get more public money for children.

/ˈlɪtərəsi/

a campaign to promote adult literacy

basic literacy skills

/ˈlɪtərəli/

The word ‘planet’ literally means ‘wandering body’.

/ˈlɪtəreri/

literary criticism/theory

/ˈliːtər/

3 litres of water

a litre bottle of wine

/ˈlaɪn ʌp/

an impressive line-up of speakers

Jones has not been included in the quarter-final line-up.

/ˈlɪniər/

In his art he broke the laws of scientific linear perspective.

/ˈlɪŋgər/

The faint smell of her perfume lingered in the room.

/ˈlɪstɪŋ/

a comprehensive listing of all airlines

/ˈlaɪklihʊd/

There is very little likelihood of that happening.

/ˈlaɪkwaɪz/

He voted for the change and he expected his colleagues to do likewise.

/lɪm/

an artificial limb

For a while, she lost the use of her limbs.

/ˌlɪmɪˈteɪʃn/

They would resist any limitation of their powers.

talks on arms limitation

adjective

long-standing

that has existed or lasted for a long time

adjective

long-time

having been the particular thing mentioned for a long time

verb

loom

to appear as a large shape that is not clear, especially in a frightening way

noun

loop

a shape like a curve or circle made by a line curving right round

noun

lottery

a way of raising money for a government, charity, etc

adjective

loyal

remaining constant in your support of somebody/something

noun

loyalty

the quality of being constant in your support of somebody/something

noun

lyric

the words of a popular song

noun

machinery

machines as a group, especially large ones

adjective

magical

containing magic; used in magic

noun

magistrate

an official who acts as a judge in the lowest courts of law

adjective

magnetic

behaving like a magnet; that can be attracted by a magnet

adjective

magnificent

extremely attractive and impressive; deserving praise

noun

magnitude

the great size or importance of something; the degree to which something is large or important

noun

the mainland

the main area of land of a country or region, not including any islands near to it

adjective

mainstream

considered normal because it reflects what is done or accepted by most people

noun

mainstream

the ideas and opinions that are thought to be normal because they are shared by most people; the people whose ideas and opinions are most accepted

noun

maintenance

the act of keeping something in good condition by checking or repairing it regularly

noun

make-up

coloured substances used on the skin to make yourself look more attractive or to change your appearance

noun

making

the act or process of making or producing something

/ˈmeɪnstriːm/

His radical views place him outside the mainstream of American politics.

/ˈmeɪntənəns/

The school pays for heating and the maintenance of the buildings.

/ˈmeɪk ʌp/

eye make-up

to put on your make-up

/ˈmeɪkɪŋ/

strategic decision-making

film-making

/mægˈnɪfɪsnt/

The Taj Mahal is a magnificent building.

She looked magnificent in her wedding dress.

/ˈmægnɪtuːd/

We did not realize the magnitude of the problem.

a discovery of the first magnitude

/ðə ˈmeɪnlənd/

to/from the mainland a boat to/from the mainland

/ˈmeɪnstriːm/

mainstream culture/politics

mainstream economists/journalists

/məˈʃiːnəri/

agricultural/industrial machinery

a piece of machinery

/ˈmædʒɪkl/

magical powers

Her words had a magical effect on us.

/ˈmædʒɪstreɪt/

to come up before the magistrates

/mægˈnetɪk/

magnetic materials

Steel is magnetic.

/ˈlɑːtəri/

the national/state lottery

a lottery ticket

/ˈlɔɪəl/

a loyal friend/supporter

/ˈlɔɪəlti/

Can I count on your loyalty?

loyalty to/towards somebody/something
They swore their loyalty to the king.

/ˈlɪrɪk/

music and lyrics by Rodgers and Hart

/ˌlɔːŋ ˈstændɪŋ/

a long-standing relationship

Long-standing grievances were aired at the meeting.

/ˈlɔːŋ taɪm/

his long-time colleague

/luːm/

A dark shape loomed up ahead of us.

/luːp/

The road went in a huge loop around the lake.

Duclair is a small town on a loop of the River Seine.

noun

mandate

the authority to do something, given to a government or other organization by the people who vote for it in an election

adjective

mandatory

required by law

verb

manifest

to show something clearly, especially a feeling, an attitude or a quality

verb

manipulate

to control or influence somebody/something, often in a dishonest way so that they do not realize it

noun

manipulation

behaviour that controls or influences somebody/something, often in a dishonest way so that they do not realize it

verb

manufacture

to make goods in large quantities, using machines

noun

manufacturing

the business or industry of producing goods in large quantities in factories, etc.

noun

manuscript

a copy of a book, piece of music, etc. before it has been printed

noun

marathon

a long running race of about 42 kilometres or 26 miles

noun

march

an organized walk by many people from one place to another, in order to protest about something, or to express their opinions

verb

march

to walk with stiff regular steps like a soldier

noun

margin

the empty space at the side of a written or printed page

adjective

marginal

small and not important

adjective

marine

connected with the sea and the creatures and plants that live there

noun

marker

an object or a sign that shows the position of something

noun

marketplace

the activity of competing with other companies to buy and sell goods, services, etc.

adjective

martial

connected with fighting or war

noun

mask

something that you wear over your face to hide it, or to frighten or entertain other people

noun

massacre

the killing of a large number of people especially in a cruel way

noun

mate

a friend

/ˈmɑːrʃl/	**/mæsk/** The robbers wore stocking masks. The kids were all wearing animal masks.	**/ˈmæsəkər/** the bloody massacre of innocent civilians Nobody survived the massacre.	**/meɪt/** They've been best mates since school. I was with a mate.
/ˈmɑːrdʒɪnl/ a marginal improvement in weather conditions The story will only be of marginal interest to our readers.	**/məˈriːn/** marine life a marine biologist (= a scientist who studies life in the sea)	**/ˈmɑːrkər/** a boundary marker He placed a marker where the ball had landed.	**/ˈmɑːrkɪtpleɪs/** Companies must be able to survive in the marketplace.
/ˈmærəθɑːn/ the London marathon to run a marathon	**/mɑːrtʃ/** protest marches to go on a march	**/mɑːrtʃ/** Quick march! (= the order to start marching)	**/ˈmɑːrdʒɪn/** the left-hand/right-hand margin a narrow/wide margin
/məˌnɪpjuˈleɪʃn/ Advertising like this is a cynical manipulation of the elderly.	**/ˌmænjuˈfæktʃər/** manufactured goods This company manufactures the equipment used to make contact lenses.	**/ˌmænjuˈfæktʃərɪŋ/** Many jobs in manufacturing were lost during the recession.	**/ˈmænjuskrɪpt/** an unpublished/original manuscript in manuscript I read her poems in manuscript.
/ˈmændeɪt/ It is undemocratic to govern an area without an electoral mandate.	**/ˈmændətɔːri/** The offence carries a mandatory life sentence.	**/ˈmænɪfest/** Social tensions were manifested in the recent political crisis.	**/məˈnɪpjuleɪt/** manipulate somebody/something She uses her charm to manipulate people.

verb

mate

to have sex in order to produce young

adjective

mathematical

connected with or involving mathematics

adjective

mature

behaving in a sensible way, like an adult

verb

mature

to become fully grown or developed

verb

maximize

to increase something as much as possible

noun

mayor

the head of the government of a town or city, etc., elected by the public

adjective

meaningful

serious and important

noun

meantime

for a short period of time but not permanently

noun

mechanic

a person whose job is repairing machines, especially the engines of vehicles

adjective

mechanical

operated by power from an engine

noun

mechanism

a set of moving parts in a machine that performs a task

noun

medal

a flat piece of metal, usually like a coin in shape, that is given to the winner of a competition or to somebody who has been brave, for example in war

noun

medication

a drug or another form of medicine that you take to prevent or to treat an illness; treatment involving drugs

adjective

medieval

connected with the Middle Ages (about AD 1000 to AD 1450)

noun

meditation

the practice of focusing your mind in silence, especially for religious reasons or in order to make your mind calm

noun

melody

a tune, especially the main tune in a piece of music written for several instruments or voices

noun

membership

the state of being a member of a group, a club, an organization, etc.

noun

memo

an official note from one person to another in the same organization

noun

memoir

an account written by somebody, especially somebody famous, about their life and experiences

adjective

memorable

worth remembering or easy to remember, especially because of being special or unusual

/ˈmembərʃɪp/

membership of something (British English) Who is eligible to apply for membership of the association?

/ˈmeməʊ/

to write/send a memo

memo to somebody She circulated a memo to the staff.

/ˈmemwɑːr/

O'Connor published a childhood memoir.

He has published a long memoir about those years.

/ˈmemərəbl/

The holiday provided many memorable moments.

a truly memorable occasion/event

/ˌmedɪˈkeɪʃn/

Are you currently taking any medication?

The condition may require prolonged medication.

/ˌmediˈiːvl/

medieval architecture/castles/manuscripts

the literature of the late medieval period

/ˌmedɪˈteɪʃn/

She found peace through yoga and meditation.

/ˈmelədi/

a haunting melody

The melody is then taken up by the flutes.

/məˈkænɪk/

a car/motor mechanic

/məˈkænɪkl/

a mechanical device/toy/clock

mechanical parts

/ˈmekənɪzəm/

a delicate watch mechanism

The mechanism for locking the door of the washing machine is childproof.

/ˈmedl/

to win a gold medal in the Olympics

to award a medal for bravery

/ˈmæksɪmaɪz/

to maximize efficiency/fitness/profits

(computing) Maximize the window to full screen.

/ˈmeɪər/

the Mayor of New York

Mayor Lori Lightfoot

/ˈmiːnɪŋfl/

a meaningful relationship/discussion/experience

/ˈmiːntaɪm/

I'm changing my email address but for the meantime you can use the old one.

/meɪt/

Do foxes ever mate with dogs?

After mating, the female kills the male.

/ˌmæθəˈmætɪkl/

mathematical calculations/problems/models

to assess children’s mathematical ability

/məˈtʃʊr/

Jane is very mature for her age.

a mature and sensible attitude

/məˈtʃʊr/

This particular breed of cattle matures early.

Technology in this field has matured considerably over the last decade.

noun

memorial

a statue, stone, etc. that is built in order to remind people of an important past event or of a famous person who has died

noun

mentor

an experienced person who advises and helps somebody with less experience over a period of time

noun

merchant

a person who buys and sells goods in large quantities, especially one who imports and exports goods

noun

mercy

a kind or forgiving attitude towards somebody that you have the power to harm or right to punish

adjective

mere

used when you want to emphasize how small, unimportant, etc. somebody/something is

adverb

merely

used meaning ‘only’ or ‘simply’ to emphasize a fact or something that you are saying

verb

merge

to combine or make two or more things combine to form a single thing

noun

merger

the act of joining two or more organizations or businesses into one

noun

merit

the quality of being good and of deserving praise or reward

noun

metaphor

a word or phrase used to describe somebody/something else, in a way that is different from its normal use, in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful, for example She has a heart of stone

noun

methodology

a set of methods and principles used to perform a particular activity

noun

midst

the middle part of something

noun

migration

the movement every year of large numbers of birds or animals from one place to another

adjective

militant

using, or willing to use, force or strong pressure to achieve your aims, especially to achieve social or political change

noun

militant

a person who uses, or is willing to use, force or strong pressure to achieve their aims, especially to achieve social or political change

noun

militia

a group of people who are not professional soldiers but who have had military training and can act as an army

noun

mill

a building fitted with equipment for grinding grain into flour; a machine for grinding grain

noun

miner

a person who works in a mine taking out coal, gold, diamonds, etc.

adjective

minimal

very small in size or amount; as small as possible

verb

minimize

to reduce something, especially something bad, to the lowest possible level

/mɪl/

The old mill has been converted into apartments.

The mill can be seen grinding wheat.

/ˈmaɪnər/

Rescuers are trying to save miners trapped underground after a gas explosion.

/ˈmɪnɪml/

The work was carried out at minimal cost.

There's only a minimal amount of risk involved.

/ˈmɪnɪmaɪz/

Good hygiene helps to minimize the risk of infection.

/maɪˈgreɪʃn/

the seasonal migration of blue whales

the migration routes of birds

/ˈmɪlɪtənt/

militant groups/leaders

Some trade unions have a more militant approach to pay negotiations.

/ˈmɪlɪtənt/

Student militants were fighting with the police.

/məˈlɪʃə/

He said he would call out the state militia if the rebels did not surrender.

/ˈmerɪt/

a work of outstanding artistic merit

without merit The plan is entirely without merit.

/ˈmetəfər/

a game of football used as a metaphor for the competitive struggle of life

/ˌmeθəˈdɑːlədʒi/

recent changes in the methodology of language teaching

/mɪdst/

in the midst of something Such beauty was unexpected in the midst of the city.

/mɪr/

It took her a mere 20 minutes to win.

A mere 2 per cent of their budget has been spent on publicity.

/ˈmɪrli/

It is not merely a job, but a way of life.

He said nothing, merely smiled and watched her.

/mɜːrdʒ/

The banks are set to merge next year.

The two groups have merged to form a new party.

/ˈmɜːrdʒər/

If the merger goes through, thousands of jobs will be lost.

/məˈmɔːriəl/

a war memorial (= in memory of soldiers who died in a war)

/ˈmentɔːr/

She was a friend and mentor to many young actors.

His former coach had remained his mentor throughout his career.

/ˈmɜːrtʃənt/

a coal/wine merchant

Venice was once a city of rich merchants.

/ˈmɜːrsi/

to ask/beg/plead for mercy

They showed no mercy to their hostages.

noun

mining

the process of getting coal and other minerals from under the ground; the industry involved in this

noun

ministry

a government department that has a particular area of responsibility

adjective

minute2

extremely small

noun

miracle

an act or event that does not follow the laws of nature and is believed to be caused by God

adjective

miserable

very unhappy or uncomfortable

noun

misery

great physical or mental pain

adjective

misleading

giving the wrong idea or impression and making you believe something that is not true

noun

missile

a weapon that is sent through the air and that explodes when it hits the thing that it is aimed at

noun

mob

a large crowd of people, especially one that may become violent or cause trouble

noun

mobility

the ability to move easily from one place, social class or job to another

verb

mobilize

to work together in order to achieve a particular aim; to organize a group of people to do this

noun

mode

a particular way of doing something; a particular type of something

adjective

moderate

that is neither very good, large, hot, etc. nor very bad, small, cold, etc.

adjective

modest

not very large, expensive, important, etc.

noun

modification

the act or process of changing something in order to improve it or make it more acceptable; a change that is made

noun

momentum

the ability to keep increasing or developing

noun

monk

a member of a religious group of men who often live apart from other people in a monastery and who do not marry or have personal possessions

noun

monopoly

the complete control of trade in particular goods or the supply of a particular service; a type of goods or a service that is controlled in this way

noun

monster

(in stories) an imaginary creature that is very large, ugly and frightening

adjective

monthly

happening once a month or every month

/mʌŋk/

Benedictine/Buddhist monks

/məˈnɑːpəli/

In the past central government had a monopoly on television broadcasting.

/ˈmɑːnstər/

a monster with three heads

prehistoric monsters

/ˈmʌnθli/

a monthly meeting/visit/magazine

/ˈmɑːdərət/

students of moderate ability

Even moderate amounts of the drug can be fatal.

/ˈmɑːdɪst/

modest improvements/reforms

He charged a relatively modest fee.

/ˌmɑːdɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/

Considerable modification of the existing system is needed.

/məʊˈmentəm/

The fight for his release gathers momentum each day.

/mɑːb/

an angry/unruly mob

The mob was/were preparing to storm the building.

/məʊˈbɪləti/

social/geographical/career mobility

The high cost of living acts as an obstacle to mobility of labour.

/ˈməʊbəlaɪz/

The unions mobilized thousands of workers in a protest against the cuts.

/məʊd/

a mode of communication

a mode of behaviour

/ˈmɪzrəbl/

We were cold, wet and thoroughly miserable.

Don't look so miserable!

/ˈmɪzəri/

Fame brought her nothing but misery.

/ˌmɪsˈliːdɪŋ/

misleading information/advertisements

/ˈmɪsl/

nuclear missiles

a missile base/site

/ˈmaɪnɪŋ/

coal/diamond/gold/tin mining

a mining company/community/engineer

/ˈmɪnɪstri/

The Ministry of Defence has issued the following statement.

/maɪˈnuːt/

minute amounts of chemicals in the water

The kitchen on the boat is minute.

/ˈmɪrəkl/

the miracle of rising from the grave

noun

monument

a building, column, statue, etc. built to remind people of a famous person or event

noun

morality

principles relating to right and wrong or good and bad behaviour

adverb

moreover

used to introduce some new information that adds to or supports what you have said previously

noun

mortgage

a legal agreement by which a bank or similar organization lends you money to buy a house, etc

noun

mosque

a building where Muslims go to worship (= praise God)

noun

motion

the act or process of moving or the way something moves

verb

motivate

to be the reason why somebody does something or behaves in a particular way

noun

motivation

the reason why somebody does something or behaves in a particular way

noun

motive

a reason for doing something

noun

motorist

a person driving a car

adjective

moving

causing strong, often sad, feelings about somebody/something

adjective

municipal

connected with or belonging to a town, city or district that has its own local government

adjective

mutual

used to describe feelings that two or more people have for each other equally, or actions that affect two or more people equally

noun

myth

a story from ancient times, especially one that was told to explain natural events or to describe the early history of a people; this type of story

adjective

naked

not wearing any clothes

adverb

namely

used to introduce more exact and detailed information about something that you have just mentioned

adjective

nasty

very bad or unpleasant

adjective, adverb

nationwide

happening or existing in all parts of a particular country

adjective

naval

connected with the navy of a country

noun

navigation

the skill or the process of planning a route for a ship or other vehicle and taking it there

/ˈnæsti/ He had a nasty accident. The news gave me a nasty shock.	**/ˌneɪʃnˈwaɪd/** a nationwide campaign The police conducted a nationwide hunt for the missing prisoners.	**/ˈneɪvl/** a naval base/officer/battle the country's naval forces	**/ˌnævɪˈgeɪʃn/** a maker of in-car navigation systems an expert in navigation
/ˈmjuːtʃuəl/ mutual respect/understanding mutual support/aid	**/mɪθ/** ancient Greek myths a creation myth (= that explains how the world began)	**/ˈneɪkɪd/** She was clutching the sheet around her naked body.	**/ˈneɪmli/** We need to concentrate on our target audience, namely women aged between 20 and 30.
/ˈməʊtɪv/ There seemed to be no motive for the murder. I'm suspicious of his motives.	**/ˈməʊtərɪst/** The accident was reported by a passing motorist. Motorists who fail to stop risk an even higher penalty.	**/ˈmuːvɪŋ/** a deeply moving experience a moving story/speech	**/mjuːˈnɪsɪpl/** municipal elections/councils municipal workers
/mɑːsk/ We were woken by the call to prayer from a nearby mosque.	**/ˈməʊʃn/** What was Newton's first law of motion? The swaying motion of the ship was making me feel seasick.	**/ˈməʊtɪveɪt/** motivate somebody (to do something) What motivates people to carry out such attacks?	**/ˌməʊtɪˈveɪʃn/** motivation (behind something) What is the motivation behind this sudden change?
/ˈmɑːnjumənt/ A monument to him was erected in St Paul's Cathedral.	**/məˈræləti/** matters of public/private morality Standards of morality seem to be dropping.	**/mɔːrˈəʊvər/** A talented artist, he was, moreover, a writer of some note.	**/ˈmɔːrgɪdʒ/** to apply for/take out/pay off a mortgage mortgage rates (= of interest)

adjective

nearby

near in position; not far away

adverb

nearby

a short distance from somebody/something; not far away

noun

necessity

the fact that something must happen or be done; the need for something

noun

neglect

the fact of not giving enough care or attention to something/somebody; the state of not receiving enough care or attention

verb

neglect

to fail to take care of somebody/something

verb

negotiate

to try to reach an agreement by formal discussion

noun

negotiation

formal discussion between people who are trying to reach an agreement

adjective

neighbouring

located or living near or next to a place or person

noun

nest

a hollow place or structure that a bird makes or chooses for laying its eggs in and sheltering its young

adjective

net

a net amount of money is the amount that remains when nothing more is to be taken away

adjective

neutral

not supporting or helping either side in a disagreement, competition, etc.

adverb

newly

recently

noun

newsletter

a report containing news of the activities of a club or organization that is sent regularly to all its members

noun

niche

a comfortable or suitable role, job, way of life, etc.

adjective

noble

having or showing fine personal qualities that people admire, such as courage, honesty and care for others

verb

nod

if you nod, nod your head or your head nods, you move your head up and down to show agreement, understanding, etc.

verb

nominate

to formally suggest that somebody/something should be chosen for an important role, prize, position, etc.

noun

nomination

the act of suggesting or choosing somebody as a candidate in an election, or for a job or an award; the fact of being suggested for this

noun

nominee

a person who has been formally suggested for a job, a prize, etc.

adjective

non-profit

without the aim of making a profit

/ˈnɑːmɪneɪt/

nominate somebody/something (for something) She has been nominated for the presidency.

/ˌnɑːmɪˈneɪʃn/

Membership of the club is by nomination only.

He won the nomination as Democratic candidate for the presidency.

/ˌnɑːmɪˈniː/

He was chosen as the party's presidential nominee.

/ˌnɑːn ˈprɑːfɪt/

an independent non-profit organization

The centre is run on a non-profit basis.

/ˈnuːzletər/

Our sailing club produces a monthly newsletter.

a church newsletter

/niːʃ/

He eventually found his niche in sports journalism.

/ˈnəʊbl/

a noble leader

noble ideals

/nɑːd/

I asked him if he would help me and he nodded.

‘Ready?’ She nodded at me and we set off.

/nest/

sparrows building a nest of twigs and dry grass

/net/

a net profit of £500

net income/earnings (= after tax has been paid)

/ˈnuːtrəl/

Journalists are supposed to be politically neutral.

/ˈnuːli/

a newly qualified doctor

a newly created job

/nɪˈglekt/

She denies neglecting her baby.

The buildings had been neglected for years.

/nɪˈgəʊʃieɪt/

negotiate (with somebody) (for something) The government will not negotiate with terrorists.

/nɪˌgəʊʃiˈeɪʃn/

peace/trade/contract negotiations

They begin another round of negotiations today.

/ˈneɪbərɪŋ/

a neighbouring house

neighbouring towns

/ˌnɪrˈbaɪ/

Her mother lived in a nearby town.

There were complaints from nearby residents.

/ˌnɪrˈbaɪ/

They live nearby.

The car is parked nearby.

/nəˈsesəti/

necessity for something We recognize the necessity for a written agreement.

/nɪˈglekt/

The buildings are crumbling from years of neglect.

adverb

nonetheless

despite this fact

noun

nonsense

ideas, statements or beliefs that you think are silly or not true

noun

noon

12 o'clock in the middle of the day

noun

norm

a situation or a pattern of behaviour that is usual or expected

adjective

notable

deserving to be noticed or to receive attention; important

adverb

notably

used for giving a good or the most important example of something

noun

notebook

a small book of plain paper for writing notes in

verb

notify

to formally or officially tell somebody about something

adjective

notorious

well known for being bad

adjective

novel

different from anything known before; new, interesting and often seeming slightly strange

noun

novelist

a person who writes novels

adverb

nowadays

at the present time, in contrast with the past

noun

nursery

a place where young children are cared for while their parents are at work; a day nursery or nursery school

noun

nursing

the job or skill of caring for people who are sick or injured

noun

nutrition

the process by which living things receive the food necessary for them to grow and be healthy

noun

obesity

the quality or fact of being very fat, in a way that is not healthy

noun

objection

a reason why you do not like or are opposed to something; a statement about this

verb

oblige

to force somebody to do something, by law, because it is a duty, etc.

noun

observer

a person who watches somebody/something

verb

obsess

to completely fill your mind so that you cannot think of anything else, in a way that is not normal

/əbˈdʒekʃn/

I'd like to come too, if you have no objection.

They raised no objections at the time.

/əˈblaɪdʒ/

Parents are obliged by law to send their children to school.

/əbˈzɜːrvər/

According to observers, the plane exploded shortly after take-off.

/əbˈses/

be obsessed by somebody/something He's obsessed by computers.

/ˈnɜːrsəri/

at nursery Her youngest child is at nursery now.

The children are at nursery three days a week.

/ˈnɜːrsɪŋ/

a career in nursing

nursing care

/nuˈtrɪʃn/

advice on diet and nutrition

to study food science and nutrition

/əʊˈbiːsəti/

Obesity can increase the risk of heart disease.

/nəʊˈtɔːriəs/

a notorious criminal

a location made notorious by battles between local gangs

/ˈnɑːvl/

a novel feature

/ˈnɑːvəlɪst/

a romantic/historical novelist

/ˈnaʊədeɪz/

Nowadays most kids prefer going online to reading books.

/ˈnəʊtəbl/

a notable success/achievement/example

His eyes are his most notable feature.

/ˈnəʊtəbli/

The house had many drawbacks, most notably its price.

/ˈnəʊtbʊk/

The police officer wrote the details down in his notebook.

/ˈnəʊtɪfaɪ/

notify somebody Competition winners will be notified by post.

/ˌnʌnðəˈles/

The book is too long but, nonetheless, informative and entertaining.

/ˈnɑːnsens/

Reports that he has resigned are nonsense.

You're talking nonsense!

/nuːn/

We should be there by noon.

The conference opens at 12 noon on Saturday.

/nɔːrm/

The new design is a departure from the norm.

Older parents seem to be the norm rather than the exception nowadays.

noun

obsession

the state in which a person's mind is completely filled with thoughts of one particular thing or person in a way that is not normal

noun

obstacle

a situation, an event, etc. that makes it difficult for you to do or achieve something

adjective

occasional

happening or done sometimes but not often

noun

occupation

a job or profession

verb

occupy

to fill or use a space, an area or an amount of time

noun

occurrence

something that happens or exists

noun

odds

the degree to which something is likely to happen

noun

offender

a person who commits a crime

noun

offering

something that is produced for other people to use, watch, enjoy, etc.

noun

offspring

a child of a particular person or couple

adjective

ongoing

continuing to exist or develop

adverb

openly

without hiding any feelings, opinions or information

noun

opera

a dramatic work in which all or most of the words are sung to music; works of this type as an art form or entertainment

adjective

operational

connected with the way in which a business, machine, system, etc. works

noun

operator

a person who operates equipment or a machine

verb

opt

to choose to take or not to take a particular course of action

adjective

optical

connected with the sense of sight or the relationship between light and sight

noun

optimism

a feeling that good things will happen and that something will be successful

adjective

optimistic

expecting good things to happen or something to be successful; showing this feeling

adjective

oral

spoken rather than written

/ˈɑːptɪkl/

optical effects

/ˈɑːptɪmɪzəm/

a mood of cautious optimism

There are very real grounds for optimism.

/ˌɑːptɪˈmɪstɪk/

We are now taking a more optimistic view.

in an optimistic mood

/ˈɔːrəl/

a test of both oral and written French

oral evidence

/ˈɑːprə/

Puccini's operas

to go to the opera

/ˌɑːpəˈreɪʃənl/

operational activities/costs/difficulties

/ˈɑːpəreɪtər/

a computer/machine operator

/ɑːpt/

opt for/against something After graduating she opted for a career in music.

/ˈɔːfərɪŋ/

the latest offering from the Canadian-born writer

/ˈɔːfsprɪŋ/

the problems parents have with their teenage offspring

/ˈɑːngəʊɪŋ/

an ongoing debate/discussion/process

The police investigation is ongoing.

/ˈəʊpənli/

Can you talk openly about sex with your parents?

The men in prison would never cry openly (= so that other people could see).

/ˈɑːkjupaɪ/

The bed seemed to occupy most of the room.

As the company grew, it continued to occupy more space.

/əˈkɜːrəns/

a common/everyday/frequent/regular occurrence

Vandalism used to be a rare occurrence here.

/ɑːdz/

The odds are very much in our favour (= we are likely to succeed).

/əˈfendər/

a persistent/serious/violent, etc. offender

a young offender institution

/əbˈseʃn/

Her fear of flying is bordering on obsession.

/ˈɑːbstəkl/

So far, we have managed to overcome all the obstacles that have been placed in our path.

/əˈkeɪʒənl/

He works for us on an occasional basis.

The occasional sweet treat won't do you any harm

/ˌɑːkjuˈpeɪʃn/

Please state your name, age and occupation below.

noun

orchestra

a large group of people who play various musical instruments together, led by a conductor

adjective

organic

produced or practised without using artificial chemicals

adjective

organizational

connected with the way in which the different parts of something are arranged; connected with an organization

noun

orientation

a person's basic beliefs or feelings about a particular subject

verb

originate

to happen or appear for the first time in a particular place or situation

noun

outbreak

the sudden start of something unpleasant, especially violence or a disease

noun

outfit

a set of clothes that you wear together, especially for a particular occasion or purpose

noun

outing

a trip that you go on for pleasure or education, usually with a group of people and lasting no more than one day

noun

outlet

a shop or an organization that sells goods made by a particular company or of a particular type

noun

outlook

the attitude to life and the world of a particular person, group or culture

noun

output

the amount of something that a person, a machine or an organization produces

noun

outrage

a strong feeling of shock and anger

verb

outrage

to make somebody very shocked and angry

noun

outsider

a person who is not accepted as a member of a society, group, etc.

adjective

outstanding

extremely good; excellent

verb

overcome

to succeed in dealing with or controlling a problem that has been preventing you from achieving something

verb

overlook

to fail to see or notice something

adverb

overly

too; very

adverb

overnight

during or for the night

adjective

overseas

connected with foreign countries, especially those separated from your country by the sea or ocean

/ˌəʊvərˈlʊk/

He seems to have overlooked one important fact.

In my hurry to finish the exam I had overlooked part of one of the questions.

/ˈəʊvərli/

I'm not overly fond of pasta.

We think you are being overly optimistic.

/ˌəʊvərˈnaɪt/

We stayed overnight in London after the theatre.

/ˌəʊvərˈsiːz/

The firm is expanding into overseas markets.

overseas development/trade

/ˈaʊtreɪdʒ/

He was outraged at the way he had been treated.

I am morally outraged by their actions.

/ˌaʊtˈsaɪdər/

Here she felt she would always be an outsider.

/aʊtˈstændɪŋ/

an outstanding player/achievement/success

an area of outstanding natural beauty

/ˌəʊvərˈkʌm/

She overcame injury to win the Olympic gold medal.

/ˈaʊtlet/

The business has 34 retail outlets in this state alone.

/ˈaʊtlʊk/

Travel broadens your outlook.

a/an positive/optimistic outlook

/ˈaʊtpʊt/

Manufacturing output has increased by 8 per cent.

/ˈaʊtreɪdʒ/

The judge's remarks caused public outrage.

She was filled with a strong sense of moral outrage.

/əˈrɪdʒɪneɪt/

The disease is thought to have originated in the tropics.

/ˈaʊtbreɪk/

the outbreak of war

an outbreak of typhoid

/ˈaʊtfɪt/

She was wearing an expensive new outfit.

a wedding outfit

/ˈaʊtɪŋ/

a family outing

on an outing (to…) We went on an outing to London.

/ˈɔːrkɪstrə/

She plays the flute in the school orchestra.

the Scottish Symphony Orchestra

/ɔːrˈgænɪk/

organic cheese/vegetables/wine, etc.

an organic farmer/gardener

/ˌɔːrgənəˈzeɪʃənl/

organizational changes within the party

/ˌɔːriənˈteɪʃn/

religious/political orientation

adverb

overseas

to or in a foreign country, especially those separated from your country by the sea or ocean

verb

oversee

to watch somebody/something and make sure that a job or an activity is done correctly

verb

overturn

if something overturns, or if somebody overturns it, it turns into a position in which the top of it is where the bottom of it normally is or on its side

verb

overwhelm

to have such a strong emotional effect on somebody that it is difficult for them to resist or know how to react

adjective

overwhelming

very great or very strong; so powerful that you cannot resist it or decide how to react

noun

ownership

the fact of owning something

noun

oxygen

a chemical element. Oxygen is a gas that is present in air and water and is necessary for people, animals and plants to live.

noun

packet

a small container made of paper or card in which goods are packed for selling

noun

pad

a thick piece of soft material that is used, for example, for cleaning or protecting something or for holding liquid

noun

palm

a straight tree with a mass of long leaves at the top, growing in tropical countries. There are several types of palm tree, some of which produce fruit.

noun

panic

a sudden feeling of great fear that cannot be controlled and prevents you from thinking clearly

noun

parade

a public celebration of a special day or event, usually with bands in the streets and decorated vehicles

adjective

parallel

two or more lines that are parallel to each other are the same distance apart at every point

noun

parallel

a person, a situation, an event, etc. that is very similar to another, especially one in a different place or time

noun

parameter

something that decides or limits the way in which something can be done

adjective

parental

connected with a parent or parents

noun

parish

an area that has its own church and that a priest is responsible for

adjective

parliamentary

connected with a parliament; having a parliament

adjective, adverb

part-time

for part of the day or week in which people work

adjective

partial

not complete or whole

/ˈpærɪʃ/

a parish church/priest

He is vicar of a large rural parish.

/ˌpɑːrləˈmentri/

parliamentary elections

a parliamentary democracy

/ˌpɑːrt ˈtaɪm/

She's looking for a part-time job.

to study on a part-time basis

/ˈpɑːrʃl/

It was only a partial solution to the problem.

a partial eclipse of the sun

/ˈpærəlel/

parallel lines

parallel to/with something The road and the canal are parallel to each other.

/ˈpærəlel/

These ideas have parallels in Freud's thought too.

/pəˈræmɪtər/

to set/define the parameters

We had to work within the parameters that had already been established.

/pəˈrentl/

parental responsibility/rights

parental choice in education

/pæd/

medicated cleansing pads for sensitive skin

sanitary pads (= that a woman uses during her period)

/pɑːm/

a date palm

a coconut palm

/ˈpænɪk/

a moment of panic

They were in a state of panic.

/pəˈreɪd/

the Lord Mayor’s parade

St Patrick’s Day parade in New York

/ˌəʊvərˈwelmɪŋ/

The evidence against him was overwhelming.

The overwhelming majority of those present were in favour of the plan.

/ˈəʊnərʃɪp/

a growth in home ownership

Ownership of the land is currently being disputed.

/ˈɑːksɪdʒən/

The patient didn't seem to be getting enough oxygen.

/ˈpækɪt/

a packet of biscuits/cigarettes/crisps

/ˌəʊvərˈsiːz/

to live/work/go overseas

The product is sold both at home and overseas.

/ˌəʊvərˈsiː/

United Nations observers oversaw the elections.

/ˌəʊvərˈtɜːrn/

The car skidded and overturned.

overturn something He stood up quickly, overturning his chair.

/ˌəʊvərˈwelm/

She was overwhelmed by feelings of guilt.

The beauty of the landscape overwhelmed me.

adverb

partially

partly; not completely

noun

participation

the act of taking part in an activity or event

noun

partnership

the state of being a partner in business

noun

passing

the process of time going by

adjective

passionate

having or showing strong feelings of sexual love or of anger, etc.

adjective

passive

accepting what happens or what people do without trying to change anything or oppose them

noun

password

a series of letters, numbers, etc. that you must type into a computer or computer system in order to be able to use it

noun

pastor

a minister in charge of a Christian church or group, especially in some Nonconformist churches

noun

patch

a small area of something, especially one which is different from the area around it

noun

patent

an official right to be the only person to make, use or sell a product or an invention; a document that proves this

noun

pathway

a track that serves as a path

noun

patience

the ability to stay calm and accept a delay or something annoying without complaining

noun

patrol

the act of going to different parts of a building, an area, etc. to make sure that there is no trouble or crime

verb

patrol

to go around an area or a building at regular times to check that it is safe and that there is no trouble

noun

patron

a person who gives money and support to artists and writers

noun

pause

a period of time during which somebody stops talking or stops what they are doing

verb

pause

to stop talking or doing something for a short time before continuing

noun

peak

the point when somebody/something is best, most successful, strongest, etc.

noun

peasant

(especially in the past, or in poorer countries) a farmer who owns or rents a small piece of land

adjective

peculiar

strange or unusual, especially in a way that is unpleasant or makes you worried

/pɔːz/

Anita paused for a moment, then said: ‘All right’.

/piːk/

Traffic reaches its peak between 8 and 9 in the morning.

/ˈpeznt/

peasant farmers

a peasant family

/pɪˈkjuːliər/

a peculiar smell/taste

The meat tasted rather peculiar.

/pəˈtrəʊl/

Security guards make regular patrols at night.

on patrol a police car on patrol

/pəˈtrəʊl/

Troops patrolled the border day and night.

to patrol the streets/area

/ˈpeɪtrən/

Frederick the Great was the patron of many artists.

/pɔːz/

There was a long pause before she answered.

After a brief pause, they continued climbing.

/pætʃ/

a black dog with a white patch on its back

a bald patch on the top of his head

/ˈpætnt/

patent on something to apply for/obtain/take out a patent on an invention

/ˈpæθweɪ/

They came out of the woods and onto a pathway.

/ˈpeɪʃns/

She has little patience with (= will not accept or consider) such views.

/ˈpæʃənət/

to have a passionate nature

/ˈpæsɪv/

He played a passive role in the relationship.

a passive observer of events

/ˈpæswɜːrd/

Enter a username and password to get into the system.

/ˈpæstər/

He was ordained a pastor in the Lutheran Church.

/ˈpɑːrʃəli/

The road was partially blocked by a fallen tree.

/pɑːrˌtɪsɪˈpeɪʃn/

a show with lots of audience participation

/ˈpɑːrtnərʃɪp/

to be in/to go into partnership

/ˈpæsɪŋ/

The colour of the wood darkens with the passing of time.

noun

peer

a person who is the same age or who has the same social status as you

noun

penalty

a punishment for breaking a law, rule or contract

verb

perceive

to understand or think of somebody/something in a particular way

noun

perception

an idea, a belief or an image you have as a result of how you see or understand something

adverb

permanently

in a way that lasts for a long time or for all time in the future; in a way that exists all the time

verb

persist

to continue to do something despite difficulties or opposition, in a way that can seem unreasonable

adjective

persistent

determined to do something despite difficulties, especially when other people are against you and think that you are being annoying or unreasonable

noun

personnel

the people who work for an organization or one of the armed forces

noun

petition

a written document signed by a large number of people that asks somebody in a position of authority to do or change something

noun

philosopher

a person who studies or writes about philosophy

adjective

philosophical

connected with philosophy

noun

physician

a doctor, especially one who is a specialist in general medicine and not surgery

noun

pill

a small flat round piece of medicine that you swallow whole, without biting it

noun

pioneer

a person who is the first to study and develop a particular area of knowledge, culture, etc. that other people then continue to develop

verb

pioneer

when somebody pioneers something, they are one of the first people to do, discover or use something new

noun

pipeline

a series of pipes that are usually underground and are used for carrying oil, gas, etc. over long distances

noun

pirate

(especially in the past) a person on a ship who attacks other ships at sea in order to steal from them

noun

pit

a large deep hole in the ground

noun

pity

used to show that you are disappointed about something

noun

placement

the act of finding somebody a suitable job or place to live

/ˈpaɪrət/

There were reports that a pirate ship had come looking for treasure in the cove.

/pɪt/

We dug a deep pit in the yard.

The body had been dumped in a pit.

/ˈpɪti/

a pity (that…) It's a pity that you can't stay longer.

/ˈpleɪsmənt/

a job placement service

placement with a foster family

/pɪl/

a vitamin pill

Take three pills daily after meals.

/ˌpaɪəˈnɪr/

a pioneer in the field of microsurgery

a computer pioneer

/ˌpaɪəˈnɪr/

a new technique pioneered by surgeons in a London hospital

/ˈpaɪplaɪn/

There are plans to lay a gas pipeline through the region.

/pəˈtɪʃn/

petition against something Would you like to sign our petition against experiments on animals?

/fəˈlɑːsəfər/

We studied the writings of the Greek philosopher Aristotle.

/ˌfɪləˈsɑːfɪkl/

the philosophical writings of Kant

philosophic debate

/fɪˈzɪʃn/

Dr Dennett is a practicing family physician in Atlanta.

/ˈpɜːrmənəntli/

The stroke left his right side permanently damaged.

/pərˈsɪst/

persist in doing something Why do you persist in blaming yourself for what happened?

/pərˈsɪstənt/

How do you deal with persistent salesmen who won't take no for an answer?

/ˌpɜːrsəˈnel/

There is a severe shortage of skilled personnel.

sales/technical/medical/security/military, etc. personnel

/pɪr/

She enjoys the respect of her peers.

/ˈpenəlti/

to impose a penalty

Assault carries a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment.

/pərˈsiːv/

perceive somebody/something/yourself (as something) This discovery was perceived as a major breakthrough.

/pərˈsepʃn/

a campaign to change public perception of the police

noun

plea

a serious emotional request, especially for something needing action now

verb

plead

to ask somebody for something in a very strong and serious way

noun

pledge

a serious promise

verb

pledge

to formally promise to give or do something

noun

plug

a small plastic object with two or three metal pins that connects a piece of electrical equipment to the main supply of electricity

verb

plug

to fill a hole with a substance or piece of material that fits tightly into it

verb

plunge

to move or make somebody/something move suddenly forwards and/or downwards

noun

pole

a long thin straight piece of wood or metal, especially one with the end placed in the ground, used as a support

noun

poll

the process of questioning people who are representative of a larger group in order to get information about the general opinion

noun

pond

a small area of still water, especially one that is artificial

verb

pop

to make a short explosive sound; to cause something to make this sound

noun

portfolio

a thin flat case used for carrying documents, drawings, etc.

noun

portion

one part of something larger

verb

portray

to show somebody/something in a picture; to describe somebody/something in a piece of writing

adjective

post-war

existing, happening or made in the period after a war, especially the Second World War

verb

postpone

to arrange for an event, etc. to take place at a later time or date than originally planned

adverb

potentially

used to say that something may develop into something

noun

practitioner

a person who works in a profession, especially medicine or law

verb

preach

to give a religious talk in a public place, especially in a church during a service

verb

precede

to happen before something or come before something/somebody in order

/pəˈtenʃəli/

a potentially dangerous situation

/prækˈtɪʃənər/

dental practitioners

a qualified practitioner

/priːtʃ/

She preached to the congregation about forgiveness.

/prɪˈsiːd/

the years preceding the war

His resignation was preceded by weeks of speculation.

/ˈpɔːrʃn/

a substantial/significant portion of the population

/pɔːrˈtreɪ/

The painting portrays the duke's third wife.

He was one of the first to portray animals from the New World.

/ˌpəʊst ˈwɔːr/

the post-war years

in post-war Europe

/pəʊˈspəʊn/

postpone something The game has already been postponed three times.

/pəʊl/

to carry out/conduct a poll

A recent poll suggests some surprising changes in public opinion.

/pɑːnd/

a fish pond

/pɑːp/

the sound of corks popping

Flashbulbs were popping all around them.

/pɔːrtˈfəʊliəʊ/

I left my portfolio on the train.

/plʌg/

The iron is fitted with a three-pin plug.

I'll have to change the plug on my hairdryer.

/plʌg/

He plugged the hole in the pipe with an old rag.

Divers succeeded in plugging the leaks from the tanker.

/plʌndʒ/

+ adv./prep. She lost her balance and plunged 100 feet to her death.

/pəʊl/

a tent pole

a ski pole

/pliː/

plea for something She made an impassioned plea for help.

/pliːd/

plead (with somebody) (to do something) She pleaded with him not to go.

/pledʒ/

pledge (of something) a pledge of support

/pledʒ/

pledge something Japan has pledged $100 million in humanitarian aid.

noun

precedent

an official action or decision that has happened in the past and that is seen as an example or a rule to be followed in a similar situation later

adjective

precious

rare and worth a lot of money

adjective

precise

clear and accurate

adverb

precisely

exactly

noun

precision

the quality of being exact, accurate and careful

noun

predator

an animal that kills and eats other animals

noun

predecessor

a person who did a job before somebody else

adjective

predictable

if something is predictable, you know in advance that it will happen or what it will be like

adverb

predominantly

mostly; mainly

noun

preference

a greater interest in or desire for somebody/something than somebody/something else

noun

pregnancy

the state of being pregnant

noun

prejudice

an unreasonable dislike of or preference for a person, group, custom, etc., especially when it is based on their race, religion, sex, etc.

adjective

preliminary

happening before a more important action or event

adjective

premier

most important, famous or successful

noun

premise

a statement or an idea that forms the basis for a reasonable line of argument

noun

premium

an amount of money that you pay once or regularly for an insurance policy

verb

prescribe

to tell somebody to take a particular medicine or have a particular treatment; to write a prescription for a particular medicine, etc.

noun

prescription

an official piece of paper on which a doctor writes the type of medicine you should have, and which enables you to get it from a chemist's

adverb

presently

at the time you are speaking or writing; now

noun

preservation

the act of keeping something in its original state or in good condition

/prɪˈskraɪb/

prescribe something Valium is usually prescribed to treat anxiety.

/prɪˈskrɪpʃn/

prescription for something The doctor gave me a prescription for antibiotics.

/ˈprezntli/

The crime is presently being investigated by the police.

/ˌprezərˈveɪʃn/

building/environmental/food preservation

a preservation group/society

/prɪˈlɪmɪneri/

After a few preliminary remarks he announced the winners.

/prɪˈmɪr/

one of the country's premier chefs

(British English, sport) the Premier League/Division

/ˈpremɪs/

the basic premise of her argument

The argument rests on a false premise.

/ˈpriːmiəm/

a monthly premium of £6.25

/prɪˈdɑːmɪnəntli/

She works in a predominantly male environment.

/ˈprefrəns/

It's a matter of personal preference.

I can't say that I have any particular preference.

/ˈpregnənsi/

a pregnancy test

during pregnancy Many women experience sickness during pregnancy.

/ˈpredʒədɪs/

a victim of racial prejudice

Their decision was based on ignorance and prejudice.

/prɪˈsɪʒn/

Her writing is imaginative but lacks precision.

with precision He chose his words with precision.

/ˈpredətər/

Some animals have no natural predators.

the relationship between predator and prey

/ˈpredəsesər/

The new president reversed many of the policies of his predecessor.

/prɪˈdɪktəbl/

a predictable result

The ending of the book was entirely predictable.

/ˈpresɪdənt/

The ruling set a precedent for future libel cases.

/ˈpreʃəs/

a precious vase

The crown was set with precious jewels—diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

/prɪˈsaɪs/

precise details/instructions/measurements

Can you give a more precise definition of the word?

/prɪˈsaɪsli/

They look precisely the same to me.

That's precisely what I meant.

verb

preside

to lead or be in charge of a meeting, ceremony, etc.

noun

presidency

the job of being president of a country or an organization; the period of time somebody holds this job

adjective

presidential

connected with the position or activities of a president

adjective

prestigious

respected and admired as very important or of very high quality

adverb

presumably

used to say that you think that something is probably true

verb

presume

to suppose that something is true, although you do not have actual proof

verb

prevail

to exist or be very common at a particular time or in a particular place

noun

prevalence

the fact of existing or being very common at a particular time or in a particular place

noun

prevention

the act of stopping something bad from happening

noun

prey

an animal, a bird, etc. that is hunted, killed and eaten by another

noun

pride

a feeling of being pleased or satisfied that you get when you or people who are connected with you have done something well or own something that other people admire

adverb

primarily

mainly

adjective

principal

most important; main

noun

principal

the person who is in charge of a college or (in Scotland and Canada) a university

adjective

prior

happening or existing before something else or before a particular time

noun

privatization

the act of selling a business or an industry so that it is no longer owned by the government

noun

privilege

a special right or advantage that a particular person or group of people has

noun

probability

how likely something is to happen

adjective

probable

likely to happen, to exist or to be true

noun

probe

a complete and careful investigation of something

/ˈprɪvəlɪdʒ/ Education should be a universal right and not a privilege.	**/ˌprɑːbəˈbɪləti/** The probability is that prices will rise rapidly. There seemed to be a high probability of success.	**/ˈprɑːbəbl/** the probable cause/explanation/outcome highly/quite/most probable	**/prəʊb/** a police probe into the financial affairs of the company
/ˈprɪnsəpl/ The principal reason for this omission is lack of time.	**/ˈprɪnsəpl/** Peter Brown, principal of St John's College	**/ˈpraɪər/** Although not essential, some prior knowledge of statistics is desirable.	**/ˌpraɪvətəˈzeɪʃn/** There were fears that privatization would lead to job losses.
/prɪˈvenʃn/ accident/crime prevention the prevention of disease	**/preɪ/** The lion will often stalk its prey for hours. birds of prey (= birds that kill for food)	**/praɪd/** The sight of her son graduating filled her with pride.	**/praɪˈmerəli/** a course designed primarily for specialists The problem is not primarily a financial one.
/prɪˈzuːməbli/ Presumably this is where the accident happened. You'll be taking the car, presumably?	**/prɪˈzuːm/** They are very expensive, I presume? 'Is he still abroad?' 'I presume so.'	**/prɪˈveɪl/** prevail in something We were horrified at the conditions prevailing in local prisons.	**/ˈprevələns/** an increase in the prevalence of smoking among young people
/prɪˈzaɪd/ the presiding judge	**/ˈprezɪdənsi/** the current holder of the EU presidency She hopes to be the first woman elected to the presidency of the United States.	**/ˌprezɪˈdenʃl/** a presidential campaign/candidate/election a presidential system of government	**/preˈstiːdʒəs/** a prestigious award a highly prestigious university

verb

probe

to ask questions in order to find out secret or hidden information about somebody/something

adjective

problematic

difficult to deal with or to understand; full of problems; not certain to be successful

verb

proceed

to continue doing something that has already been started; to continue being done

noun

proceeding

the process of using a court to settle an argument or to deal with a complaint

noun

proceeds

the money that you receive when you sell something or organize a performance, etc.; profits

noun

processing

the treatment of raw material, food, etc. in order to change it, preserve it, etc.

noun

processor

a machine, person or company that processes things

verb

proclaim

to publicly and officially tell people about something important

adjective

productive

making goods or growing crops, especially in large quantities

noun

productivity

the rate at which a worker, a company or a country produces goods, and the amount produced, compared with how much time, work and money is needed to produce them

adjective

profitable

that makes or is likely to make money

adjective

profound

very great; felt or experienced very strongly

noun

programming

the process of writing and testing computer programs

adjective

progressive

in favour of new ideas, modern methods and change

verb

prohibit

to stop something from being done or used especially by law

noun

projection

an estimate or a statement of what figures, amounts, or events will be in the future, or what they were in the past, based on what is happening now

adjective

prominent

important or well known

adjective

promising

showing signs of being good or successful

noun

promotion

a move to a more important job or rank in a company or an organization

verb

prompt

to make somebody decide to do something; to cause something to happen

/ˈprɑːmɪnənt/

a prominent politician

He played a prominent part in the campaign.

/ˈprɑːmɪsɪŋ/

He was voted the most promising new actor for his part in the movie.

/prəˈməʊʃn/

The new job is a promotion for him.

/prɑːmpt/

prompt something The discovery of the bomb prompted an increase in security.

/ˈprəʊgræmɪŋ/

programming languages

/prəˈgresɪv/

progressive schools

/prəˈhɪbɪt/

prohibit something a law prohibiting the sale of alcohol

/prəˈdʒekʃn/

to make forward/backward projections of population figures

/prəˈdʌktɪv/

highly productive farming land

productive workers

/ˌprəʊdʌkˈtɪvəti/

high/improved/increased productivity

Wage rates depend on levels of productivity.

/ˈprɑːfɪtəbl/

a highly profitable business

a profitable investment

/prəˈfaʊnd/

profound changes in the earth’s climate

My father's death had a profound effect on us all.

/ˈprəʊsiːdz/

She sold her car and bought a piano with the proceeds.

/ˈprɑːsesɪŋ/

the food processing industry

a sewage processing plant

/ˈprɑːsesər/

The company is Ireland's largest dairy processor.

/prəˈkleɪm/

proclaim something The president proclaimed a state of emergency.

/prəʊb/

probe (into something) He didn't like the media probing into his past.

/ˌprɑːbləˈmætɪk/

The situation is more problematic than we first thought.

/prəʊˈsiːd/

We're not sure whether we still want to proceed with the sale.

/prəˈsiːdɪŋ/

court/legal/judicial proceedings

bankruptcy/divorce/extradition proceedings

adjective

pronounced

very obvious, easy to notice or strongly expressed

noun

propaganda

ideas or statements that may be false or present only one side of an argument that are used in order to gain support for a political leader, party, etc.

noun

proportion

a part or share of a whole

noun

proposition

an idea or a plan of action that is suggested, especially in business

verb

prosecute

to officially charge somebody with a crime in court

noun

prosecution

the process of trying to prove in court that somebody is guilty of a crime (= of prosecuting them); the process of being officially charged with a crime in court

noun

prosecutor

a public official who charges somebody officially with a crime and prosecutes them in court

adjective

prospective

expected to do something or to become something

noun

prosperity

the state of being successful, especially in making money

adjective

protective

providing or intended to provide protection

noun

protein

a substance, found within all living things, that forms the structure of muscles, organs, etc

noun

protester

a person who makes a public protest

noun

protocol

a system of fixed rules and formal behaviour used at official meetings, usually between governments

noun

province

one of the areas that some countries are divided into with its own local government

adjective

provincial

connected with one of the large areas that some countries are divided into, with its own local government

noun

provision

the act of supplying somebody with something that they need or want; something that is supplied

verb

provoke

to cause a particular reaction or have a particular effect

adjective

psychiatric

relating to psychiatry or to mental illness

adjective

psychological

connected with a person's mind and the way in which it works

noun

publicity

the attention that is given to somebody/something by newspapers, television, etc.

/prəˈvəʊk/

The announcement provoked a storm of protest.

The article was intended to provoke discussion.

/ˌsaɪkiˈætrɪk/

psychiatric disorders

a psychiatric hospital/nurse/patient

/ˌsaɪkəˈlɑːdʒɪkl/

the psychological development of children

Abuse can lead to both psychological and emotional problems.

/pʌbˈlɪsəti/

good/bad/adverse publicity

There has been a great deal of publicity surrounding his disappearance.

/ˈprəʊtəkɑːl/

a breach of protocol

the protocol of diplomatic visits

/ˈprɑːvɪns/

the provinces of Canada

the central province of Ghor

/prəˈvɪnʃl/

provincial assemblies/elections

/prəˈvɪʒn/

housing provision

The government is responsible for the provision of healthcare.

/prɑːˈsperəti/

Our future prosperity depends on economic growth.

The country is enjoying a period of peace and prosperity.

/prəˈtektɪv/

Workers should wear full protective clothing.

a protective layer of varnish

/ˈprəʊtiːn/

essential proteins and vitamins

protein deficiency

/prəˈtestər/

Thousands of protesters marched through the city.

/ˈprɑːsɪkjuːt/

The police decided not to prosecute.

/ˌprɑːsɪˈkjuːʃn/

Prosecution for a first minor offence rarely leads to imprisonment.

/ˈprɑːsɪkjuːtər/

the public/state prosecutor

/prəˈspektɪv/

a prospective buyer

I had a phone call from a prospective client today.

/prəˈnaʊnst/

He walked with a pronounced limp.

She has very pronounced views on art.

/ˌprɑːpəˈgændə/

enemy propaganda

a propaganda campaign

/prəˈpɔːrʃn/

Water covers a large proportion of the earth's surface.

/ˌprɑːpəˈzɪʃn/

I'd like to put a business proposition to you.

He was trying to make it look like an attractive proposition.

noun

publishing

the profession or business of preparing and printing books, magazines, CD-ROMs, etc. and selling or making them available to the public

noun

pulse

the regular beat of the heart as it sends blood around the body, that can be felt in different places, especially on the inside part of the wrist

noun

pump

a machine that is used to force liquid, gas or air into or out of something

verb

pump

to make water, air, gas, etc. flow in a particular direction by using a pump or something that works like a pump

noun

punch

a hard hit made with the fist (= closed hand)

verb

punch

to hit somebody/something hard with your fist (= closed hand)

noun

punk

a type of loud and aggressive rock music popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s

adverb

purely

only; completely

noun

pursuit

the act of looking for or trying to get something

noun

puzzle

a game, etc. that you have to think about carefully in order to answer it or do it

noun

query

a question, especially one asking for information or expressing a doubt about something

noun

quest

a long search for something, especially for some quality such as happiness

noun

questionnaire

a written list of questions that are answered by a number of people so that information can be collected from the answers

noun

quota

a limited number or amount of people or things that is officially allowed

adjective

racial

happening or existing between people of different races

noun

racism

the unfair treatment of people who belong to a different race; violent behaviour towards them

adjective

racist

having the belief that some races of people are better than others or having general beliefs about other people based only on their race

noun

racist

a person who believes that some races of people are better than others or who has general beliefs about other people based only on their race, and may show this in violent or unfair treatment of people of other races

noun

radar

a system that uses radio waves to find the position and movement of objects, for example planes and ships, when they cannot be seen

noun

radiation

powerful and very dangerous rays that are sent out from radioactive substances

/ˈreɪsɪst/

racist attitudes/remarks

racist thugs/attacks

/ˈreɪsɪst/

He's a racist.

The family was being harassed by racists.

/ˈreɪdɑːr/

They located the ship by radar.

a radar screen

/ˌreɪdiˈeɪʃn/

high levels/doses of radiation that damage cells

the link between exposure to radiation and childhood cancer

/ˌkwestʃəˈner/

(British English) to fill in a questionnaire

(especially North American English) to fill out a questionnaire

/ˈkwəʊtə/

to introduce a strict import quota on grain

/ˈreɪʃl/

racial hatred/prejudice/tension/violence

racial equality

/ˈreɪsɪzəm/

a victim of racism

ugly outbreaks of racism

/pərˈsuːt/

pursuit of something the pursuit of happiness/knowledge/profit

/ˈpʌzl/

a crossword puzzle

a book of puzzles for children

/ˈkwɪri/

Our assistants will be happy to answer your queries.

/kwest/

quest for something the quest for happiness/knowledge/truth

/pʌntʃ/

a punch in the face

Hill threw a punch at the police officer.

/pʌntʃ/

punch somebody/something He was kicked and punched as he lay on the ground.

/pʌŋk/

a punk band

/ˈpjʊrli/

I saw the letter purely by chance.

The charity is run on a purely voluntary basis.

/ˈpʌblɪʃɪŋ/

a job in publishing

a publishing house/company

/pʌls/

a strong/weak pulse

an abnormally high pulse rate

/pʌmp/

(British English) a petrol pump

(North American English) a gas pump

/pʌmp/

pump something (+ adv./prep.) The engine is used for pumping water out of the mine.

adjective

radical

relating to the most basic and important parts of something; complete and detailed

noun

rage

a feeling of violent anger that is difficult to control

noun

raid

a short surprise attack on an enemy by soldiers, ships or aircraft

verb

raid

to visit a person or place without warning to look for criminals, illegal goods, drugs, etc.

noun

rail

a wooden or metal bar placed around something as a barrier or to provide support

noun

rally

a large public meeting, especially one held to support a particular idea or political party

verb

rally

to come together or bring people together in order to help or support somebody/something

adjective

random

done, chosen, etc. without somebody deciding in advance what is going to happen, or without any regular pattern

noun

ranking

the position of somebody/something on a scale that shows how good or important they are in relation to other similar people or things, especially in sport

noun

rape

the crime of forcing somebody to have sex when they do not want it or are not able to agree to it

verb

rape

to force somebody to have sex when they do not want it or are not able to agree to it

noun

rat

a small animal with a long tail, that looks like a large mouse, usually considered a pest (= an animal which is disliked because it destroys food or spreads disease)

noun

rating

a measurement of how good, popular, important, etc. somebody/something is, especially in relation to other people or things

noun

ratio

the relationship between two groups of people or things that is represented by two numbers showing how much larger one group is than the other

adjective

rational

based on reason rather than emotions

noun

ray

a narrow line of light, heat or other energy

adverb

readily

quickly and without difficulty

noun

realization

the process of becoming aware of something

noun

realm

an area of activity, interest or knowledge

adjective

rear

at or near the back of something

/ˈredɪli/

All ingredients are readily available from your local store.

/ˌriːələˈzeɪʃn/

As realization dawned, he went pale.

realization of something the sudden realization of what she had done

/relm/

in the realm of something in the realm of literature

/rɪr/

front and rear windows

the rear entrance of the building

/ˈreɪtɪŋ/

The poll gave an approval rating of 39 per cent for the president.

/ˈreɪʃiəʊ/

The school has a very high teacher-student ratio.

ratio of A to B What is the ratio of men to women in the department?

/ˈræʃnəl/

a rational argument/choice/decision

rational analysis/thought

/reɪ/

The last of the sun's rays shone on the grass.

Ultraviolet rays damage the skin.

/ˈræŋkɪŋ/

He has improved his ranking this season from 67th to 30th.

/reɪp/

He was charged with rape.

a rape charge

/reɪp/

She was attacked and raped.

A jogger was raped at knifepoint.

/ræt/

rat poison

The police are all over town. He’s caught, like a rat in a trap.

/reɪl/

She leaned on the ship's rail and gazed out to sea.

/ˈræli/

to attend/hold a rally

a peace/protest rally

/ˈræli/

rally around/behind somebody/something The cabinet rallied behind the Prime Minister.

/ˈrændəm/

the random killing of innocent people

/ˈrædɪkl/

the need for radical changes in education

demands for radical reform of the law

/reɪdʒ/

His face was dark with rage.

to be shaking/trembling/speechless with rage

/reɪd/

to conduct/launch a raid

raid on something The carried out a bombing raid on enemy bases.

/reɪd/

The house was raided in the early hours.

noun

rear

the back part of something

adverb

reasonably

to a degree that is fairly good but not very good

noun

reasoning

the process of thinking about things in a logical way; opinions and ideas that are based on logical thinking

verb

reassure

to say or do something that makes somebody less frightened or worried

noun

rebel

a person who fights against the government of their country

noun

rebellion

an attempt by some of the people in a country to change their government, using violence

verb

rebuild

to build or put something together again

noun

receiver

the part of a phone that you hold close to your mouth and ear

noun

recession

a difficult time for the economy of a country, when there is less trade and industrial activity than usual and more people are unemployed

noun

recipient

a person who receives something

verb

reckon

to think something or have an opinion about something

noun

recognition

the act of remembering who somebody is when you see them, or of identifying what something is

noun

reconstruction

the process of changing or improving the condition of something or the way it works; the process of putting something back into the state it was in before

verb

recount1

to tell somebody about something, especially something that you have experienced

noun

recovery

the process of becoming well again after an illness or injury

noun

recruit

a person who has recently joined the armed forces or the police

verb

recruit

to find new people to join a company, an organization, the armed forces, etc.

noun

recruitment

the act or process of finding new people to join a company, an organization, the armed forces, etc.

noun

referee

the official who controls the game in some sports

noun

referendum

an occasion when all the people of a country can vote on an important issue

/rɪˈkruːt/

recruit (somebody) We are trying to recruit officers from more diverse backgrounds.

/rɪˈkruːtmənt/

the recruitment of new members

a recruitment drive

/ˌrefəˈriː/

He was sent off for arguing with the referee.

/ˌrefəˈrendəm/

referendum on something Switzerland decided to hold a referendum on joining the EU.

/ˌriːkənˈstrʌkʃn/

the reconstruction of the educational system

the post-war reconstruction of Germany

/rɪˈkaʊnt/

recount something (to somebody) She was asked to recount the details of the conversation to the court.

/rɪˈkʌvəri/

My father has made a full recovery from the operation.

/rɪˈkruːt/

the training of new recruits

/rɪˈseʃn/

How do you assess the impact of the current recession on manufacturing?

/rɪˈsɪpiənt/

recipients of awards

/ˈrekən/

I reckon (that) I'm going to get that job.

He'll be famous one day. What do you reckon (= do you agree)?

/ˌrekəgˈnɪʃn/

He glanced briefly towards her but there was no sign of recognition.

/ˈrebl/

rebel forces

Armed rebels advanced towards the capital.

/rɪˈbeljən/

in rebellion (against somebody/something) The north of the country rose in rebellion against the government.

/ˌriːˈbɪld/

After the earthquake, the people set about rebuilding their homes.

/rɪˈsiːvər/

to pick up/lift/put down/replace the receiver

/rɪr/

A trailer was attached to the rear of the truck.

There are toilets at both front and rear of the plane.

/ˈriːznəbli/

The instructions are reasonably straightforward.

She seems reasonably happy in her new job.

/ˈriːzənɪŋ/

What is the reasoning behind this decision?

This line of reasoning is faulty.

/ˌriːəˈʃʊr/

reassure somebody (about something) They tried to reassure her, but she still felt anxious.

noun

reflection

an image in a mirror, on a shiny surface, on water, etc.

noun

reform

change that is made to a social system, an organization, etc. in order to improve or correct it

verb

reform

to improve a system, an organization, a law, etc. by making changes to it

noun

refuge

shelter or protection from danger, trouble, etc.

noun

refugee

a person who has been forced to leave their country or home, because there is a war or for political, religious or social reasons

noun

refusal

an act of saying or showing that you will not do, give or accept something

verb

regain

to get back something you no longer have, especially an ability or a quality

adverb

regardless

paying no attention, even if the situation is bad or there are difficulties

noun

regime

a method or system of government, especially one that has not been elected in a fair way

noun

registration

the act of making an official record of something/somebody

verb

regulate

to control something by means of rules

noun

regulator

a person or an organization that officially controls an area of business or industry and makes sure that it is operating fairly

adjective

regulatory

having the power to control an area of business or industry and make sure that it is operating fairly

noun

rehabilitation

the process of helping somebody to have a normal, useful life again after they have been very ill or in prison for a long time

noun

reign

the period during which a king, queen, emperor, etc. rules

verb

reign

to rule as king, queen, emperor, etc.

verb

reinforce

to make a feeling, an idea, etc. stronger

noun

rejection

the act of refusing to accept or consider something

noun

relevance

a close connection with the subject you are discussing or the situation you are in

noun

reliability

the quality of being able to be trusted to do what somebody wants or needs

/ˌriːɪnˈfɔːrs/

The experience reinforced my sense of loss.

Such jokes tend to reinforce gender stereotypes.

/rɪˈdʒekʃn/

Her proposal met with unanimous rejection.

/ˈreləvəns/

I don't see the relevance of your question.

/rɪˌlaɪəˈbɪləti/

The incident cast doubt on her motives and reliability.

/ˈregjələtɔːri/

regulatory bodies/authorities/agencies

regulatory procedures

/ˌriːəˌbɪlɪˈteɪʃn/

a drug rehabilitation centre

the rehabilitation of offenders

/reɪn/

By the end of his reign, the vast empire was in decline.

/reɪn/

It was the first visit by a British reigning monarch to Russia.

/reɪˈʒiːm/

a fascist/totalitarian/military, etc. regime

an oppressive/brutal regime

/ˌredʒɪˈstreɪʃn/

the registration of letters and parcels

the registration of students for a course

/ˈregjuleɪt/

The department is responsible for regulating the insurance industry.

/ˈregjuleɪtər/

Ofgas, the gas industry regulator

banking regulators

/ˌrefjuˈdʒiː/

There has been a steady flow of refugees from the war zone.

/rɪˈfjuːzl/

the refusal of a request/an invitation/an offer

a blunt/flat/curt refusal

/rɪˈgeɪn/

I struggled to regain some dignity.

The party has regained control of the region.

/rɪˈgɑːrdləs/

The weather was terrible but we carried on regardless.

/rɪˈflekʃn/

He admired his reflection in the mirror.

/rɪˈfɔːrm/

a government committed to reform

economic/electoral/constitutional, etc. reform

/rɪˈfɔːrm/

proposals to reform the social security system

The law needs to be reformed.

/ˈrefjuːdʒ/

A further 300 people have taken refuge in the US embassy.

verb

relieve

to remove or reduce an unpleasant feeling or pain

adjective

relieved

feeling happy because something unpleasant has stopped or has not happened; showing this

adjective

reluctant

hesitating before doing something because you do not want to do it or because you are not sure that it is the right thing to do

noun

remainder

the people, things or time that remain

noun

remains

the parts of something that are left after the other parts have been used, eaten, removed, etc.

adjective

remarkable

unusual or surprising in a way that causes people to take notice

adverb

remarkably

in a way that is unusual or surprising and causes people to take notice

noun

remedy

a way of dealing with or improving an unpleasant or difficult situation

noun

reminder

something that makes you think about or remember somebody/something, that you have forgotten or would like to forget

noun

removal

the act of taking somebody/something away from a particular place

verb

render

to cause somebody/something to be in a particular state or condition

verb

renew

to begin something again after it stopped or was interrupted

adjective

renowned

famous and respected

noun

rental

the amount of money that you pay to use something for a particular period of time

noun

replacement

the act of replacing one thing with another, especially something that is newer or better

adverb

reportedly

according to what some people say

noun

reporting

the presenting of and writing about news on television and radio, and in newspapers

noun

representation

the act of presenting somebody/something in a particular way; something that shows or describes something

verb

reproduce

to make a copy of a picture, piece of text, etc.

noun

reproduction

the act or process of producing babies, young animals or plants

/rɪˈpɔːrtɪŋ/

accurate/balanced/objective reporting

/ˌreprɪzenˈteɪʃn/

the negative representation of single mothers in the media

/ˌriːprəˈduːs/

It is illegal to reproduce these worksheets without permission from the publisher.

/ˌriːprəˈdʌkʃn/

sexual reproduction

They are studying reproduction in shellfish.

/rɪˈnaʊnd/

a renowned author

We asked for advice from the renowned legal expert, Sam Pincher.

/ˈrentl/

Telephone charges include line rental.

/rɪˈpleɪsmənt/

the replacement of worn car parts

/rɪˈpɔːrtɪdli/

The band have reportedly decided to split up.

The move, reportedly the President's idea, has come in for a lot of criticism.

/rɪˈmaɪndər/

reminder of something The sheer size of the cathedral is a constant reminder of the power of religion.

/rɪˈmuːvl/

Clearance of the site required the removal of a number of trees.

/ˈrendər/

to render something harmless/useless/ineffective

Hundreds of people were rendered homeless by the earthquake.

/rɪˈnuː/

The army renewed its assault on the capital.

We have to renew our efforts to attract young players.

/rɪˈmeɪnz/

She fed the remains of her lunch to the dog.

/rɪˈmɑːrkəbl/

a remarkable achievement/career/talent

She was a truly remarkable woman.

/rɪˈmɑːrkəbli/

The car is in remarkably good condition for its age.

/ˈremədi/

When the reservoir becomes blocked, the only remedy lies in cleaning the entire system.

/rɪˈliːv/

to relieve the symptoms of a cold

to relieve anxiety/guilt/stress

/rɪˈliːvd/

She sounded relieved.

/rɪˈlʌktənt/

He finally gave a reluctant smile.

They nodded in reluctant agreement.

/rɪˈmeɪndər/

I kept some of his books and gave away the remainder.

noun

republic

a country that is governed by a president and politicians elected by the people and where there is no king
or queen

verb

resemble

to look like or be similar to another person or thing

verb

reside

to live in a particular place

noun

residence

a house, especially a large or impressive one

adjective

residential

suitable for living in; consisting of houses rather than factories or offices

noun

residue

a small amount of something that remains at the end of a process

verb

resign

to officially tell somebody that you are leaving your job, an organization, etc.

noun

resignation

the act of giving up your job or position; the occasion when you do this

noun

resistance

dislike of or opposition to a plan, an idea, etc.; the act of refusing to obey

noun

resolution

a definite decision to do or not to do something

adjective

respective

belonging or relating separately to each of the people or things already mentioned

adverb

respectively

in the same order as the people or things already mentioned

noun

restoration

the work of repairing and cleaning an old building, a painting, etc. so that its condition is as good as it originally was

verb

restore

to bring back a situation or feeling that existed before

noun

restraint

a rule, a fact, an idea, etc. that limits or controls what people can do

verb

restrict

to limit the size, amount or range of something

noun

restriction

a rule or law that limits what you can do or what can happen

verb

resume

if you resume an activity, or if it resumes, it begins again or continues after being interrupted

noun

retail1

the selling of goods to the public, usually through shops

noun

retirement

the fact of stopping work because you have reached a particular age; the time when you do this

/rɪˈstrɪkʃn/

import/speed/travel restrictions

restriction on something to impose/place a restriction on something

/rɪˈzuːm/

resume (something) to resume talks/negotiations

She resumed her career after an interval of six years.

/ˈriːteɪl/

The recommended retail price is £9.99.

department stores and other retail outlets

/rɪˈtaɪərmənt/

At 60, he was now approaching retirement.

Susan is going to take early retirement (= retire before the usual age).

/ˌrestəˈreɪʃn/

restoration work

for restoration The palace is closed for restoration.

/rɪˈstɔːr/

restore something The measures are intended to restore public confidence in the economy.

/rɪˈstreɪnt/

The government has imposed export restraints on some products.

/rɪˈstrɪkt/

restrict something to something Speed is restricted to 30 mph in towns.

/rɪˈzɪstəns/

As with all new ideas it met with resistance.

/ˌrezəˈluːʃn/

Have you made any New Year's resolutions (= for example, to give up smoking from 1 January)?

/rɪˈspektɪv/

They are each recognized specialists in their respective fields.

/rɪˈspektɪvli/

Julie and Mark, aged 17 and 19 respectively

/ˌrezɪˈdenʃl/

a quiet residential area

/ˈrezɪduː/

pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables

/rɪˈzaɪn/

She was forced to resign due to ill health.

resign as something He resigned as manager after eight years.

/ˌrezɪgˈneɪʃn/

a letter of resignation

There were calls for her resignation from the board of directors.

/rɪˈpʌblɪk/

newly independent republics

Mary McAleese has been the President of the Republic of Ireland since 1997.

/rɪˈzembl/

She closely resembles her sister.

So many hotels resemble each other.

/rɪˈzaɪd/

He returned to Britain in 1939, having resided abroad for many years.

/ˈrezɪdəns/

a desirable family residence for sale (= for example, in an advertisement)

noun

retreat

a movement away from a place or an enemy because of danger or defeat

verb

retreat

to move away from a place or an enemy because you are in danger or because you have been defeated

verb

retrieve

to bring or get something back, especially from a place where it should not be

noun

revelation

a fact that people are made aware of, especially one that has been secret and is surprising

noun

revenge

something that you do in order to make somebody suffer because they have made you suffer

noun

revenue

the money that a government receives from taxes or that an organization, etc. receives from its business

adjective

reverse

opposite to what has been mentioned

noun

reverse

the opposite of what has just been mentioned

verb

reverse

to change something completely so that it is the opposite of what it was before

noun

revision

a change or set of changes to something

noun

revival

an improvement in the condition or strength of something

verb

revive

to become, or to make somebody/something become, conscious or healthy and strong again

adjective

revolutionary

connected with political revolution

noun

rhetoric

speech or writing that is intended to influence people, but that is not completely honest or sincere

adjective

ridiculous

very silly or unreasonable

noun

rifle

a gun with a long barrel which you hold to your shoulder to fire

noun

riot

a situation in which a group of people behave in a violent way in a public place, often as a protest

verb

rip

to tear something or to become torn, often suddenly or violently

adjective

risky

involving the possibility of something bad happening

noun

ritual

a series of actions that are always performed in the same way, especially as part of a religious ceremony

/ˈraɪət/

One prison guard was killed when a riot broke out in the jail.

/rɪp/

rip (something) I ripped my jeans on the fence.

The flags had been ripped in two.

/ˈrɪski/

Life as an aid worker can be a risky business (= dangerous).

/ˈrɪtʃuəl/

religious rituals

She objects to the ritual of organized religion.

/ˌrevəˈluːʃəneri/

a revolutionary leader

revolutionary uprisings

/ˈretərɪk/

the rhetoric of political slogans

Her speech was just empty rhetoric.

/rɪˈdɪkjələs/

I look ridiculous in this hat.

Don't be ridiculous! You can't pay £50 for a T-shirt!

/ˈraɪfl/

a hunting rifle

an assault rifle

/rɪˈvɜːrs/

Falling birth rates may reverse the trend towards early retirement.

/rɪˈvɪʒn/

He made some minor revisions to the report before printing it out.

/rɪˈvaɪvl/

the revival of trade

an economic revival

/rɪˈvaɪv/

The flowers soon revived in water.

The economy is beginning to revive.

/rɪˈvendʒ/

revenge for something She is seeking revenge for the murder of her husband.

/ˈrevənuː/

The government is currently facing a shortfall in tax revenue.

/rɪˈvɜːrs/

to travel in the reverse direction

/rɪˈvɜːrs/

This problem is the reverse of the previous one.

/rɪˈtriːt/

Napoleon’s retreat from Moscow

The army was in full retreat (= retreating very quickly).

/rɪˈtriːt/

The army was forced to retreat after suffering heavy losses.

/rɪˈtriːv/

retrieve something from somebody/something She bent to retrieve her comb from the floor.

/ˌrevəˈleɪʃn/

revelation about/concerning something startling/sensational revelations about her private life

adjective

rival

competing with another person, company, thing, etc.

noun

rival

a person, company or thing that competes with another in sport, business, etc.

verb

rob

to steal money or property from a person or place

noun

robbery

the crime of stealing money or goods from a bank, shop, person, etc., especially using violence or threats

adjective

robust

strong and healthy

verb

rock

to move gently backwards and forwards or from side to side; to make somebody/something move in this way

noun

rocket

a spacecraft in the shape of a tube that is driven by a stream of gases let out behind it when fuel is burned inside

noun

rod

a long straight piece of wood, metal or glass

noun

romance

an exciting, usually short, relationship between two people who are in love with each other

noun

rose

a flower with a sweet smell that grows on a bush with thorns (= sharp points) on its stems

verb

rotate

to move or turn around a central fixed point; to make something do this

noun

rotation

the action of an object moving in a circle around a central fixed point

adverb

roughly

approximately but not exactly

noun

ruin

the state or process of being destroyed or severely damaged

verb

ruin

to damage something so badly that it loses all its value, pleasure, etc.

noun

ruling

an official decision made by somebody in a position of authority, especially a judge

noun

rumour

a piece of information, or a story, that people talk about, but that may not be true

verb

sack

to dismiss somebody from a job

adjective

sacred

connected with God or a god; considered to be holy

noun

sacrifice

the fact of giving up something important or valuable to you in order to get or do something that seems more important; something that you give up in this way

/ˈruːmər/

to start/spread a rumour

rumour of something There are widespread rumours of job losses.

/sæk/

She was sacked for refusing to work on Sundays.

/ˈseɪkrɪd/

a sacred image/shrine/temple

sacred music

/ˈsækrɪfaɪs/

The makers of the product assured us that there had been no sacrifice of quality.

/ˈrʌfli/

Sales are up by roughly 10 per cent.

We live roughly halfway between here and the coast.

/ˈruːɪn/

A large number of churches fell into ruin after the revolution.

/ˈruːɪn/

The bad weather ruined our trip.

That one mistake ruined his chances of getting the job.

/ˈruːlɪŋ/

The court will make its ruling on the case next week.

/ˈrəʊmæns/

a holiday romance

They had a whirlwind romance.

/rəʊz/

a bunch of red roses

a rose bush/garden

/ˈrəʊteɪt/

Stay well away from the helicopter when its blades start to rotate.

/rəʊˈteɪʃn/

the daily rotation of the earth on its axis

the earth's rotation around the sun

/rəʊˈbʌst/

She was almost 90, but still very robust.

He seems to be in robust (good) health.

/rɑːk/

(+ adv./prep.) The boat rocked from side to side in the waves.

/ˈrɑːkɪt/

a space rocket

The rocket was launched in 2007.

/rɑːd/

The concrete is reinforced with steel rods.

I finally managed to fix the curtain rods above the windows.

/ˈraɪvl/

a rival bid/claim/offer

fighting between rival groups/factions

/ˈraɪvl/

The two teams have always been rivals.

Marlowe was Shakespeare's main rival at the beginning of his career.

/rɑːb/

to rob a bank

The tomb had been robbed of its treasures.

/ˈrɑːbəri/

armed robbery (= using a gun, knife, etc.)

There has been a spate of robberies in the area recently.

verb

sacrifice

to give up something that is important or valuable to you in order to get or do something that seems more important for yourself or for another person

noun

saint

a person that the Christian Church recognizes as being very holy, because of the way they have lived or died

noun

sake1

used to emphasize that it is important to do something or when you are annoyed about something

noun

sanction

an official order that limits trade, contact, etc. with a particular country, in order to make it do something, such as obeying international law

noun

satisfaction

the good feeling that you have when you have achieved something or when something that you wanted to happen does happen; something that gives you this feeling

noun

say

the right to influence something by giving your opinion before a decision is made

noun

scandal

behaviour or an event that people think is morally or legally wrong and causes public feelings of shock or anger

noun

scare

a situation in which a lot of people are anxious or frightened about something

verb

scare

to frighten somebody

adjective

scattered

spread far apart over a wide area or over a long period of time

noun

scenario

a description of how things might happen in the future

adjective

sceptical

having doubts that a claim or statement is true or that something will happen

noun

scholar

a person who knows a lot about a particular subject because they have studied it in detail

noun

scholarship

an amount of money given to somebody by an organization to help pay for their education

noun

scope

the opportunity or ability to do or achieve something

noun

scratch

a mark, a cut or an injury made by scratching somebody's skin or the surface of something

verb

scratch

to rub your skin with your nails, usually because it is itching

noun

screening

the act of showing a film or television programme

noun

screw

a thin pointed piece of metal like a nail with a raised spiral line (called a thread) along it and a line or cross cut into its head

verb

screw

to fasten one thing to another or make something tight with a screw or screws

/skrætʃ/

scratch something John yawned and scratched his chin.

/ˈskriːnɪŋ/

This will be the movie's first screening in this country.

/skruː/

One of the screws is loose.

Now tighten all the screws.

/skruː/

The bookcase is screwed to the wall.

You need to screw all the parts together.

/ˈskɑːlər/

a classical scholar

He was the most distinguished scholar in his field.

/ˈskɑːlərʃɪp/

She won a scholarship to study at Stanford.

on a scholarship He went to drama school on a scholarship.

/skəʊp/

scope for something There's still plenty of scope for improvement.

/skrætʃ/

Her hands were covered in scratches from the brambles.

/sker/

scare somebody You scared me.

/ˈskætərd/

a few scattered settlements

sunshine with scattered showers

/səˈnæriəʊ/

Let me suggest a possible scenario.

/ˈskeptɪkl/

She looked highly sceptical.

sceptical about something I am sceptical about his chances of winning.

/ˌsætɪsˈfækʃn/

to gain/get/derive satisfaction from something

a look/smile of satisfaction

/seɪ/

say (in something) We had no say in the decision to sell the company.

/ˈskændl/

a series of sex scandals

to cause/create a scandal

/sker/

a health scare

recent scares about pesticides in food

/ˈsækrɪfaɪs/

sacrifice something for somebody/something She sacrificed everything for her children.

/seɪnt/

St John

St Valentine’s Day

/seɪk/

Do be careful, for goodness' sake.

Oh, for heaven's sake!

/ˈsæŋkʃn/

Trade sanctions were imposed against any country that refused to sign the agreement.

noun

scrutiny

careful and complete examination

noun

seal

an official design or mark, stamped on a document to show that it is real and carries the authority of a particular person or organization

verb

seal

to close an envelope, etc. by sticking the edges of the opening together

adjective

secular

not connected with spiritual or religious matters

noun

seeker

a person who is trying to find or get the thing mentioned

adverb

seemingly

in a way that appears to be true but may in fact not be

noun

segment

a part of something that is separate from the other parts or can be considered separately

verb

seize

to take somebody/something in your hand suddenly and using force

adverb

seldom

not often

adjective

selective

affecting or involving only a small number of people or things from a larger group

noun

seminar

a class at a university or college when a small group of students and a teacher discuss or study a particular topic

noun

senator

a member of a senate

noun

sensation

a feeling that you get when something affects your body

noun

sensitivity

the ability to understand other people's feelings

noun

sentiment

a feeling or an opinion, especially one based on emotions

noun

separation

the act of separating people or things; the state of being separate

adjective

serial

doing the same thing in the same way several times; done in the same way several times

noun

set-up

a way of organizing something; a system

noun

settlement

an official agreement that ends an argument between two people or groups

noun

settler

a person who goes to live in a new country or region

/ˈsɪriəl/

a serial rapist

He is wanted for serial murder.

/ˈset ʌp/

I've only been here a couple of weeks and I don't really know the set-up.

/ˈsetlmənt/

to negotiate a peace settlement

/ˈsetlər/

Most of the settlers came from England.

/senˈseɪʃn/

a tingling/burning sensation

I had a sensation of falling, as if in a dream.

/ˌsensəˈtɪvəti/

sensitivity to the needs of children

She pointed out with tact and sensitivity exactly where he had gone wrong.

/ˈsentɪmənt/

the spread of nationalist sentiments

This is a sentiment I wholeheartedly agree with.

/ˌsepəˈreɪʃn/

separation from somebody/something the state’s eventual separation from the federation

/ˈseldəm/

He had seldom seen a child with so much talent.

She seldom, if ever, goes to the theatre.

/sɪˈlektɪv/

the selective breeding of cattle

selective strike action

/ˈsemɪnɑːr/

Teaching is by lectures and seminars.

a graduate seminar

/ˈsenətər/

Senator McCarthy

She has served as a Democratic senator for North Carolina since 2009.

/ˈsiːkər/

an attention/a publicity seeker

seekers after the truth

/ˈsiːmɪŋli/

a seemingly stupid question

a seemingly endless journey

/ˈsegmənt/

She cleaned a small segment of the painting.

Lines divided the area into segments.

/siːz/

seize something from somebody She tried to seize the gun from him.

/ˈskruːtəni/

Her argument doesn't really stand up to scrutiny.

Foreign policy has come under close scrutiny recently.

/siːl/

The letter bore the president's seal.

/siːl/

Make sure you've signed the cheque before sealing the envelope.

/ˈsekjələr/

secular music

We live in a largely secular society.

adverb

severely

very badly or seriously

noun

sexuality

the feelings and activities connected with a person's sexual desires

adjective

sexy

sexually attractive

adjective

shaped

having the type of shape mentioned

noun

shareholder

an owner of shares in a company or business

verb

shatter

to suddenly break into small pieces; to make something suddenly break into small pieces

verb

shed

to get rid of something that is no longer wanted

adjective

sheer

used to emphasize the size, degree or amount of something

noun

shipping

ships in general or considered as a group

adjective

shocking

that offends or upsets people; that is morally wrong

noun

shoot

the part that grows up from the ground when a plant starts to grow; a new part that grows on plants or trees

noun

shore

the land along the edge of the sea, the ocean or a lake

adjective

short-term

lasting a short time; designed only for a short period of time in the future

noun

shortage

a situation when there is not enough of the people or things that are needed

adverb

shortly

a short time; not long

verb

shrink

to become smaller, especially when washed in water that is too hot; to make clothes, cloth, etc. smaller in this way

verb

shrug

to raise your shoulders and then drop them to show that you do not know or care about something

noun

sibling

a brother or sister

noun

sigh

an act or the sound of sighing

verb

sigh

to take and then let out a long deep breath that can be heard, to show that you are disappointed, sad, tired, etc.

/ʃrʌg/

Sam shrugged and said nothing.

shrug something ‘I don't know,’ Anna replied, shrugging her shoulders.

/ˈsɪblɪŋ/

squabbles between siblings

sibling rivalry (= competition between brothers and sisters)

/saɪ/

to give/heave/let out a sigh

a deep sigh

/saɪ/

He sighed deeply at the thought.

sigh with something She sighed with relief that it was all over.

/ˌʃɔːrt ˈtɜːrm/

a short-term loan

to find work on a short-term contract

/ˈʃɔːrtɪdʒ/

food/housing/water shortages

a shortage of funds

/ˈʃɔːrtli/

She arrived shortly after us.

I saw him shortly before he died.

/ʃrɪŋk/

My sweater shrank in the wash.

/ˈʃɪpɪŋ/

The canal is open to shipping.

international shipping lanes (= routes for ships)

/ˈʃɑːkɪŋ/

shocking behaviour

shocking news

/ʃuːt/

new green shoots

bamboo shoots

/ʃɔːr/

a rocky/sandy shore

to swim from the boat to the shore

/ˈʃerhəʊldər/

the major shareholders in the company

Company shareholders approved the merger.

/ˈʃætər/

shatter (into something) He dropped the vase and it shattered into pieces on the floor.

/ʃed/

The factory is shedding a large number of jobs.

a quick way to shed unwanted pounds (= extra weight or fat on your body)

/ʃɪr/

The area is under threat from the sheer number of tourists using it.

/sɪˈvɪrli/

severely disabled

areas severely affected by unemployment

/ˌsekʃuˈæləti/

He was confused about his sexuality.

male/female sexuality

/ˈseksi/

the sexy lead singer

She looked incredibly sexy in a black evening gown.

/ʃeɪpt/

a huge balloon shaped like a giant cow

almond-shaped eyes

noun

signature

your name as you usually write it, for example at the end of a letter

noun

significance

the importance of something, especially when this has an effect on what happens in the future

verb

simulate

to create particular conditions that exist in real life using computers, models, etc., usually for study or training purposes

noun

simulation

a situation in which a particular set of conditions is created artificially in order to study or experience something that could exist in reality

adverb

simultaneously

at the same time as something else

noun

sin

an offence against God or against a religious or moral law

adjective

situated

in a particular place or position

noun

sketch

a simple picture that is drawn quickly and does not have many details

adjective

skilled

having enough ability, experience and knowledge to be able to do something well

verb

skip

to move forwards lightly and quickly making a little jump with each step

noun

skull

the bone structure that forms the head and surrounds and protects the brain

verb

slam

to shut, or to make something shut, with a lot of force, making a loud noise

verb

slap

to hit somebody/something with the flat part of your hand

verb

slash

to make a long cut with a sharp object, especially in a violent way

noun

slavery

the state of being forced to work as a slave

noun

slogan

a word or phrase that is easy to remember, used for example by a political party or in advertising to attract people's attention or to suggest an idea quickly

noun

slot

a long, narrow opening, into which you put or fit something

verb

smash

to break something, or to be broken, violently and noisily into many pieces

verb

snap

to break something suddenly with a sharp noise; to be broken in this way

adjective

so-called

used to show that you do not think that the word or phrase that is being used to describe somebody/something is appropriate

/slɑːt/

to put some coins in the slot

/smæʃ/

Several windows had been smashed.

He smashed the radio to pieces.

/snæp/

snap something The wind had snapped the tree in two.

/ˌsəʊ ˈkɔːld/

the opinion of a so-called ‘expert’

How have these so-called improvements helped the local community?

/slæp/

She slapped his face hard.

She slapped him hard across the face.

/slæʃ/

slash something Someone had slashed the tyres on my car.

/ˈsleɪvəri/

to be sold into slavery

/ˈsləʊgən/

an advertising slogan

a campaign slogan

/skɪld/

a skilled engineer/negotiator/craftsman

a shortage of skilled labour (= people who have had training in a skill)

/skɪp/

She skipped happily along beside me.

Lambs were skipping about in the fields.

/skʌl/

a fractured skull

the angel of death with his grinning skull

/slæm/

I heard the door slam behind him.

+ adj. A window slammed shut in the wind.

/ˌsaɪmlˈteɪniəsli/

The game will be broadcast simultaneously on TV and radio.

/sɪn/

to commit a sin

Confess your sins to God and he will forgive you.

/ˈsɪtʃueɪtɪd/

My bedroom was situated on the top floor of the house.

/sketʃ/

The artist is making sketches for his next painting.

/ˈsɪgnətʃər/

Someone had forged her signature on the cheque.

They collected 10 000 signatures for their petition.

/sɪgˈnɪfɪkəns/

a decision of major political significance

The new drug has great significance for the treatment of the disease.

/ˈsɪmjuleɪt/

Computer software can be used to simulate conditions on the seabed.

/ˌsɪmjuˈleɪʃn/

a computer simulation of how the planet functions

a simulation model

verb

soak

to put something in liquid for a time so that it becomes completely wet; to become completely wet in this way

verb

soar

if the value, amount or level of something soars, it rises very quickly

adjective

socialist

connected with socialism

adjective

sole

only; single

adverb

solely

only; not involving somebody/something else

noun

solicitor

a lawyer who prepares legal documents, for example for the sale of land or buildings, advises people on legal matters, and can speak for them in some courts of law

noun

solidarity

support by one person or group of people for another because they share feelings, opinions, aims, etc.

adjective

solo

done by one person alone, without anyone helping them

noun

solo

a piece of music, dance or entertainment performed by only one person

adverb

somehow

in a way that is not known or certain

adverb

sometime

at a time that you do not know exactly or has not yet been decided

adjective

sophisticated

clever and complicated in the way that it works or is presented

adjective

sound

sensible; that you can rely on and that will probably give good results

noun

sovereignty

complete power to govern a country

noun

spam

advertising material sent by email to people who have not asked for it

noun

span

the length of time that something lasts or is able to continue

verb

span

to last all through a period of time or to cover the whole of it

adjective

spare

available to do what you want with rather than work

verb

spare

to make something such as time or money available to somebody or for something, especially when it requires an effort for you to do this

verb

spark

to cause something to start or develop, especially suddenly

/spæn/

His acting career spanned 55 years.

Family photos spanning five generations were stolen.

/sper/

He's studying music in his spare time.

I haven't had a spare moment this morning.

/sper/

spare something/somebody I'd love to have a break, but I can't spare the time just now.

/spɑːrk/

spark something The proposal would spark a storm of protest around the country.

/saʊnd/

He's a person of very sound judgement.

He gave me some very sound advice.

/ˈsɑːvrənti/

The country claimed sovereignty over the island.

This constitutes an attack on the sovereignty of Parliament.

/spæm/

to send/block spam

I get thousands of spam emails each month.

/spæn/

I worked with him over a span of six years.

The project must be completed within a specific time span.

/ˈsəʊləʊ/

The song features an extended guitar solo.

the opening piano solo

/ˈsʌmhaʊ/

We must stop him from seeing her somehow.

Somehow or other I must get a new job.

/ˈsʌmtaɪm/

I saw him sometime last summer.

We must get together sometime.

/səˈfɪstɪkeɪtɪd/

highly sophisticated computer systems

Medical techniques are becoming more sophisticated all the time.

/ˈsəʊlli/

She was motivated solely by self-interest.

Selection is based solely on merit.

/səˈlɪsɪtər/

Her first step was to contact a solicitor for advice.

/ˌsɑːlɪˈdærəti/

community solidarity

solidarity with somebody to express/show solidarity with fellow students

/ˈsəʊləʊ/

his first solo flight

a solo effort

/səʊk/

soak something (in something) I usually soak the beans overnight.

/sɔːr/

soaring costs/prices/temperatures

Air pollution will soon soar above safety levels.

/ˈsəʊʃəlɪst/

socialist beliefs

/səʊl/

the sole surviving member of the family

My sole reason for coming here was to see you.

verb

specialize

to become an expert in a particular area of work, study or business; to spend more time on one area of work, etc. than on others

adjective

specialized

designed or developed for a particular purpose or area of knowledge

noun

specification

a detailed description of how something is, or should be, designed or made

verb

specify

to state something, especially by giving an exact measurement, time, exact instructions, etc.

noun

specimen

a small amount of something that shows what the rest of it is like

noun

spectacle

two lenses in a frame that rests on the nose and ears. People wear spectacles in order to be able to see better or to protect their eyes from bright light.

adjective

spectacular

very impressive

noun

spectator

a person who is watching an event, especially a sports event

noun

spectrum

a band of coloured lights in order of their wavelengths, as seen in a rainbow and into which light may be separated

verb

speculate

to form an opinion about something without knowing all the details or facts

noun

speculation

the act of forming opinions about what has happened or what might happen without knowing all the facts

noun

spell

a short period of time during which something lasts

noun

sphere

a solid figure that is completely round, with every point on its surface at an equal distance from the centre

noun

spice

one of the various types of powder or seed that come from plants and are used in cooking. Spices have a strong taste and smell.

verb

spill

to flow over the edge of a container by accident; to make liquid do this

noun

spin

a very fast turning movement

verb

spin

to turn round and round quickly; to make something do this

noun

spine

the row of small bones that are connected together down the middle of the back

noun

spite

a feeling of wanting to hurt or upset somebody

verb

spoil

to change something good into something bad, unpleasant, etc.

/spɪn/

(+ adv./prep.) The plane was spinning out of control.

/spaɪn/

A shiver went down my spine.

the nerves in the spine

/spaɪt/

out of spite I'm sure he only said it out of spite.

/spɔɪl/

Our camping trip was spoilt by bad weather.

Don't let him spoil your evening.

/sfɪr/

The Earth is not a perfect sphere.

/spaɪs/

common spices such as ginger and cinnamon

a spice jar

/spɪl/

Water had spilled out of the bucket onto the floor.

/spɪn/

Only in the last 50 years have we had clocks accurate enough to measure changes in the earth's spin.

/ˈspektrəm/

A spectrum is formed by a ray of light passing through a prism.

/ˈspekjuleɪt/

speculate (about/on/as to something) We all speculated about the reasons for her resignation.

/ˌspekjuˈleɪʃn/

His private life is the subject of much speculation.

/spel/

We had a spell of warm weather in April.

a cold spell

/ˈspesɪmən/

Astronauts have brought back specimens of rock from the moon.

/ˈspektəkl/

a pair of spectacles

a spectacle case (= to put your spectacles in)

/spekˈtækjələr/

The coastal road has spectacular scenery.

Messi scored a spectacular goal.

/ˈspekteɪtər/

The new football stadium will hold 75 000 spectators.

/ˈspeʃəlaɪz/

Many students prefer not to specialize too soon.

specialize in something He specialized in criminal law.

/ˈspeʃəlaɪzd/

specialized equipment

a job calling for highly specialized skills

/ˌspesɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/

the technical specifications of the new model (= of car)

/ˈspesɪfaɪ/

specify something Remember to specify your size when ordering clothes.

noun

spokesman

a person who speaks for a group or an organization

noun

spokesperson

a person who speaks for a group or an organization

noun

spokeswoman

a woman who speaks for a group or an organization

noun

sponsorship

financial support from a sponsor

adjective

sporting

connected with sports

noun

spotlight

a light with a single, very bright beam that can be directed at a particular place or person, especially a performer on the stage

noun

spouse

a husband or wife

noun

spy

a person who tries to get secret information about another country, organization or person, especially somebody who is employed by a government or the police

verb

spy

to collect secret information about another country, organization or person

noun

squad

a section of a police force that deals with a particular type of crime

verb

squeeze

to press something, especially with your fingers

verb

stab

to push a sharp, pointed object, especially a knife, into somebody, killing or injuring them

noun

stability

the quality or state of being steady and not changing or being upset in any way (= the quality of being stable)

verb

stabilize

to become or to make something become steady and unlikely to change; to make something stable

noun

stake

money that somebody invests in a company

noun

stall

a table or small shop with an open front that people sell things from, especially at a market

noun

stance

the opinions that somebody has about something and expresses publicly

adjective

standing

done from a position in which you are standing rather than sitting or running

adjective

stark

unpleasant; real, and impossible to avoid

verb

starve

to suffer or die because you do not have enough food to eat; to make somebody suffer or die in this way

/stæns/

What is the newspaper's stance on the war?

He is known for his anti-abortion stance.

/ˈstændɪŋ/

a standing jump/start

/stɑːrk/

The author paints a stark picture of life in a prison camp.

/stɑːrv/

The animals were left to starve to death.

pictures of starving children

/stəˈbɪləti/

political/economic/social stability

the stability of the dollar on the world's money markets

/ˈsteɪbəlaɪz/

The patient's condition stabilized.

stabilize something government measures to stabilize prices

/steɪk/

a 20 per cent stake in the business

a controlling/majority/minority stake

/stɔːl/

He works on a market stall in the Square.

They have a fish stall on the market.

/spaɪ/

He spied for his government for more than ten years.

/skwɑːd/

the drugs/fraud/bomb/riot squad

/skwiːz/

to squeeze a tube of toothpaste

to squeeze the trigger of a gun (= to fire it)

/stæb/

He was stabbed to death in a racist attack.

She stabbed him in the arm with a screwdriver.

/ˈspɔːrtɪŋ/

a major sporting event

a range of sporting activities

/ˈspɑːtlaɪt/

The room was lit by spotlights.

When the stage is dimmed, spotlights are used to create a tight arc of light.

/spaʊs/

Fill in your spouse's name here.

/spaɪ/

He was denounced as a foreign spy.

a police spy

/ˈspəʊksmən/

a police spokesman

a spokesman on Northern Ireland

/ˈspəʊkspɜːrsn/

a council spokesperson

spokesperson for somebody/something a spokesperson for the local council

/ˈspəʊkswʊmən/

a government spokeswoman

/ˈspɑːnsərʃɪp/

a $50 million sponsorship deal

in sponsorship The project needs to raise £8 million in sponsorship.

adjective

statistical

connected with or based on statistics

adverb

steadily

gradually and in an even and regular way

noun

steam

the hot gas that water changes into when it boils

verb

steer

to control the direction in which a boat, car, etc. moves

noun

stem

the main long, thin part of a plant above the ground from which the leaves or flowers grow; a smaller part that grows from this and supports flowers or leaves

verb

stem

to stop something that is flowing from spreading or increasing

noun

stereotype

a fixed idea or image that many people have of a particular type of person or thing, but which is often not true in reality

verb

stimulate

to make something develop or become more active; to encourage something

noun

stimulus

something that helps somebody/something to develop better or more quickly

verb

stir

to move a liquid or substance around, using a spoon or something similar, in order to mix it completely

noun

storage

the process of keeping something in a particular place until it is needed; the space where things can be kept

adjective

straightforward

easy to do or to understand; not complicated

noun

strain

pressure on a system or relationship because great demands are being placed on it

noun

strand

a single thin piece of thread, wire, hair, etc.

adjective

strategic

done as part of a plan that is meant to achieve a particular purpose or to gain an advantage

verb

strengthen

to become more powerful or effective; to make somebody/something more powerful or effective

adverb

strictly

with a lot of control and rules that must be obeyed

adjective

striking

interesting and unusual enough to attract attention

noun

strip

a long narrow piece of paper, metal, cloth, etc.

verb

strip

to take off all or most of your clothes or another person's clothes

/ˈstrɪktli/

She was brought up very strictly.

The industry is strictly regulated.

/ˈstraɪkɪŋ/

a striking feature

She bears a striking resemblance to her older sister.

/strɪp/

a strip of material

Cut the meat into strips.

/strɪp/

I stripped and washed myself all over.

They ordered us to strip and lie down on the grass.

/streɪn/

The transport service cannot cope with the strain of so many additional passengers.

/strænd/

He pulled at a loose strand of wool in his sweater.

/strəˈtiːdʒɪk/

strategic planning

a strategic decision to sell off part of the business

/ˈstreŋkθn/

Her position in the party has strengthened in recent weeks.

/ˈstɪmjələs/

stimulus for something Books provide children with ideas and a stimulus for play.

/stɜːr/

stir something She stirred her tea.

Stir the paint before you use it.

/ˈstɔːrɪdʒ/

tables that fold flat for storage

There's a lot of storage space in the loft.

/ˌstreɪtˈfɔːrwərd/

It's a relatively straightforward process.

It's quite straightforward to get here.

/stem/

long, trailing stems of ivy

a tall plant with branching stems

/stem/

The cut was bandaged to stem the bleeding.

They discussed ways of stemming the flow of smuggled drugs.

/ˈsteriətaɪp/

cultural/gender/racial stereotypes

/ˈstɪmjuleɪt/

The exhibition has stimulated interest in her work.

/stəˈtɪstɪkl/

statistical analysis

/ˈstedəli/

The company's exports have been increasing steadily.

/stiːm/

Steam rose from the boiling kettle.

a Turkish steam bath

/stɪr/

He steered the boat into the harbour.

(figurative) He took her arm and steered her towards the door.

verb

strive

to try very hard to achieve something

noun

stroke

an act of hitting a ball, for example with a bat or racket

adjective

structural

connected with the way in which something is built or organized

verb

stumble

to hit your foot against something while you are walking or running and almost fall

verb

stun

to make a person or an animal unconscious for a short time, especially by hitting them on the head

adjective

stunning

extremely attractive or impressive

noun

submission

the act of accepting that somebody has defeated you and that you must obey them

noun

subscriber

a person who pays money, usually once a year, to receive regular copies of a magazine or newspaper or have access to it online

noun

subscription

an amount of money that you pay regularly to receive a service, be a member of a club, support a charity or receive regular copies of a newspaper or magazine

adjective

subsequent

happening or coming after something else

adverb

subsequently

afterwards; later; after something else has happened

noun

subsidy

money that is paid by a government or an organization to reduce the costs of services or of producing goods so that their prices can be kept low

adjective

substantial

large in amount, value or importance

adverb

substantially

very much; a lot

noun

substitute

a person or thing that you use or have instead of the one you normally use or have

verb

substitute

to take the place of somebody/something else; to use somebody/something instead of somebody/something else

noun

substitution

an act of using one person or thing in the place of another

adjective

subtle

not very obvious or easy to notice

noun

suburb

an area where people live that is outside the centre of a city

adjective

suburban

in or connected with a suburb

/ˌsʌbstɪˈtuːʃn/

Two substitutions were made during the game.

substitution of A for B the substitution of low-fat spreads for butter

/ˈsʌtl/

subtle colours/flavours/smells, etc.

There are subtle differences between the two versions.

/ˈsʌbɜːrb/

a suburb of London

a London suburb

/səˈbɜːrbən/

suburban areas

a suburban street

/səbˈstænʃl/

substantial sums of money

a substantial change

/səbˈstænʃəli/

The costs have increased substantially.

The plane was substantially damaged in the crash.

/ˈsʌbstɪtuːt/

a meat substitute

a substitute family

/ˈsʌbstɪtuːt/

substitute for somebody/something Nothing can substitute for the advice your doctor is able to give you.

/səbˈskrɪpʃn/

an annual subscription

subscription to/for something a subscription to Netflix

/ˈsʌbsɪkwənt/

subsequent generations

Subsequent events confirmed our doubts.

/ˈsʌbsɪkwəntli/

The original interview notes were subsequently lost.

/ˈsʌbsədi/

agricultural subsidies

to reduce the level of subsidy

/stʌn/

The fall stunned me for a moment.

The animals are stunned before slaughter.

/ˈstʌnɪŋ/

You look absolutely stunning!

a stunning view of the lake

/səbˈmɪʃn/

a gesture of submission

to beat/force/starve somebody into submission

/səbˈskraɪbər/

subscribers to ‘New Scientist’

Subscribers to the magazine can take advantage of this special offer.

/straɪv/

strive for something We encourage all members to strive for the highest standards.

/strəʊk/

What a beautiful stroke!

/ˈstrʌktʃərəl/

Storms have caused structural damage to hundreds of homes.

/ˈstʌmbl/

The child stumbled and fell.

stumble over/on something I stumbled over a rock.

noun

succession

a number of people or things that follow each other in time or order

adjective

successive

following immediately one after the other

noun

successor

a person or thing that comes after somebody/something else and takes their/its place

verb

suck

to take liquid, air, etc. into your mouth by using the muscles of your lips

verb

sue

to make a claim against a person or an organization in court about something that they have said or done to harm you

noun

suffering

physical or mental pain

adjective

sufficient

enough for a particular purpose; as much as you need

adverb

sufficiently

enough for a particular purpose; as much as you need

noun

suicide

the act of killing yourself deliberately

noun

suite

a set of rooms, especially in a hotel

noun

summit

the highest point of something, especially the top of a mountain

adjective

super

extremely good

adjective

superb

excellent; of very good quality

adjective

superior

better in quality than somebody/something else; greater than somebody/something else

verb

supervise

to be in charge of somebody/something and make sure that everything is done correctly, safely, etc.

noun

supervision

the work or activity involved in being in charge of somebody/something and making sure that everything is done correctly, safely, etc.

noun

supervisor

a person who supervises somebody/something

noun

supplement

a thing that is added to something else to improve or complete it

verb

supplement

to add something to something in order to improve it or make it more complete

adjective

supportive

encouraging somebody or giving them help or sympathy

/ˈsuːpərvaɪzər/

I have a meeting with my supervisor about my research topic.

/ˈsʌplɪmənt/

vitamin/dietary supplements (= vitamins and other foods eaten in addition to what you usually eat)

/ˈsʌplɪment/

supplement something with something a diet supplemented with vitamin pills

/səˈpɔːrtɪv/

a supportive family

She was very supportive during my father's illness.

/suːˈpɜːrb/

a superb player

The car's in superb condition.

/suːˈpɪriər/

vastly superior

superior intelligence

/ˈsuːpərvaɪz/

supervise (somebody/something) to supervise building work

/ˌsuːpərˈvɪʒn/

Very young children should not be left to play without supervision.

/ˈsuːɪsaɪd/

to commit suicide

an attempted suicide (= one in which the person survives)

/swiːt/

a hotel/private/honeymoon suite

a suite of rooms/offices

/ˈsʌmɪt/

We reached the summit at noon.

This path leads to the summit.

/ˈsuːpər/

a super meal

We had a super time in Italy.

/suː/

They threatened to sue if the work was not completed.

/ˈsʌfərɪŋ/

Death finally brought an end to her suffering.

This war has caused widespread human suffering.

/səˈfɪʃnt/

Allow sufficient time to get there.

One dose should be sufficient.

/səˈfɪʃntli/

The following day she felt sufficiently well to go to work.

/səkˈseʃn/

a succession of visitors

He's been hit by a succession of injuries since he joined the team.

/səkˈsesɪv/

This was their fourth successive win.

Successive governments have tried to tackle the problem.

/səkˈsesər/

Who's the likely successor to him as party leader?

/sʌk/

to suck the juice from an orange

She was noisily sucking up milk through a straw.

adverb

supposedly

according to what is generally thought or believed but not known for certain

verb

suppress

to put an end, often by force, to a group or an activity that is believed to threaten authority

adjective

supreme

highest in rank or position

noun

surge

a sudden increase of a strong feeling

verb

surge

to move quickly and with force in a particular direction

noun

surgeon

a doctor who is trained to perform surgery (= medical operations that involve cutting open a person's body)

adjective

surgical

used in or connected with surgery

noun

surplus

an amount that is extra or more than you need

verb

surrender

to admit that you have been defeated and want to stop fighting; to allow yourself to be caught, taken
prisoner, etc.

noun

surveillance

the act of carefully watching a person suspected of a crime or a place where a crime may be committed

noun

survival

the state of continuing to live or exist, often despite difficulty or danger

noun

survivor

a person who continues to live, especially despite being nearly killed or experiencing great danger or difficulty

verb

suspend

to hang something from something else

noun

suspension

the act of officially removing somebody from their job, school, team, etc. for a period of time, usually as a punishment

noun

suspicion

a feeling that somebody has done something wrong, illegal or dishonest, even though you have no proof

adjective

suspicious

feeling that somebody has done something wrong, illegal or dishonest, without having any proof

verb

sustain

to provide enough of what somebody/something needs in order to live or exist

adjective

sustainable

involving the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment

verb

swallow

to make food, drink, etc. go down your throat into your stomach

noun

swing

a swinging movement or rhythm

/səˈsteɪn/

Which planets can sustain life?

I only had a little chocolate to sustain me on my walk.

/səˈsteɪnəbl/

sustainable forest management

an environmentally sustainable society

/ˈswɑːləʊ/

swallow (something) Always chew food well before swallowing it.

/swɪŋ/

He took a wild swing at the ball.

the swing of her hips

/səˈspend/

be suspended from something A lamp was suspended from the ceiling.

/səˈspenʃn/

suspension from school

The two players are appealing against their suspensions.

/səˈspɪʃn/

They drove away slowly to avoid arousing suspicion.

/səˈspɪʃəs/

They became suspicious of his behaviour and contacted the police.

/səˈrendər/

The rebel soldiers were forced to surrender.

surrender to somebody He surrendered voluntarily to his enemies.

/sɜːrˈveɪləns/

The police are keeping the suspects under constant surveillance.

/sərˈvaɪvl/

the struggle/battle/fight for survival

His only chance of survival was a heart transplant.

/sərˈvaɪvər/

the sole/only survivor of the massacre

The plane crashed in an area of dense jungle. There were no survivors.

/sɜːrdʒ/

The gates opened and the crowd surged forward.

Flood waters surged into their homes.

/ˈsɜːrdʒən/

a brain/heart surgeon

Surgeons performed two operations on him yesterday.

/ˈsɜːrdʒɪkl/

surgical procedures

a surgical ward (= for patients having operations)

/ˈsɜːrplʌs/

food surpluses

in surplus Wheat was in surplus that year.

/səˈpəʊzɪdli/

The novel is supposedly based on a true story.

a poem supposedly written by Shakespeare

/səˈpres/

The rebellion was brutally suppressed.

/suˈpriːm/

the Supreme Commander of the armed forces

the supreme champion

/sɜːrdʒ/

She felt a sudden surge of anger.

a surge of excitement

verb

swing

to move backwards or forwards or from side to side while hanging from a fixed point; to make something do this

noun

sword

a weapon with a long metal blade (= sharp cutting part) and a handle

adjective

symbolic

containing symbols, or being used as a symbol

adjective

sympathetic

kind to somebody who is hurt or sad; showing that you understand and care about their problems

noun

syndrome

a set of physical conditions that show you have a particular disease or medical problem

noun

synthesis

the act of combining separate ideas, beliefs, styles, etc.; a mixture or combination of ideas, beliefs, styles, etc.

adjective

systematic

done according to a system or plan, in a complete, efficient or determined way

noun

tackle

an act of trying to take the ball from an opponent in football (soccer), hockey, etc

verb

tackle

to make a determined effort to deal with a difficult problem or situation

noun

tactic

the particular method you use to achieve something

adjective

tactical

connected with the particular method you use to achieve something

noun

tag

a small piece of paper, cloth, plastic, etc. attached to something to identify it or give information about it

verb

tag

to fasten a tag onto something/somebody

noun

tap

a device for controlling the flow of water from a pipe into a bath or sink

verb

tap

to hit somebody/something quickly and lightly

noun

taxpayer

a person who pays tax to the government, especially on the money that they earn

adjective

technological

connected with technology

noun

teens

the years of a person's life when they are between 13 and 19 years old

noun

temple

a building used for religious worship, especially in religions other than Christianity

adverb

temporarily

in a way that lasts or is intended to last or be used only for a short time; in a way that is not permanent

/ˌteknəˈlɑːdʒɪkl/

technological advances

technological change

/tiːnz/

in your teens She began writing poetry in her teens.

/ˈtempl/

the Temple of Diana at Ephesus

a Buddhist/Hindu/Sikh temple

/ˌtempəˈrerəli/

We regret this service is temporarily unavailable.

/tæg/

Each animal was tagged with a number for identification.

/tæp/

bath taps

the hot/cold tap (= the tap that hot/cold water comes out of)

/tæp/

tap (away) (at something) Someone tapped at the door.

/ˈtækspeɪər/

Hundreds of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money (= money paid in taxes) have been spent on the project.

/ˈtækl/

The government is determined to tackle inflation.

I think I'll tackle the repairs next weekend.

/ˈtæktɪk/

They tried all kinds of tactics to get us to go.

This was just the latest in a series of delaying tactics.

/ˈtæktɪkl/

tactical planning

to have a tactical advantage

/tæg/

He put name tags on all his shirts.

a gift tag (= tied to a present)

/ˈsɪndrəʊm/

PMS or premenstrual syndrome

This syndrome is associated with frequent coughing.

/ˈsɪnθəsɪs/

synthesis of A with B the synthesis of art with everyday life

/ˌsɪstəˈmætɪk/

a systematic approach to solving the problem

a systematic attempt to destroy the organization

/ˈtækl/

He was booked for a late tackle on Torres.

He brought the burglar down with a flying tackle.

/swɪŋ/

His arms swung as he walked.

As he pushed her, she swung higher and higher (= while sitting on a swing).

/sɔːrd/

to draw/sheathe a sword (= to take it out of/put it into its cover)

/sɪmˈbɑːlɪk/

He shook his fist in a symbolic gesture of defiance.

/ˌsɪmpəˈθetɪk/

a sympathetic listener

a sympathetic response

verb

tempt

to attract somebody or make somebody want to do or have something, even if they know it is wrong

noun

tenant

a person who pays rent for the use of a room, building, land, etc. to the person who owns it

noun

tendency

if somebody/something has a particular tendency, they are likely to behave or act in a particular way

adjective

tender

kind, gentle and loving

noun

tension

a situation in which people do not trust each other, or feel unfriendly towards each other, and that may cause them to attack each other

noun

tenure

the period of time when somebody holds an important job, especially a political one; the act of holding an important job

adjective

terminal

that cannot be cured and will lead to death, often slowly

noun

terminal

a building or set of buildings at an airport where passengers arrive and leave

verb

terminate

to end; to make something end

noun

terms

the conditions that people offer, demand or accept when they make an agreement, an arrangement or a contract

noun

terrain

used to refer to an area of land when you are mentioning its natural features, for example, if it is rough, flat, etc.

adverb

terribly

very

adjective

terrific

excellent; wonderful

verb

terrify

to make somebody feel extremely frightened

noun

territory

land that is under the control of a particular country or political leader

noun

terror

a feeling of extreme fear

noun

terrorism

the use of violent action in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to act

noun

terrorist

a person who takes part in terrorism

verb

testify

to make a statement that something happened or that something is true, especially as a witness in court

noun

testimony

a thing that shows that something else exists or is true

/ˈterərɪzəm/

an act of terrorism

the fight against terrorism

/ˈterərɪst/

The terrorists are threatening to blow up the plane.

/ˈtestɪfaɪ/

testify against somebody/something She refused to testify against her husband.

/ˈtestɪməʊni/

This increase in exports bears testimony to the successes of industry.

/təˈrɪfɪk/

I feel absolutely terrific today!

She's doing a terrific job.

/ˈterɪfaɪ/

terrify somebody Flying terrifies her.

Stop it! You're terrifying the children!

/ˈterətɔːri/

enemy/disputed/foreign territory

occupied territories

/ˈterər/

a feeling of sheer/pure terror

Her eyes were wild with terror.

/ˈtɜːrmɪneɪt/

Your contract of employment terminates in December.

/tɜːrmz/

peace terms

They failed to agree on the terms of a settlement.

/təˈreɪn/

difficult/rough/mountainous terrain

They walked for miles across steep and inhospitable terrain.

/ˈterəbli/

I'm terribly sorry—did I hurt you?

It's terribly important for parents to be consistent.

/ˈtenʃn/

There is mounting tension along the border.

international/racial/political tensions

/ˈtenjər/

his four-year tenure as president

She had a long tenure of office.

/ˈtɜːrmɪnl/

He has terminal lung cancer.

The illness is usually terminal.

/ˈtɜːrmɪnl/

A second terminal was opened last year.

Your flight leaves from Terminal 3.

/tempt/

tempt somebody I was tempted by the dessert menu.

/ˈtenənt/

They had evicted their tenants for non-payment of rent.

/ˈtendənsi/

to display artistic tendencies

tendency to do something I have a tendency to talk too much when I'm nervous.

/ˈtendər/

tender words

What he needs now is a lot of tender loving care (= sympathetic treatment).

noun

testing

the activity of testing somebody/something in order to find something out, see if it works, etc.

noun

textbook

a book that teaches a particular subject and that is used especially in schools and colleges

noun

texture

the way a surface, substance or piece of cloth feels when you touch it, for example how rough, smooth, hard or soft it is

adverb

thankfully

used to show that you are pleased that something good has happened or that something bad has been avoided

adjective

theatrical

connected with the theatre

noun

theft

the crime of stealing something from a person or place

noun

theology

the study of religion and beliefs

adjective

theoretical

connected with the ideas and principles on which a particular subject is based, rather than with practice and experiment

noun

therapist

a specialist who treats a particular type of illness or problem, or who uses a particular type of treatment

adverb

thereafter

after the time or event mentioned

adverb

thereby

used to introduce the result of the action or situation mentioned

noun

thesis

a long piece of writing completed by a student as part of a university degree, based on their own research

adjective

thorough

done completely; with great attention to detail

adverb

thoroughly

very much; completely

adjective

thought-provoking

making people think seriously about a particular subject or issue

adjective

thoughtful

quiet, because you are thinking

noun

thread

a thin string of cotton, wool, silk, etc. used for sewing or making cloth

noun

threshold

the floor or ground at the bottom of a doorway, considered as the entrance to a building or room

adjective

thrilled

very excited and pleased

verb

thrive

to become, and continue to be, successful, strong, healthy, etc.

/θred/

a needle and thread

a robe embroidered with gold thread

/ˈθreʃhəʊld/

He stepped across the threshold.

on the threshold She stood hesitating on the threshold.

/θrɪld/

‘Are you pleased?’ ‘I'm thrilled.’

/θraɪv/

New businesses thrive in this area.

These animals rarely thrive in captivity.

/ˈθɜːrəʊ/

a thorough knowledge of the subject

The police carried out a thorough investigation.

/ˈθɜːrəli/

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

I'm thoroughly confused.

/ˈθɔːt prəvəʊkɪŋ/

a brilliant and thought-provoking play

/ˈθɔːtfl/

He looked thoughtful.

They sat in thoughtful silence.

/ˈθerəpɪst/

a speech therapist

a beauty therapist

/ˌðerˈæftər/

She married at 17 and gave birth to her first child shortly thereafter.

/ˌðerˈbaɪ/

Regular exercise strengthens the heart, thereby reducing the risk of heart attack.

/ˈθiːsɪs/

Students must submit a thesis on an agreed subject within four years.

/θiˈætrɪkl/

a theatrical agent

/θeft/

car theft

Police are investigating the theft of computers from the company's offices.

/θiˈɑːlədʒi/

a degree in theology

a theology student

/ˌθiːəˈretɪkl/

a theoretical approach

theoretical physics

/ˈtestɪŋ/

nuclear testing

testing and assessment in education

/ˈtekstbʊk/

a school/medical/history textbook

/ˈtekstʃər/

the soft texture of velvet

She uses a variety of different colours and textures in her wall hangings.

/ˈθæŋkfəli/

There was a fire in the building, but thankfully no one was hurt.

noun

thumb

the short, thick finger at the side of the hand, slightly apart from the other four

noun

tide

a regular rise and fall in the level of the sea, caused by the pull of the moon and sun; the flow of water that happens as the sea rises and falls

verb

tighten

to hold or fix something more securely in position; to make something or become more difficult to move, open or separate

noun

timber

trees that are grown to be used in building or for making things

adjective

timely

happening at exactly the right time

noun

timing

the act of choosing when something happens; a particular point or period of time when something happens or is planned

noun

tissue

a piece of soft paper, used especially as a handkerchief

noun

tobacco

the dried leaves of the tobacco plant that are used for making cigarettes, smoking in a pipe, etc.

noun

tolerance

the quality of being willing to accept or tolerate somebody/something, especially opinions or behaviour that you may not agree with, or people who are not like you

verb

tolerate

to allow somebody to do something that you do not agree with or like

noun

toll

money that you pay to use a particular road or bridge

noun

ton

a unit for measuring weight, in the UK 2 240 pounds (long ton) and in the US 2 000 pounds (short ton)

noun

tonne

a unit for measuring weight, equal to 1 000 kilograms

verb

top

to be higher than a particular amount

noun

torture

the act of causing somebody severe pain in order to punish them or make them say or do something

verb

torture

to hurt somebody physically or mentally in order to punish them or make them tell you something

verb

toss

to throw something lightly or carelessly

verb

total

to reach a particular total

noun

tournament

a sports competition involving a number of teams or players who take part in different games and must leave the competition if they lose

adjective

toxic

containing poison; poisonous

/tɔːs/

toss something + adv./prep. I tossed the book aside and got up.

/ˈtəʊtl/

Imports totalled $1.5 billion last year.

In 2005–6, college enrolments totalled some 5 400.

/ˈtʊrnəmənt/

a golf/tennis/soccer/chess tournament

/ˈtɑːksɪk/

toxic chemicals/fumes/gases/substances

to dispose of toxic waste

/tʌn/

a record grain harvest of 236m tonnes

a 17-tonne truck

/tɑːp/

Worldwide sales look set to top $1 billion.

/ˈtɔːrtʃər/

Many of the refugees have suffered torture.

the use of torture

/ˈtɔːrtʃər/

torture somebody Many of the rebels were captured and tortured by secret police.

/ˈtɑːlərəns/

She had no tolerance for jokes of any kind.

religious tolerance

/ˈtɑːləreɪt/

tolerate something Their relationship was tolerated but not encouraged.

/təʊl/

motorway tolls

a toll bridge

/tʌn/

(informal) What have you got in this bag? It weighs a ton (= is very heavy).

/ˈtaɪmli/

A nasty incident was prevented by the timely arrival of the police.

/ˈtaɪmɪŋ/

The timing of the decision was a complete surprise.

/ˈtɪʃuː/

a box of tissues

He wiped his nose on a tissue.

/təˈbækəʊ/

tobacco smoke

/θʌm/

She still sucks her thumb when she's worried.

/taɪd/

the ebb and flow of the tide

The tide is in/out.

/ˈtaɪtn/

tighten something to tighten a lid/screw/rope/knot

/ˈtɪmbər/

the timber industry

noun

trace

a mark, an object or a sign that shows that somebody/something existed or was present

verb

trace

to find or discover somebody/something by looking carefully for them/it

noun

trademark

a name, symbol or design that a company uses for its products and that cannot be used by anyone else

noun

trading

the activity of buying and selling things

noun

tragedy

a very sad event or situation, especially one that involves death

adjective

tragic

making you feel very sad, usually because somebody has died or suffered a lot

noun

trail

a long line or series of marks that is left by somebody/something

verb

trail

to pull something behind somebody/something, usually along the ground; to be pulled along in this way

noun

trailer

a truck, or a container with wheels, that is pulled by another vehicle

noun

trait

a particular quality in your personality

noun

transaction

a piece of business that is done between people, especially an act of buying or selling

noun

transcript

a written or printed copy of words that have been spoken

noun

transformation

a complete change in somebody/something

noun

transit

the process of being moved or carried from one place to another

noun

transmission

the act or process of passing something from one person, place or thing to another

verb

transmit

to send an electronic signal, radio or television broadcast, etc.

noun

transparency

the quality of something, such as a situation or an argument, that makes it easy to understand

adjective

transparent

allowing you to see through it

noun

transportation

a system for carrying people or goods from one place to another using vehicles, roads, etc.

noun

trap

a piece of equipment for catching animals

/trænsˈpærənsi/

a need for greater transparency in legal documents

/trænsˈpærənt/

The insect's wings are almost transparent.

/ˌtrænspərˈteɪʃn/

public transportation (= the system of buses, trains, etc. provided for people to travel from one place to another)

/træp/

a fox with its leg in a trap

A trap was laid, with fresh bait.

/ˌtrænsfərˈmeɪʃn/

The way in which we work has undergone a complete transformation in the past decade.

/ˈtrænzɪt/

The cost includes transit.

in transit goods damaged in transit

/trænzˈmɪʃn/

the transmission of the disease

the risk of transmission

/trænzˈmɪt/

signals transmitted from a satellite

The ceremony was transmitted live by satellite to over fifty countries.

/ˈtreɪlər/

a car towing a trailer with a boat on it

/treɪt/

personality traits

Awareness of class is a typically British trait.

/trænˈzækʃn/

financial transactions between companies

commercial transactions

/ˈtrænskrɪpt/

a transcript of the interview

The White House posted a transcript of the speech on its website.

/ˈtrædʒədi/

It's a tragedy that she died so young.

Tragedy struck the family when their son was hit by a car and killed.

/ˈtrædʒɪk/

He was killed in a tragic accident at the age of 24.

/treɪl/

a trail of blood

tourists who leave a trail of litter everywhere they go

/treɪl/

trail something A jeep trailing a cloud of dust was speeding in my direction.

/treɪs/

It's exciting to discover traces of earlier civilizations.

/treɪs/

We finally traced him to an address in Chicago.

I have been unable to trace the letter you mentioned.

/ˈtreɪdmɑːrk/

‘Big Mac’ is McDonald's best-known trademark.

/ˈtreɪdɪŋ/

new laws on Sunday trading (= shops being open on Sundays)

verb

trap

to put somebody in a dangerous place that they cannot get out of

noun

trauma

a mental condition caused by severe shock, especially when the harmful effects last for a long time

noun

treasure

a collection of valuable things such as gold, silver and jewellery

noun

treaty

a formal agreement between two or more countries

adjective

tremendous

very great

adjective

tribal

connected with a tribe or tribes

noun

tribe

a social group in a traditional society consisting of people with the same language, culture, religion, etc

noun

tribunal

a type of court with the authority to deal with a particular problem or disagreement

noun

tribute

an act, a statement or a gift that is intended to show your love or respect, especially for a dead person

noun

trigger

the part of a gun that you press in order to fire it

verb

trigger

to make something happen suddenly

number

trillion

1 000 000 000 000; one million million

noun

trio

a group of three people or things

noun

triumph

a great success, achievement or victory

noun

troop

soldiers, especially in large groups

noun

trophy

an object such as a silver cup that is given as a prize for winning a competition

adjective

troubled

worried and anxious

noun

trustee

a person or an organization that has control of money or property that has been put into a trust for somebody

noun

tsunami

an extremely large wave in the sea caused, for example, by an earthquake

noun

tuition

the act of teaching something, especially to one person or to people in small groups

/ˈtrʌbld/

She looked into his troubled face.

She still felt vaguely troubled by it all.

/trʌˈstiː/

The bank will act as trustees for the estate until the child is 18.

/tsuːˈnɑːmi/

A tsunami early warning system was set up in Hawaii.

/tuˈɪʃn/

She received private tuition in French.

The course involves six hours of individual tuition per week.

/ˈtriːəʊ/

A trio of English runners featured in the women's 1 500 metres.

/ˈtraɪʌmf/

one of the greatest triumphs of modern science

triumph over somebody/something It was a personal triumph over her old rival.

/truːp/

They announced the withdrawal of 12 000 troops from the area.

/ˈtrəʊfi/

a trophy cabinet

/ˈtrɪbjuːt/

At her funeral her oldest friend paid tribute to her life and work.

/ˈtrɪgər/

to pull/squeeze the trigger

He kept his finger on the trigger.

/ˈtrɪgər/

Nuts can trigger off a violent allergic reaction.

/ˈtrɪljən/

/trəˈmendəs/

a tremendous explosion

A tremendous amount of work has gone into the project.

/ˈtraɪbl/

tribal art

tribal leaders

/traɪb/

They were a nomadic horse-riding tribe.

/traɪˈbjuːnl/

an international war crimes tribunal

a military tribunal

/træp/

be trapped Help! I'm trapped!

be trapped by something We became trapped by the rising floodwater.

/ˈtrɔːmə/

the effects of trauma and stress on the body

The children showed no signs of trauma after their ordeal.

/ˈtreʒər/

buried treasure

a pirate's treasure chest

/ˈtriːti/

the Treaty of Rome

a peace treaty

noun

turnout

the number of people who attend a particular event

noun

turnover

the total amount of goods or services sold by a company during a particular period of time

noun

twist

the action of turning something with your hand, or of turning a part of your body

verb

twist

to bend or turn something into a particular shape

adjective

ultimate

happening at the end of a long process

adjective

unacceptable

so bad that you think it should not be allowed

noun

uncertainty

the state of being uncertain

verb

undergo

to experience something, especially a change or something unpleasant

noun

undergraduate

a university or college student who is studying for their first degree

adjective

underlying

important in a situation but not always easily noticed or stated clearly

verb

undermine

to make something, especially somebody's confidence or authority, gradually weaker or less effective

verb

undertake

to make yourself responsible for something and start doing it

adverb

undoubtedly

used to emphasize that something exists or is definitely true

verb

unfold

to spread open or flat something that has previously been folded; to become open and flat

adjective

unfortunate

having bad luck; caused by bad luck

verb

unify

to join people, things, parts of a country, etc. together so that they form a single unit

verb

unite

to join together with other people in order to do something as a group

noun

unity

the state of being in agreement and working together; the state of being joined together to form one unit

adjective

universal

done by or involving all the people in the world or in a particular group

adjective

unprecedented

that has never happened, been done or been known before

/juˈnaɪt/

Nationalist parties united to oppose the government's plans.

/ˈjuːnəti/

European unity

a plea for unity within the party

/ˌjuːnɪˈvɜːrsl/

Such problems are a universal feature of old age.

Agreement on this issue is almost universal.

/ʌnˈpresɪdentɪd/

The situation is unprecedented in modern times.

There were unprecedented scenes of violence in the city’s main square.

/ʌnˈdaʊtɪdli/

There is undoubtedly a great deal of truth in what he says.

/ʌnˈfəʊld/

to unfold a map

She unfolded her arms.

/ʌnˈfɔːrtʃənət/

He was unfortunate to lose in the final round.

It was an unfortunate accident.

/ˈjuːnɪfaɪ/

The new leader hopes to unify the country.

the task of unifying Europe

/ˌʌndərˈgrædʒuət/

a first-year undergraduate

an undergraduate course/student/degree

/ˌʌndərˈlaɪɪŋ/

The underlying assumption is that the amount of money available is limited.

/ˌʌndərˈmaɪn/

Our confidence in the team has been seriously undermined by their recent defeats.

/ˌʌndərˈteɪk/

to undertake a task/project

University professors both teach and undertake research.

/ˈʌltɪmət/

our ultimate goal/aim/objective/target

We will accept ultimate responsibility for whatever happens.

/ˌʌnəkˈseptəbl/

Such behaviour is totally unacceptable in a civilized society.

/ʌnˈsɜːrtnti/

There is considerable uncertainty about the company's future.

/ˌʌndərˈgəʊ/

to undergo tests/trials/repairs

My mother underwent major surgery last year.

/ˈtɜːrnaʊt/

This year's festival attracted a record turnout.

/ˈtɜːrnəʊvər/

an annual turnover of $75 million

a fall in turnover

/twɪst/

She gave the lid another twist and it came off.

He gave a shy smile and a little twist of his head.

/twɪst/

Twist the wire to form a circle.

Her hair was twisted into a knot on top of her head.

verb

unveil

to remove a cover or curtain from a painting, statue, etc. so that it can be seen in public for the first time

adjective

upcoming

going to happen soon

noun

upgrade

the act of making a machine, computer system, etc. more powerful and efficient; the more powerful and efficient machine, computer system, etc.

verb

upgrade

to make a machine, computer system, etc. more powerful and efficient; to start using a new and better version of a machine, system, etc.

verb

uphold

to support something that you think is right and make sure that it continues to exist

adjective

urgent

that needs to be dealt with or happen immediately

noun

usage

the way in which words are used in a language

adjective

useless

not useful; not doing or achieving what is needed or wanted

noun

utility

a service provided for the public, for example an electricity, water or gas supply

verb

utilize

to use something, especially for a practical purpose

adverb

utterly

completely

noun

vacuum

a space that is completely empty of all substances, including all air or other gas

adjective

vague

not clear in a person's mind

adjective

valid

that is legally or officially acceptable

noun

validity

the state of being legally or officially acceptable

verb

vanish

to disappear suddenly and/or in a way that you cannot explain

adjective

variable

often changing; likely to change

noun

variable

a situation, number or quantity that can vary or be varied

noun

variation

a change, especially in the amount or level of something

adjective

varied

of many different types

/ˈveriəbl/

variable temperatures

The acting is of variable quality (= some of it is good and some of it is bad).

/ˈveriəbl/

With so many variables, it is difficult to calculate the cost.

/ˌveriˈeɪʃn/

The dial records very slight variations in pressure.

/ˈverid/

varied opinions

They stock a wide and varied selection of cheeses.

/veɪg/

to have a vague impression/memory/recollection of something

/ˈvælɪd/

Do you have a valid passport?

He bought a bus pass valid for one month.

/vəˈlɪdəti/

The period of validity of the agreement has expired.

/ˈvænɪʃ/

He turned around and vanished into the house.

The magician vanished in a puff of smoke.

/juːˈtɪləti/

a privatized electricity utility

/ˈjuːtəlaɪz/

The Romans were the first to utilize concrete as a building material.

/ˈʌtərli/

We're so utterly different from each other.

She utterly failed to convince them.

/ˈvækjuːm/

a vacuum pump (= one that creates a vacuum)

/ʌpˈhəʊld/

We have a duty to uphold the law.

The regime has been criticized for failing to uphold human rights.

/ˈɜːrdʒənt/

The police have issued an urgent appeal for information.

/ˈjuːsɪdʒ/

a book on current English usage

It's not a word in common usage.

/ˈjuːsləs/

This pen is useless.

All I got from him was some useless advice and a loan of £200.

/ˌʌnˈveɪl/

The Queen unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the hospital.

/ˈʌpkʌmɪŋ/

the upcoming presidential election

a single from the band’s upcoming album

/ˈʌpgreɪd/

instructions for installing an upgrade to the existing system

/ˌʌpˈgreɪd/

upgrade something We are constantly upgrading our software to meet customers' needs.

noun

vein

any of the tubes that carry blood from all parts of the body towards the heart

noun

venture

a business project or activity, especially one that involves taking risks

verb

venture

to go somewhere even though you know that it might be dangerous or unpleasant

adjective

verbal

relating to words

noun

verdict

an official judgement made in court or at an inquest (= an official investigation into somebody's death)

verb

verify

to check that something is true or accurate

noun

verse

writing that is arranged in lines, often with a regular rhythm or pattern of rhyme

preposition

versus

used to show that two teams or sides are against each other

adjective

vertical

going straight up or down from a level surface or from top to bottom in a picture, etc.

noun

vessel

a tube that carries blood through the body of a person or an animal, or liquid through the parts of a plant

noun

veteran

a person who has a lot of experience in a particular area or activity

adjective

viable

that can be done; that will be successful

adjective

vibrant

full of life and energy

noun

vice

criminal activities that involve sex or drugs

adjective

vicious

violent and cruel

noun

viewpoint

a way of thinking about a subject

noun

villager

a person who lives in a village

verb

violate

to go against or refuse to obey a law, an agreement, etc.

noun

violation

the act of going against or refusing to obey a law, an agreement, etc.

noun

virtue

behaviour or attitudes that show high moral standards

/ˈvɪlɪdʒər/

Some of the villagers have lived here all their lives.

/ˈvaɪəleɪt/

to violate international law

/ˌvaɪəˈleɪʃn/

They were in open violation of the treaty.

/ˈvɜːrtʃuː/

He led a life of virtue.

/ˈvaɪbrənt/

a vibrant city

Thailand is at its most vibrant during the New Year celebrations.

/vaɪs/

At the door were two plain-clothes detectives from the vice squad.

/ˈvɪʃəs/

a vicious attack

a vicious criminal

/ˈvjuːpɔɪnt/

from a… viewpoint Try looking at things from a different viewpoint.

/ˈvɜːrtɪkl/

the vertical axis of the graph

The cliff was almost vertical.

/ˈvesl/

to burst/rupture a blood vessel

/ˈvetərən/

the veteran American actor, Clint Eastwood

/ˈvaɪəbl/

a viable option/proposition

There is no viable alternative.

/ˈvɜːrdɪkt/

Has the jury reached a verdict?

The jury returned a verdict (= gave a verdict) of guilty.

/ˈverɪfaɪ/

verify something We have no way of verifying his story.

/vɜːrs/

in verse Most of the play is written in verse, but some of it is in prose.

/ˈvɜːrsəs/

It is France versus Brazil in the final.

in the case of the State versus Ford

/veɪn/

the jugular vein

The nurse was having trouble finding a vein in his arm.

/ˈventʃər/

A disastrous business venture lost him thousands of dollars.

/ˈventʃər/

They ventured nervously into the water.

He's never ventured abroad in his life.

/ˈvɜːrbl/

The job applicant must have good verbal skills.

non-verbal communication (= expressions of the face, gestures, etc.)

noun

visa

a stamp or mark put in your passport by officials of a foreign country that gives you permission to enter, pass through or leave their country

adjective

visible

that can be seen

adjective

vocal

connected with the voice

adjective

voluntary

done willingly, not because you are forced

noun

voting

the action of choosing somebody/something in an election or at a meeting

verb

vow

to make a formal and serious promise to do something or a formal statement that is true

noun

vulnerability

the fact of being weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally

adjective

vulnerable

weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally

verb

wander

to walk slowly around or to a place, often without any particular sense of purpose or direction

noun

ward

a separate room or area in a hospital for people with the same type of medical condition

noun

warehouse

a building where large quantities of goods are stored, especially before they are sent to shops to be sold

noun

warfare

the activity of fighting a war, especially using particular weapons or methods

noun

warming

the process of making something, or of becoming, warm or warmer

noun

warrant

a legal document that is signed by a judge and gives the police authority to do something

verb

warrant

to make something necessary or appropriate in a particular situation

noun

warrior

(especially in the past) a person who fights in a battle or war

verb

weaken

to make somebody/something less strong or powerful; to become less strong or powerful

verb

weave

to make cloth, a carpet, a basket, etc. by crossing threads or narrow pieces of material across, over and under each other by hand or on a machine called a loom

noun

weed

a wild plant growing where it is not wanted, especially among crops or garden plants

adjective

weekly

happening, done or published once a week or every week

/ˈwiːkən/

The team has been weakened by injury.

The new evidence weakens the case against her.

/wiːv/

weave A from B The baskets are woven from strips of willow.

/wiːd/

The yard was overgrown with weeds.

Routine maintenance of the garden consists of keeping weeds under control.

/ˈwiːkli/

weekly meetings

a weekly magazine

/ˈwɔːrmɪŋ/

atmospheric warming

the seasonal warming of the Pacific

/ˈwɔːrənt/

an arrest warrant

warrant for something They issued a warrant for her arrest.

/ˈwɔːrənt/

warrant something Further investigation is clearly warranted.

/ˈwɔːriər/

a warrior nation (= whose people are skilled in fighting)

/ˈwɑːndər/

+ adv./prep. She wandered aimlessly around the streets.

/wɔːrd/

a maternity/surgical/psychiatric/children's ward

on the ward He worked as a nurse on the children's ward.

/ˈwerhaʊs/

Police are investigating a fire at a furniture warehouse.

/ˈwɔːrfer/

air/naval/guerrilla warfare

countries engaged in warfare

/ˈvəʊtɪŋ/

He was eliminated in the first round of voting.

Voting will take place on May 1.

/vaʊ/

vow to do something She vowed never to speak to him again.

/ˌvʌlnərəˈbɪləti/

the vulnerability of newborn babies to disease

financial vulnerability

/ˈvʌlnərəbl/

These offices are highly vulnerable to terrorist attack.

/ˈviːzə/

to apply for a visa

an entry/tourist/transit/exit visa

/ˈvɪzəbl/

The house is clearly visible from the beach.

Most stars are not visible to the naked eye.

/ˈvəʊkl/

vocal music

the vocal organs (= the tongue, lips, etc.)

/ˈvɑːlənteri/

a voluntary agreement

Attendance on the course is purely voluntary.

adjective

weird

very strange or unusual and difficult to explain

noun

welfare

the general health, happiness and safety of a person, an animal or a group

noun

well

a deep hole in the ground from which people obtain water

noun

well-being

general health and happiness

adverb

whatever

not at all; not of any kind

adverb

whatsoever

not at all; not of any kind

noun

wheat

a plant grown for its grain that is used to produce the flour for bread, cakes, pasta, etc.; the grain of this plant

adverb

whereby

by which; because of which

conjunction

whilst

during the time that something is happening; at the same time as something else is happening

verb

whip

to hit a person or an animal hard with a whip, as a punishment or to make them go faster or work harder

pronoun

whoever

the person or people who; any person who

adverb

wholly

completely

verb

widen

to become wider; to make something wider

adjective

widespread

existing or happening over a large area or among many people

noun

widow

a woman whose husband or wife has died and who has not married again

noun

width

the measurement from one side of something to the other; how wide something is

noun

willingness

the quality of being happy and ready to do something

verb

wipe

to rub something against a surface, in order to remove dirt or liquid from it; to rub a surface with a cloth, etc. in order to clean it

noun

wisdom

the ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have

noun

wit

the ability to say or write things that are both clever and humorous

/ˈwɪlɪŋnəs/

Success in studying depends on a willingness to learn.

/waɪp/

wipe something (on something) Please wipe your feet on the mat.

/ˈwɪzdəm/

She was known to be a woman of great wisdom.

Do you have any more words of wisdom for us?

/wɪt/

to have a quick/sharp/dry/ready wit

a woman of wit and intelligence

/ˈwaɪdn/

Her eyes widened in surprise.

Jasmine's eyes widened with disbelief.

/ˈwaɪdspred/

The storm caused widespread damage.

The plan received widespread support throughout the country.

/ˈwɪdəʊ/

She gets a widow’s pension.

/wɪdθ/

The terrace runs the full width of the house.

in width It's about ten metres in width.

/waɪlst/

In the UK it is illegal to drive whilst holding a mobile phone.

/wɪp/

He was taken back to the jail and soundly whipped.

/huːˈevər/

Whoever says that is a liar.

Send it to whoever is in charge of sales.

/ˈhəʊlli/

wholly inappropriate behaviour

The government is not wholly to blame for the recession.

/wətˈevər/

They received no help whatever.

‘Is there any doubt about it?’ ‘None whatsoever.’

/ˌwʌtsəʊˈevər/

They received no help whatsoever.

‘Is there any doubt about it?’ ‘None whatsoever.’

/wiːt/

wheat flour

/werˈbaɪ/

They have introduced a new system whereby all employees must undergo regular training.

/wɪrd/

I had a really weird dream last night.

She's a really weird girl.

/ˈwelfer/

We are concerned about the child's welfare.

/wel/

to dig/sink a well

The dog fell down a well.

/ˈwel biːɪŋ/

emotional/physical/psychological well-being

to have a sense of well-being

verb

withdraw

to take money out of a bank account

noun

withdrawal

the act of taking an amount of money out of your bank account

noun

workforce

all the people who work for a particular company, organization, etc.

noun

workout

a period of physical exercise that you do to keep fit

noun

workplace

the office, factory, etc. where people work

noun

workshop

a period of discussion and practical work on a particular subject, in which a group of people share their knowledge and experience

noun

worm

a long, thin creature with a soft body and no bones or legs

noun

worship

the practice of showing respect for God or a god, by saying prayers, singing with others, etc.; a ceremony for this

verb

worship

to show respect for God or a god, especially by saying prayers, singing, etc. with other people in a religious building

adjective

worthwhile

important, pleasant, interesting, etc.; worth spending time, money or effort on

adjective

worthy

having the qualities that deserve somebody/something

noun

wrist

the joint between the hand and the arm

verb

yell

to shout loudly, for example because you are angry, excited, frightened or in pain

noun

yield

the total amount of crops, profits, etc. that are produced

noun

youngster

a young person or a child

noun

adolescence

the time in a person's life when they develop from a child into an adult

noun

temperament

a person's or an animal's nature as shown in the way they behave or react to situations or people

noun

upbringing

the way in which a child is cared for and taught how to behave while it is growing up

adjective

maternal

having feelings that are typical of a caring mother towards a child

noun

infancy

the time when a child is a baby or very young

/ˈtemprəmənt/ to have an artistic temperament a horse with an excellent temperament	**/ˈʌpbrɪŋɪŋ/** She had had a very sheltered upbringing. by upbringing He was a Catholic by upbringing.	**/məˈtɜːrnl/** maternal love I'm not very maternal.	**/ˈɪnfənsi/** in infancy to die in infancy
/jel/ yell (at somebody/something) He yelled at the other driver.	**/jiːld/** a high crop yield a reduction in milk yield	**/ˈjʌŋstər/** The camp is for youngsters aged 8 to 14.	**/ˌædəˈlesns/** Adolescence brings about major changes in a young person's body.
/ˈwɜːrʃɪp/ The Mayans built jungle pyramids to worship their gods.	**/ˌwɜːrθˈwaɪl/** It was in aid of a worthwhile cause (= a charity, etc.).	**/ˈwɜːrði/** Very few of his ideas are worthy of further attention.	**/rɪst/** She's broken her wrist. He wore a copper bracelet on his wrist.
/ˈwɜːrkpleɪs/ the introduction of new technology into the workplace	**/ˈwɜːrkʃɑːp/** There will be the opportunity for practical theatre work in drama workshops.	**/wɜːrm/** birds looking for worms Worms burrow down through the soil.	**/ˈwɜːrʃɪp/** an act/a place of worship morning/evening worship (= a church service in the morning/evening)
/wɪðˈdrɔː/ withdraw something With this account, you can withdraw up to £300 a day.	**/wɪðˈdrɔːəl/** You can make withdrawals of up to $250 a day. She made a withdrawal of £250 from her bank account.	**/ˈwɜːrkfɔːrs/** The factory has a 1 000-strong workforce. Two thirds of the workforce is/are women.	**/ˈwɜːrkaʊt/** She does a 20-minute workout every morning. The team had a hard workout this morning.

noun

maturity

the quality of thinking and behaving in a sensible, adult manner

noun

toddler

a child who has only recently learnt to walk

adjective

clumsy

moving or doing things in a way that is not smooth or steady or careful

adjective

rebellious

unwilling to obey rules or accept normal standards of behaviour, dress, etc.

adjective

tolerant

able to accept what other people say or do even if you do not agree with it

verb

imitate

to copy somebody/something

verb

reminisce

to think, talk or write about a happy time in your past

verb

broaden

to become wider

noun

allergy

a medical condition that causes you to react badly or feel ill when you eat or touch a particular substance

noun

artery

any of the tubes that carry blood from the heart to other parts of the body

noun

dietician

a person whose job is to advise people on what kind of food they should eat to keep healthy

noun

insomnia

the condition of being unable to sleep

noun

preposition

a word or group of words, such as in, from, to, out of and on behalf of, used before a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time or method

noun

therapy

the treatment of a physical problem or an illness

adjective

allergic

having an allergy to something

adjective

brisk

quick; busy

adjective

infectious

an infectious disease can be passed easily from one person to another, especially through air or water

adjective

obese

very fat, in a way that is not healthy

verb

counteract

to do something to reduce or prevent the bad or harmful effects of something

noun

fulfilment

the act of doing or achieving what was hoped for or expected

/ɪnˈfekʃəs/

Flu is highly infectious.

(figurative) infectious laughter

/əʊˈbiːs/

Obese patients are given dietary advice.

She is grossly obese.

/ˌkaʊntərˈækt/

These exercises aim to counteract the effects of stress and tension.

/fʊlˈfɪlmənt/

the fulfilment of a dream

/ˌprepəˈzɪʃn/

/ˈθerəpi/

He is receiving therapy for cancer.

/əˈlɜːrdʒɪk/

I like cats but unfortunately I'm allergic to them.

/brɪsk/

a brisk walk

to set off at a brisk pace

/ˈælərdʒi/

He suffers from a severe nut allergy.

Food allergies affect six to eight per cent of children.

/ˈɑːrtəri/

blocked arteries

/ˌdaɪəˈtɪʃn/

/ɪnˈsɑːmniə/

to suffer from insomnia

/ˈtɑːlərənt/

He has a very tolerant attitude towards other religions.

/ˈɪmɪteɪt/

Her style of painting has been imitated by other artists.

/ˌremɪˈnɪs/

We spent a happy evening reminiscing about the past.

/ˈbrɔːdn/

Her smile broadened.

/məˈtʃʊrəti/

He has maturity beyond his years.

Her poems show great maturity.

/ˈtɑːdlər/

We run a mother and toddler group in the mornings.

/ˈklʌmzi/

I spilt your coffee. Sorry—that was clumsy of me.

His clumsy fingers couldn't untie the knot.

/rɪˈbeljəs/

rebellious teenagers

He has always had a rebellious streak.

noun

optimist

a person who always expects good things to happen or things to be successful

noun

pessimist

a person who always expects bad things to happen

noun

realist

a person who accepts and deals with a situation as it really is and does not try to pretend that it is different

adjective

intense

very great; very strong

noun

dissertation

a long piece of writing on a particular subject, especially one written for a university degree

adjective

relevant

closely connected with the subject you are discussing or the situation you are in

noun

dialect

the form of a language that is spoken in one area with grammar, words and pronunciation that may be different from other forms of the same language

noun

linguist

a person who knows several foreign languages well

noun

linguistics

the scientific study of language or of particular languages

adjective

incoherent

unable to express yourself clearly, often because of emotion

noun

itinerary

a plan of a journey, including the route and the places that you visit

adjective

picturesque

pretty, especially in a way that looks old-fashioned

adjective

quaint

attractive in an unusual or old-fashioned way

adjective

scenic

having beautiful natural scenery

adjective

unspoiled

beautiful because it has not been changed or built on

verb

fluctuate

to change frequently in size, amount, quality, etc., especially from one extreme to another

noun

archaeologist

a person who studies archaeology

noun

excavation

the activity of digging in the ground to look for old buildings or objects that have been buried for a long time

noun

millennium

a period of 1 000 years, especially as calculated before or after the birth of Christ

adjective

chronological

arranged in the order in which they happened

/ˌɑːrkiˈɑːlədʒɪst/

examples of life thousands of years ago, unearthed by archaeologists

/ˌekskəˈveɪʃn/

Further archaeological excavations are now being carried out.

/mɪˈleniəm/

the second millennium AD

/ˌkrɑːnəˈlɑːdʒɪkl/

The facts should be presented in chronological order.

/kweɪnt/

quaint old customs

a quaint seaside village

/ˈsiːnɪk/

an area of scenic beauty

They took the scenic route back to the hotel.

/ˌʌnˈspɔɪld/

unspoiled countryside

It's a country of stunning landscapes and unspoiled beaches.

/ˈflʌktʃueɪt/

fluctuating prices

The documentary follows the fluctuating fortunes of one marketing company.

/lɪŋˈgwɪstɪks/

/ˌɪnkəʊˈhɪrənt/

She broke off, incoherent with anger.

/aɪˈtɪnəreri/

He drew up a detailed itinerary.

Visits to four different countries are included in your itinerary.

/ˌpɪktʃəˈresk/

a picturesque cottage/setting/village

/ˌdɪsərˈteɪʃn/

He wrote his Master's dissertation on rats.

Students can either do a dissertation or take part in a practical project.

/ˈreləvənt/

relevant information/facts/documents/factors

The incident is still under investigation by the relevant authorities.

/ˈdaɪəlekt/

the Yorkshire dialect

dialect words/expressions

/ˈlɪŋgwɪst/

She's an excellent linguist.

I'm afraid I'm no linguist (= I find foreign languages difficult).

/ˈɑːptɪmɪst/

I'm an eternal optimist—I'm sure things will get better.

/ˈpesɪmɪst/

You don't have to be a pessimist to realize that we're in trouble.

/ˈriːəlɪst/

I'm a realist—I know you can't change people overnight.

/ɪnˈtens/

We were all suffering in the intense heat.

intense cold/pain

adjective

nostalgic

having or bringing a sad feeling mixed with pleasure when you think of happy times in the past

adjective

prehistoric

connected with the time in history before information was written down

verb

predate

to be built or formed, or to happen, at an earlier date than something else in the past

adverb

chronologically

in a way that arranges a number of events in the order in which they happened

noun

ecology

the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their environment; the study of this

noun

extinction

a situation in which a plant, an animal, a way of life, etc. stops existing

noun

fauna

all the animals living in an area or in a particular period of history

noun

flora

the plants of a particular area, type of environment or period of time

noun

genetics

the scientific study of the ways in which different characteristics are passed from each generation of living things to the next

noun

pesticide

a chemical used for killing pests, especially insects

noun

repercussion

an indirect and usually bad result of an action or event that may happen some time afterwards

noun

vermin

wild animals or birds that destroy plants or food, or attack farm animals and birds

adjective

arid

having little or no rain; very dry

adjective

catastrophic

causing many people to suffer

adverb

genetically

in a way that is connected with genes (= the units in the cells of a living thing that control its physical characteristics) or genetics (= the study of genes)

adjective

resistant

not affected by something; able to resist something

verb

eradicate

to destroy or get rid of something completely, especially something bad

verb

hibernate

to spend the winter in a state like deep sleep

noun

asteroid

any one of the many small planets that go around the sun

noun

cosmos

the universe, especially when it is thought of as an ordered system

/ɪˈrædɪkeɪt/ eradicate something Diphtheria has been virtually eradicated in the United States.	**/ˈhaɪbərneɪt/**	**/ˈæstərɔɪd/**	**/ˈkɑːzməʊs/** the structure of the cosmos our place in the cosmos
/ˈærɪd/ arid and semi-arid deserts Nothing grows in these arid regions.	**/ˌkætəˈstrɑːfɪk/** a catastrophic earthquake/flood/wildfire	**/dʒəˈnetɪkli/** genetically engineered crops genetically determined/transmitted	**/rɪˈzɪstənt/** plants that are resistant to disease Mosquitoes are becoming resistant to insecticides.
/dʒəˈnetɪks/	**/ˈpestɪsaɪd/** vegetables grown without the use of pesticides crops sprayed with pesticide	**/ˌriːpərˈkʌʃn/** The collapse of the company will have repercussions for the whole industry.	**/ˈvɜːrmɪn/** On farms the fox is considered vermin and treated as such.
/iˈkɑːlədʒi/ plant/animal/human ecology the ecology movement	**/ɪkˈstɪŋkʃn/** a tribe threatened with extinction/in danger of extinction	**/ˈfɔːnə/** the local flora and fauna (= plants and animals) (specialist) land and marine faunas	**/ˈflɔːrə/** alpine flora rare species of flora and fauna (= plants and animals)
/nəˈstældʒɪk/ nostalgic memories I feel quite nostalgic for the place where I grew up.	**/ˌpriːhɪˈstɔːrɪk/** in prehistoric times prehistoric man/remains/animals/burial sites	**/ˌpriːˈdeɪt/** Few of the town's fine buildings predate the earthquake of 1755.	**/ˌkrɑːnəˈlɑːdʒɪkli/** The works are arranged chronologically to reveal artistic development over 35 centuries.

noun

crater

a large hole in the top of a volcano

adjective

cosmic

connected with the whole universe

adjective

gravitational

connected with or caused by the force of gravity

adjective

meteoric

achieving success very quickly

adjective

terrestrial

living on the land or on the ground, rather than in water, in trees or in the air

adjective

unmanned

if a machine, a vehicle, a place or an activity is unmanned, it does not have or need a person to control or operate it

verb

acclimate

to get used to a new place, situation or climate

verb

colonize

to take control of an area or a country that is not your own, especially using force, and send people from your own country to live there

noun

gadget

a small tool or device that does something useful

noun

occupant

a person who lives or works in a particular house, room, building, etc.

adjective

cramped

a cramped room, etc. does not have enough space for the people in it

adjective

futuristic

extremely modern and unusual in appearance, as if belonging to a future time

noun

multi-storey car park

a large building with several floors for parking cars in

adjective

prefabricated

made in sections that can be put together later

verb

demolish

to pull or knock down a building; to destroy something

verb

deviate

to be different from something; to do something in a different way from what is usual or expected

verb

reconstruct

to build or make something again that has been damaged or that no longer exists

verb

renovate

to repair and paint an old building, a piece of furniture, etc. so that it is in good condition again

noun

computerization

the process of providing a computer or computers to do the work of something

noun

prototype

the first design of something from which other forms are copied or developed

/ˌriːkənˈstrʌkt/

Old London Bridge was bought by an American and reconstructed in the US.

/ˈrenəveɪt/

the newly renovated church

They spent the summer renovating a farmhouse in Kent.

/kəmˌpjuːtərəˈzeɪʃn/

As industry was modernized by computerization, workers' skills became outdated.

/ˈprəʊtətaɪp/

the prototype of the modern bicycle

Scientists have developed a working prototype for the machine.

/ˌmʌlti stɔːri ˈkɑːr pɑːrk/

/ˌpriːˈfæbrɪkeɪtɪd/

Prefabricated houses were quickly put up after the war.

/dɪˈmɑːlɪʃ/

The factory is due to be demolished next year.

The old slums are being demolished to make way for a new housing project.

/ˈdiːvieɪt/

The bus had to deviate from its usual route because of a road closure.

/ˈgædʒɪt/

We live in a world filled with high-tech gadgets.

She has invented a nifty little gadget for undoing stubborn nuts and bolts.

/ˈɑːkjəpənt/

All outstanding bills will be paid by the previous occupants.

/kræmpt/

working in cramped conditions

He lived for six months in a cold, cramped attic room.

/ˌfjuːtʃəˈrɪstɪk/

futuristic design

/təˈrestriəl/

a terrestrial habitat

/ˌʌnˈmænd/

an unmanned spacecraft

an unmanned Mars mission

/ˈækləmeɪt/

Competitors should arrive two weeks earlier to get acclimated to the sweltering heat.

/ˈkɑːlənaɪz/

The area was colonized by the Vikings.

/ˈkreɪtər/

We peered over the lip of the crater into the volcano.

/ˈkɑːzmɪk/

Do you believe in a cosmic plan?

/ˌgrævɪˈteɪʃənl/

a gravitational field

the gravitational pull of the moon

/ˌmiːtiˈɔːrɪk/

a meteoric rise to fame

a meteoric career

combining form

cyber-

connected with electronic communication networks, especially the internet

adjective

labour-saving

designed to reduce the amount of work or effort needed to do something

verb

envisage

to imagine what will happen in the future

verb

revolutionize

to completely change the way that something is done

noun

hindsight

the understanding that you have of a situation only after it has happened and that means you would have done things in a different way

noun

megacity

a very large city, usually one with a population of over 10 million people

noun

setback

a difficulty or problem that delays or prevents something, or makes a situation worse

adjective

decent

of a good enough standard or quality

adjective

staggering

so great, shocking or surprising that it is difficult to believe

verb

aggravate

to make an illness or a bad or unpleasant situation worse

verb

exacerbate

to make something worse, especially a disease or problem

noun

biodiversity

the existence of a large number of different kinds of animals and plants which make a balanced environment

noun

contamination

the process or fact of making a substance or place dirty or no longer pure by adding a substance that is dangerous or carries disease

noun

deforestation

the act of cutting down or burning the trees in an area

noun

fertilizer

a substance added to soil to make plants grow more successfully

noun

fumes

smoke, gas, or something similar that smells strongly or is dangerous to breathe in

noun

pollutant

a substance that pollutes something, especially air and water

adjective

conceivable

that you can imagine or believe

verb

contaminate

to make a substance or place dirty or no longer pure by adding a substance that is dangerous or carries disease

adjective

fruitless

producing no useful results

/pəˈluːtənt/

pollutants from nearby industries

Both are common pollutants and suspected carcinogens.

/kənˈsiːvəbl/

It is conceivable that I'll see her tomorrow.

a beautiful city with buildings of every conceivable age and style

/kənˈtæmɪneɪt/

The drinking water has become contaminated with lead.

/ˈfruːtləs/

a fruitless attempt/search

Our efforts to persuade her proved fruitless.

/kənˌtæmɪˈneɪʃn/

radioactive contamination

bacterial/chemical contamination

/ˌdiːˌfɔːrɪˈsteɪʃn/

land erosion caused by widespread deforestation

/ˈfɜːrtəlaɪzər/

artificial/chemical fertilizers

liquid fertilizer

/fjuːmz/

diesel/petrol/exhaust fumes

/ˈstægərɪŋ/

They paid a staggering £5 million for the house.

/ˈægrəveɪt/

Pollution can aggravate asthma.

Military intervention will only aggravate the conflict even further.

/ɪgˈzæsərbeɪt/

His aggressive reaction only exacerbated the situation.

/ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːrsəti/

The mining project threatens one of the world’s richest areas of biodiversity.

/ˈhaɪndsaɪt/

with hindsight With hindsight it is easy to say they should not have released him.

/ˈmegəsɪti/

/ˈsetbæk/

The team suffered a major setback when their best player was injured.

/ˈdiːsnt/

a decent meal/place to live

Mark did a decent job as a replacement for Turner.

/saɪbər/

cybernetics

cybercafe

/ˈleɪbər seɪvɪŋ/

modern labour-saving devices such as washing machines and dishwashers

/ɪnˈvɪzɪdʒ/

envisage something What level of profit do you envisage?

/ˌrevəˈluːʃənaɪz/

Aerial photography has revolutionized the study of archaeology.

adjective

impracticable

impossible or very difficult to do; not practical in a particular situation

adjective

improbable

not likely to be true or to happen

adjective

irreversible

that cannot be changed back to what it was before

adjective

pervasive

existing in all parts of a place or thing; spreading gradually to affect all parts of a place or thing

adverb

inexorably

in a way that cannot be stopped or changed

noun

turbine

a machine or part of a machine that produces continuous turning power from a fast-moving flow of a liquid or gas, using a set of vanes attached to a wheel or rotor

adjective

rechargeable

that can be filled again with electrical power

verb

deplete

to reduce something by a large amount so that there is not enough left; to be reduced by a large amount

noun

labourer

a person whose job involves hard physical work that does not need special skills, especially work that is done outdoors

adjective

exhausting

making you feel very tired

noun

arson

the crime of deliberately setting fire to something, especially a building

noun

recklessness

behaviour that shows a lack of care about danger and the possible results of your actions

noun

smuggling

the crime of taking, sending or bringing goods secretly and illegally into or out of a country

adjective

law-abiding

obeying and respecting the law

adjective

non-violent

using peaceful methods, not force, to bring about political or social change

adjective

victimless

a victimless crime is one in which nobody seems to suffer or be harmed

verb

perpetrate

to commit a crime or do something wrong or evil

noun

censorship

the act or policy of censoring books, etc.

noun

affair

events that are of public interest or political importance

noun

bookstall

a small shop that is open at the front, where you can buy books, newspapers or magazines, for example at a station or an airport

/ˈpɜːrpətreɪt/ perpetrate something to perpetrate a crime/fraud/massacre	**/ˈsensərʃɪp/** press censorship The decree imposed strict censorship of the media.	**/əˈfer/** world/international affairs an expert on foreign affairs (= political events in other countries)	**/ˈbʊkstɔːl/**
/ˈsmʌglɪŋ/ drug smuggling	**/ˈlɔː əbaɪdɪŋ/** The police have been preventing ordinary law-abiding citizens from going about their own business.	**/ˌnɑːn ˈvaɪələnt/** non-violent resistance a non-violent protest	**/ˈvɪktɪmləs/**
/ˈleɪbərər/ an agricultural labourer	**/ɪgˈzɔːstɪŋ/** an exhausting day at work I find her exhausting—she never stops talking.	**/ˈɑːrsn/** to carry out an arson attack	**/ˈrekləsnəs/** He was full of boyish recklessness and irresponsibility.
/ɪnˈeksərəbli/ events leading inexorably towards a crisis	**/ˈtɜːrbaɪn/** The flow of water drives the turbine, which is connected to an electrical generator to produce electricity.	**/ˌriːˈtʃɑːrdʒəbl/** rechargeable batteries	**/dɪˈpliːt/** Food supplies were severely depleted. Supplies are depleting fast.
/ɪmˈpræktɪkəbl/ It would be impracticable for each member to be consulted on every occasion.	**/ɪmˈprɑːbəbl/** an improbable story It all sounded highly improbable.	**/ˌɪrɪˈvɜːrsəbl/** an irreversible change/decline/decision irreversible brain damage (= that will not improve)	**/pərˈveɪsɪv/** a pervasive smell of damp Her influence is all-pervasive (= it affects everyone and everything).

noun

paparazzo

a photographer who follows famous people around in order to get interesting photographs of them to sell
to a newspaper

adjective

intrusive

too direct, easy to notice, etc. in a way that is annoying or upsetting

adjective

superficial

not studying or looking at something carefully or completely; seeing only what is obvious

adjective

factual

based on or containing facts

verb

publicize

to make something known to the public; to advertise something

noun

aesthetic

the qualities and ideas in a work of art or literature that relate to beauty and the nature of art

noun

artefact

an object that is made by a person, especially something of historical or cultural interest

noun

ballerina

a female dancer in ballet

noun

intimacy

the state of having a close personal relationship with somebody

noun

sculptor

a person who makes sculptures

adjective

burgeoning

beginning to grow or develop rapidly

adjective

distracting

taking your attention away from what you are trying to do

adjective

monotonous

never changing and therefore boring

adjective

mundane

not interesting or exciting

adjective

vivid

producing very clear pictures in your mind

verb

choreograph

to design and arrange the steps and movements for dancers in a ballet or a show

verb

transcend

to be or go beyond the usual limits of something

noun

resemblance

the fact of being or looking similar to somebody/something

noun

revelry

noisy fun, usually involving a lot of eating and drinking

adjective

dissatisfied

not happy or satisfied with somebody/something

/trænˈsend/

His works by far transcend anything that has gone before.

/rɪˈzembləns/

a striking/close/strong resemblance

Yes, there are family resemblances.

/ˈrevlri/

We could hear sounds of revelry from next door.

New Year revelries

/dɪsˈsætɪsfaɪd/

dissatisfied customers

/məˈnɑːtənəs/

a monotonous voice/diet/routine

monotonous work

/mʌnˈdeɪn/

a mundane task/job

I lead a pretty mundane existence.

/ˈvɪvɪd/

vivid memories

He gave a vivid account of his life as a fighter pilot.

/ˈkɔːriəgræf/

She choreographed several ballets for the company.

/ˈɪntɪməsi/

She isn't capable of real intimacy.

intimacy between A and B The old intimacy between them had gone for ever.

/ˈskʌlptər/

He was court sculptor to Alexander the Great.

a classical Greek figure created by the sculptor Polyclitus

/ˈbɜːrdʒənɪŋ/

a burgeoning population

burgeoning demand

/dɪˈstræktɪŋ/

distracting thoughts

a distracting noise

/ˈpʌblɪsaɪz/

They flew to Europe to publicize the plight of the refugees.

/esˈθetɪk/

The students debated the aesthetic of the poems.

/ˈɑːrtɪfækt/

The museum has a superb collection of ancient artefacts from Nubia.

/ˌbæləˈriːnə/

/ˌpɑːpəˈrɑːtsəʊ/

/ɪnˈtruːsɪv/

intrusive questions

The constant presence of the media was very intrusive.

/ˌsuːpərˈfɪʃl/

a superficial analysis

The book shows only a superficial understanding of the historical context.

/ˈfæktʃuəl/

The story is a factual account of events in early aviation.

noun

syllabus

a list of the topics, books, etc. that students should study in a particular subject at school or college

adjective

spontaneous

not planned but done because you suddenly want to do it

noun

ecotourism

organized holidays that are designed so that the tourists damage the environment as little as possible, especially when some of the money they pay is used to protect the local environment and animals

verb

erode

to gradually destroy the surface of something through the action of wind, rain, etc.; to be gradually destroyed in this way

noun

meteor

a piece of rock from outer space that makes a bright line across the night sky as it burns up while falling through the earth's atmosphere

noun

weightlessness

the fact of having or appearing to have no weight, for example because there is no gravity

verb

propel

to move, drive or push something forward or in a particular direction

adjective

disposable

made to be thrown away after use

noun

storey

a level of a building; a floor

adjective

spacious

large and with plenty of space for people to move around in

verb

computerize

to provide a computer or computers to do the work of something

noun

globalization

the fact that different cultures and economic systems around the world are becoming connected and similar to each other because of the influence of large multinational companies and of improved communication

noun

multiculturalism

the practice of giving importance to all cultures in a society

verb

dwindle

to become gradually less or smaller

adjective

advantageous

good or useful in a particular situation

adjective

devastating

causing a lot of damage and destroying things

adjective

feasible

that is possible and likely to be achieved

adjective

insoluble

that cannot be solved or explained

adjective

irreplaceable

too valuable or special to be replaced

adjective

recyclable

able to be recycled

/ˈfiːzəbl/ a feasible plan/suggestion/idea It's just not feasible to manage the business on a part-time basis.	**/ɪnˈsɑːljəbl/** The problem seemed insoluble.	**/ˌɪrɪˈpleɪsəbl/** These pictures are irreplaceable.	**/ˌriːˈsaɪkləbl/** Glass products are completely recyclable. Paper is easily recyclable.
/ˌmʌltiˈkʌltʃərəlɪzəm/ an organization that promotes multiculturalism critics of multiculturalism	**/ˈdwɪndl/** dwindling audiences a dwindling band of supporters	**/ˌædvənˈteɪdʒəs/** A free trade agreement would be advantageous to both countries.	**/ˈdevəsteɪtɪŋ/** a devastating explosion/fire/cyclone Oil spills are having a devastating effect on coral reefs in the ocean.
/ˈstɔːri/ the upper/lower storey of the house a single-storey/two-storey building	**/ˈspeɪʃəs/** The hotel rooms are spacious and comfortable.	**/kəmˈpjuːtəraɪz/** The factory has been fully computerized.	**/ˌgləʊbələˈzeɪʃn/**
/ˈmiːtiər/ a meteor shower	**/ˈweɪtləsnəs/** an experience of weightlessness	**/prəˈpel/** mechanically propelled vehicles a boat propelled only by oars	**/dɪˈspəʊzəbl/** disposable gloves/razors (British English) disposable nappies
/ˈsɪləbəs/ on the syllabus American history will be on the syllabus next term.	**/spɑːnˈteɪniəs/** a spontaneous offer of help The audience burst into spontaneous applause.	**/ˈiːkəʊtʊrɪzəm/** Ecotourism is financing rainforest preservation.	**/ɪˈrəʊd/** be eroded (away) The cliff face has been steadily eroded by the sea.

adjective

drastic

extreme in a way that has a sudden, serious or violent effect on something

noun

pickpocket

a person who steals money, etc. from other people's pockets, especially in crowded places

noun

vandalism

the crime of destroying or damaging something, especially public property, deliberately and for no good reason

adjective

punishable

that can be punished, especially by law

adjective

distorted

pulled out of shape so that it looks strange; made to sound strange

adjective

sensationalist

getting people's interest by using words that are intended to shock or by presenting facts and events as worse or more shocking than they really are

noun

headword

a word that forms a heading in a dictionary, under which its meaning is explained

verb

abandon

to leave somebody, especially somebody you are responsible for, with no intention of returning

adjective

abstract

based on general ideas and not on any particular real person, thing or situation

verb

accompany

to travel or go somewhere with somebody/something

adjective

accurate

correct and true in every detail

verb

acknowledge

to accept that something is true

verb

acquire

to gain something by your own efforts, ability or behaviour

verb

adapt

to change your behaviour in order to deal more successfully with a new situation

noun

advocate

a person who supports or speaks in favour of somebody or of a public plan or action

noun

aggregate

a total number or amount made up of smaller amounts that are collected together

noun

aid

money, food, etc. that is sent to help countries in difficult situations

verb

alter

to become different; to make somebody/something different

adjective

ambiguous

that can be understood in more than one way; having different meanings

adjective

annual

happening or done once every year

/eɪd/

humanitarian/food/medical aid

/ˈɔːltər/

Prices did not alter significantly during 2019.

He had altered so much I scarcely recognized him.

/æmˈbɪgjuəs/

an ambiguous word/term/statement

Her account was deliberately ambiguous.

/ˈænjuəl/

an annual meeting/event/report/conference

The 12th annual Music Festival runs from Friday 25th to Monday 28th October.

/əˈkwaɪər/

She has acquired a good knowledge of English.

How long will it take to acquire the necessary skills?

/əˈdæpt/

It's amazing how soon you adapt.

The organisms were forced to adapt in order to survive.

/ˈædvəkət/

advocate for something/somebody an advocate for hospital workers

/ˈægrɪgət/

a record aggregate of 285 points

The three smaller parties gained an aggregate of 25 per cent of the vote.

/ˈæbstrækt/

abstract knowledge/principles

/əˈkʌmpəni/

accompany somebody/something + adv./prep. His wife accompanied him on the trip.

/ˈækjərət/

an accurate description/picture of something

Accurate measurements are essential.

/əkˈnɑːlɪdʒ/

acknowledge something She refuses to acknowledge the need for reform.

/dɪˈstɔːrtɪd/

a distorted image

The song features lots of crazy distorted guitar.

/senˈseɪʃənəlɪst/

sensationalist headlines

/ˈhedwɜːrd/

/əˈbændən/

abandon somebody The baby had been abandoned by its mother.

/ˈdræstɪk/

drastic measures/changes

The government is threatening to take drastic action.

/ˈpɪkpɑːkɪt/

Watch out for pickpockets, especially at the train station.

/ˈvændəlɪzəm/

an act of vandalism

Police condemned the damage as an act of mindless vandalism.

/ˈpʌnɪʃəbl/

Giving false information to the police is a punishable offence.

adjective

apparent

easy to see or understand

verb

append

to add something to the end of a piece of writing

noun

approach

a way of dealing with somebody/something; a way of doing or thinking about something such as a problem or a task

adjective

appropriate

suitable, acceptable or correct for the particular circumstances

adjective

approximate

almost correct or accurate, but not completely so

noun

aspect

a particular part or feature of a situation, an idea, a problem, etc.; a way in which it may be considered

verb

assess

to make a judgement about the nature or quality of somebody/something

verb

assume

to think or accept that something is true but without having proof of it

verb

attribute

to say or believe that something is the result of a particular thing

verb

automate

to use machines and computers instead of people to do a job or task

noun

bias

a strong feeling in favour of or against one group of people, or one side in an argument, often not based on fair judgement

noun

bond

something that forms a connection between people or groups, such as a feeling of friendship or shared ideas and experiences

adjective

brief

lasting only a short time; short

noun

bulk

the main part of something; most of something

adjective

capable

having the ability or qualities necessary for doing something

noun

capacity

the number of things or people that a container or space can hold

noun

circumstance

the conditions and facts that are connected with and affect a situation, an event or an action

verb

cite

to mention something as a reason or an example, or in order to support what you are saying

adjective

civil

connected with the people who live in a country

adjective

classic

accepted or deserving to be accepted as one of the best or most important of its kind

/ˈsɜːrkəmstæns/

Police said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the boy's death.

/saɪt/

cite something She cited examples of companies the city has helped relocate or expand.

/ˈsɪvl/

civil unrest (= that is caused by groups of people within a country)

/ˈklæsɪk/

a classic film/story/car/game

I grew up listening to classic rock.

/briːf/

a brief visit/meeting/conversation

Mozart's life was brief.

/bʌlk/

The bulk of the population lives in cities.

The great bulk of the work has now been done.

/ˈkeɪpəbl/

capable of something You are capable of better work than this.

/kəˈpæsəti/

a fuel tank with a maximum capacity of 50 litres

The theatre has a seating capacity of 2 000.

/əˈtrɪbjuːt/

She attributes her success to hard work and a little luck.

/ˈɔːtəmeɪt/

be automated The entire manufacturing process has been automated.

/ˈbaɪəs/

accusations of political bias in news programmes (= that reports are unfair and show favour to one political party)

/bɑːnd/

the bond that links us

bond between A and B A bond of friendship had been forged between them.

/əˈprɑːksɪmət/

an approximate number/total/cost

The cost given is only approximate.

/ˈæspekt/

aspect of something The book aims to cover all aspects of city life.

/əˈses/

assess somebody/something Accurately assessing environmental impacts is very complex.

/əˈsuːm/

assume (that)… It is reasonable to assume (that) the economy will continue to improve.

/əˈpærənt/

Their devotion was apparent.

Then, for no apparent reason, the train suddenly stopped.

/əˈpend/

Footnotes have been appended to the document.

The principal has the right to append comments to the final report.

/əˈprəʊtʃ/

She took the wrong approach in her dealings with them.

/əˈprəʊpriət/

an appropriate response/measure/method

Now that the problem has been identified, appropriate action can be taken.

adjective

coherent

logical and well organized; easy to understand and clear

verb

collapse

to fall down or fall in suddenly, often after breaking apart

noun

commission

an official group of people who have been given responsibility to control something, or to find out about something, usually for the government

adjective

compatible

able to be used together

verb

complement

to add to something in a way that improves it or makes it more attractive

noun

component

one of several parts of which something is made

noun

compound

a thing consisting of two or more separate things combined together

adjective

comprehensive

including all, or almost all, the items, details, facts, information, etc., that may be involved

noun

concept

an idea or a principle that is connected with something abstract

adjective

concurrent

existing or happening at the same time

verb

conduct

to organize and/or do a particular activity

noun

conflict

a situation in which people, groups or countries disagree strongly or are involved in a serious argument

verb

conform

to behave and think in the same way as most other people in a group or society

noun

consent

permission to do something, especially given by somebody in authority

adjective

consequent

happening as a result of something

adjective

constant

happening all the time or repeatedly

verb

constrain

to force somebody to do something or behave in a particular way

verb

construct

to build or make something such as a road, building or machine

adjective

contemporary

belonging to the same time

noun

contract

an official written agreement

/kənˈstreɪn/

be/feel constrained to do something The evidence was so compelling that he felt constrained to accept it.

/kənˈstrʌkt/

construct something The building was constructed in 1993.

/kənˈtempəreri/

We have no contemporary account of the battle (= written near the time that it happened).

/ˈkɑːntrækt/

All employees have a written contract of employment.

/kənˈfɔːrm/

There is considerable pressure on teenagers to conform.

/kənˈsent/

The written consent of a parent is required.

/ˈkɑːnsɪkwent/

the lowering of taxes and the consequent increase in spending

/ˈkɑːnstənt/

There were constant interruptions.

a constant stream of visitors all day

/ˈkɑːnsept/

concept of something the concept of social class

helping students grasp abstract concepts such as leadership and teamwork

/kənˈkɜːrənt/

He was imprisoned for two concurrent terms of 30 months and 18 months.

/kənˈdʌkt/

to conduct an experiment/inquiry/investigation/interview

/ˈkɑːnflɪkt/

The violence was the result of political conflicts.

/ˈkɑːmplɪment/

The excellent menu is complemented by a good wine list.

/kəmˈpəʊnənt/

the different organizations involved in the design of the various components

/ˈkɑːmpaʊnd/

compounds derived from rainforest plants

The air smelled like a compound of diesel and petrol fumes.

/ˌkɑːmprɪˈhensɪv/

a comprehensive list of addresses

a comprehensive study

/kəʊˈhɪrənt/

a coherent narrative/account/explanation

a coherent policy for the transport system

/kəˈlæps/

The roof collapsed under the weight of snow.

The building had partially collapsed.

/kəˈmɪʃn/

The commission is expected to report its findings next month.

/kəmˈpætəbl/

The new system will be compatible with existing equipment.

verb

contradict

to say that something that somebody else has said is wrong, and that the opposite is true

adjective

contrary1

different from something; against something

verb

contribute

to give something, especially money or goods, to help achieve or provide something

verb

convene

to arrange for people to come together for a formal meeting

verb

converse1

to have a conversation with somebody

verb

convert

to change or make something change from one form, purpose, system, etc. to another

verb

coordinate

to organize the different parts of an activity and the people involved in it so that it works well

noun

core

the most important or central part of something

adjective

corporate

connected with a large business company

noun

criterion

a standard or principle by which something is judged, or with the help of which a decision is made

adjective

crucial

extremely important, because it will affect other things

noun

debate

a formal discussion of an issue at a public meeting or in a parliament

verb

decline

to become smaller, fewer, weaker, etc.

verb

deduce

to form an opinion about something based on the information or evidence that is available

verb

demonstrate

to show something clearly by giving proof or evidence

verb

denote

to be a sign of something

verb

deny

to say that something is not true

verb

depress

to make somebody sad and without enthusiasm or hope

verb

detect

to discover or notice something, especially something that is not easy to see, hear, etc.

adjective

discrete

independent of other things of the same type

/dɪˈnaɪ/

deny something to deny an allegation/a charge/an accusation

/dɪˈpres/

depress somebody Wet weather always depresses me.

/dɪˈtekt/

The tests are designed to detect the disease early.

/dɪˈskriːt/

The organisms can be divided into discrete categories.

/dɪˈklaɪn/

Support for the party continues to decline.

decline by something Sales of whole milk declined by 4 per cent.

/dɪˈduːs/

deduce something (from something) We can deduce a lot from what people choose to buy.

/ˈdemənstreɪt/

demonstrate that… New research convincingly demonstrates that age-related memory loss is not inevitable.

/dɪˈnəʊt/

A very high temperature often denotes a serious illness.

/ˈkɔːrpərət/

corporate finance/profits/tax

corporate executives/clients/sponsors

/kraɪˈtɪriən/

The main criterion is value for money.

She failed to meet the strict selection criteria.

/ˈkruːʃl/

The next few weeks are going to be crucial.

Private security cameras can prove crucial in some investigations.

/dɪˈbeɪt/

the first ever televised presidential debate

The minister opened the debate (= was the first to speak).

/kənˈvɜːrs/

She conversed with the Romanians in French.

The two men were conversing on music and opera.

/kənˈvɜːrt/

convert something They took just nine months to convert the building.

/kəʊˈɔːrdɪneɪt/

coordinate something They appointed a new manager to coordinate the work of the team.

/kɔːr/

This report goes to the core of the argument.

Dutch paintings form the core of the collection.

/ˌkɑːntrəˈdɪkt/

contradict something All evening her husband contradicted everything she said.

/ˈkɑːntreri/

Contrary to popular belief, many cats dislike milk.

/kənˈtrɪbjuːt/

Do you wish to contribute?

/kənˈviːn/

to convene a meeting

A Board of Inquiry was convened immediately after the accident.

verb

discriminate

to recognize that there is a difference between people or things; to show a difference between people or things

verb

display

to put something in a place where people can see it easily; to show something to people

verb

distribute

to give things to a large number of people; to share something between a number of people

adjective

domestic

of or inside a particular country; not foreign or international

verb

dominate

to control or have a lot of influence over somebody/something, especially in an unpleasant way

noun

draft

a rough written version of something that is not yet in its final form

adjective

dynamic

having a lot of energy and a strong personality

noun

edit

an act of making changes to text or data

verb

emerge

to move out of or away from something and become possible to see

noun

emphasis

special importance that is given to something

verb

enable

to make it possible for somebody/something to do something

verb

encounter

to experience something, especially something unpleasant or difficult, while you are trying to do something else

verb

enhance

to increase or further improve the good quality, value or status of somebody/something

verb

ensure

to make sure that something happens or is definite

verb

equate

to think that something is the same as something else or is as important

noun

equivalent

a thing, amount, word, etc. that is equal in value, meaning or purpose to something else

verb

establish

to start or create an organization, a system, etc. that is meant to last for a long time

noun

estate

an area of land with a lot of houses or factories of the same type on it

verb

estimate

to form an idea of the cost, size, value etc. of something, but without calculating it exactly

adjective

ethnic

connected with or belonging to a group of people that share a cultural tradition

/ɪˈstæblɪʃ/

The committee was established in 1912.

They now hope to establish a centre in Cuba.

/ɪˈsteɪt/

on an estate She lives in a tower block on an estate in London.

/ˈestɪmeɪt/

estimate something to estimate the cost/value/number of something

/ˈeθnɪk/

ethnic background/origin

ethnic strife/tensions/violence (= between different ethnic groups)

/ɪnˈhæns/

This is an opportunity to enhance the reputation of the company.

/ɪnˈʃʊr/

ensure something We are working to ensure the safety of people in the city.

/ɪˈkweɪt/

Some parents equate education with exam success.

I don't see how you can equate the two things.

/ɪˈkwɪvələnt/

Send €20 or the equivalent in your own currency.

equivalent of something the modern equivalent of the Roman baths

/ɪˈmɜːrdʒ/

The crabs emerge at low tide to look for food.

emerge from something She finally emerged from her room at noon.

/ˈemfəsɪs/

emphasis on/upon something Since the elections there has been a greater emphasis on education.

/ɪˈneɪbl/

This new programme will enable older people to study at college.

/ɪnˈkaʊntər/

We encountered a number of difficulties in the first week.

/ˈdɑːmɪneɪt/

She always says a lot in meetings, but she doesn't dominate.

/dræft/

This is only the first draft of my speech.

I've made a rough draft of the letter.

/daɪˈnæmɪk/

a dynamic leader

He was a dynamic young advertising executive.

/ˈedɪt/

I had time to do a quick edit of my essay before handing it in.

/dɪˈskrɪmɪneɪt/

discriminate (between A and B) The computer program was unable to discriminate between letters and numbers.

/dɪˈspleɪ/

display something The exhibition gives local artists an opportunity to display their work.

/dɪˈstrɪbjuːt/

distribute something The leaflets have been widely distributed.

/dəˈmestɪk/

domestic affairs/politics

Output consists of both exports and sales on the domestic market.

verb

evaluate

to form an opinion of the amount, value or quality of something after thinking about it carefully

adjective

eventual

happening at the end of a period of time or of a process

verb

exhibit

to show something in a public place for people to enjoy or to give them information

verb

exploit

to treat a person or situation as an opportunity to gain an advantage for yourself

verb

expose

to show something that is usually hidden

adjective

external

connected with or located on the outside of something/somebody

noun

extract

a short passage from a book, piece of music, etc. that gives you an idea of what the whole thing is like

noun

fee

an amount of money that you pay for professional advice or services

noun

finance

money used to run a business, an activity or a project

adjective

finite

having a definite limit or fixed size

adjective

flexible

able to change to suit new conditions or situations

noun

format

the general arrangement, plan, design, etc. of something

verb

found

to start something, such as an organization or an institution, especially by providing money

noun

fund

an amount of money that has been saved or has been made available for a particular purpose

adjective

fundamental

serious and very important; affecting the most central and important parts of something

adverb

furthermore

in addition to what has just been stated. Furthermore is used especially to add a point to an argument.

verb

generate

to produce energy, especially electricity

verb

grant

to agree to give somebody what they ask for, especially formal or legal permission to do something

verb

guarantee

to promise to do something; to promise something will happen

adjective

ignorant

not having or showing much knowledge or information about things; not educated

/ˈdʒenəreɪt/ The wind turbines are used to generate electricity.	**/grænt/** grant something My request was granted. the rights expressly granted by the terms of the lease	**/ˌgærənˈtiː/** guarantee something Basic human rights, including freedom of speech, are now guaranteed.	**/ˈɪgnərənt/** an ignorant person/question Never make your students feel ignorant.
/faʊnd/ to found a club/company/school Her family founded the college in 1895.	**/fʌnd/** a disaster relief fund the company's pension fund	**/ˌfʌndəˈmentl/** the fundamental principles of scientific method You have a fundamental right to privacy.	**/ˌfɜːrðərˈmɔːr/** He said he had not discussed the matter with her. Furthermore, he had not even contacted her.
/ˈfaɪnæns/ The project will only go ahead if they can raise the necessary finance.	**/ˈfaɪnaɪt/** a finite number of possibilities The world's resources are finite.	**/ˈfleksəbl/** a more flexible approach flexible working hours/practices	**/ˈfɔːrmæt/** The format of the new quiz show has proved popular.
/ɪkˈspəʊz/ expose something He smiled suddenly, exposing a set of amazingly white teeth.	**/ɪkˈstɜːrnl/** the external walls of the building an external hard drive	**/ˈekstrækt/** The following extract is taken from her new novel.	**/fiː/** Employees are reimbursed for any legal fees incurred when they relocate.
/ɪˈvæljueɪt/ evaluate something The trial will evaluate the effectiveness of the different drugs.	**/ɪˈventʃuəl/** the eventual winner of the tournament It is impossible to predict what the eventual outcome will be.	**/ɪgˈzɪbɪt/** exhibit something (at/in…) They will be exhibiting their new designs at the trade fairs.	**/ɪkˈsplɔɪt/** He exploited his father's name to get himself a job.

verb

illustrate

to use pictures, photographs, diagrams, etc. in a book, etc.

verb

immigrate

to come and live permanently in a country after leaving your own country

verb

implement

to make something that has been officially decided start to happen or be used

verb

implicate

to show or suggest that somebody is involved in something bad or criminal

adjective

implicit

suggested without being directly expressed

verb

imply

to suggest that something is true or that you feel or think something, without saying so directly

verb

impose

to introduce a new law, rule, tax, etc.; to order that a rule, punishment, etc. be used

verb

incline

to tend to think or behave in a particular way; to make somebody do this

noun

income

the money that a person, a region, a country, etc. earns from work, from investing money, from business, etc.

noun

index

a list of names or topics that are referred to in a book, etc., usually arranged at the end of a book in alphabetical order or listed in a separate file or book

adjective

initial

happening at the beginning; first

verb

initiate

to make something begin

verb

innovate

to introduce new things, ideas or ways of doing something

noun

input

time, knowledge, ideas, etc. that you put into work, a project, etc. in order to make it succeed; the act of putting something in

verb

insert

to put something into something else or between two things

noun

insight

an understanding of what something is like

noun

instance

a particular example or case of something

noun

institute

an organization that has a particular purpose, especially one that is connected with education or a particular profession; the building used by this organization

adjective

intermediate

located between two places, things, states, etc.

adjective

internal

connected with the inside of something

/ˈɪnstəns/

instance of somebody/something The report highlights a number of instances of injustice.

/ˈɪnstɪtuːt/

The report was compiled by Germany's five leading economic research institutes.

/ˌɪntərˈmiːdiət/

an intermediate stage/step in a process

/ɪnˈtɜːrnl/

the internal structure of a building

internal doors

/ˈɪnəveɪt/

We must constantly adapt and innovate to ensure success in a growing market.

/ˈɪnpʊt/

I'd appreciate your input on this.

/ɪnˈsɜːrt/

insert something (in/into something) Insert coins into the slot and press for a ticket.

/ˈɪnsaɪt/

There are many valuable insights in her book.

His work offers several useful insights.

/ˈɪnkʌm/

Average household income fell slightly.

/ˈɪndeks/

Look it up in the index.

Author and subject indexes are available on a library database.

/ɪˈnɪʃl/

There is an initial payment of £60 followed by ten instalments of £25.

/ɪˈnɪʃieɪt/

to initiate legal proceedings against somebody

The government has initiated a programme of economic reform.

/ɪmˈplɪsɪt/

Implicit in his speech was the assumption that they were guilty.

/ɪmˈplaɪ/

imply (that)… Are you implying (that) I am wrong?

/ɪmˈpəʊz/

impose something The UN Security Council imposed sanctions in 1992.

/ɪnˈklaɪn/

incline to/towards something I incline to the view that we should take no action at this stage.

/ˈɪləstreɪt/

illustrate something She illustrated her own books.

/ˈɪmɪgreɪt/

About 6.6 million people immigrated to the United States in the 1970s.

/ˈɪmplɪment/

to implement changes/decisions/policies/reforms

A new work programme for young people will be implemented.

/ˈɪmplɪkeɪt/

He tried to avoid saying anything that would implicate him further.

verb

interpret

to explain the meaning of something

adjective

intrinsic

belonging to or part of the real nature of something/somebody

verb

justify

to show that somebody/something is right or reasonable

noun

labour

work, especially physical work

verb

legislate

to make a law affecting something

noun

levy

an extra amount of money that has to be paid, especially as a tax to the government

adjective

liberal

willing to understand and respect other people's behaviour, opinions, etc

noun

licence

an official document that shows that permission has been given to do, own or use something

noun

logic

a way of thinking or explaining something

verb

maintain

to make something continue at the same level, standard, etc.

adjective

manual

involving using the hands or physical strength

adjective

mature

behaving in a sensible way, like an adult

verb

maximize

to increase something as much as possible

verb

mediate

to try to end a situation between two or more people or groups who disagree by talking to them and trying to find things that everyone can agree on

verb

migrate

to move from one part of the world to another according to the season

adjective

military

connected with soldiers or the armed forces

verb

minimize

to reduce something, especially something bad, to the lowest possible level

adverb

minimum

used after amounts to show that the amount is the lowest possible

adjective

minor

not very large, important or serious

verb

modify

to change something slightly, especially in order to make it more suitable for a particular purpose

/ˈmɪnɪmaɪz/

Good hygiene helps to minimize the risk of infection.

/ˈmɪnɪməm/

You'll need £200 minimum for your holiday expenses.

/ˈmaɪnər/

The new plan involves widening a minor road through the valley.

/ˈmɑːdɪfaɪ/

Patients are taught how to modify their diet.

We found it cheaper to modify existing equipment rather than buy new.

/ˈmæksɪmaɪz/

to maximize efficiency/fitness/profits

(computing) Maximize the window to full screen.

/ˈmiːdieɪt/

mediate (in something) The Secretary-General was asked to mediate in the dispute.

/ˈmaɪgreɪt/

Swallows migrate south in winter.

/ˈmɪləteri/

We may have to take military action.

military training/intelligence

/ˈlɑːdʒɪk/

I fail to see the logic behind his argument.

The two parts of the plan were governed by the same logic.

/meɪnˈteɪn/

to maintain law and order/standards/a balance/control

/ˈmænjuəl/

manual labour/jobs/skills

manual and non-manual workers

/məˈtʃʊr/

Jane is very mature for her age.

a mature and sensible attitude

/ˈledʒɪsleɪt/

The King restricted Parliament's power to legislate.

/ˈlevi/

to put/impose a levy on oil imports

the trade-union political levy

/ˈlɪbərəl/

liberal attitudes/views/opinions

/ˈlaɪsns/

Applicants must hold a valid driving licence.

to get/obtain/have a licence

/ɪnˈtɜːrprət/

The students were asked to interpret the poem.

The data can be interpreted in many different ways.

/ɪnˈtrɪnzɪk/

the intrinsic value of education

These tasks were repetitive, lengthy and lacking any intrinsic interest.

/ˈdʒʌstɪfaɪ/

justify doing something How can they justify paying such huge salaries?

/ˈleɪbər/

manual labour (= work using your hands)

The price will include the labour and materials.

noun

monitor

a screen that shows information from a computer; a television screen used to show particular kinds of information

noun

motive

a reason for doing something

verb

negate

to stop something from having any effect

adjective

neutral

not supporting or helping either side in a disagreement, competition, etc.

adverb

nevertheless

despite something that you have just mentioned

noun

norm

a situation or a pattern of behaviour that is usual or expected

noun

notion

an idea, a belief or an understanding of something

preposition

notwithstanding

without being affected by something; despite something

noun

objective

something that you are trying to achieve

verb

obtain

to get something, especially by making an effort

verb

offset

to use one cost, payment or situation in order to cancel or reduce the effect of another

verb

orient

to direct somebody/something towards something; to make or adapt somebody/something for a particular purpose

noun

outcome

the result or effect of an action or event

noun

output

the amount of something that a person, a machine or an organization produces

adjective

overall

including all the things or people that are involved in a particular situation; general

verb

overlap

if one thing overlaps another, or the two things overlap, part of one thing covers part of the other

adjective

overseas

connected with foreign countries, especially those separated from your country by the sea or ocean

noun

panel

a square or rectangular piece of wood, glass or metal that forms part of a larger surface such as a door or wall

noun

paradigm

a typical example or pattern of something

adjective

parallel

two or more lines that are parallel to each other are the same distance apart at every point

/ˌəʊvərˈsiːz/

The firm is expanding into overseas markets.

overseas development/trade

/ˈpænl/

One of the glass panels in the front door was cracked.

/ˈpærədaɪm/

a paradigm for students to copy

The war was a paradigm of the destructive side of human nature.

/ˈpærəlel/

parallel lines

parallel to/with something The road and the canal are parallel to each other.

/ˈaʊtkʌm/

The likely outcome is a compromise.

Their strategy produced the desired outcome.

/ˈaʊtpʊt/

Manufacturing output has increased by 8 per cent.

/ˌəʊvərˈɔːl/

There will be winners in each of three age groups, and one overall winner.

/ˌəʊvərˈlæp/

A fish's scales overlap each other

The floor was protected with overlapping sheets of newspaper.

/əbˈdʒektɪv/

the primary/principal/key objective

The main objective of this meeting is to give more information on our plans.

/əbˈteɪn/

to obtain information/data/results

I've been trying to obtain permission to publish this material.

/ˈɔːfset/

offset something Prices have risen in order to offset the increased cost of materials.

/ˈɔːrient/

Our students are oriented towards science subjects.

/ˌnevərðəˈles/

There is little chance that we will succeed in changing the law. Nevertheless, it is important that we try.

/nɔːrm/

The new design is a departure from the norm.

Older parents seem to be the norm rather than the exception nowadays.

/ˈnəʊʃn/

notion of something a political system based on the notions of equality and liberty

/ˌnɑːtwɪθˈstændɪŋ/

Notwithstanding some major financial problems, the school has had a successful year.

/ˈmɑːnɪtər/

The details of today's flights are displayed on the monitor.

/ˈməʊtɪv/

There seemed to be no motive for the murder.

I'm suspicious of his motives.

/nɪˈgeɪt/

Alcohol negates the effects of the drug.

/ˈnuːtrəl/

Journalists are supposed to be politically neutral.

adjective

passive

accepting what happens or what people do without trying to change anything or oppose them

noun

perspective

a particular attitude towards something; a way of thinking about something

noun

phase

a stage in a process of change or development

noun

phenomenon

a fact or an event in nature or society, especially one that is not fully understood

noun

philosophy

the study of the nature and meaning of the universe and of human life

noun

portion

one part of something larger

verb

pose

to create a threat, problem, etc. that has to be dealt with

adjective

potential

that can develop into something or be developed in the future

adjective

predominant

most obvious or easy to notice

adjective

preliminary

happening before a more important action or event

adjective

prime

main; most important; basic

adjective

principal

most important; main

noun

principle

a moral rule or a strong belief that influences your actions

adjective

prior

happening or existing before something else or before a particular time

noun

priority

something that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first

noun

prospect

the possibility that something will happen

noun

psychology

the scientific study of the mind and how it influences behaviour

noun

publication

the act of printing a book, a magazine, etc. and making it available to the public; a book, a magazine, etc. that has been published

verb

purchase

to buy something

verb

pursue

to do something or try to achieve something over a period of time

/saɪˈkɑːlədʒi/

clinical/educational/child/sport psychology

Kevin has a masters degree in psychology.

/ˌpʌblɪˈkeɪʃn/

specialist publications

the publication date

/ˈpɜːrtʃəs/

purchase something Please ensure that you purchase your ticket in advance.

/pərˈsuː/

to pursue a goal

to pursue an aim/objective

/ˈprɪnsəpl/

He has high moral principles.

Stick to your principles and tell him you won't do it.

/ˈpraɪər/

Although not essential, some prior knowledge of statistics is desirable.

/praɪˈɔːrəti/

a high/low priority

Education is a top priority.

/ˈprɑːspekt/

prospect of something There is no immediate prospect of peace.

/prɪˈdɑːmɪnənt/

a predominant feature

Yellow is the predominant colour this spring in the fashion world.

/prɪˈlɪmɪneri/

After a few preliminary remarks he announced the winners.

/praɪm/

My prime concern is to protect my property.

Winning is not the prime objective in this sport.

/ˈprɪnsəpl/

The principal reason for this omission is lack of time.

/fəˈlɑːsəfi/

philosophy of something the philosophy of science

/ˈpɔːrʃn/

a substantial/significant portion of the population

/pəʊz/

to pose a threat/risk/challenge/danger

the threat posed by terrorism

/pəˈtenʃl/

potential customers/buyers/investors/clients

We have compiled a list of 10 potential candidates.

/ˈpæsɪv/

He played a passive role in the relationship.

a passive observer of events

/pərˈspektɪv/

a global perspective

A historical perspective may help us understand the issue.

/feɪz/

during the initial/final phase

the construction/development/design phase

/fəˈnɑːmɪnən/

cultural/natural phenomena

phenomenon of something the global phenomenon of climate change

adjective

qualitative

connected with what something is like or how good it is, rather than with how much of it there is

adjective

radical

relating to the most basic and important parts of something; complete and detailed

adjective

random

done, chosen, etc. without somebody deciding in advance what is going to happen, or without any regular pattern

verb

recover

to get well again after being ill, hurt, etc.

verb

refine

to make a substance pure by taking other substances out of it

verb

register

to record your/somebody's/something's name on an official list

noun

reluctance

the feeling of being unwilling to do something and hesitating before you do it, because you do not want to do it or because you are not sure that it is the right thing to do

verb

rely

verb

resolve

to find an acceptable solution to a problem or difficulty

verb

restrain

to stop somebody/something from doing something, especially by using physical force

verb

retain

to keep something; to continue to have something

verb

reveal

to make something known to somebody

verb

reverse

to change something completely so that it is the opposite of what it was before

noun

revolution

an attempt, by a large number of people, to change the government of a country, especially by violent action

adjective

rigid

very strict and difficult to change

noun

scheme

a plan or system for doing or organizing something

noun

scope

the opportunity or ability to do or achieve something

noun

sector

a part of an area of activity, especially of a country's economy

verb

secure

to obtain or achieve something, especially when this means using a lot of effort

verb

seek

to look for something/somebody

/skəʊp/ scope for something There's still plenty of scope for improvement.	**/ˈsektər/** the service/banking/manufacturing/financial sector	**/sɪˈkjʊr/** secure something to secure a contract/deal/funding	**/siːk/** seek something/somebody Drivers are advised to seek alternative routes.
/rɪˈvɜːrs/ Falling birth rates may reverse the trend towards early retirement.	**/ˌrevəˈluːʃn/** a socialist revolution the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789	**/ˈrɪdʒɪd/** The curriculum was too narrow and too rigid. His rigid adherence to the rules made him unpopular.	**/skiːm/** a training scheme scheme for doing something a local scheme for recycling newspapers
/rɪˈzɑːlv/ resolve something to resolve an issue/a dispute/a conflict/a crisis	**/rɪˈstreɪn/** restrain somebody/something The prisoner had to be restrained by the police.	**/rɪˈteɪn/** to retain your independence He struggled to retain control of the situation.	**/rɪˈviːl/** reveal something to reveal a secret Her expression revealed nothing.
/rɪˈfaɪn/ The process of refining oil produces several useful chemicals.	**/ˈredʒɪstər/** You can also register online. to register a birth/marriage/death	**/rɪˈlʌktəns/** reluctance to do something There is still some reluctance on the part of employers to become involved in this project.	**/rɪˈlaɪ/**
/ˈkwɑːlɪteɪtɪv/ qualitative analysis/research There are qualitative differences between the two products.	**/ˈrædɪkl/** the need for radical changes in education demands for radical reform of the law	**/ˈrændəm/** the random killing of innocent people	**/rɪˈkʌvər/** recover from something He's still recovering from his operation.

verb

select

to choose somebody/something from a group of people or things, usually according to a system

noun

sequence

a set of events, actions, numbers, etc. which have a particular order and which lead to a particular result

adjective

significant

large or important enough to have an effect or to be noticed

adjective

sole

only; single

adverb

somewhat

to some degree

adjective

stable

fixed or steady; not likely to move, change or fail

noun

status

the legal position of a person, group or country

verb

submit

to give a document, proposal, etc. to somebody in authority so that they can study or consider it

adjective

subordinate

having less power or authority than somebody else in a group or an organization

noun

substitute

a person or thing that you use or have instead of the one you normally use or have

noun

sum

an amount of money

noun

supplement

a thing that is added to something else to improve or complete it

adjective

temporary

lasting or intended to last or be used only for a short time; not permanent

adjective

tense

nervous or worried, and unable to relax

verb

trace

to find or discover somebody/something by looking carefully for them/it

verb

transfer

to move from one place to another; to move something/somebody from one place to another

verb

transform

to change the form of something; to change in form

noun

transit

the process of being moved or carried from one place to another

verb

trigger

to make something happen suddenly

adjective

ultimate

happening at the end of a long process

/trænsˈfɔːrm/

transform something/somebody (into something) The photochemical reactions transform the light into electrical impulses.

/ˈtrænzɪt/

The cost includes transit.

in transit goods damaged in transit

/ˈtrɪgər/

Nuts can trigger off a violent allergic reaction.

/ˈʌltɪmət/

our ultimate goal/aim/objective/target

We will accept ultimate responsibility for whatever happens.

/ˈtempəreri/

to hire temporary workers

They had to move into temporary accommodation.

/tens/

He's a very tense person.

She sounded tense and angry.

/treɪs/

We finally traced him to an address in Chicago.

I have been unable to trace the letter you mentioned.

/trænsˈfɜːr/

transfer (to something) The film studio is transferring to Hollywood.

/səˈbɔːrdɪnət/

In some societies women are still subordinate to men.

/ˈsʌbstɪtuːt/

a meat substitute

a substitute family

/sʌm/

You will be fined the sum of £200.

a large sum of money

/ˈsʌplɪmənt/

vitamin/dietary supplements (= vitamins and other foods eaten in addition to what you usually eat)

/ˈsʌmwʌt/

somewhat different/similar

I was somewhat surprised to see him.

/ˈsteɪbl/

The patient's condition is stable (= it is not getting worse).

/ˈsteɪtəs/

They were granted refugee status.

The party was denied legal status.

/səbˈmɪt/

submit something to submit an application/a claim/a proposal

/sɪˈlekt/

select somebody/something for something He hasn't been selected for the team.

/ˈsiːkwəns/

He described the sequence of events leading up to the robbery.

/sɪgˈnɪfɪkənt/

There are no significant differences between the two groups of students.

/səʊl/

the sole surviving member of the family

My sole reason for coming here was to see you.

verb

underlie

to be the basis or cause of something

adjective

unique

being the only one of its kind

verb

utilize

to use something, especially for a practical purpose

verb

vary

to be different from each other in size, shape, etc.

preposition

via

through a place

adjective

virtual

made to appear to exist by the use of computer software, for example on the internet

noun

vision

the ability to see; the area that you can see from a particular position

adjective

visual

of or connected with seeing or sight

noun

volume

the amount of space that an object or a substance fills; the amount of space that a container has

adjective

voluntary

done willingly, not because you are forced

conjunction

whereas

used to compare or contrast two facts

noun

BatDauLapTrinh

used to compare or contrast two facts

noun

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used to compare or contrast two facts

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/ˈvɑːljəm/

volume of something How do you measure the volume of a gas?

/ˈvɑːlənteri/

a voluntary agreement

Attendance on the course is purely voluntary.

/ˌwerˈæz/

Some of the studies show positive results, whereas others do not.

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/ˈvaɪə/

We flew home via Dubai.

/ˈvɜːrtʃuəl/

a system to help programmers create virtual environments

/ˈvɪʒn/

to have good/perfect/poor/blurred/normal vision

Cats have good night vision.

/ˈvɪʒuəl/

the visual arts

The building makes a tremendous visual impact.

/ˌʌndərˈlaɪ/

These ideas underlie much of his work.

It is a principle that underlies all the party's policies.

/juˈniːk/

Everyone's fingerprints are unique.

Each item has a unique 6-digit code.

/ˈjuːtəlaɪz/

The Romans were the first to utilize concrete as a building material.

/ˈveri/

New techniques were introduced with varying degrees of success.