



WEBSTER'S WORD POWER

# English Dictionary

WITH EASY-TO-FOLLOW  
PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

- Syllable-based, spelled-out pronunciation
- 15,000 headwords and 35,000 definitions
- Numbered senses within definitions
- Contemporary entries with simple vocabulary



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GEDDES & GROSSET

# ENGLISH DICTIONARY

This book is an accessible and comprehensive modern dictionary. As well as providing over 35,000 concise, up-to-date dictionary definitions, headwords are listed with parts of speech, pronunciation and inflections and variations.

## Features:

**Strict alphabetical order** is followed. All compound words and hyphenated words are alphabetized as if they are one word.

**Variant spellings** appear in bold type next to the headword.

**Parts of speech** are indicated in italic, after the bold headword by the abbreviations shown on the following page. Other parts of speech after the main headword are indicated by a full point (.) and •. Other terms, of a different part of speech, that are related to the headword are given at the end of an entry in bold preceded by •.

**Inflected forms** of verbs and plural forms of nouns appear in bold following the headword.

**Different senses** within parts of speech are numbered. Parts of speech are separated by full points (.) and •.

Words of **different origins** but with the same spelling are given separate, numbered entries.

**Pronunciation guides** are both spelled out and phonetic.

This book includes pronunciation guides in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) *and* a specially commissioned, crystal-clear, spelled-out pronunciation guide. This is a syllable-based “spelling pronunciation”.

This spelling pronunciation for each word provides a pronunciation that stays as close to the original spelling of the word as is usefully possible. It uses the conventions of English spelling to provide an easy-to-understand guide.

Our words often have more than one syllable, with one syllable in each word more prominent than others. This is known as the stressed syllable. For each word, there is a series of syllable blocks divided by hyphens (-) which, when read, reveal the pronunciation of the word. The main stress is marked in bold.

Thi **re-zult** is a clear and **in-choo-wi-tiv** **spe-ling** pro-nun-see-**ay-shun** which is baist on thi sound and **spe-ling** normz ov thi **ing-glish** **lang-gwidge** at a **si-la-bic** **le-vel** and which iz **i-mee-dee-it-lee** **in-choo-wi-tiv**.

For those familiar with IPA there is also a phonetic guide to pronunciation too. Below is a key to the symbols used.

## Vowels

æ	hat, saddle, baggy
ɑ	ajar, alarm, apart
əɪ	bile, bike, alight
ai	<b>high</b> , hive, strive
aʊ	shout, bough, couch
ɛ	fret, <b>vet</b> , <b>says</b> , said
eɪ	<b>way</b> , <b>hey</b> , cage, neigh
ɪ	hit, sieve, kitty, build, <b>women</b>
i:	heave, jeep, siege
ə	hot, got, allotment, bother
ɔ:	thought, <b>fraught</b> , thaw
o:	note, float, tote, boat
ɔɪ	<b>boy</b> , avoid, employ
ʊ	woman, <b>wood</b> , could
ə	trump, front, flood
u:	true, brew, you, shoe
ə	the, harder, doctor, brewer

## Consonants

The following consonant symbols have the usual meaning b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, z

- g **ghost, example** [eg'zæmpl], **give**
- j **yes, senior** [sinjər], **onion** [ənjən], **future** [fju:tʃər]
- ʃ **should, machine, sugar**
- ʒ **leisure, azure, invasion**
- tʃ **hatch, capture, chew**
- dʒ **jam, hedge** [hədʒ], **soldier** [səuldʒər]
- θ **thin, breath, thoughts**
- ð **there, then, the, breathe**
- ŋ **sing, linger** [lɪŋgər], **amazing**
- f **cough, enough, fan**
- k **box** [bɒks], **cart, hike**
- x **loch** [the Scots voiceless uvular fricative sound]

The symbol : denotes a long vowel.

The stressed syllable for multisyllabic words is preceded by the symbol '. Syllables with a secondary stress are preceded by , .

## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>abbr</i>	abbreviation
<i>adj</i>	adjective
<i>adv</i>	adverb
<i>approx</i>	approximately
<i>astron</i>	astronomy
<i>aux</i>	auxiliary
<i>Br</i>	Britain, British
<i>c</i>	circa, about
<i>Cdn</i>	Canadian
<i>cent</i>	century
<i>compar</i>	comparative
<i>comput</i>	computing
<i>conj</i>	conjunction
<i>derog</i>	derogatory, derogatorily
<i>dial</i>	dialect
e.g.	exempli gratia, for example
etc	etcetera, and so on
<i>esp</i>	especially
<i>f</i>	feminine
<i>fig</i>	figuratively
<i>fml</i>	formal
<i>gram</i>	grammar
<i>hum</i>	humorous
<i>i.e.</i>	id est, that is
<i>incl</i>	including
<i>inf</i>	informal
<i>interj</i>	interjection
<i>lit</i>	literary

<i>m</i>	masculine
<i>math</i>	mathematics
<i>med</i>	medicine
<i>mus</i>	music
<i>myth</i>	mythology
<i>n</i>	noun
<i>neut</i>	neuter
<i>npl</i>	noun plural
<i>NT</i>	New Testament
<i>obs</i>	obsolete
<i>old</i>	old fashioned, archaic
<i>off</i>	offensive
<i>orig</i>	original, originally, origin
<i>OT</i>	Old Testament
<i>p</i>	participle
<i>pers</i>	person, personal
<i>pl</i>	plural
<i>poet</i>	poetical
<i>poss</i>	possessive
<i>pp</i>	past participle
<i>prep</i>	preposition
<i>pres t</i>	present tense
<i>pron</i>	pronoun
<i>prp</i>	present participle
<i>pt</i>	past tense
<i>RC</i>	Roman Catholic
<i>reflex</i>	reflexive
<i>Scot</i>	Scotland, Scottish
<i>sing</i>	singular
<i>sl</i>	slang
<i>TM</i>	trademark
<i>TV</i>	television

<i>UK</i>	United Kingdom
<i>US, USA</i>	United States of America
<i>usu</i>	usually
<i>var</i>	variant
<i>vb</i>	verb
<i>vulg</i>	vulgar
<i>zool</i>	zoology

# A

**A, a** /eɪ/, /aɪ/ *n* 1 the first letter of the English alphabet. 2 (*mus*) the sixth note of the scale of C major. 3 a human blood type.

**a** /ə, eɪ/, /a/ *indefinite article (an before a vowel)* 1 any, some, one. 2 one single thing. 3 per, for each.

**aardvark** /'ɑːrdvɑːk/, /ɑːrd-vark/ *n* an African mammal with a long snout that feeds on ants.

**abacus** /'æbəkəs/, /a-ba-kus/ *n* a counting frame with beads.

**abalone** /'æbə'lōni/, /a-ba-lo-neel/ *n* an edible sea snail with a shell that is shaped like an ear.

**abandon** /ə'bændən/, /a-ban-don/ *vb* 1 to give up. 2 to depart from forever, desert. • *n* freedom from care.

**abandoned** /ə'bændənd/, /a-ban-dond/ *adj* 1 deserted. 2 immoral, shameless.

**abattoir** /'æbətwar/, /a-ba-twar/ *n* a place where animals are killed for food.

**abate** /ə'beit/, /a-bate/ *vb* to lessen. • *n* **abatement**.

**abbess** /'æbəs/, /a-bess/ *n* the chief nun in a convent.

**abbey** /'æbi/, /a-bee/ *n* 1 a monastery or convent. 2 a church, once part of a monastery or convent.

**abbot** /'æbət/, /a-bot/ *n* the chief monk in a monastery.

**abbreviate** /ə'bri:vieɪt/, /a-bree-vee-ate/ *vb* to shorten. • *n* **abbreviation**.

**abdicate** /'æbdɪkeɪt/, /ab-di-kate/ *vb* to give up high office, especially a throne. • *n* **abdication**.

**abdomen** /'æbdəmən/, /ab-do-men/ *n* the part of the body between your chest and your thighs. • *adj* **abdominal**.

**abduct** /əb'dʌkt/, /ab-duct/ *vb* to kidnap. • *n* **abduction, abductor**.

**abhor** /əb'hɔːr/, /ab-hor/ *vb* to loathe. • *n* **abhorrence**.

**abhorrent** /əb'hərənt/, /ab-hor-rent/ *adj* loathsome.

**abide** /ə'baɪd/, /a-bide/ *vb* to put up with. • **abide by** to obey, to remain true to.

**abiding** /ə'baɪdɪŋ/, /a-bide-ing/ *adj* lasting.

**ability** /ə'bɪlɪti/, /a-bil-it-ee/, *n* 1 skill or power to do a thing. 2 cleverness.

**ablaze** /ə'bleɪz/, /a-blaze/ *adj, adv* on fire, in flames.

**able** /'eɪbəl/, /ay-bl/ *adj* 1 having skill or power to do a thing. 2 clever. • *adv* **ably**.

**able-bodied** /'eɪbəl,bɒdi:d/, /ay-bl-bod-eed/ *adj* able to walk; physically healthy.

**abnormal** /æb'nɔrm'l/, /ab-nor-mal/ *adj* different from the usual. • *adv* **abnormally**.

**abnormality** /æbnɔr'mælti/, /ab-nor-mal-it-ee/ *n* an unusual quality.

**aboard** /ə'bɔrd/, /a-board/ *adv, prep* on board, on a ship, train, aeroplane, etc.

**abode** /ə'bo:d/, /a-bode/ *n* (*fml or hum*) house, home.

**abolish** /ə'bɒlɪʃ/, /a-bol-ish/ *vb* to put an end to, to do away with. • *n* **abolition, abolitionist**.

**abominable** /ə'bɒmɪnəbl/, /a-bom-in-na-bl/ *adj* hateful.

**aboriginal** /æbə'rɪdʒənəl/, /a-bor-ri-ji-nal/ *adj* 1 describing a feature that is native to a country. 2 (cap) describing the native peoples of Australia. • *n* (cap) a descendant of the people who inhabited Australia before the arrival of the Europeans.

**aborigine** /æbə'rɪdʒɪni/, /a-bor-ri-ji-nee/ *n* 1 one of the original inhabitants of a country, who has been there since the earliest times. 2 (cap) another name for an Australian **Aboriginal**. • *adj* **aboriginal, Aboriginal**.

**abort** /ə'bɔrt/, /a-bort/ *vb* 1 to have an abortion or miscarriage. 2 to perform an abortion on. 3 to stop something, especially in the early stages.

**abortion** /ə'bɔrfən/, /a-bor-shun/ *n* a miscarriage, usually induced.

**abortive** /ə'bɔrtɪv/, /a-bor-tive/ *adj* unsuccessful because done too soon.

**abound** /ə'baʊnd/, /a-bound/ *vb* to be plentiful.

**about** /ə'baʊt/, /a-bout/ *adv, prep* 1 concerning. 2 around. 3 near to.

4 nearly. 5 on the point of.

**above** /ə'bəv/, /a-buv/ *adv, prep* 1 over. 2 higher (than).

**aboveboard** /ə'bəv,bɔːrd/, /a-buv-board/ *adj* honest, fair.

**abrasion** /ə'breɪʒən/, /a-bray-zhen/ *n* 1 the act of rubbing away at something. 2 an area of skin that has been scraped.

**abrasive** /ə'breɪsɪv/, /a-bray-ziv/ *adj* 1 causing abrasion. 2 harsh or irritating. • *n* something that causes abrasion.

**abreast** /ə'brɛst/, /a-brest/ *adv* side by side. • **abreast of the times** up-to-date.

**abridge** /ə'brɪdʒ/, /a-bridge/ *vb* to make shorter. • *n* **abridg(e)ment**.

**abroad** /ə'brəd/, /a-brawd/ *adv* 1 out of your own country. 2 far and wide.

**abrupt** /ə'brɛpt/, /a-brupt/ *adj* 1 sudden, hasty. 2 discourteous. • *adv* abruptly. • *n* **abruptness**.

**abscess** /'æbsɛs/, /ab-sess/ *n* a boil, a gathering of pus in some part of the body.

**abseil** /'æbseɪl/, /ab-sail/ *vb* to go down a very steep slope, such as a cliff face or a very tall building, using a rope secured at the top and passed around the body in a kind of harness.

**absence** see **absent**.

**absent** /'æbsənt/, /ab-sent/ *adj* not present. • *n* **absence**.

**absentee** /,æbsən'ti:/, /ab-sen-tee/ *n* someone who is not present.

**absentminded** /,æbsənt'maindəd/, /ab-sent-mind-ded/ *adj* not thinking of what you are doing.

**absolute** /'æbsə,lju:t/, /ab-so-lute, ab-so-lute/ *adj* 1 complete. 2 free from controls or conditions. • *adv* **absolutely**.

**absolution** see **absolve**.

**absolve** /əb'zolv/, /ab-solve/ *vb* to set free, as from guilt or punishment. • *n* **absolution**.

**absorb** /əb'zɔrb/, /ab-sorb/ *vb* 1 to soak up. 2 to take up all the attention of.

**absorbed** /əb'zɔrbd/, /ab-sorbd/ *adj* giving the whole mind to.

**absorbent** /əb'zɔrbənt/, /ab-sor-bent/ *adj* drinking in.

**absorption** /əb'zɔrpʃən/, /ab-sorp-shen/ *n* **1** act of absorbing. **2** full attention.

**abstain** /əb'stein/, /ab-stain/ *vb* **1** to keep yourself from, to hold back from. **2** not to vote. • *n* **abstainer, abstention.**

**abstract** /'æbstrækt/, /ab-stract/ *n* a summary. • *adj* **1** existing in the mind only. **2** portraying ideas rather than realistic images.

**absurd** /əb'sərd/, /ab-surd/ *adj* foolish. • *n* **absurdity.**

**abundance** /ə'bʌndəns/, /a-bun-dance/ *n* more than enough, plenty. • *adj* abundant. • *adv* abundantly.

**abuse** /ə'bju:z/, /a-byooz/ *vb* **1** to make wrong use of. **2** to ill-treat, to maltreat, especially physically or sexually. **3** to use insulting language. • *n* /ə'bju:s/, /a-byooss/ **abuse.**

**abusive** /ə'bju:siv/, /a-byoo-sive/ *adj* **1** ill-treating, cruel. **2** insulting. • *adv* abusively.

**abysmal** /ə'bizməl/, /a-biz-mal/, *adj* very bad.

**abyss** /ə'bɪs/, /a-biss/ *n* a very deep pit or ravine.

**academic** /'ækə'demik/, /a-ca-de-mic/ *adj* **1** of or concerning education, especially in a college or university. **2** not practical or useful; theoretical. • *n* teacher in a college or university.

**academy** /ə'kædəmi/, /a-ca-de-mee/ *n* **1** a school for special studies. **2** a society for advancing arts and sciences.

**accelerate** /ək'seləreɪt/, /ac-sel-le-rate/ *vb* to increase speed. • *n* **acceleration.**

**accelerator** /ək'seləreɪtər/, /ac-sel-le-ray-tor/ *n* a device that controls the speed of a car.

**accent** /'ækṣent/, /ac-sent/ *n* **1** a special emphasis given to part of a word. **2** the mark that indicates such emphasis. **3** a way of speaking peculiar to certain persons or groups. • *vb* to emphasize a certain part of a word.

**accentuate** /æk'sentʃueɪt/, /ac-sen-choo-ate/ *vb* to emphasize.

**accept** /ək'sept/, /ak-sept/ *vb* **1** to receive something offered. **2** to regard as true, reasonable, satisfactory, etc. • *n* **acceptance.**

**acceptable** /ək'septəbəl/, /ak-sep-ta-bl/ *adj* **1** pleasant to receive. **2** satisfactory, good enough. **3** allowable, tolerable.

**access** /'ækses/, /ak-sess/ *n* a way or means of approach. • *vb* to find on a computer file.

**accessible** /ək'sesəbəl/, /ak-sess-i-bl/ *adj* 1 easily approached. 2 easily reached. 3 easily obtained or understood. • *n* **accessibility**.

**accessory** /ək'sesəri/, /ak-sess-or-ee/ *n* 1 an assistant, especially in crime. 2 an additional part or tool. 3 an additional item worn with clothing.

**accident** /'æksɪdənt/, /ak-sid-ent/ *n* 1 an unexpected happening. 2 an unexpected event that causes damage or injury. • *adj* **accidental**.

**acclaim** /ə'kleɪm/, /a-claim/ *vb* to greet with applause • *n* recognition and praise; applause.

**acclamation** /'ækle'meɪʃən/, /ak-la-may-shun/ *n* a shout of joy or approval.

**acclimatize** /ə'klaimə'taɪz/, /a-clime-a-tize/ *vb*, also **acclimatise** to accustom to a new climate or situation. • *n* **acclimatization**, **acclimatisation**.

**accolade** /'ækə'læd/, /a-ko-lade/ *n* 1 the touching on the shoulder with a sword in the ceremony of making someone a knight. 2 praise or approval.

**accommodate** /ə'kɒmə,dert/, /a-com-o-date/ *vb* 1 to provide lodgings for. 2 to have space for. 3 to supply with. 4 to make suitable, to adapt.

**accommodating** /ə'kɒmə,deɪtɪŋ/, /a-com-o-date-ing/ *adj* obliging.

**accommodation** /ə,kɒmə'deɪʃən/, /a-com-o-day-shun/ *n* 1 lodgings. 2 adaptation.

**accompaniment** /ə'kʌmpənimənt/, /a-com-pan-ee-ment/ *n* the music played with a singer or player.

**accompanist** /ə'kʌmpənist/, /a-com-pan-ist/ *n* someone who plays the accompaniment for a singer or player.

**accompany** /ə'kʌmpəni/, /a-com-pan-ee/ *vb* 1 to go with. 2 to join a singer or player by playing a musical instrument.

**accomplice** /ə'kɒmplɪs/, /a-com-pliss/ *n* a helper, especially in crime.

**accomplish** /ə'kɒmplɪʃ/, /a-com-plish/ *vb* to perform successfully, to finish.

**accomplished** /ə'kɒmplɪʃd/, /a-com-plisht/ *adj* 1 finished. 2 skilled.

**accomplishment** /ə'kɔmplɪʃmənt/, /a-com-plish-ment/ *n* 1 something which is done successfully. 2 completion.

**accord** /ə'kɔrd/, /a-cord/ *vb* 1 to agree. 2 to give. • *n* agreement. • **of your own accord** by your own wish.

**accordance** /ə'kɔrdəns/, /a-cor-dans/ *n* agreement.

**accordingly** /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/, /a-cor-ding-lee/ *adv* therefore.

**according to** /ə'kɔrdɪŋ tu:/, /a-cor-ding to/ *prep* 1 in keeping with. 2 as stated by.

**accordion** /ə'kɔrdiən/, /a-cor-dee-on/ *n* a portable musical instrument played by keys and worked by bellows. • *n* **accordionist**.

**accost** /ə'kɒst/, /a-cost/ *vb* to approach and speak to in an aggressive way.

**account** /ə'kaunt/, /a-count/ *vb* (*frm*) to consider, to reckon. • *n* 1 a statement of money received and paid, a bill. 2 a report, description. • **account for** give an explanation of. • **of no account** of no importance. • **on account of** because of.

**accountable** /ə'kauntəbəl/, /a-count-a-bl/ *adj* responsible.

**accountancy** /ə'kauntənsi/, /a-count-an-see/ *n* the work of an accountant.

**accountant** /ə'kauntənt/, /a-count-ant/ *n* someone who keeps or examines money accounts.

**accumulate** /ə'kjumju:lɪt/, /a-kyoom-yoo-late/ *vb* 1 to increase, to heap up. 2 to collect.

**accumulation** /ə'kjum'mu'leɪʃən/, /a-kyoom-yoo-lay-shun/ *n* growth, a large collection.

**accuracy** /'ækjurəsi/, /ak-yoo-rass-ee/ *n* exactness, precision.

**accurate** /'ækjərət/, /ak-yoo-rit/ *adj* 1 correct, exact. 2 correct, careful. • *adv* **accurately**.

**accursed** /ə'kərst/, /a-curst/ *adj* 1 under a curse, doomed. 2 hateful.

**accusation** /ækju:'zeɪʃən/, /a-kyoo-zay-shun/ *n* a charge brought against anyone.

**accuse** /ə'kjuz/, /a-kyooz/ *vb* to charge with wrongdoing. • *n* **accuser**.

**accused** /ə'kjuzd/, /a-kyoozd/ *n* someone charged with wrongdoing.

**accustom** /ə'kʌstəm/, /a-**cuss**-tom/ *vb* to make well known by use.

**accustomed** /ə'kʌstəmd/, /a-**cuss**-tomed/ *adj* 1 usual. 2 used (to), familiar with.

**ace** /eɪs/, /a**ce**/ *n* 1 the value of ‘one’ in games of cards, dice, or dominoes. 2 someone good at sports. • **within an ace of** on the very point of.

**acetic** /ə'si:tɪk/, /a-**set**-ic/ *adj* sour, of vinegar.

**acetylene** /ə'setr'lɪ:n/, /a-**set**-ill-een/ *n* a gas used for giving light and heat, and commonly used with oxygen for welding or cutting metal.

**ache** /eɪk/, /a**ke**/ *vb* to be in or to give prolonged pain. • *n* a prolonged or throbbing pain.

**achieve** /ə'tʃi:v/, /a-**cheev**/ *vb* 1 to succeed in doing. 2 to gain.

**achievement** /ə'tʃi:vment/, /a-**cheev**-ment/ *n* 1 something done successfully. 2 a feat.

**acid** /'æsɪd/, /a-sid/ *n* a sour or corrosive substance. • *adj* sour; sharp to the taste; bitter.

**acid rain** /'æsɪd,rain/, /a-sid **rane**/ *n* rain that has been polluted by acid from factory waste, car exhausts, etc. and is harmful to the environment.

**acid test** /'æsɪd,test/, /a-sid **test**/ *n* a test that indicates the worth or value of something.

**acidity** /ə'sɪdɪtɪ/, /a-**sid**-it-ee/ *n* sourness.

**acknowledge** /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/, /ak-naw-ledge/ *vb* 1 to admit as true. 2 to admit the receipt of. • *n* **acknowledg(e)ment**.

**acne** /ækni/, /a**k**-neel/ *n* a skin condition that causes pimples.

**acorn** /eɪ'kɔ:n/, /a**y**-corn/ *n* the fruit or seed of the oak tree.

**acoustic** /ə'ku:stɪk/, /a-**coos**-tik/ *adj* 1 having to do with hearing and sound. 2 making its natural sound, not electric.

**acoustics** /ə'ku:stɪks/, /a-**coos**-tiks/ *npl* the science of sound.

**acquaint** /ə'kweɪnt/, /a-**kwaint**/ *vb* 1 to make familiar with. 2 to inform.

**acquaintance** /ə'kweɪntəns/, /a-**kwain**-tanse/ *n* 1 a person you know. 2 knowledge.

**acquire** /ə'kwair/, /a-**kwire**/ *vb* to gain, to obtain.

**acquit** /ə'kwɪt/, /a-kwɪt/ *vb* **1** to declare innocent. **2** to conduct yourself.

**acquittal** /ə'kwɪtl/, /a-kwi-tal/ *n* a setting free.

**acre** /'eɪkər/, /ay-kr/ *n* an imperial measure of land (= 4840 square yards or 4046.9 square metres).

**acrobat** /'ækrobæt/, /a-cro-bat/ *n* a high-wire or trapeze artiste. • *adj acrobatic.* • *npl acrobatics.*

**acronym** /'ækronɪm/, /a-cro-nym/ *n* an abbreviation, made from the initial letters, or from combinations of letters from a word, which itself can be pronounced as a word.

**act** /ækt/, /act/ *vb* **1** to do. **2** to conduct yourself. **3** to perform on the stage, in films, or on television. **4** to produce an effect. • *n* **1** a deed. **2** a law. **3** a part of a play.

**action** /'ækʃən/, /ac-shon/ *n* **1** something done. **2** a movement. **3** the producing of an effect. **4** the events in a narrative or drama. **5** a battle. **6** a lawsuit.

**active** /æk'tɪv/, /ac-tiv/ *adj* **1** energetic. **2** taking part, involved. **3** being in action, working, operative.

**activity** /æk'tɪvɪti/, /ac-ti-vi-tee/ *n* **1** energy. **2** occupation or pastime.

**actor** /'æktər/, /ac-tor/ *n* a man who performs in a play or film or on television.

**actress** /'æktrɪs/, /ac-tress/ *n* a woman who performs in a play or film or on television.

**actual** /æk'tʃuəl/, /ac-chul/ *adj* **1** real, not imaginary. **2** true.

**actuality** /æk'tʃu'wælɪti, -ʃu:-/, /ac-chu-wa-li-tee/ *n* reality.

**actually** /'ækʃuəli, 'ækʃəli/, /ac-cha-lee/ *adv* really, as a matter of fact.

**acupuncture** /'ækju:pʌŋktʃər/, /a-kyoo-punk-cher/ *n* a treatment used in alternative medicine in which fine needles are inserted into the skin at certain points along energy paths known as meridians.

**acute** /ə'kjoo:t/, /a-kyoot/ *adj* **1** coming to a sharp point. **2** sharp-witted. **3** (of emotions or diseases) intense but short-lasting. • *adv acutely.*

**acute angle** /ə,kju:t 'æŋgəl/, /a-kyoot ang-gl/ *n* an angle less than 90°.

**AD** /eɪ'di:/, /ay dee/ *abbr = Anno Domini*: a Latin phrase meaning 'in the year of our Lord', used to describe the years following the birth of Jesus.

**ad** /æd/, /ad/ *n* short for **advertisement**.

**adage** /'ædɪdʒ/, /a-didge/ *n* a proverb, an old wise saying.

**adamant** /'ædəmənt/, /a-da-mant/ *adj* determined, firm.

**adapt** /ə'dæpt/, /a-dapt/ *vb* 1 to make suitable, to fit to a different use.

2 to change, adjust.

**adaptable** /ə'dæptəbəl/, /a-dap-ta-bl/ *adj* easily fitted to new uses or conditions. • *n* **adaptability**.

**adaptation** /'ædæp'teɪʃən/, /a-dap-tay-shun/ *n* the action or result of adapting.

**adapter** /ə'dæptə/, /a-dap-ter/ *n* a device for connecting electrical plugs with a socket.

**add** /æd/, /add/ *vb* 1 to join one thing to another. 2 to increase. 3 to say more.

**adder** /'ædər/, /a-der/ *n* a small poisonous snake, a viper.

**addict** /'ædikt/, /a-dict/ *n* a person who is dependent on and so unable to give up a habit, especially a harmful one such as drug-taking.

**addicted** /ə'diktɪd/, /a-dic-ted/ *adj* dependent on, unable to give up. • *n* **addiction**.

**addition** /ə'dɪkʃən/, /a-di-shen/ *n* 1 act of adding. 2 something added. • *adj* **additional**.

**additive** /'ædɪtɪv/, /a-di-tiv/ *n* a substance added to another, especially to add flavour or colour.

**address** /ə'dres/, /a-dress/ *vb* 1 to speak to. 2 to direct a letter. 3 to direct your attention or energy to. • *n* 1 the place where a person lives or works. 2 the directions on a letter or envelope. 3 a formal talk.

**adenoids** /'ædənɔɪdz/, /a-de-noids/ *npl* glands at the back of the nose that if enlarged can hinder breathing.

**adept** /'ædɛpt/, /a-dept/ *adj* very skilful. • *n* someone who is skilled.

**adequate** /'ædəkwət/, /a-de-kwit/ *adj* 1 enough. 2 satisfactory. 3 able.

• *adv* **adequately**. • *n* **adequacy**.

**adhere** /əd'hi:r/, /ad-heer/ *vb* 1 to stick (to). 2 to remain loyal to. • *n adherence.*

**adhesive** /əd'hi:siv/, /ad-hee-ziv/ *adj* sticky. • *n* a sticky substance, glue.

**adieu** /ə'dju:/, /a-dyoo/ *interj* the French word for farewell, goodbye. • *n (pl adieus or adieux)* a farewell.

**adjacent** /ə'dʒeɪsənt/, /a-jay-sent/ *adj* lying near (to).

**adjective** /'ædʒəktiv/, /a-jec-tiv/ *n* a word that describes a noun. • *adj adjectival.* • *adv adjectivally.*

**adjourn** /ə'dʒərn/, /a-jurn/ *vb* 1 to put off to another time. 2 to go to another place. • *n adjournment.*

**adjust** /ə'dʒəst/, /a-just/ *vb* 1 to set right. 2 to put in order. • *adj adjustable.* • *n adjuster, adjustment.*

**administer** /əd'ministər/, /ad-mi-ni-ster/ *vb* 1 to manage, to govern. 2 to carry out. 3 (*fml*) to give.

**administration** /əd'mini'streɪʃən/, /ad-mi-ni-stray-shun/ *n* 1 the management of a business or a government. 2 people involved in this. • *adj administrative.*

**administrator** /əd'mini'streɪtər/, /ad-mi-ni-stray-tor/ *n* a person who works in administration.

**admirable** /'ædmərəbəl/, /ad-mi-ra-bl/ *adj* deserving admiration or praise. • *adv admirably.*

**admiral** /'ædmərəl/, /ad-mi-ral/ *n* the highest rank of naval officer.

**admiration** /æd'mi'reiʃən/, /ad-mi-ray-shun/ *n* a feeling of respect for another person.

**admire** /əd'maɪr/, /ad-mire/ *vb* to think very highly of. • *n admirer.*

**admission** /əd'miʃən/, /ad-mi-shen/ *n* 1 permission to enter. 2 the amount payable for entry. 3 a confession.

**admit** /əd'mit/, /ad-mit/ *vb* 1 to allow to enter. 2 to accept as true or just. 3 to confess.

**admittance** /əd'mitəns/, /ad-mi-tanse/ *n* right or permission to enter.

**admittedly** /əd'mitədli/, /ad-mi-ted-lee/ *adv* it cannot be denied.

**admonish** /əd'monɪʃ/, /ad-mo-nish/ *vb* to give a warning or scolding to. • *n admonition.* • *adj admonitory.*

**ado** /ə'du:/, /a-doo/ *n* fuss, trouble.

**adobe** /ə'do:bɪ/, /a-doe-bee/ *n* 1 a building material made of sun-dried earth and straw. 2 a building made of this material.

**adolescent** /ædə'lesənt/, /a-doe-less-sent/ *adj* growing up from youth to adulthood. • *n* a person of either sex when adolescent. • *n* **adolescence**.

**adopt** /ə'dɒpt/, /a-dopt/ *vb* 1 to take as your own. 2 to take over and use. 3 to choose formally. • *n* **adoption**.

**adorable** /ə'dɔ:rəbəl/, /a-doe-ra-bl/ *adj* lovable.

**adore** /ə'dɔ:r/, /a-dore/ *vb* 1 to worship. 2 to love or like very much. • *n* **adoration**.

**adorn** /ə'dɔ:rn/, /a-dorn/ *vb* to decorate, to make beautiful. • *adj* **adorned**.

**adornment** /ə'dɔ:rnmənt/, /a-dorn-ment/ *n* an ornament.

**adrift** /ə'drɪft/, /a-drift/ *adj* and *adv* floating without control.

**adrenalin** /ə'drenəlɪn/, /a-dre-na-lin/ *n*, also **adrenaline** a chemical produced by your body when you are scared or excited.

**adulation** /'ædʒu'leɪʃən/, /a-je-lay-shun/ *n* extreme praise, flattery.

**adult** /ə'dælt, 'ædælt/, /a-dult, a-dult/ *adj* grown-up. • *n* a grown-up person.

**adulterate** /ə'dæltə'reɪt/, /a-dul-te-rayt/ *vb* to lower in value by mixing with something of less worth (e.g. to mix wine with water, gold with tin, etc). • *n* adulteration.

**advance** /əd'veəns/, /ad-vənse/ *vb* 1 to put forward. 2 to go forward. 3 to help promote. 4 to lend. • *n* 1 a forward movement. 2 progress. 3 a loan (of money), especially a payment made before the normal time. 4 increase. • **in advance** in front; before.

**advanced** /əd'veənst/, /ad-vənst/ *adj* 1 far on (in life, time, etc). 2 at a high level, not elementary. 3 modern and new and sometimes not yet generally accepted.

**advantage** /əd'veəntɪdʒ/, /ad-van-tidge/ *n* 1 a better position or something that puts someone in a better position. 2 gain, profit, benefit.

**advantageous** /ædvən'tɪdʒəs/, /ad-van-tey-jess/ *adj* profitable; helpful. • *adv* **advantageously**.

**advent** /'ædvənt/, /ad-vent/ *n* a coming, an arrival.

**Advent** /'ædvənt/, /ad-vent/ *n* in the Christian church, the period from the fourth Sunday before Christmas to Christmas Day.

**adventure** /əd'ventʃər/, /ad-ven-cher/ *n* an exciting or dangerous deed or undertaking.

**adventurer** /əd'ventʃərər/, /ad-ven-cher-rer/ (*m/f*), **adventuress** /ad-ven-che-ress/ (*f*) *n* 1 someone who seeks adventures. 2 someone who lives by his or her wits.

**adventurous** /-əs/, /ad-ven-che-russ/ *adj* 1 daring, eager for adventure. 2 dangerous, involving risk.

**adverb** /'ædvərb/, /ad-verb/ *n* a word that modifies the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. • *adj* **adverbial**.

**adversary** /'ædvər'seri/, /ad-ver-se-ree/ *n* an enemy.

**adverse** /əd'vers, 'æd-/ , /ad-verse, ad-verse/ *adj* acting against, unfavourable. • *adv* **adversely**.

**adversity** /əd'versiti/, /ad-ver-si-tee/ *n* misfortune.

**advertise** /'ædvərtaɪz/, /ad-ver-tize/ *vb* to make known to the public. • *n* **advertiser**.

**advertisement** /əd'vertɪzmənt/, /ad-ver-tiss-ment/ *n* an announcement to the public, often for the purpose of selling something.

**advice** /əd'veɪz/, /ad-vice/ *n* 1 a helpful opinion offered to another. 2 a formal letter, etc, giving information.

**advisable** /əd'veɪzəbl/, /ad-vie-za-bl/ *adj* wise; correct in the circumstances. • *n* **advisability**.

**advise** /əd'veɪz/, /ad-vize/ *vb* 1 to give advice. 2 to inform.

**adviser** /əd'veɪzər/, /ad-vie-zer/ *n* someone who gives advice.

**advisory** /əd'veɪzəri/, /ad-vie-zo-ree/ *adj* for the purpose of giving advice.

**advocate** /'ædvəkət/, /ad-vo-kit/ *n* 1 someone who speaks for another. 2 a lawyer who pleads a cause in court. • *vb* /'ædvəkeɪt/, /ad-vo-kate/ to recommend, to speak in favour of.

**aeon also eon (US)** /'i:ən, 'i:pən/, /ee-on/ *n* 1 (*inf*) a period of time so long it is impossible to measure. 2 (*astron*) one thousand million years. • *adj* **aeonian**.

**aerial** /'erɪəl/, /æ-ree-al/ *adj* of or from the air. • *n* a wire or rod for receiving radio waves or television signals.

**aerie** /'i:ri/, /ee-ree/ *n*, also **eyrie** the nest of a bird of prey.

**aerobatics** /'ærə'bætɪks/, /ae-ro-ba-tics/ *npl* difficult exercises performed by an aircraft.

**aerobics** /'eʊrəbɪks/, /ae-ro-bics/ *n* a type of physical exercise that strengthens the heart and lungs by temporarily increasing the heart rate. • *adj* **aerobic**.

**aerodynamic** /,ɛərə'daɪnæmɪk/, /ae-ro-die-na-mic/ *adj* streamlined for smooth movement through the air.

**aeronautics** /-ɪks/, /ae-ro-naw-tics/ *n* the science of the operation and flight of aircraft.

**aeroplane** /'erə,pleɪn/, /air-plane/ *n*, also **airplane** (US) a heavier-than-air flying machine with wings.

**aerosol** /'erə,sɒl/, /æ-ro-sol/ *n* 1 a liquid under pressure in a container, which is released in a fine spray. 2 the container for this.

**aesthetics** /ɛs'θetɪks/, /ess-theh-ticks/ *n*, also **esthetics** (US) the science or philosophy of art and the beautiful.

**affable** /'æfəbəl/, /a-fa-bl/ *adj* pleasant, polite, easy to talk with. • *n* **affability**. • *adv* **affably**.

**affair** /ə'fer/, /a-fair/ *n* 1 business. 2 a matter, a concern. 3 happenings or events connected with a particular person or thing. 4 a romantic or sexual relationship.

**affect** /ə'fɛkt/, /a-fect/ *vb* 1 to act upon. 2 to move the feelings. 3 to pretend.

**affected** /ə'fɛktəd/, /a-fec-ted/ *adj* full of affectation.

**affectation** /,æfɛk'teɪʃən/, /a-fec-tay-shun/ *n* manner or behaviour that is not natural; pretence.

**affection** /ə'fekʃən/, /a-fec-shun/ *n* fondness, love.

**affectionate** /ə'fekʃənət/, /a-fec-shi-nit/ *adj* loving. • *adv* **affectionately**.

**affiliate** /ə'fili,eɪt/, /a-fi-lee-ate/ *v* to be joined or be connected with something. • *n* **affiliation**.

**affinity** /ə'finiti/, /a-fi-ni-tee/ *n* 1 relationship. 2 attraction.

**affirm** /ə'fɜrm/, /a-firm/ *vb* to state with certainty.

**affirmation** /æfər'meɪʃən/, /a-fir-may-shun/ *n* 1 a statement. 2 a solemn statement of the truth.

**affirmative** /ə'fərmətɪv/, /a-fir-ma-tiv/ *adj* answering ‘yes’. • *n* an answer meaning ‘yes’. • **answer in the affirmative** to say ‘yes’.

**afflict** /ə'flɪkt/, /a-flict/ *vb* to cause pain, distress, etc, to. • *n* affliction.

**affluence** /'æfluəns/, /a-floo-ents/ *n* wealth.

**affluent** /'æfluənt/, /a-floo-ent/ *adj* wealthy.

**afford** /ə'fɔːrd/, /a-ford/ *vb* 1 to be able to pay for. 2 to be able to do, spend, etc, something without trouble, loss, etc. 3 (*frm*) to give.

**afloat** /ə'flo:t/, /a-float/ *adj, adv* floating.

**aforesaid** /-,sɛd/, /a-fore-said/ *adj* already mentioned.

**afraid** /ə'freɪd/, /a-frade/ *adj* frightened.

**afresh** /ə'frɛʃ/, /a-fresh/ *adv* again.

**African American** /'æfrɪkən ə'merikən/, /a-fri-can a-me-ri-can/ *n* a United States citizen who has African ancestors. • *adj* describing African Americans, or their culture, history, etc.

**aft** /æft/, /aft/ *adj, adv* at or near the stern of a ship.

**after** /'æftər/, /af-ter/ *adv, prep* 1 later in time (than). 2 behind.

**aftermath** /'æftər,mæθ/, /af-ter-math/ *n* the period of time, or consequences, following an unpleasant or unfortunate event.

**afternoon** /'æftər,nu:n/, /af-ter-noon/ *n* the time from noon to evening.

**afterthought** /'æftər,θɒt/, /af-ter-thot/ *n* 1 a fresh thought after an act or speech. 2 something added or done later, not part of an original plan.

**afterwards** /'æftərwərdz/, /af-ter-wards/ *adv* later.

**again** /ə'gen/, /a-gain/, /a-gen/ *adv* once more.

**against** /ə'geɪnst, ə'genst/, /a-against, a-genst/ *prep* 1 in opposition to. 2 supported by.

**agate** /ægət/, /a-get/ *n* a very hard precious stone.

**age** /eɪdʒ/, /ayj/ *n* 1 the length of time a person or thing has lived or existed. 2 (*inf*) a long time. 3 the state of being old. 4 a particular period in history. • *vb* 1 to become old. 2 to make old.

- aged** /'eɪdʒd/, /ayjd/ *adj* 1 at the age of. 2 /ayj-ed/ old.
- ageless** /'eɪdʒləs/, /ayj-less/ *adj* never becoming old.
- agency** /'eɪdʒənsi/, /ay-jen-see/ *n* the office or business of an agent.
- agenda** /ə'dʒendə/, /a-jen-da/ *n* a list of matters to be discussed at a meeting.
- agent** /'eɪdʒənt/, /ay-jent/ *n* 1 someone or something that acts. 2 a person who acts on behalf of someone else.
- aggravate** /'ægrə'veɪt/, /a-gra-vate/ *vb* 1 to make worse. 2 (*inf*) to make angry. • *adj* aggravating. • *n* aggravation.
- aggression** /'ægrə'geʃən/, /a-gre-shun/ *n* 1 an attack. 2 hostile feelings.
- aggressive** /ə'gresɪv/, /a-gre-siv/ *adj* 1 always ready to attack, quarrelsome. 2 forceful, determined. • *adv* aggressively.
- aggressor** /ə'gresər/, /a-gre-sor/ *n* the first to attack.
- aggro** /'ægro:/, /ag-gro/ *n* (*inf*) abbr = **aggravation**: 1 aggressive behaviour. 2 annoying problems or difficulties.
- agile** /'ædʒail, 'ædʒəl/, /a-jile, a-jell/ *adj* quick of movement, nimble. • *n* agility.
- agitate** /'ædʒɪteɪt/, /a-ji-tate/ *vb* 1 to excite, to make anxious. 2 to try to stir up public feeling. 3 (*fml*) to shake. • *n* agitation.
- agitator** /'ædʒɪteɪtər/, /a-ji-tay-tor/ *n* someone who tries to cause public discontent or revolt.
- agnostic** /æg'nɒstɪk/, /ag-naw-stic/ *n* someone who believes that the existence of God cannot be proved.
- ago** /ə'go:/, /a-go/ *adv* in the past.
- agonize** /'ægənaɪz/, /a-gon-eyes/ *v* to suffer, or cause to suffer, agony.
- agonizing** /'ægənaɪzɪŋ/, /a-gon-eye-zing/ *adj*, also **agonising** 1 causing great pain. 2 causing great distress.
- agony** /'ægəni/, /a-gon-ee/ *n* 1 great pain. 2 great distress.
- agree** /ə'gri:/, /a-gree/ *vb* 1 to be of the same opinion. 2 to be alike. 3 to suit.
- agreeable** /ə'gri:əbl/, /a-gree-a-bl/ *adj* 1 pleasant. 2 ready to agree. • *adv* agreeably.

**agreement** /ə'grɪ:mənt/, /a-gree-ment/ *n* 1 sameness of opinion. 2 likeness. 3 a contract.

**agriculture** /ægrɪ'kʌltʃər/, /a-gri-cul-cher/ *n* the science of cultivating the land, farming. • *adj agricultural*.

**aground** /ə'graʊnd/, /a-ground/ *adj, adv* on or on to the sea bed.

**ahead** /ə'hed/, /a-hed/ *adv* 1 in front. 2 forward, for the future.

**AI** /eɪ ɔɪ/, /ay ɔɪ/ *abbr = artificial intelligence*: the study of the capacity of computers to simulate human intelligence.

**aid** /eɪd/, /aid/ *vb* to help. • *n* help.

**aide** /eɪd/, /aid/ *n* = **aide-de-camp** (*pl aides-de-camp*) an officer in attendance on a king, general or other high official.

**AIDS, Aids** /eɪdz/, /aidz/ *abbr = Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*: a serious disease that affects the body's immune system, greatly reducing resistance to infection.

**ailing** /'eɪlɪŋ/, /ay-ling/ *adj* 1 unwell. 2 weak.

**ailment** /'eɪlmənt/, /ayl-ment/ *n* a minor health problem.

**aim** /eɪm/, /aim/ *vb* 1 to point a weapon (at). 2 to intend, to try. • *n* 1 the act of aiming a weapon. 2 intention, goal, purpose.

**aimless** /'eɪmləs/, /aim-less/ *adj* without purpose.

**air** /eɪr/, /air/ *n* 1 the mixture of gases composing the earth's atmosphere. 2 a light breeze. 3 a tune. 4 manner. 5 *pl* a manner that is not genuine. • *vb* 1 to expose to fresh air. 2 to expose to warm air, to dry. 3 to speak openly about.

**air bag** /'ærbaɡ/, /air-bag/ *n* an inflatable safety device in automobiles that inflates on impact to cushion the driver.

**air-conditioning** /'ærkən'dɪʃənɪŋ/, /air-con-dish-un-ing/ *n* a system for controlling the temperature and quality of the air in a building. • *adj air-conditioned*. • *n air-conditioner*.

**aircraft** /'ærkræft/, /air-craft/ *n* (*pl aircraft*) a flying machine.

**airfield** /'ærfiːld/, /air-feeld/ *n* a starting and landing place for aircraft.

**airily** /air-ill-ee/ *adv* in an airy manner.

**airing** /'ærɪŋ/, /air-ing/ *n* 1 act of exposing to fresh or warm air. 2 an outing in the open air.

**airless** /'ærləs/, /air-less/ *adj* stuffy.

**airline** /'erlain/, /air-line/ *n* a company providing regular aircraft services.

**airliner** /'erlainer/, /air-line-er/ *n* a large passenger aircraft.

**airmail** /'ermeil/, /air-male/ *n* a postal service where mail is carried by aeroplane.

**airplane** /'erplein/, /air-plane/ US variant of **aeroplane**.

**air pocket** /'erpokit/, /air pock-it/ *n* a stream of air that carries an aircraft suddenly up or down.

**airport** /'erport/, /air-port/ *n* a station for passenger aircraft.

**air raid** /'er reid/, /air rade/ *n* an attack by aircraft.

**airship** /'ersip/, /air-ship/ *n* an aircraft kept aloft by a gas-filled balloon and driven by a motor.

**airtight** /'ertait/, /air-tite/ *adj* so sealed that air can pass neither in nor out.

**airy** /'eri/, /ay-ree/ *adj* 1 with plenty of fresh air. 2 lacking seriousness.

**aisle** /ail/, /ile/ *n* 1 the side part of a church, often separated from the central part by a row of pillars. 2 a passage in a church. 3 a passageway in a theatre or store.

**ajar** /ə'dʒar/, /a-jar/ *adv* partly open.

**akimbo** /ə'kimbo:/, /a-kim-bo/ *adv* with the hand on the hip and the elbow outward.

**akin** /ə'kin/, /a-kin/ *adj* similar.

**alabaster** /ælə,bæstər/, /a-la-bas-ter/ *n* a soft marble-like stone.

**alarm** /ə'larm/, /a-larm/ *n* 1 a warning of danger. 2 sudden fear. • *vb* to frighten.

**alarm clock** /ə'larm kløk/, /a-larm clock/ *n* a clock that can be set to ring or buzz to wake you.

**alarming** /ə'lar,minj/, /a-larm-ing/ *adj* frightening. • *adv* **alarmingly**.

**alarmist** /ə'lar,mist/, /a-larm-ist/ *n* someone who needlessly spreads frightening news or rumours. • *adj* causing needless fear.

**alas** /ə'læs/, /a-las/ *interj* a cry of grief or pity.

**albatross** /'ælbə,trɒs/, /al-ba-tross/ *n* a large white seabird.

**albino** /æl'baɪno:/, /al-bee-no/ *n* a person or animal with white skin and hair and pink eyes because he or she has no natural colouring.

**album** /'ælbəm/, /al-bum/ *n* **1** a blank book into which may be put autographs, photographs, stamps, etc. **2** a collection of songs on a CD or other recording.

**alcohol** /'ælkəhɒl/, /al-co-hol/ *n* **1** pure spirit, also called ethanol. **2** an intoxicating drink containing such spirit.

**alcoholic** /ælkə'hɒlik/, /al-co-hol-ic/ *n* someone who is addicted to alcohol. • *adj* having to do with alcohol.

**alcove** /'æl,kə:v/, /al-cove/ *n* a recess, a section of a room, etc, that is set back from the main part.

**ale** /eɪl/, /ale/ *n* a light-coloured, bitter beer.

**alert** /ə'lərt/, /a-lert/ *adj* **1** attentive. **2** quick. • *n* a warning of danger. • *n alertness*.

**alfalfa** /'ælfælfə/, /al-fal-fa/ *n* a green plant used as cattle food.

**algebra** /'ældʒəbrə/, /al-ji-bra/ *n* a method of calculation in which letters and symbols are used to represent numbers. • *adj algebraic*.

**alias** /'eiliəs/, /ay-lee-ass/ *adv* otherwise. • *n* a false name.

**alibi** /'ælɪ,baɪ/, /a-li-buy/ *n* the plea that you were elsewhere when a crime was committed.

**alien** /'eɪliən/, /ay-lee-an/ *adj* **1** foreign. **2** different, strange. • *n* **1** a foreigner, a person who is not a naturalized citizen of the country where he or she is living. **2** a being from another world.

**alienate** /'eɪliəneɪt/, /ay-lee-an-ate/ *vb* to make unfriendly.

**alight<sup>1</sup>** /ə'ləɪt/, /a-lite/ *vb* **1** to get down (from). **2** to settle upon.

**alight<sup>2</sup>** /ə'ləɪt/, /a-lite/ *adj, adv, adj* on fire.

**align** /ə'laɪm/, /a-line/ *vb* **1** to put in line, to straighten. **2** to join, ally yourself with. • *n alignment*.

**alike** /ə'ləɪk/, /a-like/ *adj* like, similar. • *adv* in the same way.

**alimentary canal** /əlɪ'men'tri kənæl/, /a-li-men-tree ca-nal/ *n* the passage through the body by which food is received and digested.

**alimony** /'ælə'mo:nɪ/, /a-li-mone-ee/ *n* the money payable regularly by a man or woman to his or her former spouse after legal separation or divorce.

**alive** /ə'lɑɪv/, /a-laiv/ *adj* 1 living. 2 lively. 3 aware of.

**alkali** /'ælkələɪ/, /al-ka-lie/ *n* a substance such as potash or soda that neutralizes acids and unites with oil or fat to form soap.

**all** /ɒl/, /ol/ *adj* 1 every one of. 2 the whole of. • *n* 1 everyone. 2 everything. • *adv* wholly, entirely.

**Allah** /'ælə, æ'lɑ/, /a-la, a-lah/ *n* the Islamic name for God.

**allay** /'æleɪ/, /a-lay/ *vb* to calm.

**allege** /ə'lɛdʒ/, /a-ledʒe/ *vb* to state without proof. • *n* **allegation**. • *adj* **alleged**.

**allegiance** /ə'li:dʒəns/, /a-lee-jance/ *n* loyalty.

**allegory** /'ælɪ,gəri/, /a-li-go-ree/ *n* a story with a hidden meaning different from the obvious one. • *adj* **allegorical**.

**allegro** /ə'legro:/, /a-le-gro/ *adv* (*mus*) briskly.

**allergy** /'ælərdʒi/, /a-ler-jee/ *n* a reaction of the body to some substance. • *adj* **allergic**.

**alleviate** /ə'li:vieɪt/, /a-lee-vee-ate/ *vb* to lessen. • *n* **alleviation**.

**alley** /'æli/, /a-lee/ *n* 1 a narrow walk or passage. 2 a lane for bowling. 3 a building containing lanes for bowling.

**alliance** /ə'laɪəns/, /a-lie-anse/ *n* a union between families, governments, etc.

**allied** see **ally**.

**alligator** /'æli,geɪtər/, /a-li-gay-tor/ *n* a reptile related to the crocodile found in North America, South America and China.

**alliteration** /ə'lɪtə'reɪʃən/, /a-lit-er-ay-shon/ *n* the repetition of a sound at the beginning of words especially in poetry, for example, 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper'.

**allocate** /'ælə,k'eɪt/, /a-lo-cate/ *vb* to share out, to distribute. • *n* **allocation**.

**allot** /ə'lɒt/, /a-lot/ *vb* (**allotted**, **allotting**) to give a share, to distribute.

**allotment** /-mənt/, /a-lot-ment/ *n* 1 act of allotting. 2 a small piece of land for growing vegetables, etc.

**allow** /ə'lau/, /al-ow/ *vb* **1** to permit. **2** to provide, to set aside.

**allowable** /ə'lauəbəl/, /al-ow-a-bl/ *adj* permissible.

**allowance** /əlau'əns/, /al-ow-anse/ *n* a sum of money granted for a special purpose. • **make allowance for** take into consideration.

**alloy** /æ'lɔɪ/, /a-loy/ *n* a mixture of metals.

**all right** /ɒl 'raɪt/, /ol rite/ *adj* **1** acceptable or satisfactory. **2** safe or well. • *adv* an expression of agreement.

**allude** /ə'lud/, /a-lood/ *vb* to refer to, to mention. • *n* **allusion**. • *adj* **allusive**.

**allure** /ə'lur/, /a-loor/ *vb* to attract. • *n* attraction, charm. • *n* **allurement**. • *adj* alluring.

**allusion** /ə'lu:ʒən/, see **allude**.

**ally** /æ'lai/, /a-lie/ *vb* to join with another for a special purpose (e.g. by marriage or by treaty). • *adj* **allied**. • *n* **1** a helper. **2** a nation bound to another by treaty of friendship.

**almanac** /'ælmə,næk/, /'ɒlmə,næk/, /al-man-ac, ol-man-ac/ *n*, also **almanack** (*old*) a book containing a calendar and information about anniversaries, tides, stars and planets, etc.

**almighty** /ɒl'maɪti/, /ol-mite-ee/ *adj* **1** (*often cap*) all-powerful. **2** (*inf*) very great, strong, loud, etc. • *n* **The Almighty** God.

**almond** /ɑ:mənd/, /a-mond/ *n* an oval nut.

**almost** /ɒlmo:st/, /ol-most/ *adv* nearly.

**aloe** /'æ,lo:/, /a-loe/ *n* a plant with a bitter juice used in medicines, especially for the skin.

**aloft** /ə'lɒft/, /a-loft/ *adv* high up in the air.

**alone** /ə'lon/, /a-lone/ *adj, adv* **1** without company. **2** taken by itself.

**alongside** /ələŋ,sайд/, /a-long-side/ *adv, prep* by the side of.

**aloof** /ə'luf/, /a-loof/ *adv* apart, distant. • *adj* distant, cool. • *n* **aloofness**.

**aloud** /ə'laud/, /a-loud/ *adv* so as can be heard.

**alp** /ælp/, /alp/ *n* a high mountain.

**alphabet** /'ælfə,bət/, /al-fa-bet/ *n* the set of letters used in writing a language. • *adj* **alphabetical**.

**alpine** /æl'paɪn/, /al-pine/ *adj* having to do with high mountains, especially the Swiss Alps.

**already** /ɒl'redi/, /ol-red-ee/ *adv* 1 before this time, previously. 2 now or before the expected time.

**altar** /'ɔltər/, /ol-ter/ *n* 1 a raised place or table on which sacrifices are offered. 2 a Communion table.

**alter** /'ɔltər/, /ol-ter/ *vb* to change. • *n* **alteration**.

**alternate** /'ɔltəneɪt/, /ol-ter-nit/ *adj* 1 first one coming, then the other. 2 every other. 3 (esp US) alternative. • *vb* 1 to do, use, cause, arrange, etc, by turns. 2 to happen by turns. • *adv* **alternately**. • *n* **alternation**.

**alternative** /'ɔltə'nætɪv/, /ol-ter-na-tiv/ *n* 1 a choice between two things. 2 (inf) a choice of two or more possibilities. • *adj* 1 available, used, etc. instead of something else. 2 not conventional or traditional. • *adv* **alternatively**.

**although** /ɒl'ðo:/, /ol-tho/ *conj* though.

**altitude** /'æltɪ,tu:d, 'æltɪ,tju:d/, /al-te-tood, al-te-tyood/ *n* height.

**alto** /'ælto:, 'ɒlto:/, /al-toe, awl-toe/ *n* 1 the highest male singing voice. 2 a low female singing voice, properly called **contralto** /kon-tral-toe/. 3 a singer having this voice. • *also adj*.

**altogether** /ɒltə'geðər, 'ɒltəgeðər/, /ol-te-ge-ther, ol-te-ge-ther/ *adv* 1 wholly. 2 including everything. 3 on the whole.

**altruism** /'ɒl,tru:izəm, 'æl,tru:izəm/, /ol-trew-ism, al-troo-izm/ *n* acting to please others rather than yourself. • *n* **altruist**. • *adj* **altruistic**.

**aluminium** /ə'lju:minɪəm, al-yoo-min-ee-em/, also **aluminum** /ə'lju:minəm/, /al-oo-min-em/ (US) *n* a soft, white, light metal.

**Alzheimer's (disease)** /'ɒlts,haimərz, 'ælts-/, /olts-hime-ers, altz-/ *n* a brain disease mainly affecting elderly people and causing memory loss and confusion.

**always** /'ɔlwɪz/, /ol-waze/ *adv* at all times.

**am** /æm/, /am/ *vb* the form of the verb **to be** used with 'I'.

**a.m.** /'eɪ'ɛm/, /ay em/ *abbr* = **ante meridiem** /an-tee mer-id-ee-um/: a Latin phrase meaning before midday.

**AM** /'eɪ'ɛm/, /ay em/ *abbr* = **amplitude modulation** /'æmplɪtju:d mɒdju:læʃən/, /am-pli-tyood mod-you-lay-shun/: transmitting

information via a radio wave.

**amalgam** /ə'mælgəm/, /a-mal-gam/ *n* a mixture, especially of mercury with another metal.

**amalgamate** /ə'mælgə,meɪt/, /a-mal-ga-mate/ *vb* to unite, to join together. • *n amalgamation*.

**amass** /ə'mæs/, /a-mass/ *vb* to collect a large amount of.

**amateur** /-tər, 'æmətʃər/, /a-ma-ter, a-ma-cher/ *n* 1 someone who takes part in any activity for the love of it, rather than for money. 2 a person without skill or expertise in something. • *n amateurism*.

**amateurish** /'æmətʃərɪʃ, 'æmə'tʃərɪʃ, -tərɪʃ/, /a-ma-te-rish, a-ma-che-rish/ *adj* inexpert, unskilful.

**amaze** /ə'meɪz/, /a-maze/ *vb* to astonish. • *n amazement*.

**ambassador** /æm'bæsədər/, /am-bass-sa-dor/ *n* a high-ranking official appointed to represent his or her government in a foreign country. • *adj ambassadorial*.

**amber** /'æmbər/, /am-ber/ *n* a clear yellowish substance used for ornaments. • *adj* 1 made of amber. 2 brownish yellow.

**ambidextrous** /æmbi'dekstrəs/, /am-bi-dek-strus/ *adj* able to do things equally well with either hand.

**ambiguous** /æm'bɪgju:əs/, /am-bi-gyoo-us/ *adj* having more than one meaning. • *n ambiguity*.

**ambition** /æm'bɪʃən/, /am-bi-shen/ *n* 1 desire for power, determination to succeed. 2 a goal, aim. • *adj ambitious*.

**amble** /'æmbəl/, /am-bl/ *vb* to walk at an easy pace. • *n* 1 an easy pace. 2 a slow walk. • *n ambler*.

**ambulance** /'æmbjuləns/, /am-byoo-lans/ *n* a vehicle for carrying the sick or injured.

**ambush** /'æmbuʃ/, /am-boosh/ *n* 1 a body of people so hidden as to be able to make a surprise attack on an approaching enemy. 2 the place where such people hide. 3 a surprise attack made by people in hiding. • *vb* to lie in wait, to attack from an ambush.

**ameba** US variant of amoeba.

**ameliorate** /ə'mi:liə,reɪt/, /a-meel-ye-rayt/ *vb* 1 to make better. 2 to grow better. • *n amelioration*.

**amen** /ɒ'men, eɪ'men/, /ay-men, ay-men/ *interj* may it be so!; so be it!

**amenable** /ə'menəbəl/, /a-mee-na-bl/ *adj* ready to be guided or influenced.

**amend** /ə'mend/, /a-mend/ *vb* 1 to correct. 3 to alter slightly. • **to make amends** to make up for a wrong done.

**amendment** /ə'mendmənt/, /a-mend-ment/ *n* 1 an improvement. 2 an alteration (e.g. in a law).

**amenities** /ə'mi:nətiz/, /a-mee-ne-tees, a-meh-ne-tees/ *npl* things that make life easier or more pleasant.

**American Indian** /ə'merikən 'indiən/, /a-me-ri-can in-dee-an/ *n* a native person of the United States or Canada. • *adj* describing the native people of the United States and Canada and their languages, customs, etc.

**amethyst** /'æməθist/, /a-me-thest/ *n* a precious stone of a bluish-violet or purple colour.

**amiable** /'eimiebəl/, /ay-mee-abl/ *adj* friendly, pleasant. • *n amiability*.

**amicable** /'æmikəbəl/, /a-mi-ca-bl/ *adj* friendly.

**amid**, /ə'mid/, **amidst** /ə'midst/, /a-mid, a-midst/ *prep* in the middle of, among.

**amiss** /ə'mis/, /a-miss/ *adv* wrong. • **take amiss** to take offence at.

**ammonia** /ə'mɔ:nɪə, /a-mo-nee-a/ *n* 1 a strong-smelling, colourless gas. 2 a solution of ammonia gas and water.

**ammunition** /æmjʊ'nɪʃən/, /am-ye-ni-shen/ *n* 1 gunpowder, bullets, shells, etc. 2 facts, etc, used against someone in an argument.

**amnesia** /æm'ni:ʃə/, /am-nee-zha/ *n* loss of memory.

**amnesty** /'æmnəsti/, /am-ne-stee/ *n* a general pardon.

**amoeba** /ə'mi:bə/, /a-mee-ba/ *n*, also **ameba** (US) (*pl amoebae, amebae* a tiny living creature found in water. • *adj amoebic, amebic*.

**among**, /ə'məŋ/, **amongst** /ə'maŋst/, /a-mung, a-mungst/ *prep* 1 in the middle of. 2 in shares or parts to each person. 3 in the group of.

**amorous** /'æmərəs/, /a-mo-rus, am-rus/ *adj* feeling or expressing love or sexual desire.

**amount** /ə'maunt/, /a-mount/ *vb* 1 to add up to. 2 to be equal to. • *n* the sum total.

**amp** see **ampere**.

**ampere** /'æmper/, /am-pir/ *n* the unit used in measuring electric current, usually shortened to **amp**.

**ampersand** /'æmpər,sænd/, /am-per-sand/ *n* a character (&) that stands for 'and'.

**amphibian** /æm'fibɪən/, /am-fi-bee-an/ *n* 1 a creature that can live both on land and in water. 2 a vehicle designed to move over land or water. 3 an aircraft that can take off from or land on either land or water. • *adj* **amphibious**.

**amphitheatre** /æmfɪ'θi:ətər/, /am-fe-thee-e-ter/ *n*, also **amphitheater** (US) an oval or circular theatre or building in which the seats rise in tiers around and above a central stage or arena.

**ample** /æmpləl/, /am-pl/ *adj* 1 large. 2 enough, sufficient, more than enough.

**amplification** see **amplify**.

**amplifier** /'æmplə,fair/, /am-ple-fie-er/ *n* an instrument for making sounds louder.

**amplify** /'æmplə,fai/, /am-ple-fie/ *vb* 1 to enlarge. 2 to make louder. • *n* **amplification** /'æmpləfɪ'keɪʃən/, /am-pli-fi-kay-shun/.

**amplitude** /'æmplə,tu:d/, /-tju:d/, /am-pli-tood, am-pli-tyood/ *n* size, extent, abundance.

**amply** /'æmpli/, /am-plee/ *adv* fully, sufficiently.

**amputate** /'æmpjʊ,tet/, /am-pye-tate/ *vb* to cut off. • *n* **amputation**.

**amulet** /'æmjulət/, /am-ye-let/ *n* an ornament worn as a charm against evils.

**amuse** /ə'mju:z/, /a-myooz/ *vb* 1 to entertain, to give pleasure. 2 to make laugh or smile. • *adj* **amusing**.

**amusement** /ə'mju:zmənt/, /a-myooz-ment/ *n* 1 pleasure, entertainment. 2 entertainment, pastime.

**an** /æn/, /an/ see **a**.

**anaconda** /ænə'kondə/, /a-na-con-da/ *n* a large snake of South America.

**anaemia** /ə'ni:miə/, /a-nee-mee-a/ *n, also anemia (US)* a condition caused by lack of red corpuscles in the blood, which causes pallor and fatigue.

**anaemic** /ə'ni:mɪk/, /a-nee-mic/ *adj, also anemic (US)* **1** suffering from anaemia. **2** pale, colourless. **3** lifeless, lacking spirit.

**anaesthesia** /ænəs'thi:ziə, -zə/, /a-ness-thee-zha/ *n, also anesthesia (US)* loss of feeling.

**anaesthetic** /ænəs'thetɪk/, /a-ness-thet-ic/ *n, also anesthetic (US)* a substance that causes loss of feeling for a time, either in the whole body (**general anaesthetic**) or in a limited area of the body, such as a leg (**local anaesthetic**). • *also adj.* • *vb anaesthetize, -ise, also anesthetize (US)*.

**anaesthetist** /ə'nɛsθɛtɪst, ə'ni:-/, /a-nes-the-tist/ *n, also anesthetist (US)* a medical doctor specializing in anaesthetics.

**anagram** /'ænə,græm/, /a-na-gram/ *n* a word or words formed by arranging the letters of a word or phrase in a new order (e.g. *mite* from *time*).

**analogue** /'ænə,log/, /a-na-log/ *n, also analog (US)* an object, e.g. such as a pointer on a dial, used to measure something else.

**analogous** /ə'næləgəs/, /a-na-lo-gus/ *adj* similar.

**analogy** /ə'nælədʒi/, /a-na-lo-jee/ *n* **1** likeness. **2** the process of reasoning based on such similarity.

**analyse** /'ænə,laɪz/, /a-na-lize/ *vb, also analyze (US)* to break a thing up into its parts or elements.

**analysis** /ə'næləsɪs/, /a-na-li-siss/ *n (pl analyses)* **1** the process of analysing. **2** a statement of the results of this. **3 short for psychoanalysis.** • *adj analytical.*

**analyst** /'ænəlist/, /a-na-list/ *n* **1** someone who analyses, especially in chemistry. **2** short for **psychoanalyst**.

**analytical** see **analysis**.

**anarchist** /'ænərkɪst/, /a-nar-kist/ *n* who wishes to do away with all government.

**anarchy** /'ænərki/, /a-nar-kee/ *n* **1** lawlessness. **2** absence of government.

**anathema** /ə'naθəmə/, /a-na-the-ma/ *n* **1** a solemn curse. **2** a thing that is accursed or hateful. **3** something or someone that one detests or strongly disapproves of.

**anatomy** /ə'nætəmi/, /a-na-ta-mee/ *n* **1** the study of the way the body is put together. **2** the cutting up of a body to study its parts and their relation to one another. **3** the body. • *adj anatomical*. • *n anatomist*.

**ancestor** /'æn,sɛstər/, /an-sess-tor/ *n* forefather, a person from whom you are descended. • *adj ancestral*.

**ancestry** /'ænsestri:/, /an-sess-tree/ *n* line of forefathers.

**anchor** /'æŋkər/, /ang-kor/ *n* **1** a heavy iron hook that grips the sea bed and holds a ship at rest in the water. **2** a person or thing that provides support, stability or security. • *vb* **1** to hold fast by an anchor. **2** to drop an anchor. • **to weigh anchor** to take up an anchor before sailing.

**anchorage** /'æŋkəridʒ/, /ang-ko-ridge/ *n* a place where a ship can anchor.

**anchovy** /'æn,tʃo:vi/, /an-tcho-vee/ *n* a small strong-tasting fish of the herring family.

**ancient** /'eɪnʃənt/, /ayn-shent/ *adj* **1** old, existing since early times. **2** belonging to old times. **3** (*inf*) very old. • **the ancients** those who lived long ago, especially the Greeks and Romans.

**ancillary** /æn'sɪləri/, /ant-si-le-reel/ *adj* supporting, helping, subsidiary.

**andante** /æn'dɑnteɪ, -'dænteɪ/, /an-dan-tay/ *adj* (*mus*) with slow and graceful movement.

**anecdote** /'ænək,dɔ:t/, /a-nec-dote/ *n* a short, interesting or amusing story about a person or event.

**anemia** US variant of **anaemia**.

**anemic** US variant of **anaemic**.

**anemone** /ə'neməni/, /a-ne-me-nee/ *n* the wind-flower, a kind of garden plant with red, purple, or white flowers.

**anesthesia** US variant of **anaesthesia**.

**anesthesiologist** US variant of **anaesthetist**.

**anesthetic** US variant of **anaesthetic**.

**anesthetist** US variant of **anaesthetist**.

**anew** /ə'nu:/, -'nju:/, /a-noo, a-nyoo/ *adv (frm or old)* again, in a new or different way.

**angel** /'eindʒəl/, /ayn-jel/ *n* **1** in Christianity, a spirit created to serve God. **2** a very good and helpful person. • *adj angelic*.

**anger** /'æŋgər/, /ang-ger/ *n* a feeling of rage or fury. • *vb* to enrage.

**angina** /æn'dʒaimə/, /an-jie-na/ *n* a disease of the heart, causing sudden, sharp pains.

**angle<sup>1</sup>** /'æŋgəl/, /ang-gl/ *n* **1** the space between two meeting lines. **2** a corner. **3** point of view.

**angle<sup>2</sup>** /'æŋgəl/, /ang-gl/ *vb* **1** to fish with hook and bait. **2** to try to get by indirect means.

**angling** /'æŋglɪŋ/, /ang-gling/ *n* the art of fishing with a rod. • *n angler*.

**angora** /æn'gɔrə/, /ang-go-ra/ *n* wool from a long-haired goat.

**angry** /'æŋgri/, /ang-gree/ *adj* feeling or showing anger. • *adv angrily*.

**anguish** /'æŋgwɪʃ/, /ang-guish/ *n* very great pain, of body or mind. • *adj anguished*.

**angular** /'æŋgjulər/, /ang-gyoo-lar/ *adj* **1** sharp-cornered. **2** thin and bony.

**animal** /'æniməl/, /a-ni-mal/ *n* **1** a living being with the power to feel and to move at will. **2** such a living being other than human beings. **3** a four-footed creature, as distinct from a bird, fish, or insect. **4** a wild or uncivilized person.

**animate** /'ænimət/, /a-ni-mate/ *vb* **1** to give life to. **2** to enliven, to make lively and interesting. • *adj /a-ni-mit/ living*.

**animation** /ænɪ'meɪʃən/, /a-ni-may-shun/ *n* liveliness, excitement.

**animosity** /ænə'mɒsɪti/, /a-ni-mo-si-tee/ *n* strong dislike, hatred.

**ankle** /'æŋkəl/, /ang-kl/ *n* the joint that connects the foot with the leg.

**annex** /'ænekst/, /a-neks, a-neks/ *vb*, also **annexe** **1** to add to the end. **2** to take possession of. • *n* a part added to or situated near a building. • *n annexation*.

**annihilate** /ə'naiə,leɪt/, /a-nie-e-late/ *vb* to destroy completely. • *n annihilation*.

**anniversary** /ænɪ'versəri/, /an-ni-ver-sa-ree/ *n* the yearly return of the date on which some event occurred and is remembered.

**annotate** /'æno:tet, -nə-/ , /an-no-tate/ *vb* to write notes upon. • *n annotation*.

**announce** /ə'nauns/, /a-nounse/ *vb* to make known. • *n announcement*.

**announcer** /-ər/, /a-noun-ser/ *n* in broadcasting, someone who makes known the programmes or reads news items.

**annoy** /ə'nɔɪ/, /an-noy/ *vb* to vex; to tease; to be troubled by something you dislike. • *n annoyance*.

**annual** /'ænjuəl/, /an-ye-wel/ *adj* 1 yearly. 2 happening every year or only once a year. • *n* 1 a plant lasting only for one year. 2 a book of which a new edition is published yearly. • *adv annually*.

**anoint** /ə'nɔɪnt/, /a-noint/ *vb* to put oil on, especially with the intention of making holy.

**anomaly** /ə'nɒməli/, /a-nom-a-lee/ *n* something unusual, irregular or not normal. • *adj anomalous*.

**anon<sup>1</sup>** /ə'nɒn/, /a-non/ *adv* (*old or hum*) soon.

**anon<sup>2</sup>** /ə'nɒn/, /a-non/ *abbr* = **anonymous**.

**anonymous** /ə'nɒniməs/, /a-non-ni-muss/ *adj* nameless, of unknown name. • *n anonymity*.

**anorak** /'ænə,ræk/, /an-o-rak/ *n* 1 a light waterproof jacket with a hood and zip. 2 a person who is so interested in a particular subject that other people regard them as a bore.

**anorexia** /ænə'reksiə/, /a-ne-rek-see-a/ *n* an eating disorder in which someone refuses to eat in order to lose weight, although already very thin. • *adj anorexic*.

**answer** /'ænsər/, /an-ser/ *vb* 1 to reply to. 2 to be suitable, to fit. 3 to accept blame for or punishment. 4 to be responsible to. • *n* 1 a reply. 2 a solution (to a problem).

**answerable** /'ænsərəbəl/, /an-se-re-bl/ *adj* open to blame for.

**answering machine** /'ænsərɪŋ mə'si:n/ /an-se-ring ma-sheen/ *n* a machine that records telephone messages while someone is out.

**ant** /ænt/, /ant/ *n* a small, social insect, that lives in a colony.

- antagonism** /æn'tægə'nɪzəm/, /an-ta-ge-nizm/ *n* opposition, ill feeling.
- antagonist** /æn'tægənist/, /an-ta-ge-nist/ *n* an opponent.
- antagonistic** /æn,tægə'nistik/, /an-ta-ge-nis-tic/ *adj* opposed to, hostile.
- antagonize** /æn'tægə,naɪz/, /an-ta-ge-nize/ *vb*, also **antagonise** to make an enemy of.
- antacid** /ænt'æsɪd/, /an-tass-id/ *n* a medicine that makes the stomach less acidic and relieves pain caused by acid.
- Antarctic** /ænt'ɑrk틱, -'artık/, /ant-arc-tic/ *adj* of south polar regions. • *n* the ~ Antarctica, the continent around the South Pole.
- anteater** /'ænt,i:tər/, /an-tee-ter/ *n* a mammal with a long snout that feeds on ants and termites.
- antecedent** /'-si:dənt/, /an-te-see-dent/ *adj* (*fml*) going before. • *npl* **antecedents** the previous family, history, etc, of a person.
- antelope** /'æntə,lo:p/, /an-te-lope/ *n* a graceful, delicate animal like the deer.
- antenatal** /æntr'ineɪtəl/, /an-ti-nay-tal/ *adj* before birth.
- antenna** /æn'tenə/, /an-ten-na/ *n* 1 (*pl antennae*) the feeler of an insect. 2 (*esp US*) (*pl antennas*) a wire or rod, etc, for receiving radio waves or television signals.
- anthem** /'ænθəm/, /an-thum/ *n* a hymn or song of praise to God.
- anthology** /æn'θɒlədʒi/, /an-tho-le-jee/ *n* a collection of pieces of poetry or prose by different authors.
- anthracite** /'ænθrə'seɪt/, /ant-thre-site/ *n* a type of coal that burns almost without flame or smoke.
- anthrax** /'ænθræks/, /an-thraks/ *n* a disease attacking sheep or cattle and sometimes infecting humans.
- anthropology** /ænθrə'pɒlədʒi/, /an-thre-po-le-jee/ *n* the study of human beings in relation to their surroundings.
- anti-** /'ænti, 'æntai/, /an-tie, an-til/ *prefix* against.
- antibiotic** /æntiba'bɒtik/, /an-ti-bie-o-tic/ *n* a substance used in medicine to destroy bacteria that cause disease. • also *adj*.
- antibody** /'ænti,bɒdi/, /an-ti-bo-dee/ *n* a protein your body produces to fight infections and illnesses.

**anticipate** /æn'tɪsɪpeɪt/, /an-ti-si-pate/ *vb* 1 to expect. 2 to take action in advance of. 3 to foresee. • *n* **anticipation**.

**anticlimax** /æntɪ'klaimæks, 'æntai-/, /an-ti-clie-maks/ *n* an unexpectedly dull ending to a striking series of events.

**anticlockwise** /æntɪ'klɒkwaɪz/, /an-ti-clock-wise/ *adj* going around in the opposite direction from the hands of a clock.

**antics** /'æntɪcs/, /an-tiks/ *npl* absurd or exaggerated behaviour.

**antidote** /'æntɪdo:t/, /an-ti-dote/ *n* a medicine that counteracts the effects of poison or disease.

**antipathy** /æn'tɪpəθi/, /an-ti-pa-thee/ *n* dislike, opposition to.

**antiquated** /'æntɪ,kweɪtəd/, /an-te-kway-ted/ *adj* old-fashioned, out of date.

**antique** /æn'ti:k/, /an-tee-k/ *adj* 1 made in an earlier period and usually valuable. 2 (*fm*) connected with ancient times. • *n* a piece of furniture, jewellery, etc, made in an earlier period and considered valuable.

**antiquity** /æn'tɪkwɪtɪ/, /an-ti-kwe-tee/ *n* 1 ancient times, especially those of the Greeks and Romans. 2 great age.

**antiseptic** /æntɪ'septɪk/, /an-ti-sep-tic/ *adj* having the power to kill germs. • *n* an antiseptic substance.

**antithesis** /æn'tɪθəsɪs/, /an-ti-thi-sis/ *n* (*pl* **antitheses**) 1 contrast of ideas, emphasized by similarity in expressing them. 2 the exact opposite. • *adj* **antithetical**.

**antler** /'æntlər/, /ant-ler/ *n* a branch of a stag's horn. • *adj* **antlered**.

**antonym** /'æntənɪm/, /an-ti-nim/ *n* a word meaning the opposite of.

**anxious** /'ænkʃəs/, /ang-shus/ *adj* worried about what will happen or has happened. • *n* **anxiety**.

**any** /'eni/, /en-ee/ *adj* 1 one out of many. 2 some. 3 every. • *adv* at all.

**anybody** /'eni,bədi, -bodi/, /en-ee-baw-dee/ *pron* any person.

**anyhow** /'eni,hau/, /en-ee-how/ *adv* 1 in any way, whatever. 2 in any case.

**anyone** /'eni,wən/, /en-ee-won/ *pron* any person, anybody.

**anything** /'eniθɪŋ/, /en-ee-thing/ *pron* any object, event, fact etc. • *n* a thing, no matter what kind. • *adv* at all.

**anytime** /'enɪ.taɪm/, /en-ee-time/ *adv* at any hour, day, week, etc.

**anyway** /'enɪ,weɪ/, /en-ee-way/ *adv* in any case. • *adv any way* in any manner.

**anywhere** /'enɪ,wer/, /en-ee-ware/ in, at, or to any place.

**aorta** /eɪ'ɔrtə/, /ae-or-ta/ *n* the great artery leading from the heart, carrying blood to all parts of the body.

**apart** /ə'part/, /a-part/ *adv* separately.

**apartheid** /ə'pɑrθeɪt, -taɪd/, /a-part-hide/ *n* a policy where different races are kept apart.

**apartment** /ə'pɑrtmənt/, /a-part-ment/ *n* 1 a room. 2 (esp. US) a set of rooms rented as a dwelling.

**apathy** /'æpəθi/, /a-path-ee/ *n* lack of feeling or interest. • *adj apathetic*.

**ape** /eɪpl/, /ape/ *n* a mammal resembling a tailless monkey (e.g. gorilla, chimpanzee, orangutan, gibbon). • *vb* to imitate exactly.

**aperture** /'æpər̩tʃər/, /a-per-choor/ *n* an opening, a hole.

**apex** /'eɪpəks/, /ay-peks/ *n* (pl **apexes** or **apices**) the top or highest point.

**aphid** /'eɪfɪd/, /ay-fid/ *n* an insect that lives on the sap of green plants.

**aphorism** /'æfə,rɪzəm/, /a-for-iz-um/ *n* a short, wise saying.

**apiary** /'eɪpi,əri/, /ay-pee-ar-ee/ *n* a place where bees are kept.

**apiece** /ə'pi:s/, /a-peess/ *adv* to or for each one.

**apocalyptic** /ə,pɒkə'lɪptɪk/, /a-poc-a-lip-tic/ *adj* 1 telling of great misfortune in the future. 2 relating to an event of great importance, particularly an event of disastrous or catastrophic importance.

**apocryphal** /ə,pɒkrɪfəl/, /a-poc-ra-fal/ *adj* not likely to be genuine; doubtful or untrue.

**apologetic** /ə,pɒlə'dʒɛtɪk/, /a-pol-o-je-tic/ *adj* making excuses, expressing regret.

**apologize** /ə,pɒlə,dʒaɪz/, /a-pol-o-jize/ *vb*, also **apologise** to express regret for a fault or error, to say you are sorry.

**apology** /ə,pɒlədʒi/, /a-pol-o-jee/ *n* an admission that wrong has been done, an expression of regret.

**apostle** /ə'pɒsəl/, /a-pos-l/ *n* **1** someone sent to preach the gospel. **2** one of the twelve disciples of Christ.

**apostrophe** /ə'postrəfi/, /a-pos-tro-fee/ *n* a mark (') indicating the possessive case or omission of certain letters.

**appal** /ə'pɔl/, /a-pawl/ *vb*, also **appall** (*US*) to shock, to horrify. • **apps**, **appalled**, **appalling** also (*US*) **appalls**, **appalled**, **appalling**.

**appalling** /-ɪŋ/, /a-paw-ling/ *adj* shocking, terrible, horrific.

**apparatus** /æpə'rætəs, -'reɪt-/ , /a-pa-ra-tus/ *n* tools or equipment for doing work.

**apparel** /ə'pærəl/, /a-par-el/ *n* clothing. • *vb* (*old*) to dress.

**apparent** /ə'pærənt/, /a-pa-rent/ *adj* **1** easily seen, evident. **2** seeming but not necessarily real.

**apparently** /ə'pærəntli/, /a-pa-rent-lee/ *adv* evidently, seemingly.

**appeal** /ə'pi:l/, /a-peel/ *vb* **1** to make an earnest and strong request for. **2** to carry (a law case) to a higher court. **3** to interest, to please. • *also n.*

**appear** /ə'pi:xr/, /a-peer/ *vb* **1** to come into sight. **2** to seem. • *n* **appearance**.

**appease** /ə'pi:z/, /a-peez/ *vb* **1** to calm, to make peaceful. **2** to satisfy by giving what is wanted. • *n* **appeasement**.

**append** /ə'pend/, /a-pend/ *vb* to add, to attach.

**appendage** /ə'pendɪdʒ/, /a-pen-dige/ *n* **1** something added or attached. **2** something forming a part or attached to something larger or more important.

**appendicitis** /ə,pɛndi'saitɪs/, /a-pend-ih-sie-tis/ *n* a painful disease of the appendix, requiring surgical removal.

**appendix** /ə'pendiks/, /a-pen-diks/ *n* (*pl* **appendices** or **appendices**) **1** information added at the end of a book. **2** in your digestive system, a short, closed tube leading off the bowels.

**appetite** /'æpə,təɪt/, /a-pe-tite/ *n* desire to have something, especially food or pleasure.

**appetizer** /-,taɪzər/, /a-pe-tize-er/ *n*, also **appetiser** something eaten or drunk to stimulate the appetite.

**appetizing** /'a-pet-i-zing/, /a-pe-tize-ing/ *adj, also appetising* increasing the desire for food.

**applaud** /ə'plaud/, /a-plaud/ *vb* **1** to praise by clapping or shouting. **2** to praise. • *n applause*.

**apple** /'æpəl/, /a-pl/ *n* **1** a tree with many varieties, and pink or white blossom. **2** the sweet fruit of this tree.

**appliance** /ə'plaɪəns/, /a-plie-anse/ *n* an instrument intended for some particular use.

**applicable** /ə'plikəbəl/, /a-pli-ca-bl/ *adj* that may be applied, suitable under the circumstances. • *n applicability*.

**applicant** /'æplikənt/, /a-plic-ant/ *n* someone who asks for, a person who applies for or makes a formal request for.

**application** /'æpli'keɪʃən/, /a-pli-cay-shon/ *n* **1** the act of applying. **2** a formal request. **3** perseverance, hard work.

**apply** /ə'plai/, /a-ply/ *vb* **1** to put or spread on. **2** to use. **3** to pay attention (to), to concentrate. **4** to ask for, to put in a formal request for. **5** to concern or be relevant to.

**appoint** /ə'pɔɪnt/, /a-point/ *vb* **1** to choose for a job or position. **2** (*fml*) to fix or decide on.

**appointment** /ə'pɔɪntmənt/, /a-point-ment/ *n* **1** a post or position. **2** a meeting arranged for a certain time.

**appraisal** /ə'preɪzəl/, /a-prase-al/ *n* the assessment of the value or quality of.

**appraise** /ə'preɪz/, /a-prase/ *vb* to judge the value, quality, ability, etc, of.

**appreciable** /ə'pri;ʃəbəl/, /a-pree-sha-bl/ *adj* enough to be noticed. • *adv appreciably*.

**appreciate** /ə'pri;ʃi,eɪt/, /a-pree-shee-ate/ *vb* **1** to recognize the value or good qualities of, to enjoy. **2** to understand fully, to recognize. **3** to be grateful for. **4** to rise in value.

**appreciation** /ə'pri;ʃi'eɪʃən/, /a-pree-shee-ay-shon/ *n* **1** a good or just opinion of. **2** gratitude. **3** understanding. **4** increase in value.

**appreciative** /ə'pri;ʃətɪv/, /a-pree-sha-tive/ *adj* **1** willing to understand and praise justly. **2** grateful. • *adv appreciatively*.

**apprehend** /ə'pri'hend/, /a-pre-hend/ *vb* (*fml*) to arrest, to seize.

**apprehension** /æpri'henʃən/, /a-pre-hen-shon/ *n* **1** fear, dread. **2** (*fml*) arrest, seizure. **3** (*fml*) understanding.

**apprehensive** /æpri'hensiv/, /a-pre-hen-sive/ *adj* afraid of what may happen.

**apprentice** /ə'prentɪs/, /a-pren-tiss/ *n* someone who is learning a trade or skill while working at it. • *vb* to bind by agreement to serve as an apprentice.

**apprenticeship** /ə'prentɪsʃɪp/, /a-pren-tiss-ship/ *n* the time served as an apprentice.

**approach** /ə'pro:tʃ/, /a-proch/ *vb* **1** to move nearer (to). **2** to seek an opportunity to speak to someone. • *n* **1** act of approaching. **2** the way leading to a place.

**approachable** /ə'pro:tʃəbəl/, /a-pro-cha-bl/ *adj* **1** able to be approached. **2** easy to speak to.

**approbation** /æprə'beyʃən/, /a-pro-bay-shon/ *n* praise, approval.

**appropriate** /ə'pro:priət/, /a-pro-pree-ate/ *vb* **1** to take and use as your own. **2** to set apart for a particular purpose or use. • *adj* /a-pro-pree-it/ suitable. • *adv* **appropriately**. • *n* **appropriation, appropriateness**.

**approve** /ə'pru:v/, /a-proov/ *vb* **1** to think well of, to accept as good. **2** to agree to, to accept. • *n* **approval**. • **on approval** for a period of trial before purchase.

**approximate** /ə'prəksɪmət/, /a-prok-si-mat/ *vb* to come near to. • *adj* nearly correct.

**approximately** /ə'prəksɪmətlə/, /a-prok-si-mat-lee/ *adv* nearly.

**approximation** /ə'prəksɪ'meɪʃən/, /a-prok-si-may-shon/ *n* a nearly correct result.

**apricot** /'æpri,kɒt, 'eipri-/ , /ay-pri-cot, a-pri-cot/ *n* an orange-yellow fruit of the peach family.

**April** /'eiprəl/, /ay-pril/ *n* the fourth month of the year.

**apron** /'eiprən/, /ay-pron/ *n* a garment or cloth worn in front to protect the clothes.

**apt** /æpt/, /apt/ *adj* **1** suitable, appropriate. **2** ready to learn. **3** having a tendency to.

**aptly** /'æptli/, /apt-lee/ *adv* appropriately.

**aptitude** /'æptɪtu:d/, -tju:d/, /ap-ti-tood, -tyood/ *n* skill, cleverness.

**aptness** /'æptnəs/, /apt-ness/ *n* suitability.

**aquarium** /ə'kweriəm/, /a-kwa-ree-um/ *n* (*pl* **aquariums** or **aquaria**)  
a tank for (live) fish and water animals and water plants.

**aquatic** /ə'kwætɪk/, /a-kwa-tic/ *adj* 1 living or growing in water. 2 taking place in water.

**aqueduct** /'ækwədɛkt/, /a-kwi-duct/ *n* 1 a man-made channel for carrying water. 2 a bridge built to carry water.

**aqueous** /'eɪkwiəs/, /ay-kwee-us/ *adj* of or like water, watery.

**aquiline** /'ækwi:lain/, /a-kwi-leen/ *adj* hooked like the beak of an eagle.

**Arabic** /'ærəbɪk, 'erə-/ , /a-ra-bic/ *n* a language spoken by people in North Africa and Middle Eastern countries. • *adj* describing the language and the countries in which it is spoken.

**Arabic numerals** /'ærəbɪk 'nju:mnrəls/, /a-ra-bic nyoo-mer-als/ *n* the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

**arable** /'ærəbəl/, /a-ra-bl/ *adj* suitable for ploughing.

**arbiter** /'ɑrbɪtər/, /ar-bi-ter/ *n* someone chosen by the parties concerned to settle a dispute, an umpire.

**arbitrary** /'ɑrbətrəri/, /ar-bi-tre-ree/ *adj* 1 not decided by rules, laws, etc, but by a person's own opinion. 2 uncontrolled, unrestrained. • *adv* **arbitrarily**.

**arbitrate** /'ɑrbɪtreɪt/, /ar-bi-trate/ *vb* to act as an umpire or referee, especially in a dispute. • *n* **arbitrator**, **arbitration**.

**arbour** /'ɑrbər/, /ar-bor/ *n*, also **arbor** (US) a shady recess in a garden.

**arc** /ark/, /ark/ *n* 1 a curve. 2 a part of the circumference of a circle.

**arcade** /ɑr'keɪd/, /ar-cade/ *n* 1 a covered walk. 2 a covered street containing shops.

**arch-** /ɑrtʃ/, /arch/ *prefix* chief.

**arch<sup>1</sup>** /ɑrtʃ/, /arch/ *n* a curved structure, usually supporting a bridge or roof.

**arch<sup>2</sup>** /ɑrtʃ/, /arch/ *adj* cunning, roguish. • *adv* **archly**. • *n* **archness**.

**archaeology** /ɑrkɪə'lædʒi/, /ar-kee-aw-lo-jee/ *n*, also **archeology** (US) the study of the remains and monuments of ancient times. • *adj archaeological*, also **archeological** (US). • *n archaeologist*, also **archeologist** (US).

**archaic** /ɑr'keɪɪk/, /ar-kay-ic/ *adj* 1 old-fashioned. 2 (of words) no longer in current use.

**archaism** /'ɑrkɛɪzəm//, /ar-kay-ism/ *n* a word or expression not in present-day use.

**archbishop** /'ɑrtʃ'bɪʃəp/, /arch-bish-op/ *n* a chief bishop, with other bishops under his rule.

**archeology** US variant of **archaeology**.

**archer** /'ɑrtʃər/, /ar-cher/ *n* someone who uses a bow and arrow.

**archery** /'ɑrtʃəri/, /ar-cher-ee/ *n* the art of shooting with bow and arrow.

**archipelago** /ɑrkɪ'peɪləgo/, /ar-ki-pe-la-go/ *n* (pl **archipelagos** or **archipelagoes**) 1 a sea dotted with many islands. 2 a group of islands.

**architect** /'ɑrkɪtɛkt/, /ar-ki-tect/ *n* 1 someone who plans buildings. 2 someone who plans, designs or creates something.

**architecture** /'ɑrkɪtɛktʃər/, /ar-ki-tect-choor/ *n* 1 the art or science of planning or designing buildings. 2 a special fashion in building. • *adj architectural*.

**archives** /ɑr'kaɪvs/, /ar-kives/ *npl* 1 historical records. 2 the place where they are kept. • *n archivist*.

**arctic** /ɑrktɪk/, /arc-tic/ *adj* very cold.

**Arctic** /'ɑrtɪk/, /arc-tic/ *adj* of north polar regions.

**ardent** /'ɑrdənt/, /ar-dent/ *adj* eager, enthusiastic, passionate. • *adv ardently*.

**arduous** /'ɑrdʒu:əs/, /ar-joo-us/ *adj* difficult, requiring a lot of effort.

**are** /ər/, /ar/ *vb* the form of the verb **be** used with 'you', 'we' and 'they'.

**area** /'erɪə/, /ay-ree-a/ *n* 1 any open space, place, region. 2 a subject, topic or activity. 3 the extent of a surface.

**area code** /'erɪə ko:d/, /ay-ree-a code/ *n* a number dialled to identify a particular area when telephoning.

**arena** /ə'ri:nə/, /a-ree-na/ *n* 1 an open space of ground for contests or games. 2 area of activity or conflict.

**argue** /'argju:/, /ar-gyoo/ *vb* 1 to give reasons for believing something to be true. 2 to discuss in an unfriendly or quarrelsome way. 3 to quarrel. • *adj* **arguable**.

**argument** /'argjumənt/, /ar-gyoo-ment/ *n* 1 reasons for holding a belief. 2 a dispute, an unfriendly discussion. 3 a quarrel. 4 a summary of a book.

**argumentative** /,argju'mentətiv/, /ar-gyoo-men-ta-tive/ *adj* given to discussing or disputing.

**arid** /'ærɪd/, /a-rid/ *adj* 1 very dry. 2 unproductive, uninteresting. • *n* **aridity**.

**arise** /ə'raɪz/, /a-rise/ *vb* (*pt* **arose**, *pp* **arisen**) 1 to come into being, to appear. 2 to result from. 3 (*old*) to get up.

**aristocracy** /,æri'stɒkrəsi/, /a-ri-stock-ra-see/ *n* 1 government by the nobility of birth. 2 the nobility.

**aristocrat** /'ærəstə,kræt, /a-ri-sto-crat/ *n* a person of noble birth. • *adj* **aristocratic**.

**arithmetic** /ə'riθ,meti:k/, /a-rith-me-tic/ *n* the science of numbers; the art of working with numbers. • *adj* **arithmetical**.

**ark** /ark/, /ark/ *n* 1 a wooden chest. 2 **the Ark** in the Old Testament of the Bible, the vessel in which Noah was saved from the Flood.

**arm** /arm/, /arm/ *n* 1 one of the upper limbs, the part of the body from the shoulder to the hand. 2 anything resembling this. 3 the part of a garment that covers the arm. 4 power. 5 *pl* **arms** weapons or armour used in fighting. 6 *pl* the badge of a noble family, town, etc. • *vb* 1 to take up weapons. 2 to provide with weapons.

**armada** /ar'madə/, /ar-ma-da/ *n* a fleet of armed ships.

**armadillo** /,armə'dilo:/, /ar-ma-dil-ow/ *n* a South American animal with a bony protective shell.

**armament** /'arməmənt/, /ar-ma-ment/ *n* the guns on a ship, tank, etc. • **armaments** *pl* all the weapons used in war.

**armistice** /'armɪtɪs/, /ar-mi-stis/ *n* in war, an agreement to stop fighting for a time.

**armlet** /'ɑːmlət/, /ɑːm-let/ *n* a band worn round the arm.

**armour** /'ɑːmrər/, /ɑːr-mor/ *n*, also **armor** (US) **1** protective covering. **2** (*old*) a metal covering worn by soldiers to protect their bodies. **3** the tank force of an army.

**armoury** /'ɑːmrəri/, /ɑːrm-ree/ *n*, also **armory** (US) a place for keeping weapons or armour.

**armpit** /'ɑːm,pit/, /ɑːm-pit/ *n* the hollow under the shoulder, between the arm and the body.

**army** /'ɑːmi/, /ɑːr-mee/ *n* **1** a large number of soldiers organized for war. **2** a large number of persons engaged on a common task.

**aroma** /ə'ro:mə/, /a-rome-a/ *n* a pleasant smell.

**aromatic** /ə'rə'mætik/, /a-rome-at-ic/ *adj* sweet-smelling.

**aromatherapy** /ə,ro:mə'θerəpi/, /a-rome-a-ther-a-pee/ *n* therapy involving the use of aromatic oils, such as lavender oil.

**around** /ə'raʊnd/, /a-round/ *prep* **1** on all sides of or in a circle, about. **2** here and there, at several places in. **3** approximately. **4** near to. • *adv* **1** on every side, here and there. **2** in the surrounding area. **3** available. **4** in the opposite direction.

**arouse** /ə'raʊz/, /a-rouz/ *vb* **1** to stir up. **2** to make awake or active.

**arrange** /ə'reɪndʒ/, /a-range/ *vb* **1** to put into order. **2** to make plans, to make preparations for. • *n* **arrangement**.

**arrant** /'erənt/, /a-rant/ *adj* thoroughly (bad), out-and-out.

**arras** /æ'rəs/, /a-ras/ *n* a hanging of ornamental cloth on a wall.

**array** /ə'rei/, /a-ray/ *vb* **1** to set in order. **2** to dress up. • *n* **1** order. **2** dress.

**arrears** /ə'ri:rз/, /a-rirz/ *npl* that which remains unpaid or undone.

**arrest** /ə'rest/, /a-rest/ *vb* **1** to take as prisoner, especially in the name of the law. **2** (*fml*) to catch or attract. **3** to stop. • *n* **1** the act of stopping. **2** the act of arresting in the name of the law.

**arrival** /ə'raɪvəl/, /a-rive-al/ *n* **1** the act of arriving. **2** someone who arrives.

**arrive** /ə'raɪv/, /a-rive/ *vb* **1** to come. **2** to reach.

**arrogant** /'erəgənt/, /a-ro-gant/ *adj* proud, haughty. • *n* **arrogance**.

**arrow** /'æro:/, /a-ro/ *n* a pointed stick or similar missile for shooting from a bow.

**arrowroot** /'æro;rʊ:t/, /a-ro-root/ *n* a West Indian plant from which an edible starch is obtained.

**arsenal** /'arsənəl/, /ar-snal/ *n* a place where weapons of war are made or stored, usually on behalf of a government.

**arsenic** /'arsə,nɪk/, /ar-snic/ *n* a toxic chemical.

**arson** /'arsən/, /ar-son/ *n* the crime of setting fire to property on purpose.

**art** /ɑ:t/, /ɑ:t/ *n* 1 a particular ability or skill. 2 (*fml*) cunning, trickery. 3 the practice of painting, sculpture and architecture, etc. 4 examples of painting, sculpture, etc. • **the Arts** subjects of study that are intended to broaden the mind rather than (or as well as) to teach practical skill.

**artery** /'ɑ:təri/, /ar-te-ree/ *n* a tube carrying blood from the heart.

**artful** /'ɑ:tfʊl/, /art-ful/ *adj* deceitful, cunning. • *adv* **artfully**.

**art gallery** /'ɑ:t ,galəri:/, /art ga-le-ree/ *n* a public building where works of art are displayed.

**artichoke** /'ɑ:ti,tʃo:k/, /ar-ti-choke/ *n* 1 (**globe artichoke**) a tall plant, somewhat like a thistle, part of the leaves of which can be eaten. 2 (**Jerusalem artichoke**) a type of sunflower with edible underground stems.

**article** /'ɑ:tɪkəl/, /ar-tic-l/ *n* 1 a thing. 2 an essay on a single topic in a newspaper, periodical, or encyclopedia. 3 a single item in a list or statement (e.g. a treaty). 4 *pl* a written agreement.

**articulate** /ɑ:tɪkju:lət/, /ar-tic-yoo-lit/ *adj* 1 distinct, clear. 2 able to express yourself clearly. • *vb* 1 to join together. 2 to speak distinctly.

**articulation** /ɑ:tɪkju:'leɪʃən/, /ar-tic-yoo-lay-shon/ *n* 1 a joint. 2 the act of joining. 3 forming of sounds in speech.

**artifice** /'ɑ:tɪ,fɪs/, /ar-ti-fis/ *n* 1 a trick. 2 trickery.

**artificial** /ɑ:tə'fiʃəl/, /ar-ti-fish-al/ *adj* 1 man-made and so not natural. 2 not genuine, unnatural. • *n* **artificiality**.

**artillery** /ɑ:tɪləri/, /ar-til-ree/ *n* 1 big guns. 2 the part of an army that cares for and fires such guns.

**artisan** /'ɑrtɪzæn/, /ɑr-ti-zan/ *n* a skilled manual worker.

**artist** /'ɑrtɪst/, /ɑr-tist/ *n* **1** a professional painter. **2** one skilled in some art. **3** an artiste.

**artiste** /ɑr'ti:st/, /ɑr-teest/ *n* a public entertainer, such as a professional singer or dancer.

**artistic** /ɑr'tɪstɪk/, /ɑr-tis-tic/ *adj* **1** having to do with art or artists. **2** having or showing love for what is beautiful.

**artistry** /'ɑrtɪstri/, /ɑr-tis-tree/ *n* artistic skill.

**artless** /'ɑrləs/, /ɑrt-less/ *adj* simple, sincere. • *adv artlessly*.

**asbestos** /æs'bɛstəs/, /as-bes-tos/ *n* a soft white mineral that cannot burn.

**ASBO, Asbo** /'azbo:/, /az-bo/ (*UK*) *abbr* = **anti-social behaviour order**: an order made against a person who persists in anti-social behaviour.

**ascend** /ə'send/, /a-send/ *vb* (*fml*) **1** to go upward. **2** to climb.

**ascent** /ə'sent/, /a-sent/ *n* (*fml*) **1** act of going up. **2** an upward slope.

**scribe** /ə'skrایb/, /a-scribe/ *vb* to explain as the result of something else.

**ash<sup>1</sup>** /æʃ/, /ash/ *n* a type of forest tree.

**ash<sup>2</sup>** /æʃ/, /ash/ *n* or **ashes** /'æʃəz/, /ash-iz/ *npl* the dust left after anything has been burned.

**ashamed** /ə'ʃeimd/, /a-shaymd/ *adj* feeling shame.

**ashore** /ə'ʃɔr/, /a-shore/ *adv* on or to land.

**ashtray** /'æʃtreɪ/, /ash-tray/ *n* a small dish for cigarette ash.

**aside** /ə'saɪd/, /a-side/ *adv* **1** on one side. **2** to one side, apart.

**ask** /æsk/, /ask/ *vb* **1** to request. **2** to inquire.

**askew** /ə'skju:/, /a-skyoo/ *adv* to one side, crookedly.

**asleep** /ə'slɪp/, /a-sleep/ *adj, adv* sleeping.

**asp** /æsp/, /asp/ *n* a small poisonous snake.

**asparagus** /ə'spærəgəs/, /a-spa-ra-gus/ *n* a plant, the tops of which can be eaten as a vegetable.

**aspect** /'æspɛkt/, /a-spect/ *n* **1** (*fml*) appearance. **2** the direction in which a building, etc, faces. **3** a particular part or feature of something.

**Asperger's syndrome** /'æs,bərgərs 'sɪndro:m/, /as-per-gerz sin-drome/ *n* a disorder in which people have difficulty with social relationships.

**aspen** /'æspən/, /a-spen/ *n* a type of poplar tree.

**asphalt** /'æs,fɔlt/, /ass-folt/ *n* a type of pitch used in road-making.

**asphyxiate** /æsfiksjeɪt/, /ass-fik-see-ate/ *vb* to choke, to suffocate. • *n asphyxiation*.

**aspiration** /,æspɪ'reɪʃən/, /ass-pi-ray-shon/ *n* eager desire, ambition.

**aspire** /ə'spaɪr/, /a-spire/ *vb* to try very hard to reach (something ambitious, difficult, etc).

**aspirin** /'æspi,rɪn, -prɪn/, /a-sprin/ *n* a drug that relieves pain.

**ass<sup>1</sup>** /æs/, /ass/ *n* 1 a long-eared domestic animal of the horse family; also known as a **donkey**. 2 a foolish person.

**ass<sup>2</sup>** /æs/, /ass/ *n (sl)* the bottom.

**assail** /ə'seɪl/, /a-sale/ *vb (fml)* to attack.

**assailant** /ə'seɪlənt/, /a-sale-ant/ *n* an attacker.

**assassin** /ə'sæsɪn/, /a-sass-in/ *n* someone who kills by surprise or secretly.

**assassinate** /ə'sæsɪneɪt/, /a-sass-in-ate/ *vb* to murder by surprise or treachery, often for political reasons. • *n assassination*.

**assault** /ə'sɔlt/, /a-solt/ *n* a sudden violent attack. • *vb* to attack.

**assay** /'æsei/, /a-say/ *n* a test of the quality of a metal, to find out whether it is pure or an alloy. • *vb* to test the quality, especially of metals.

**assemble** /æ'sembəl/, /a-sem-bl/ *vb* 1 to bring or put together. 2 to come together. • *n assemblage*.

**assembly** /æ'sembli/, /a-sem-blee/ *n* a gathering of people to discuss and take decisions.

**assent** /ə'sent/, /a-sent/ *vb* to agree. • *n* consent; permission.

**assert** /ə'sərt/, /a-sert/ *vb* to state firmly. • **assert yourself** to stand up for your rights.

**assertion** /ə'sərʃən/, /a-ser-shon/ *n* a firm statement.

**assertive** /ə'sərtɪv/, /a-ser-tive/ *adj* confident, tending to assert yourself.

**assess** /ə'ses/, /a-**sess**/ *vb* 1 to fix an amount payable. 2 to estimate the value, worth, quality, etc, of. • *n assessor*.

**assessment** /-mənt/, /a-**sess**-ment/ *n* the amount or value fixed.

**asset** /'æsəts/, /a-set/ *n* a help, an advantage.

**assets** /'æsəts/, /a-sets/ *npl* the entire property of a person or company.

**assign** /ə'sain/, /a-sine/ *vb* 1 to give as a share, duty, task, etc. 2 to appoint. 3 to fix, to name.

**assignment** /ə'sainmənt/, /a-sine-ment/ *n* 1 the share or amount (of work, etc) given to a person or group. 2 a piece of homework.

**assimilate** /ə'siməleɪt/, /a-sim-i-late/ *vb* to take in and absorb. • *n assimilation*.

**assist** /ə'sist/, /a-sist/ *vb* to help.

**assistance** /ə'sistəns/, /a-sis-tanse/ *n* help, aid.

**assistant** /ə'sistənt/, /a-sis-tant/ *n* a helper.

**associate** /ə'so:s̬i,eɪt/ *vt*; /ə'so:s̬et/, /a-so-she-ate/ *vb* 1 to keep company with, to join with. 2 to join or connect in the mind. • *n* a companion, a partner, a colleague.

**association** /ə'so:s̬i'eɪʃən/, /a-so-she-ay-shon/ *n* 1 act of associating. 2 a group of persons meeting for a common purpose. 3 the bringing together of connected ideas.

**assorted** /æ'sortɪd/, /a-sor-ted/ *adj* mixed. • **ill-assorted** badly matched.

**assortment** /æ'sortmənt/, /a-sort-ment/ *n* a mixed collection.

**assume** /ə'su:m, -'sju:m/, /a-soom -syoom/ *vb* 1 to take for granted. 2 to take over. 3 (*fml*) to put on, to pretend. 4 (*fml*) to take on, to begin to have.

**assumption** /ə'səmpʃən/, /a-sum-shon/ *n* 1 act of assuming. 2 something supposed, but not proved, to be true.

**assurance** /ə'ʃurəns/, /a-shoo-rans/ *n* 1 confidence. 2 a promise.

**assure** /ə'ʃur/, /a-shoor/ *vb* 1 to make certain. 2 to tell as a sure fact, to state positively.

**assuredly** /ə'ʃurədli/, /a-shoo-rid-lee/ *adv* certainly.

**aster** /'æstər/, /as-ter/ *n* a flower with the shape of a star.

**asterisk** /'æstərɪsk/, /a-ster-isk/ *n* a star-shaped mark (\*) used in printing.

**asthma** /'æzmə/, /az-ma/ *n* a disease marked by difficulty in breathing. • *adj* **asthmatic**.

**astonish** /ə'stonɪʃ/, /a-ston-ish/ *vb* to surprise greatly, to amaze. • *n* **astonishment**.

**astound** /ə'staʊnd/, /a-stound/ *vb* to shock with surprise, to surprise greatly.

**astral** /'æstrəl/, /a-stral/ *adj* belonging to the stars.

**astray** /ə'streɪ/, /a-stray/ *adv* out of the right way.

**astride** /ə'strایd/, /a-stride/ *adv* with the legs apart or on each side of a thing.

**astringent** /ə'strɪndʒənt/, /a-strin-jent/ *adj* 1 helping to close open wounds, cuts, or pores. 2 stern, severe. • *n* **astringency**.

**astrology** /ə'strɔlədʒi/, /a-strol-o-jee/ *n* the study of the stars in order to learn about future events. • *n* **astrologer**.

**astronaut** /'æstrənɔ:t/, /a-stre-nawt/ *n* a member of the crew of a spaceship.

**astronomical** /'æstrə'nɔmɪkəl/, /a-stre-no-mi-cal/ *adj* 1 connected with astronomy. 2 extraordinarily large.

**astronomy** /ə'strɔnəmi/, /a-straw-ne-mee/ *n* the scientific study of the stars. • *n* **astronomer**.

**astute** /ə'stju:t/, /a-styoot/ *adj* clever, shrewd. • *n* **astuteness**.

**asylum** /ə'saɪləm/, /a-sie-lem/ *n* 1 a place of refuge or safety. 2 (old) a home for the care of helpless or mentally ill people.

**ate** /əɪt/, *pt of eat*.

**atheism** /'eɪθi,ɪzəm/, /ay-thee-izm/ *n* the belief that there is no God.

**atheist** /'eɪθi,st/, /ay-thee-ist/ *n* someone who believes that there is no God. • *adj* **atheistic**.

**athlete** /'æθli:t/, /ath-leet/ *n* someone good at sports, especially outdoor sports.

**athletic** /æθ'lɛtɪk/, /ath-let-ic/ *adj* 1 having to do with sport or athletics. 2 physically strong and active.

**athletics** /æθ'letɪks/, /ath-let-ics/ *npl* **1** sporting activities. **2** competitive athletic events that involve running, jumping or throwing.

**atlas** /'ætləs/, /at-lass/ *n* a book of maps.

**ATM** (see **1**) /eɪti:ɛm/, /ay-tee-em/ *abbr* = **automated/automatic teller machine**: a cash machine that allows you to take money from your bank account using a card and a PIN.

**atmosphere** /'ætməs,fɪ:r/, /at-mes-fear/ *n* **1** the air surrounding planet Earth. **2** the gas surrounding any star. **3** the air in a particular place. **4** the feelings given rise to by an incident, place, story, etc; mood.

**atmospheric** /'ætməs'ferik/, /at-mes-fer-ic/ *adj* **1** connected with the air. **2** creating a certain atmosphere or mood.

**atoll** /'ætɒl/, /a-tawl/ *n* a ring-shaped coral island.

**atom** /'ætəm/, /a-tom/ *n* **1** the smallest possible particle of an element that can be shown to have the properties of that element. **2** anything very small.

**atomic** /ə'tɒmɪk/, /a-tom-ic/ *adj* connected with atoms.

**atomic energy** /ə'tɒmɪk 'enədʒi/, /a-tom-ic e-ner-jee/ *n* the power obtained by separating the electrical units in an atom.

**atone** /ə'to:n/, /a-tone/ *vb* to make up for, to pay for a wrong. • *n* **atonement**.

**atrocious** /ə'tro:ʃəs/, /a-tro-shess/ *adj* **1** very cruel or wicked. **2** very bad.

**atrocity** /ə'trɒsɪti/, /a-traw-se-tee/ *n* a very cruel act.

**attach** /ə'tætʃ/, /a-tach/ *vb* to join (by tying, sticking, etc).

**attaché** /ætæ'ʃeɪ/, /a-ta-shay/ *n* an official at an embassy.

**attaché case** /ætæ'ʃeɪ 'keɪs/, /a-ta-shay case/ *n* a small case for papers, etc.

**attached** /ə'tætʃt/, /a-tachd/ *adj* **1** joined onto. **2** fond of.

**attachment** /ə'tætʃmənt/, /a-tach-ment/ *n* **1** something joined on. **2** fondness.

**attack** /ə'tæk/, /a-tack/ *vb* **1** to use force against, to begin to fight against. **2** to speak or act strongly against. **3** to begin to deal with vigorously, to tackle. • *also n.* • *n* **attacker**.

- attain** /ə'teɪn/, /a-tane/ *vb* to reach.
- attainable** /ə'teɪnəb'l/, /a-tay-na-bl/ *adj* able to be reached.
- attainment** /ə'teɪnmənt/, /a-tane-ment/ *n* 1 act of attaining. 2 something, such as a skill or ability, learned successfully.
- attempt** /ə'tempt/, /a-tempt/ *vb* to try to do. • *n* an effort.
- attend** /ə'tend/, /a-tend/ *vb* 1 to be present at. 2 to take care of. 3 (*frm*) to fix the mind on. 4 to wait on.
- attendance** /ə'tendəns/, /a-ten-dense/ *n* 1 presence. 2 the persons present.
- attendant** /ə'tendənt/, /a-ten-dent/ *n* 1 someone who waits on another. 2 a servant.
- attendee** /ətēn'di:/, /a-ten-dee/ *n* someone who is present.
- attention** /ə'tenʃən/, /a-ten-shen/ *n* 1 care. 2 heed, notice. 3 concentration.
- attentive** /ə'tentiv/, /a-ten-tiv/ *adj* giving attention, paying heed.
- attest** /ə'test/, /a-test/ *vb* to bear witness to, to vouch for. • *n* **attestation**.
- attic** /'ætɪk/, /a-tic/ *n* a room just under the roof of a house.
- attire** /ə'tair/, /a-tire/ *vb* to dress. • *n* dress.
- attitude** /'ætɪ,tju:d/, /ætɪ,tju:d/, /a-ti-tood, -tyood/ *n* 1 position of the body. 2 way of thinking or behaving.
- attorney** /ə'tɔrni/, /a-ter-ney/ *n* (US) a lawyer. • **power of attorney** the legal right to act on another's behalf.
- attract** /ə'trækt/, /a-tract/ *vb* 1 to cause to come nearer. 2 to cause to like or desire. 3 to arouse.
- attraction** /ə'trækʃən/, /a-tract-shen/ *n* 1 act of attracting. 2 the power to attract. 3 something that attracts.
- attractive** /ə'trækтив/, /a-trac-tiv/ *adj* 1 having the power to attract, interesting, pleasing, etc. 2 good-looking, pretty, handsome.
- attributable** /ə'trɪbjutəbəl/, /a-tri-byoo-ta-bl/ *adj* able to be attributed.
- attribute** /ə'trɪbjut/, /a-tri-byoot/ *vb* 1 to think of as being caused by. 2 to regard as being made, written, etc, by. • *n* **attribute** /'ætrɪbjut/, /a-tri-byoot/ a quality, a characteristic.

**attune** /ə'tju:n, ə'tu:n/, /a-tyoon, -toon/ *vb* to make to agree, bring into harmony.

**ATV** /'eitivɪ:/, /ay-tee-vee/ *abbr = all-terrain vehicle*: a vehicle like a motorcycle but with three wheels or more that can be driven over rough ground.

**aubergine** /'o:bərʒi:n/, /oh-ber-dzjine/ *n* a vegetable with a shiny, dark purple skin, often egg-shaped or long and pear-shaped, used in cooking.

**auburn** /'əbərn/, /aw-bern/ *adj* reddish brown.

**auction** /'ɔkʃən/, /awk-shen/ *n* a public sale at which an object is sold to the person offering the highest price or bid.

**auctioneer** /'ɔkʃə'nir/, /awk-she-neer/ *n* the person who conducts the sale at an auction.

**audacious** /'ɔdɛʃəs/, /aw-day-shess/ *adj* 1 bold, daring. 2 bold, shameless. • *n* **audacity**.

**audible** /'ɔdibəl/, /aw-de-bl/ *adj* able to be heard. • *n* **audibility**.

**audience** /'ɔdiəns/, /aw-dee-ense/ *n* 1 the people who listen (e.g. to a speech, concert, etc.). 2 an interview granted by a ruler or person of high authority.

**audition** /'ɔdīʃən/, /aw-di-shen/ *n* a test given to an actor or musician to see how good he or she is.

**auditorium** /'ɔdītɔriəm/, /aw-di-to-ree-um/ *n* the part of a hall open to the audience.

**auditory** /'ɔdītɔri/, /aw-di-to-ree/ *adj* having to do with the sense of hearing.

**augment** /'ɔg'mənt/, /awg-ment/ *vb* to increase. • *n* **augmentation**.

**august** /'ɔ:gəst/, /aw-gust/ *adj (fm)* noble, worthy of reverence.

**August** /'ɔgəst/, /aw-gust/ *n* the eighth month of the year.

**auk** /ək/, /awk/ *n* a northern sea bird expert at swimming and diving.

**aunt** /ænt/, /ant/ *n* the sister of someone's mother or father.

**au pair** /o:'per/, /aw pair/ *n* a young person from abroad who helps with childcare and domestic work in exchange for board and a small salary.

**aural** /'ɔrəl/, /aw-ral/ *adj* having to do with the ear or hearing.

**aurora** /ə'rɔːrə/, /aw-ro-ra/ *n* 1 an atmospheric phenomenon creating waves of light moving across the sky. 2 (*lit*) the dawn.

**aurora australis** /-ɔːstrælɪs/, /aw-ro-ra/ or **the southern lights** the aurora sometimes seen in the sky around the South Pole.

**aurora borealis** /-bɔːri'ælɪs/, /aw-ro-ra/ or **the northern lights** the aurora sometimes seen in the sky around the North Pole.

**auspicious** /ɒ'spiʃəs/, /aw-spi-shess/ *adj* promising future good.

**austere** /ɒ'stɪ:r/, /aw-steer/ *adj* 1 simple and severe. 2 stern. 3 plain, without decoration. • *n* **austerity**.

**authentic** /ɒ'tentɪk/, /aw-then-tic/ *adj* true, genuine. • *n* **authenticity**.

**authenticate** /ɒ'tentɪkeɪt/, /aw-then-ti-cate/ *vb* to show the authenticity of, to prove genuine.

**author** /'ɔːθər/, /aw-ther/ *n* 1 a writer of books, etc. 2 (*frm*) a person who creates or begins something. • *n* **authorship**.

**authoritative** /ə'θɔːrɪ'teɪtɪv/, /a-tho-re-tay-tiv/ *adj* 1 having or showing power. 2 reliable, providing trustworthy information.

**authority** /ə'θɔːriti/, /a-tho-re-tee/ *n* 1 the power or right to rule or give orders. 2 a person or group of persons having this power or right.

**authorize** /'ɔːθəraɪz/, /aw-the-rize/ *vb*, also **authorise** to give to another the right or power to do something.

**autism** /'ɔːtɪzəm/, /aw-ti-zum/ *n* a condition in which someone has unusual difficulty in communicating or in relating to other people or the world around him or her. • *adj* **autistic**.

**auto-** /'ɔːto:/, /aw-toe/ *prefix* self.

**autobiography** /,ptə:bɔɪ'ɒgrəfi/, /aw-to-bie-aw-gre-fee/ *n* the story of a person's life written by himself or herself.

**autograph** /'ɔːtə,græf/, /aw-to-graf/ *n* a person's own handwriting or signature.

**automated/automatic teller machine** see **ATM**.

**automatic** /,ptə'mætɪk/, /aw-to-ma-tic/ *adj* 1 working by itself. 2 done without thought. • *adv* **automatically**.

**automation** /,ptə'meiʃən/, /aw-to-may-shun/ *n* the act of replacing human labour by machines.

**autopsy** /'ɔ:tɔpsi/, /aw-top-see/ (esp US) *n* an examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death. • *also postmortem*.

**autumn** /'ɔ:təm/, /aw-tum/ *n* the season between summer and winter. • *also fall (US)*.

**autumnal** /'ɔ:təmnəl/, /aw-tum-nal/ *adj* having to do with the autumn.

**auxiliary** /ɔ:g'ziljəri/, /og-zil-ye-ree/ *n* a person or thing that helps. • *also adj.*

**avail** /ə'veil/, /a-vail/ *vb* to make use of. • *n* use, help.

**available** /ə'veiləbəl/, /a-vail-e-bl/ *adj* at hand if wanted.

**avalanche** /'ævəlæntʃ/, /a-ve-lansh/ *n* 1 a great mass of snow, earth and ice sliding down a mountain. 2 a great amount.

**avarice** /'ævərɪs/, /a-va-riss/ *n* greed for gain and riches. • *adj* avaricious.

**avenge** /ə'vendʒ/, /a-vendʒe/ *vb* to take revenge for a wrong. • *n* avenger.

**avenue** /'ævənju:/, /a-ven-yoo/ *n* 1 a way of approach. 2 a broad street. 3 a double row of trees, with or without a road between them.

**average** /'ævrɪdʒ/, /a-ve-ridge/ *n* the figure found by dividing the total of a set of numbers by the number of numbers in the set. • *adj* 1 calculated by finding the average of various amounts, etc. 2 ordinary. • *vb* to find the average.

**averse** /ə'vers/, /a-verse/ *adj* not in favour of.

**aversion** /ə'verʒən/, /a-ver-shen/ *n* 1 dislike. 2 something disliked.

**avert** /ə'vert/, /a-vert/ *vb* to turn away.

**aviary** /'eivri,əri/, /ay-vee-a-ree/ *n* a place for keeping birds.

**aviation** /'eiv'i'eʃən/, /ay-vee-ay-shun/ *n* the science of flying aircraft.

**aviator** /'eiv'i,eɪtər/, /ay-vee-ay-tor/ *n* an airman.

**avid** /'ævid/, /a-vid/ *adj* eager, keen. • *n* avidity.

**avocado** /'ævə'kədo:/, /a-ve-ka-do/ *n* a pear-shaped fruit with a hard, dark green skin, soft, pale green flesh and a large stone, used in salads, etc.

**avoid** /ə'veid/, /a-voyd/ *vb* to keep away from. • *adj* avoidable. • *n* avoidance.

**await** /ə'weɪt/, /a-wate/ *vb (fml)* to wait for.

**awake** /ə'weɪk/, /a-wake/ *vb (pt awoke, pp awoken) 1 (fml)* to rouse from sleep. **2 (fml)** to stop sleeping. **3** to stir up, to rouse. • *adj 1* not sleeping. **2** aware of, conscious of.

**awaken** /ə'weɪkən/, /a-way-ken/ *vb 1* to awake. **2** to rouse.

**award** /ə'wɔːd/, /a-ward/ *vb* to give after judgment or examination. • *n* what is awarded, a prize.

**aware** /ə'wɛr/, /a-ware/ *adj 1* having knowledge of, interested, concerned. **2** conscious of.

**awe** /oʊ/, /aw/ *n* fear mixed with respect or wonder.

**awesome** /'ɒsəm/, /aw-sum/ *adj 1* causing awe. **2 (inf)** excellent, marvellous.

**awful** /'ɒfəl/, /aw-full/ *adj 1* very bad or unpleasant, terrible. **2 (inf)** very great. **3 (old or lit)** causing awe.

**awfully** /'ɒfəli, 'ɔfli/, /aw-ful-lee/ *adv (inf)* very.

**awkward** /'ɒkwərd/, /aw-kward/ *adj 1* clumsy, unskilled. **2** difficult to use or deal with. **3** inconvenient. • *adv awkwardly*.

**awoke** /ə'wo:k/, /a-woke/ *pt of awake. • pp awoken.*

**axe** /æks/, /aks/ *n, also ax (US)* a tool for hewing or chopping. • *n 1* to dismiss someone suddenly. **2** to end or cancel something suddenly.

**axiom** /'ækσiəm/, /ak-see-em/ *n* a statement accepted as true without need for proof.

**axis** /'ækσɪs/, /ak-sis/ *n (pl axes)* the straight line, real or imaginary, on which a body turns.

**axle** /'ækσəl/, /aks-l/ or **axle-tree** *n* the pole on which a wheel turns.

**Aztec** /'æztɛk/, /az-teck/ *n* an ancient Mexican Indian people who created a great civilization.

**azure** /'æʒjər, 'eɪʒər/, /azh-yer, ayzsh-er/ *adj* sky-blue. • *n 1* a bright blue colour. **2** the sky.

# B

**B, b** /'bi/, /bee/ **1** the second letter of the English alphabet. **2** the seventh note of the scale of C major.

**babble** /'bæbəl/, /ba-bl/ **vb** **1** to make indistinct sounds. **2** to chatter continuously and without making a lot of sense. **3** to make a sound as of running water. • **n** **1** indistinct sounds. **2** foolish chatter. **3** murmur, as of a stream.

**babe** /beɪb/, /babe/ **n** **1** a baby. **2** (s/) a pretty young woman.

**baboon** bæ'būn/, /ba-boon/ **n** a type of large African monkey.

**baby** /'beɪbɪ/, /bay-bee/ **n** the young of a person or animal.

**babysitter** /'beɪbi,sɪtər/ /bay-bee-sit-er/ **n** a person who is paid to look after someone else's children for a short time. • **vb** **babysit**.

**bachelor** /'bætsjələr/, /bach-i-lor/ **n** **1** an unmarried man. **2** someone who has passed certain university examinations.

**back** /bæk/, /back/ **n** the part of the body, from the bottom of the neck to the base of the spine. **2** the rear or hind part of something. • **also adj, adv.** • **vb** **1** to go or move backward. **2** to support.

**backbone** /'bæk,bo:n/, /back-bone/ **n** **1** spine. **2** firmness, determination. **3** chief support.

**backer** /'bækər/, /back-er/ **n** a supporter or helper.

**backfire** /'bæk,fair/, /bak-fire/ **n** an explosive noise made by a motor vehicle. • **vb** **1** to explode. **2** (of a plan) to go wrong in such a way that it harms its maker.

**backgammon** /'bæk,gæmən/, /back-ga-mon/ **n** a board game played with counters and dice.

**background** /'bæk,graund/, /back-ground/ **n** **1** the area behind the principal persons in a picture, scene, or conversation. **2** a series of events leading up to something. **3** a person's origins, upbringing, education, etc.

**backhand** /'bæk,hænd/, /back-hand/ **n** **1** writing in which the letters slope backward. **2** in tennis, a stroke played with the back of the

hand turned outward.

**backhanded** /'bæk,hændəd, bæk'hændəd/, /back-hand-ded/ *adj* 1 made with the back of the hand. 2 indirect and sometimes with a double meaning.

**backpack** /'bæk,pæk/, /back-pack/ *n* a large bag with straps, carried on the back by hikers, etc to hold their luggage. • *vb* to travel from place to place with your belongings in a backpack. • *n* **backpacker**.

**backstroke** /'bæk,stro:k/, /back-stroke/ *n* in swimming, a stroke where the swimmer floats on his or her back.

**backward** /'bæk,wərd/, /back-ward/ *adj* behind others in progress or development. • *variant of backwards.* • *n* **backwardness**.

**backwards** /'bæk,,wərdz/, /back-wards/ or **backward** *adv* 1 towards the back. 2 in reverse of the usual orientation or order. 3 towards the original starting point.

**backwater** /'bæk,wɔ:tər/, /back-wat-er/ *n* 1 a piece of water supplied by a river, but away from its current. 2 a remote place, unaffected by modern progress.

**backwoods** /'bæk,wudz/, /back-woods/ *npl* land not cleared of forest.

**bacon** /'beikən/, /bay-con/ *n* meat taken from the back and sides of a pig, often salted or smoked.

**bacteria** /bæk'ti:riə/, /back-tee-ree-a/ *npl* (*sing* **bacterium** /bac-tee-ree-um/) very tiny living things that are often the cause of disease.

**bacteriology** /bæk,tirɪ'ɒlədʒi/, /bac-tee-ree-ol-o-jee/ *n* the study of bacteria. • *n* **bacteriologist**.

**bad** /bæd/, /bad/ *adj* 1 not good. 2 naughty, mischievous. 3 serious. 4 rotten or spoiled. 5 sorry, apologetic. • *adj* **worse, worst**.

**badge** /bædʒ/, /badge/ *n* something worn as a sign of membership, office, rank, etc.

**badger** /bædʒər/, /ba- jer/ *n* a night animal that lives in a burrow. • *vb* to worry, to pester.

**badminton** /'bædmɪntən/, /bad-min-ton/ *n* a game played with shuttlecocks batted with rackets across a net.

**bad-tempered** /bæd tɛmpərd/, /bad-tem-perd/ *adj* frequently cross.

**baffle** /'bæfəl/, /ba-fl/ *vb* **1** to puzzle, to bewilder. **2** to make someone's efforts useless. • *n bafflement*.

**bag** /baæg/, /bag/ *n* a container for carrying things. • *vb (bagged, bagging)* **1** to put into a bag. **2** (*inf*) to take possession of. **3** to catch or kill. **4** to hang loosely, to bulge.

**bagel** /'beɪgəl/, /bay-gl/ *n* a ring-shaped bread roll that has a shiny surface.

**baggage** /'bægɪdʒ/, /ba-gidge/ *n* luggage.

**baggy** /'bægi/, /ba-gee/ *adj* **1** loose. **2** out of shape.

**bagpipes** /'baæg,paips/, /bag-pipes/ *npl* a musical wind instrument in which a bag serves as bellows.

**baguette** /ba'get/, /ba-get/ *n* a long crusty loaf of bread.

**bail<sup>1</sup>** /beɪl/, /bale/ *n* **1** someone ready to pay a sum of money to obtain freedom for a person charged with a crime until the day of his or her trial. **2** money paid to release someone from jail, which is lost if the person does not appear for trial. • *vb bail out* to help someone out, usually by giving them money.

**bail<sup>2</sup>** /beɪl/, /bale/ *n* a small bar placed on the top of the stumps in cricket.

**bail<sup>3</sup>** /beɪl/, /bale/ *vb* to throw water out of a boat, a little at a time.

**bailiff** /'beɪlɪf/, /bay-lif/ *n* an official who takes charge of prisoners when they appear in court.

**bait** /beɪt/, /bate/ *n* **1** food to trap or attract animals or fish. **2** a temptation. • *vb* **1** to put bait on a hook or in a trap. **2** to torment.

**bake** /beɪk/, /bake/ *vb* **1** to dry, to harden by fire. **2** to cook in an oven.

**baker** /'beɪkər/, /bay-ker/ *n* one who makes or sells bread.

**bakery** /'beɪkəri/, /bay-ker-ee/ *n* a place where bread is made.

**baking powder** /'beɪkɪŋ ,paʊədər/, /bay-king pow-der/ *n* a powder, usually containing baking soda and an acid, used instead of yeast in baking to make bakery products rise.

**baking soda** /'beɪkɪŋ ,səʊdæ/, /bay-king so-da/ *n* another name for the alkaline chemical sodium bicarbonate, or sodium hydrogen

carbonate, used in cookery as a raising agent. • *also known as bicarbonate of soda.*

**balalaika** /bælə'laɪkə/, /ba-la-**lie**-ka/ *n* a type of guitar used in Russia.

**balance** /'bæləns/, /ba-lan**se**/ *n* 1 a pair of weighing scales. 2 equality of weight, power, etc. 3 a state of physical steadiness. 4 a state of mental or emotional steadiness. 5 the difference between the amount of money possessed and the amount owed. • *vb* 1 to make equal. 2 to keep steady or upright. 3 to add up two sides of an account to show the difference between them. • **in the balance** doubtful; about to be decided.

**balcony** /'bækəni/, /bal-co-nee/ *n* 1 a railed platform outside a window or along the wall of a building. 2 an upper floor in a hall or theatre.

**bald** /bɔld/, /bawld/ *adj* 1 without hair. 2 bare, without the usual or required covering. 3 plain. • *n baldness*.

**bald eagle** /'bɔld iɡəl/, /bawld ee-gl/ *n* an eagle with a brown body and white feathers on its head.

**balderdash** /'bɔldə,dæʃ/, /bawld-er-dash/ *n* senseless talk, nonsense.

**bale** /beɪl/, /bale/ *n* a large bundle or package.

**balk** /bɒlk/, /bawlk/, also **baulk** *n* a large beam of timber. • *vb* to stop short of, to be reluctant or unwilling to be involved in.

**ball**<sup>1</sup> /bɒl/, /bawl/ *n* 1 anything round in shape. 2 a round or roundish object used in games. 3 a rounded part of something.

**ball**<sup>2</sup> /bɒl/, /bawl/ *n* a party held for the purpose of dancing. • *n ballroom*.

**ballad** /bæləd/, /ba-lad/ *n* 1 a simple poem relating a popular incident. 2 a short, romantic song.

**ballast** /'bæləst/, /ba-last/ *n* heavy material carried in a ship or other vehicle to keep it steady.

**ball-bearings** /bɒl 'beɪriŋz/, /bawl-bay-rings/ *npl* small metal balls that help a machine to work more smoothly.

**ballerina** /bælə'ri:nə/, /ba-le-ree-na/ *n* a female ballet dancer.

**ballet** /'bæleɪ, bæ'leɪ/, /ba-lay, ba-lay/ *n* a performance in which dancing, actions and music are combined to tell a story.

**ball game** /'bɒl geɪm/, /bawl game/ *n* 1 any game played with a ball.

2 a baseball game. 3 (*inf*) any situation.

**ball park** /'bɒl pærk/, /bawl park/ *n* 1 a field where baseball is played.

2 **ball park figure** a number that is close to, but not exactly the same as, the correct amount. • **in the right ball park** a figure that is close to the right amount.

**balloon** /bə'lju:n/, /ba-loon/ *n* 1 a small brightly coloured rubber bag that can be blown up and used as a toy or as a decoration at parties, etc. 2 a large bag of light material that floats in the air when filled with air or light gas, with a large basket hanging below for carrying passengers. • *n* **balloonist**.

**ballot** /'bælət/, /ba-lot/ *n* a way of voting secretly by putting marked cards into a box. • *also vb.* • *n* **ballot box**.

**ballpoint** /'bɒl pɔɪnt/, /bawl-point/ *n* a pen that writes by means of a small rotating ball fed by a tube of ink.

**balm** /'bɒm/, /bahm/ *n* 1 a sweet-smelling oil. 2 a pain-relieving ointment. 3 something that heals or soothes.

**balmy** /'bɒmi/, /bahm-ee/ *adj* gentle, soft.

**balsa** /'bɒlsə/, /bawl-sa/ *n* a tree with light, corky wood.

**balsam** /'bɒlsəm/, /bawl-sam/ *n* 1 a flowering plant. 2 a sweet-smelling, healing oil.

**bamboo** /bæm'bʊ:/, /bam-boo/ *n* a giant tropical reed from which canes, etc, are made.

**ban** /bæn/, /ban/ *n* an order forbidding something. • *vb* (**banned**, **banning**) *to forbid*.

**banal** /bə'næl/, /ban-al/ *adj* unoriginal, commonplace; uninteresting. • *n* **banality**.

**banana** /bə'nænə/, /ba-na-na/ *n* a tropical fruit that is yellow in colour, long and curved.

**banana split** /bə'nænə split/, /ba-na-na split/ *n* a dessert that includes a banana, halved lengthwise, with ice cream, whipped cream, nuts and syrup.

**band<sup>1</sup>** /bænd/, /band/ *n* 1 anything used to bind or tie together. 2 a strip of cloth round anything.

**band**<sup>2</sup> /bænd/, /bænd/ *n* a group of persons united for a purpose, especially to play music together. • *vb* to join.

**bandage** /'bændɪdʒ/, /ban-dage/ *n* a strip of cloth used in dressing a wound or injury. • *also vb*.

**bandanna, bandana** /bæn'dænə/, /ban-da-na/ *n* a brightly coloured handkerchief often worn over the head or around the neck.

**bandit** /'bændɪt/, /ban-dit/ *n* an outlaw, a robber.

**bandy**<sup>1</sup> /'bændi/, /ban-dee/ *vb* 1 to **bandy words** to quarrel. 2 to **bandy about/around** to mention something.

**bandy**<sup>2</sup> /'bændi/, /ban-dee/, **bandy-legged** /ban-dee leg-(e)d/ *adj* having legs curving outward.

**bane** /beɪn/, /bane/ *n* a cause of ruin or annoyance.

**baneful** /'beɪn,fəl/, /bane-ful/ *adj* causing harm, hurtful.

**bang** /bæŋ/, /bang/ *n* 1 a sudden loud noise. 2 a blow or knock. • *vb* 1 to close with a bang. 2 to hit or strike violently, often making a loud noise. 3 to make a sudden loud noise. • *npl (US)* a fringe of hair over the forehead. • see also **big bang**.

**bangle** /'bæŋgəl/, /bang-gl/ *n* a ring worn around the wrist or ankle.

**banish** /'bæniʃ/, /ban-ish/ *vb* 1 to order to leave the country. 2 to drive away. • *n banishment*.

**banister** /'bænistər/, /ban-iss-ter/ *n* a post or row of posts supporting a rail at the side of a staircase.

**banjo** /'bændʒo:/, /ban-jo/ *n* a stringed musical instrument played with the fingers.

**bank** /bæŋk/, /bangk/ *n* 1 a ridge or mound of earth, etc. 2 the ground at the side of a river, lake, etc. 3 a place where money is put for safekeeping. • *vb* 1 to heap up. 2 to cover a fire with small coal to make it burn slowly. 3 to put money in a bank. 4 to make an aeroplane slope one wing tip down when turning.

**banker** /bæŋkər/, /bang-ker/ *n* 1 one who runs or manages a bank. 2 one who holds the money staked in gambling games.

**banking** /bæŋkkɪŋ/, /bang-king/ *n* the business of a banker.

**bankrupt** /'bæŋkrəpt/, /bang-krupt/ *n* one who is unable to pay his or her debts. • *also adj.* • *n bankruptcy*.

**banner** /'bænər/, /ban-ner/ *n* a flag.

**banns** /bænz/, /bannz/ *n* an announcement in a church or other public place of an intended marriage.

**banquet** /'bæŋkwət/, /bang-kwet/ *n* a feast.

**banter** /'bæntər/, /ban-ter/ *vb* to poke fun at, to tease. • *also n.*

**baptism** /'bæptɪzəm/, /bap-tiz-um/ *n* 1 the ceremony by which one is received into the Christian church. 2 a first experience of something, an initiation. • *adj baptismal.*

**baptize** /'bæptaɪz, bæp'taɪz/, /bap-tize, bap-tize/ *vb*, *also baptise* 1 to dip in or sprinkle with water during a baptism. 2 to christen or give a name to.

**bar** /bar/, /bar/ *n* 1 a solid piece of wood, metal, etc, that is longer than it is wide. 2 a length of wood or metal across a door or window to keep it shut or prevent entrance through it. 3 an obstacle. 4 a bank of sand, etc, at the mouth of a river which hinders entrance. 5 a counter at which food or drink may be bought and consumed. 6 a counter at which alcoholic drinks are served. 7 a place where alcoholic drinks are sold, a public house. 8 the rail behind which a prisoner stands in a courtroom. 9 a division in music. • *vb (barred, barring)* 1 *to fasten with a bar or belt.* 2 *to hinder or prevent.* 3 *to forbid, to ban.* • *prep except.*

**barb** /barb/, /barb/ *n* 1 one of many sharp points facing in more than one direction. 2 a backward-curving spike on a fish-hook or arrow.

**barbarian** /bar'bəriən/, /bar-bay-ree-an/ *n* 1 an uncivilized person. 2 one who does not respect the arts or learning.

**barbaric** /bar'bærɪk/, /bar-ba-ric/ *adj* connected with barbarism.

**barbarism** /'barbərɪzəm/, /bar-bar-izm/ *n* the state of being uncivilized.

**barbary** /bar'bærɪti/, /bar-ba-ri-tee/ *n* savage cruelty.

**barbarous** /'barbərəs/, /bar-ba-russ/ *adj* 1 savage, uncivilized. 2 cruel.

**barbecue** /'barbə,kju:/, /bar-bi-kyoo/ *n* 1 a framework on which meat, etc, may be cooked over a charcoal fire, usually outside. 2 an outdoor party where food is cooked on a barbecue. • *vb to cook on a barbecue.*

**barbed** /'barbd/, /**barbd**/ *adj* 1 having a barb or barbs. 2 intended to hurt someone's feelings.

**barber** /'babər/, /**bar-ber**/ *n* a man's hairdresser.

**bar code** /'barko:d/, /**bar** code/ *n* a pattern of vertical lines of differing widths, that represent numbers, printed on an item for sale, and containing information, such as the price.

**bard** /'bard/, /**bard**/ *n* 1 a Celtic minstrel. 2 a poet.

**bare** /ber/, /**bare**/ *adj* 1 uncovered. 2 empty. 3 naked. • *vb* to uncover, to expose.

**barefaced** /'berfeist/, /**bare-fayst**/ *adj* shameless.

**barely** /'berli/, /**bare-lee**/ *adv* 1 only just. 2 scarcely.

**bargain** /'bargən/, /**bar-gin**/ *n* 1 an agreement about buying and selling. 2 an agreement. 3 something bought cheaply. • *vb* 1 to argue about the price before paying. 2 to make an agreement. • **to bargain for** to expect. • **into the bargain** in addition.

**barge** /bardʒ/, /**barge**/ *n* a flat-bottomed boat for carrying cargoes on inland waters. • *vb* to move clumsily and often rudely.

**baritone** /'bæri,tɔ:n/, /**ba-ri-tone**/ *n* a male singing voice that can go neither very high nor very low.

**bark**<sup>1</sup> /bark/, /**bark**/ *n* the outer covering of a tree. • *vb* to scrape the skin off.

**bark**<sup>2</sup> /bark/, /**bark**/ *n* the noise made by a dog, wolf, etc. • *also vb*.

**barley** /'barli/, /**bar-lee**/ *n* a grain used for making malt.

**barmaid, barman** see **barperson**.

**bar mitzvah** /bar'mitzvə/, /**bar mits-va**/ *n* a ceremony held on the 13th birthday of a Jewish boy whereby he becomes an adult.

**barn** /'barn/, /**barn**/ *n* a farm building for the storage of grain, hay, etc.

**barnacle** /'barnəkəl/, /**bar-ni-cl**/ *n* a type of shellfish.

**barn dance** /'barndans/, /**barn** dance/ *n* a country dance.

**barometer** /bə'rəmɪtər/, /**ba-rom-i-ter**/ *n* 1 an instrument for measuring air pressure, thus showing what the weather may be. 2 something that indicates change.

**baron** /'bærən/, /bar-on/ *n* a nobleman of the lowest rank. • *f* **baroness**.

**baronet** /'bærənət/, /bar-on-et/ *n* a titled rank just below that of a nobleman. • *n* **baronetcy**.

**barperson** /'ba:r,persən/, /bar-per-son/ *n* (also **barman**, **barmaid**) someone who serves drinks at a public bar.

**barracks** /'bærəks/, /bar-aks/ *n pl* a building for housing soldiers.

**barracuda** /bærə'ku:də/, /ba-ra-coo-da/ *n* a fish with a long body and many sharp teeth.

**barrage** /bə'ra:ʒ/, /bar-azh/ *n* 1 a bar across a river to make the water deeper. 2 a concentration of heavy gunfire on a certain area. 3 a large number (of questions, etc.) made rapidly one after the other.

**barrel** /'bærəl/, /'bərəl/, /bar-el/ *n* 1 a round wooden cask or container with flat ends and curved sides. 2 the tube of a gun.

**barren** /'bærən/, /bar-en/ *adj* 1 producing no fruit or seed. 2 (*old*) unable to produce young, infertile. 3 unable to produce crops. 4 useless, not productive. • *n* **barrenness**.

**barricade** /bærɪ'keɪd/, /ba-ri-cade/ *n* a barrier, often temporary and quickly constructed, to prevent people from passing or entering. • *also vb*.

**barrier** /'bærɪər/, /bar-ee-er/ *n* 1 a fence put up to control or restrain. 2 an obstacle or obstruction. 3 something that separates or keeps people apart.

**barrister** /'bærɪstər/, /ba-ris-ter/ *n* a lawyer with the right to plead a case in court.

**barrow** /'bærəʊ/, /bar-oe/ *n* 1 a small handcart. 2 (*old*) a mound over a grave.

**barter** /'bɑ:tər/, /bar-ter/ *n* trade by exchange of goods instead of money payments. • *vb* to trade by barter, to exchange.

**basalt** /'bæsɔlt/, /bi-solt, bay-solt/ *n* a dark volcanic rock.

**base<sup>1</sup>** /beɪs/, /base/ *n* 1 that on which a thing stands or is built up. 2 the place in which a fleet or army keeps its main stores and offices. 3 a fixed point in certain games. • *vb* 1 to use as a foundation or grounds. 2 to establish, to place.

**base**<sup>2</sup> /beɪs/, /bæs/ *adj* low, worthless, vile. • *adv basely*.

**baseball** /'beɪsbɔ:l/, /bæs-bawl/ *n* 1 a game played with bat and ball and two teams of nine players. 2 the ball used in this game.

**baseless** /'beɪsləs/, /bæs-less/ *adj* without foundation, groundless.

**basement** /'beɪsmənt, /bæs-mənt/ *n* the ground floor, below ground level.

**bash** /bæʃ/, /bæʃ/ *vb* to beat, to hit with great force.

**bashful** /bæʃfʊl/, /bæʃ-fʊl/ *adj* modest, shy.

**basic** /'beɪsɪk/, /bæs-ɪc/ *adj* 1 providing a foundation or beginning. 2 without more than is necessary, simple, plain.

**basin** /'beɪsən/, /bæs-in/ *n* 1 a deep broad dish. 2 a hollow place containing water. 3 a dock. 4 the land drained by a river.

**basis** /'beɪsɪs/, /bæs-ɪss/ *n* (*pl bases*) that on which a thing is built up, the foundation or beginning.

**bask** /bæsk/, /bæsk/ *vb* 1 to lie in the sun. 2 (*fml*) to enjoy.

**basket** /'bæskət/, /bæs-ket/ *n* a container made of thin sticks or coarse grass plaited together.

**bas mitzvah** see **bat mitzvah**.

**bass**<sup>1</sup> /beɪs/, /bæs/ *n* 1 the lowest part in music. 2 the lowest male voice.

**bass**<sup>2</sup> /bæs/, /bass/ *n* a type of fish.

**bassoon** /bə'su:n/, /ba-soon/ *n* a musical wind instrument, with low notes only.

**baste** /beɪst/, /baste/ *vb* 1 to drip or pour fat on meat while roasting. 2 to sew with long, loose stitches.

**bastion** /'bæstiən/, /bæs-chen/ *n* 1 a tower jutting out from the wall of a fort to allow the defenders to aim arrows, bullets, etc, at the flanks of the attackers. 2 a person or thing that provides strong support or defence.

**bat**<sup>1</sup> /bæt/, /bat/ *n* a piece of wood prepared for striking a ball in certain games. • *vb* to use the bat for striking the ball

**bat**<sup>2</sup> /bæt/, /bat/ *n* a flying creature with a body like a mouse and large wings.

**batch** /bætʃ/, /batch/ *n* **1** a quantity of bread, etc, baked at one time.

**2** a set or group.

**bath** /bæθ/, /bath/ *n* **1** washing of the body. **2** a large vessel in which the body is washed, bathtub. **3** a large tank in which one can swim. • *vb* to wash the body in a bath.

**bathe** /beɪð/, /bathe/ *vb* **1** to go for a swim. **2** to wash the body in a bath. **3** to apply water to in order to keep clean. • *n* act of swimming or playing in water.

**bathtub** see **bath 2**.

**bat mitzvah** /bæt mɪtzvə/, /bat mits-val/ *n*, a ceremony for a Jewish girl similar to a **bar mitzvah**.

**baton** /bə'tɒn/, /ba-ton/ *n* **1** a short stick used by the director of a band or choir. **2** a short club carried by policemen as a weapon. **3** a stick passed by one member of a team of runners to the next runner in a relay race.

**battalion** /bə'tæliən/, /ba-tal-yen/ *n* a body of infantry, about 1000 strong.

**batten**<sup>1</sup> /'bætən/, /ba-ten/ *n* **1** a long board or strip of wood. **2** a strip of wood used to fasten down the hatches of ships. • *vb* to close firmly with battens.

**batten**<sup>2</sup> /'bætən/, /ba-ten/ *vb*. • **to batten on** to live well or thrive by taking advantage of someone else.

**batter** /'bætər/, /ba-ter/ *vb* to beat with violence. • *n* a mixture of flour and liquid combined for cooking.

**battering ram** /'bætəriŋ,ræm/, /ba-te-ring ram/ *n* a heavy piece of wood with an iron head formerly used for battering down castle walls or doors.

**battery** /'bætəri/, /ba-te-ree/ *n* **1** a group of guns and the people who serve them. **2** a number of connected cells for providing or storing electric current. **3** a violent attack.

**battle** /'bætəl/, /ba-tl/ *n* **1** a fight between armies, fleets, etc. **2** a struggle. • *vb* to fight or struggle.

**battlement** /'bætəlmənt/, /ba-tl-ment/ *n* the top wall of a castle, with openings through which weapons can be aimed.

**bauble** /'bɒbəl/, /baw-bl/ *n* a small, worthless ornament or piece of jewellery.

**baulk** see **balk**.

**bawl** /bɒl/, /bawl/ *vb* to shout or cry loudly. • *also n.*

**bay<sup>1</sup>** /beɪ/, /bay/ *adj* reddish-brown. • *n* a bay horse.

**bay<sup>2</sup>** /beɪ/, /bay/ *n* 1 an inlet of the sea. 2 a recess in a wall.

**bay<sup>3</sup>** /beɪ/, /bay/ *n* the laurel tree.

**bay<sup>4</sup>** /beɪ/, /bay/ *n* the bark of a dog, the low cry of a hunting dog. •

**to stand at bay** to stop running away and turn to defend oneself. •

**to keep at bay** to keep at a safe distance. • *vb* to give the bark or cry of a dog.

**bayonet** /beɪə'nɛt/, /bay-o-net/ *n* a weapon, like a dagger, for fixing on to a rifle. • *vb* to stab with a bayonet.

**bay window** /beɪ 'wɪndəʊ/, /bay win-doe/ *n* a window built into a section of the wall that juts out.

**bazaar** /bə'zɑːr/, /be-zar/ *n* 1 in the East, a marketplace or group of shops. 2 a sale of articles held to raise money for a special purpose.

**BC** /bi:sɪ:/, /bee **see**/ *abbr* = **before Christ**: referring to a date occurring before the birth of Jesus Christ.

**be** /bi:/, /bee/ *vb* (*pr p being, pt p been*) 1 *to live*. 2 *to exist*. 3 *to have a specified state or quality*.

**beach** /bi:tʃ/, /beech/ *n* the shore of a sea or lake. • *vb* to run or pull.

**beachcomber** /'bi:tʃ,kə:mər/, /beech-comb-er/ *n* 1 in the Pacific, one who lives by what he or she finds on the beach (e.g. pearls, wreckage). 2 a vagrant who lives around harbours or beaches.

**beacon** /'bi:kən/, /bee-con/ *n* 1 a signal fire. 2 a high hill on which a beacon could be lighted. 3 a signal of danger or hope.

**bead** /bi:d/, /beed/ *n* 1 a small object, usually round, of glass or other material, with a hole through it for a string. 2 a drop or bubble. 3 *pl* a rosary.

**beady** /'bi:di/, /bee-dee/ *adj* small and bright.

**beagle** /'bi:gəl/, /bee-gl/ *n* a small hunting dog.

**beak** /bi:k/, /beek/ *n* the bill of a bird.

**beaker** /'bi:kər/, /bee-ker/ *n* 1 a glass vessel used in scientific experiments. 2 a cup usually with a lip from which to pour or drink liquid.

**beam** /bi:m/, /beem/ *n* 1 a thick piece of wood. 2 a main timber in a building. 3 the greatest breadth of a ship. 4 a ray of light. 5 radio waves sent out in one particular direction, as a ray. • *vb* to smile brightly.

**bean** /bi:n/, /been/ *n* a plant whose seed or seed pod is eaten as a vegetable.

**bear<sup>1</sup>** /ber/, /bare/ *vb (pt bore, pp borne)* 1 (*fml*) to carry. 2 to put up with. 3 to support. 4 to have or show. 5 to move. 6 (*pp born*) to bring into existence, give birth to. 7 (*pp borne*) to produce.

**bear<sup>2</sup>** /ber/, /bare/ *n* a wild animal with thick fur and claws.

**bearable** /'berə,bəl/, /bare-a-bl/ *adj* able to be put up with.

**beard** /'bi:rd/, /beerd/ *n* the hair on the chin and lower jaw. • *vb* to defy openly.

**bearer** /berər/, /bare-rer/ *n* a carrier.

**bearing** /'berɪŋ/, /bare-ring/ *n* 1 the way a person holds himself or herself or behaves. 2 (*usually pl*) direction. 3 connection, influence.

**beast** /bi:st/, /beest/ *n* 1 a four-footed animal. 2 a person who behaves in an animal-like way, a hateful person. • *adj* **beastly**. • *n* **beastliness**.

**beat** /bi:t/, /beet/ *vb (pt beat, pp beaten)* 1 to strike several times. 2 to defeat or win against. 3 to throb. • *n* 1 a repeated stroke. 2 a policeman's round. 3 a regular rhythm (e.g. the pulse, a drum).

**beau** /bo:/, /bo/ *n (pl beaux) (old or fml)* a male sweetheart.

**beautify** /'bju:ti,fai/, /byoo-ti-fie/ *vb* to make beautiful.

**beauty** /'bju:ti/, /byoo-tee/ *n* 1 that which is pleasing to the senses. 2 a beautiful woman. 3 (*inf*) a very fine specimen. 4 (*inf*) advantage. • *adj* **beautiful**.

**beaver** /'bi:vər/, /bee-ver/ *n* an animal with a wide, flat tail that can live both on land and in water.

**because** /bi'kɒz/, /be-coz/ *conj* a word meaning 'for the reason that'.

**beckon** /'bækən/, /be-kon/ *vb* to make a sign inviting a person to approach.

**become** /bi'kəm/, /be-come/ *vb* (*pt became, pp become*) **1** to come to be. **2** to suit.

**becoming** /bi'kəmɪŋ/, /be-come-ing/ *adj* **1** (*fml*) fitting, suitable, appropriate. **2** suiting the wearer.

**bed** /bed/, /bed/ *n* **1** a thing to sleep or rest on. **2** the channel of a river. **3** a piece of ground prepared for growing flowers, plants, etc.

**bedclothes** /'bed,klo:ðz/, /bed-clo(e)th(z)/ *npl* the coverings on a bed.

**bedding** /'bedɪŋ/, /bed-ing/ *n* bedclothes.

**bedraggled** /bi'drægləd/, /bi-drag-geld/ *adj* wet and dirty, muddy.

**bedridden** /'bædrɪdən/, /bed-rid-n/ *adj* having to stay permanently in bed.

**bedrock** /'bedrɒk/, /bed-rock/ *n* **1** the solid rock underlying the broken rock formations near the earth's surface. **2** basic facts or principles.

**bedroom** /'bedru:m/, /bed-room/ *n* a room in which to sleep.

**bedspread** /'bedspred/, /bed-spred/ *n* a quilt used as a bed covering.

**bedstead** /'bedstɛd/, /bed-sted/ *n* a frame for supporting a bed.

**bee** /bi:/, /bee/ *n* a flying, honey-making insect.

**beech** /bi:tʃ/, /beech/ *n* a type of tree. • *n* **beechnut**.

**beef** /bi:f/, /beef/ *n* the flesh of an ox or cow.

**beehive** /'bi:haɪv/, /bee-hive/ *n* a place, often dome-shaped, where bees are kept.

**beeline** /'bi:laɪn/, /bee-line/ *n* the shortest way. • **make a beeline for** to go directly and quickly towards.

**been** /bi:n/, /been/ *vb, pp of be*.

**beer** /bi:r/, /beer/ *n* an alcoholic drink made from barley and hops.

**beeswax** /'bi:zwæks/, /beez-waks/ *n* the wax made by bees for their honeycombs. • *vb* to polish with beeswax.

**beet** /bi:t/, /beet/ *n* a vegetable with an edible root, often cultivated to make sugar, varieties *include* sugar beet, spinach beet and beetroot. • *also red beet* (US) beetroot.

**beetle**<sup>1</sup> /'bi:təl/, /bee-tl/ *n* a common insect. • *vb (inf)* to hurry, to scurry.

**beetle**<sup>2</sup> /'bi:təl/, /bee-tl/ *n* a heavy wooden tool, like a mallet, used to beat such things as paving stones into place.

**beetle**<sup>3</sup> /'bi:təl/, /bee-tl/ *vb* to jut, to hang over.

**beetroot** /'bi:tru:t/, /beet-root/ *n* the root of the beet.

**befall** /bi'fɔ:l/, /bi-fol/ *vb (pt befell, pp befallen) (fml)* to happen.

**befit** /bi'fit/, /bi-fit/ *vb (befitted, befitting) to suit*, to be appropriate for. • *adj befitting* suitable. • *adv befittingly*.

**before** /bi'fɔ:r/, /bi-fore/ *conj* 1 earlier, preceding. 2 rather than. 3 in the presence of.

**beforehand** /bi'fɔ:rhænd/, /bi-fore-hand/ *adv* earlier.

**befriend** /bi'frend/, /bi-frend/ *vb* to act as a friend to, to be kind to.

**beg** /bɛg/, /beg/ *vb (begged, begging) 1 to ask for money or food. 2 to ask earnestly. • to beg the question* to take a fact for granted without proving its truth.

**beggar** /'bɛgər/, /beg-er/ *n* one who begs.

**begin** /bɪ'gɪn/, bi-gin/ *vb (pt began, pp begun, prp beginning) 1 to start. 2 to be the first to do or take the first step in doing.*

**beginner** /bɪ'gɪnər/, /bi-gi-ner/ *n* one starting to learn.

**begonia** /bə'go:njə, bə'go:niə/, /bi-goan-ya, bi-goan-ee-a/ *n* a plant with brightly coloured flowers.

**behalf** /bɪ'hæf/, /bi-half/ *n* 1 *interest*. 2 *benefit*. • *on behalf of* in the name of.

**behave** /bɪ'heɪv/, /bi-hayv/ *vb 1 to conduct oneself. 2 to conduct oneself well. 3 to act.*

**behaviour** /bɪ'heɪvjər/, /bi-hay-vyer/ *n*, also **behavior** (US), conduct.

**behead** /bɪ'hed/, /bi-hed/ *vb* to cut off the head.

**behold** /bɪ'ho:ld/, /bi-hold/ *vb (pt, pp beheld)* to see; to watch. • *n beholder*.

**being** /'bi:ɪŋ/, /bee-ing/ *n* 1 *existence*. 2 *a thing existing*. • *adj existing, present*.

**belated** /bɪ'lɛtəd/, /bi-lay-ted/ *adj* too late.

**belch** /bəltʃ/, /bəlχ/ *vb* to send out forcefully, especially gas through the mouth.

**belfry** /'belfri/, /bəlfri/ *n* a bell tower.

**belief** /bə'li:f/, /bi-leaf/ *n* **1** faith. **2** trust. **3** opinion.

**believe** /bəli:v/, /bi-leeve/ *vb* **1** to accept as true or real. **2** to trust. **3** to have faith, especially in God. **4** to think. • *adj* **believable**. • *n* **make-believe** pretence.

**believer** /bəli:və/, /bi-lee-ver/ *n* one who has faith, especially in God.

**belittle** /bil'titl/, /bi-li-tl/ *vb* to make to seem small or unimportant.

**bell** /bəl/, /bell/ *n* **1** a hollow metal vessel that gives a ringing sound when struck. **2** a device that gives a ringing or buzzing sound as a signal of some kind.

**belle** /bəl/, /bell/ *n* a lady of great beauty.

**bellow** /'bəlo:/, /bell-o/ *vb* **1** to shout loudly. **2** to roar. • *also n.*

**bellows** /'bəlo:z/, /bell-oez/ *n* or *npl*, *also a pair of bellows* an instrument that makes a draught of air by forcing wind out of an airtight compartment.

**belly** /'bəli/, /bell-ee/ *n* **1** the part of the human body between the breast and thighs. **2** the under part of an animal's body. • *vb* to bulge out.

**belly button** /'bəli,bətən/, /bel-lee bu-ton/ (*inf*) the informal name for the navel.

**belong** /bɪ'lɒŋ/, /bi-long/ *vb* **1** to be the property. **2** to be a member. **3** to be connected with.

**belongings** /bɪ'lɒŋɪŋz/, /bi-long-ing-z/ *npl* the things that are one's own property.

**beloved** /bə'ləvd, bə'ləvəd/, /bi-luvd, bi-luv-ed/ *adj* greatly loved. • *n* one who is greatly loved.

**belt** /bəlt/, /belt/ *n* **1** a strap or band for putting round the waist. **2** a leather band used to carry the motion of one wheel onto another in a piece of machinery. **3** a space that is much longer than it is broad. **4** an area that has a particular quality or characteristic. **5** (*inf*) an act of hitting, a blow. • *vb* **1** to put on a belt. **2** to hit with a strap. **3** to hit, to attack with blows. **4** (*inf*) to go very quickly. • **below the belt** unfair.

**bemused** /bɪmjuzd/, /bi-myoozd/ *adj* confused, bewildered.

**bench** /bentʃ/, /bench/ *n* 1 a long seat. 2 a worktable. 3 the seat of a judge in court. 4 all the judges, as a body.

**benchmark** /'bəntʃma:k/, /bench-mark/ *n* 1 a mark on a fixed object indicating height. 2 a standard for judging or measuring.

**bend** /bənd/, /bend/ *vb* (*pt, pp bent*) 1 to curve. 2 to make to curve. 3 to incline the body, to stoop. • *n* 1 a curving turn on a road. 2 an angle.

**benediction** /,bənə'dɪkʃən/, /be-ne-dic-shen/ *n* blessing. • *adj benedictory*.

**benefactor** /'bənə,fækٹər/, /be-ne-fac-tor/ *n* one who gives help to another. • *f benefactress*.

**beneficial** /,bənə'fiʃəl/, /be-ne-fi-shal/ *adj* helpful, having a good effect.

**beneficiary** /,bənə'fisiəri/, /be-ne-fi-shee-ree/ *n* 1 one who receives money or property by will. 2 one who benefits from another's kindness.

**benefit** /'benəfit/, /be-ne-fit/ *n* 1 advantage, gain. 2 the money to which an insured person has the right when unemployed, ill, etc. • *vb* 1 to do good to. 2 to be of advantage to.

**benevolence** /bə'nevələns/, /be-ne-vol-ense/ *n* kindness, generosity.

**benevolent** /bə'nevələnt/, /be-ne-vol-ent/ *adj* kindly, generous.

**benign** /bə'nain/, /bi-nine/ *adj* 1 kindly, gentle. 2 not malignant, not cancerous. • *adv benignly*.

**bent<sup>1</sup>** /bənt/, /bent/ *pt, pp of bend*.

**bent<sup>2</sup>** /bənt/, /bent/ *adj (inf)* dishonest.

**bent<sup>3</sup>** /bənt/, /bent/ *n* a natural skill in.

**bequeath** /bɪ'kwi:ð/, /bi-kweeth/ *vb* to leave by will.

**bequest** /bɪ'kwəst/, /bi-kwest/ *n* the money or property left by will; a legacy.

**berate** /bɪ'reɪt/, /bi-rate/ *vb* to scold.

**bereave** /bɪ'rɪ:v/, /bi-reev/ *vb* (*pt, pp bereaved or bereft*) to take away. • *n bereavement*.

**bereaved** /bi'ri:vd/, /bi-**reev-d/** *adj* having lost, by death, a near relative. • *n* one who has lost a relative by death.

**bereft** /bi'rɛft/, /bi-**reft/** *adj* having been deprived of something.

**beret** /bə'reɪ, 'bəreɪ/, /be-**ray**, be-ray/ *n* a round flat cap with no peak or brim.

**berry** /bə'ri/, /be-ree/ *n* a small fruit containing seeds.

**berserk** /bə'zərk/, /ber-**serk/** *adj* uncontrollably angry.

**berth** /bərθ/, /berth/ *n* 1 the place where a ship lies when at anchor or in dock. 2 a place for sleeping in a ship or train. • *vb* to moor a ship. • **to give a wide berth to** to keep well clear of.

**beseech** /bɪ'sɪ:tʃ/, /bi-**seech/** *vb (beseeched) (fml)* to ask earnestly, to beg for. • *adv* **beseechingly**.

**beset** /bɪ'set/, /bi-**set/** *vb (beset, besetting)* to attack from all sides.

**besiege** /bɪ'si:dʒ/, /bi-**seedge/** *vb* 1 to surround a fortress with soldiers in order to bring about its capture. 2 to surround, to crowd round. 3 to overwhelm. • *n* **besieger**.

**besom** /'bɪ:zəm/, /be-zom/ *n* a broom.

**besotted** /bɪ'sɒtəd/, /bi-**sot-ted/** *adj* silly, muddled.

**bespatter** /bɪ'spætər/, /bi-**spat-ter/** *vb* to sprinkle (with dirt, etc).

**best** /bɛst/, /b**est/** *adj (superl of good)* good in the utmost degree. • *vb* to do better than, to win against.

**bestial** /'bɪ:stiəl, 'bestiəl/, /b**east-ee-al, bes-tee-al/** *adj* like an animal, beastly, disgusting.

**bestiality** /,bɪ:sti'ælɪti, bəsti'ælɪti/, /beest-ee-a-li-tee, bes-tee-a-li-tee/ *n* animal-like behaviour.

**bestow** /bɪ'stəʊ/, /bi-**sto/** *vb (fml)* to give (to).

**bestride** /bɪ'straɪd/, /bi-**stride/** *vb* to sit or stand across something, with a leg on either side of it.

**bet** /bɛt/, /b**et/** *n* money put down in support of an opinion, to be either lost or returned with interest, a wager. • *vb (bet, betting)* to stake money in a bet.

**betide** /bɪ'taɪd/, /bi-**tide/** *vb (fml or lit)* to happen.

**betoken** /bɪ'to:kən/, /bi-**to-ken/** *vb* to be a sign of, to indicate.

**betray** /bɪ'treɪ/, /bi-tray/ *vb* 1 to give up to an enemy. 2 to be false to, to be a traitor to. 3 to reveal, to show. • *n* **betrayer**.

**betrayal** /bɪ'treɪjəl/, /bi-tray-al/ *n* act of betraying.

**betroth** /bɪ'tro:ð/, /bi-troth/ *vb* to promise in marriage. • *n* **betrothal** /bi-troth-al/.

**between** /bɪ'twi:n/, /bi-tween/ *prep* 1 at or in the space, time, etc, separating. 2 connecting from one to the other.

**betwixt** /bɪ'twɪkst/, /bi-twixt/ *prep* between.

**bevel** /'bɛvəl/, /be-vel/ *vb* (**bevelled**, **bevelling**) to cut to a slope. • *n* a sloping edge.

**beverage** /'bɛvərɪdʒ/, /bev-er-idge/ *n* a drink.

**bevy** /'bɛvi/, /be-vee/ *n* 1 a group. 2 a flock of birds.

**bewail** /bɪ'weɪl/, /bi-wale/ *vb* (*fml*) to lament aloud, to regret.

**beware** /bɪ'wɛr/, /bi-ware/ *vb* to be cautious or careful of.

**bewilder** /bɪ'wɪldər/, /bi-will-der/ *vb* to puzzle, to confuse. • *adj* **bewildering**. • *n* **bewilderment**.

**bewitch** /bɪ'wɪtʃ/, /bi-wich/ *vb* 1 to put under a spell. 2 to charm, to fascinate.

**bewitching** /bɪ'wɪtʃɪŋ/, /bi-wich-ing/ *adj* charming, fascinating.

**beyond** /bɪ'jɒnd/, /bi-yond/ *prep* on the farther side of. • *adv* at a distance.

**bias** /'baɪəs/, /bie-ess/ *n* 1 an unreasonable dislike. 2 a preference. 3 in dress-making, a line across the weave of a fabric. • *vb* to incline to one side, to prejudice.

**bias(s)ed** /'baɪəst/, /bie-esst/ *adj* prejudiced.

**bib** /bɪb/, /bib/ *n* a cloth tied under a child's chin to keep him or her clean while eating.

**Bible** /'baɪbəl/, /bie-bel/ *n* the Holy Scriptures of the Christian religion. • *adj* **biblical**.

**bibliography** /bɪbli'ɒgrəfi/, /bi-blee-og-ra-fee/ *n* a list of books dealing with a particular subject. • *n* **bibliographer**. • *adj* **bibliographical**.

**bibliophile** /'bɪbliɔ:fəl/, /bi-blee-o-file/ *n* (*fml*) a lover of books.

**bicarbonate of soda** see **baking soda**.

**bicentennial** /baɪsən'tenɪəl/, /bie-sen-**te**-nee-al/ *n* the 200th year.

**biceps** /baɪ'seps/, /bie-seps/ *n* a muscle in the upper part of the arm.

**bicker** /'bɪkər/, /bik-er/ *vb* to quarrel frequently over unimportant things.

**bicycle** /'baɪsɪkəl/, /bie-si-cl/ *n* a machine with two wheels that can be ridden on. • *also vb.*

**bid** /bɪd/, /bid/ *vb* (*pt bid or bade, pp bidden or bid, prp bidding*) **1** to offer. **2** to ask, to order. • *n 1* an offer of money, especially at a sale. **2** a strong effort.

**bidder** /'bɪdə/, /bid-der/ *n* one offering a price.

**bide** /baɪd/, /bide/ *vb* (*old, pt, pp bided or bode*) **1** to dwell. **2** to endure. • **bide one's time** to wait for a good opportunity.

**biennial** /baɪ'eniəl/, /bie-en-ee-al/ *adj* **1** lasting for two years. **2** happening every second year. • *n* a plant that flowers only in its second year, then dies. • *adv biennially*.

**bier** /bɪər/, /bir/ *n* a stretcher for carrying a dead body or coffin to the grave.

**big** /bɪg/, /big/ *adj* **1** large or great. **2** pregnant. **3** pompous.

**big bang** /bɪg 'bæŋ/, /big bang/ *n* (*inf*) the name of the theory that the whole universe was created by the explosion of one tiny superdense mass, and that the universe is still expanding. • **big-bang theory**.

**bigamy** /bɪgəmi/, /bi-ga-mee/ *n* the state of having two wives or two husbands at the same time. • *n bigamist*. • *adj bigamous*.

**bigot** /'bɪgət/, /bi-get/ *n* one who accepts without question certain beliefs and condemns the different beliefs held by others. • *adj bigoted*. • *n bigotry*.

**bikini** /bɪ'kiːni/, /bi-kee-nee/ *n* a two-piece swimsuit for women.

**bilateral** /baɪ'lætərəl/, /bie-la-te-ral/ *adj* **1** two-sided. **2** concerning two parties.

**bilberry** /'bɪlbəri/, /bil-bi-ree/ *n* a small blue berry.

**bile** /baɪl/, /bile/ *n* **1** a fluid, coming from the liver, that aids digestion. **2** (*frm*) anger.

**bilingual** /baɪ'lɪŋgwəl/, /bie-ling-gwel/ *adj* able to speak two languages.

**bilious** /'bɪljəs, 'biliəs/, /bil-i-yes/ *adj* 1 relating to bile. 2 sick. • *n  
biliousness.*

**bilk** /bɪlk/, /bilk/ *vb* to cheat, to defraud.

**bill<sup>1</sup>** /bɪl/, /bill/ *n* the beak of a bird.

**bill<sup>2</sup>** /bɪl/, /bill/ *n* 1 a note of money owed at a restaurant or bar. 2 the form of a proposed law, as put before government for discussion. 3 (US) a piece of paper money. 4 a printed notice. • *vb* 1 to present a note of money owed. 2 to advertise by bills.

**billboard** /'bɪlbɔrd/, /bill-board/ *n* a large sign that is pasted with advertisements.

**billet** /'bɪlət/, /bill-let/ *n* a lodging, especially for soldiers. • *vb* to lodge (e.g. soldiers) in people's houses.

**billiards** /'bɪljərdz/, /bill-yardz/ *n* a game played on a cloth-covered table, with cues and balls.

**billion** /'bɪljən/, /bill-yon/ *n* 1 in America, and often now in Britain, one thousand millions. 2 in Britain, one million millions.

**billow** /'bilo:/, /bill-low/ *n* a great wave of the sea. • *vb* to swell out. • *adj billowy.*

**billy goat** /'bili:gəut/, /bill-lee goat/ *n* a male goat.

**bin** /bɪn/, /bin/ *n* 1 a large box for corn, meal, etc. 2 a container for rubbish or litter. • *vb* to throw something away as rubbish.

**bind** /baɪnd/, /biynd/ *vb* (pt, pp **bound**) 1 to tie. 2 to fasten together. 3 to cover. 4 to put an edging on. 5 (*fml*) to put under an obligation. • **bind oneself** to promise.

**binding** /'baɪndɪŋ/, /biynd-ing/ *n* the cover and sewing of a book.

**bin man** /bɪnmæn/, /bin man/ *n* a person whose job is to empty rubbish bins.

**binoculars** /bɪ'nɒkjʊlərz/, /bi-nok-ye-lers/ *npl* a pair of field glasses.

**biochemistry** /baɪəʊ'kemɪstri/, /bie-o-ke-me-stree/ *n* the chemistry of living things. • *adj biochemical.* • *n biochemist.*

**biodegradable** /baɪəʊdɪ'greɪdəbəl/, /bie-o-di-gray-da-bl/ *adj* decaying naturally as the result of the action of bacteria and so not causing pollution to the environment.

**biodiversity** /baɪəʊdɪˈvɜ:sɪti:/, /bie-o-die-**ver-si-tee**/ *n* the variety of animal and plant life in a particular environment or in the world.

**biographer** /baɪ'ɒgrəfɜ:r/, /bie-**og-re-fer**/ *n* a writer of biography.

**biography** /baɪ'ɒgrəfi/, /bie-**og-re-fee**/ *n* the written life story of a person. • *adj biographical*.

**biology** /baɪ'ɒlədʒi/, /bie-**ol-le-jee**/ *n* the study of life and living creatures. • *adj biological*. • *n biologist*.

**biotechnology** /baɪo'tek'nɒlədʒi/, /bie-o-tek-**nol-o-jee**/ *n* the use of living things, such as cells and bacteria, in scientific processes and industrial production.

**biped** /'baɪ,pɛd/, /bie-ped/ *n* an animal with two feet.

**biplane** /'baɪ,pleɪn/, /bie-plane/ *n* an aeroplane with two wings, one above the other, on each side.

**birch** /bərtʃ/, /berch/ *n* 1 a type of deciduous tree with thin bark. 2 a bundle of sticks tied together at one end and used for flogging.

**bird** /bərd/, /berd/ *n* a creature with feathers and wings that usually flies.

**birth** /bərθ/, /berth/ *n* 1 the act of being born. 2 the beginning.

**birthday** /'bərθdeɪ/, /berth-day/ *n* the day on which one is born, or its anniversary.

**birthmark** /'bərθmark/, /berth-mark/ *n* a mark on the body from birth.

**birthright** /'bərθraɪt/, /berth-rite/ *n* any right one possesses by birth.

**biscuit** /'bɪskət/, /bis-ket/ *n* a small, sweet cake, usually either crispy or chewy.

**bisect** /baɪ'sekt/, /bie-sect/ *vb (fml)* to cut into two equal parts.

**bishop** /'bɪʃəp/, /bi-shep/ *n* 1 in the Roman Catholic Church, Anglican Church, or Eastern Orthodox Church, the chief clergyman of a district. 2 a chess piece.

**bison** /'bəɪsən/, /bie-sen/ *n* a type of wild ox.

**bit** /bit/, /bit/ *n* 1 a small piece. 2 a piece of. 3 part. 4 a tool for boring holes. 5 the metal bar attached to the bridle and put in the mouth of a horse.

**bite** /baɪt/, /bite/ *vb (pt bit, pp bitten)* 1 to cut, pierce, etc, with the teeth. 2 to take the bait. • *n* 1 the amount bitten off. 2 the wound made by biting. 3 a taking of the bait by fish.

**biting** /'baɪtɪŋ/, /bite-ing/ *adj* 1 sharp. 2 hurtful. • *adv* **bitingly**.

**bitter** /'bɪtər/, /bit-ter/ *adj* 1 sharp to the taste. 2 severe, piercing. 3 painful. 4 feeling or showing hatred, hostility, envy, disappointment, etc. • *n* a beer with a strong, rather bitter taste. • *adv* **bitterly**. • *n* **bitterness**.

**bivalve** /'baɪ,vælv/, /bie-valve/ *n* an animal or fish whose shell is in two parts joined by hingelike cartilage. • *adj* **bivalvular**.

**biweekly** /baɪ'wi:kli/, /bie-week-lee/ *adj* 1 happening once every two weeks. 2 twice in one week.

**bizarre** /bɪ'zar/, /be-zar/ *adj* strange, peculiar, weird.

**black** /blæk/, /black/ *n* a dark colour like coal. • *adj* (*sometimes cap*) belonging to a race with dark skin. • *vb* 1 to make black. 2 to clean with black polish. • *n* **blackness**.

**blackbird** /blæk,bərd/, /black-berd/ *n* a type of thrush.

**blackboard** /blæk,bɔːrd/, /black-board/ *n* a dark-coloured board used for writing on with a light-coloured chalk.

**blacken** /'blækən/, /black-en/ *vb* 1 to make black. 2 to become black or dark.

**blacklist** /blæklist/, /black-list/ *n* a list of persons suspected of doing wrong.

**blackmail** /'blæk,meɪl/, /black-male/ *vb* to obtain money by threatening to reveal a secret. • *also n*. • *n* **blackmailer**.

**blackout** /'blæk,aut/, /black-out/ *n* 1 a sudden putting out of all lights. 2 a period when all lights must be put out or covered. 3 a sudden, short loss of consciousness.

**blacksmith** /'blæk,smɪθ/, /black-smith/ *n* a metal-worker who works with iron.

**bladder** /blædər/, /bla-der/ *n* 1 a part of the body in which urine collects. 2 a bag of thin leather, rubber, etc, containing air.

**blade** /bleɪd/, /blade/ *n* 1 a leaf (of grass, corn, etc.). 2 the cutting part of a sword or knife. 3 the flat part of an oar.

**blame** /bleɪm/, /blame/ *vb* 1 to find fault with. 2 to regard as guilty or responsible. • *n* 1 fault. 2 guilt. • *adj* **blameless**, **blameworthy**.

**blancmange** /blə'mɒndʒ/, /ble-mandge/ *n* a jelly-like milk dessert.

**bland** /blænd/, /bland/ *adj* **1** so mild as to be almost tasteless. **2** so mild or gentle as to be without personality or emotion.

**blank** /blæŋk/, /blank/ *adj* **1** not written on or marked. **2** empty, without expression. • *n* an empty space.

**blanket** /'blæŋkət/, /blang-ket/ *n* **1** a woollen, etc, bed covering. **2** a covering. • *vb* to cover.

**blare** /bler/, /blare/ *vb* to make a loud sound. • *also n.*

**blaspheme** /blæs'fim/, /blass-feem/ *vb* **1** to speak mockingly or disrespectfully of God. **2** to swear or curse. • *n* **blasphemer**. • *adj* **blasphemous**. • *n* **blasphemy**.

**blast** /blæst/, /blast/ *n* **1** a sudden, strong gust of wind. **2** a loud sound. **3** an explosion. • *vb* **1** to blow up or break up by explosion. **2** to make a loud noise. **3** (*old or lit*) to cause to wither. **4** to ruin. **5** (*inf*) to criticize severely.

**blatant** /'bleɪtənt/, /blay-tant/ *adj* very obvious, shameless.

**blaze<sup>1</sup>** /bleɪz/, /blaze/ *n* **1** a bright fire or flame. **2** a bright glow of light or colour. **3** a large, often dangerous, fire. **4** an outburst. • *vb* **1** to burn brightly. **2** to shine like a flame.

**blaze<sup>2</sup>** /bleɪz/, /blaze/ *n* a mark, especially as made on a tree by cutting off a piece of bark. • *vb* to show a trail by such marks.

**blazer** /'bleɪzər/, /blay-zer/ *n* a kind of jacket.

**bleach** /bli:tʃ/, /bleech/ *vb* **1** to make white or whiter. **2** to become white. • *n* a substance that bleaches.

**bleak** /bli:k/, /bleek/ *adj* **1** dreary, cold. **2** not hopeful or encouraging. • *n* **bleakness**.

**bleat** /bli:t/, /bleet/ *vb* to cry, as a sheep. • *also n.*

**bleed** /bli:d/, /bleed/ *vb* (*pt, pp bled*) **1** to lose blood. **2** to take blood from. **3** (*inf*) to take money from illegally or dishonestly.

**blemish** /'bləmɪʃ/, /blem-ish/ *n* a stain, a fault. • *vb* to stain; to spoil.

**blend** /blend/, /blend/ *vb* to mix together. • *n* a mixture.

**bless** /bles/, /bless/ *vb* **1** to pronounce holy. **2** to ask God's favour for.

**blessed** /'blesəd, bləst/, /bless-ed, blest/ *adj* **1** holy. **2** happy, fortunate.

**blessing** /'blesɪŋ/, /bless-ing/ *n* 1 a thing that brings happiness. 2 a prayer.

**blight** /blait/, /blite/ *n* 1 a disease in plants that causes them to wither. 2 a cause of ruin. • *vb* 1 to cause to wither. 2 to ruin.

**blind** /blaɪnd/, /blinde/ *adj* 1 having no sight. 2 unable or unwilling to understand. 3 closed at one end. • *n* 1 a window screen. 2 (*inf*) a pretence. • *vb* 1 to make blind. 2 to dazzle. • *adv* **blindly**. • *n* **blindness**.

**blindfold** /'blaɪnd,fo:ld/, /blinde-folde/ *vb* to cover the eyes with a bandage. • *also adj.*

**bling** /blɪŋ/, /bling/ *n* (*slang*) showy expensive jewellery.

**blink** /blɪŋk/, /blink/ *vb* 1 to wink. 2 to twinkle. • *n* 1 a glimpse. 2 a quick gleam of light.

**blinkers** /blɪŋkərz/, /bling-kers/ *npl* a piece of leather put over a horse's eyes to prevent it from seeing sideways.

**bliss** /blɪs/, /bliss/ *n* 1 great happiness. 2 the happiness of heaven.

**blissful** /'blɪsfʊl/, /bliss-ful/ *adj* very happy.

**blister** /'blɪstər/, /bliss-ter/ *n* a bag of skin containing watery matter. • *vb* to raise a blister.

**blizzard** /'blɪzərd/, /bli-zard/ *n* a violent storm of wind and snow.

**bloated** /'blo:təd/, /blow-ted/ *adj* blown out, swollen.

**blob** /blɒb/, /blob/ *n* a drop, a small round mass.

**block** /blɒk/, /block/ *n* 1 a solid piece of wood, stone, etc. 2 the piece of wood on which people were beheaded. 3 a group of connected buildings. 4 a piece of wood in which a pulley is placed. 5 an obstacle. • *vb* to stop the way.

**blockade** /blɒ'keɪd/, /block-ade/ *n* the surrounding of a place with soldiers and/or ships to prevent people and food from going in or leaving. • *also vb*.

**blockhead** /'blɒk,hed/, /block-hed/ *n* a stupid fellow.

**blog** /blɒg/, /blog/ *n* short for **weblog**, a website on which someone regularly gives information about their personal experiences, opinions and interests.

**bloke** /blo:k/, /bloke/ (*inf*) *n* a man.

**blond** /blɒnd/, /blond/ *adj* having fair hair and skin. • *f blonde*. • *also n.*

**blood** /bləd/, /blud/ *n* 1 the red liquid in the bodies of people and animals. 2 family or race.

**bloodhound** /'blədhaʊnd/, /blud-hound/ *n* a large dog often used in tracking.

**bloodless** /'blədlɪs/, /blud-less/ *adj* 1 without blood or killing. 2 pale, anaemic. 3 without spirit or energy.

**bloodshed** /'blədʃed/, /blud-shed/ *n* the spilling of blood, slaughter.

**bloodshot** /'blədʃɒt/, /blud-shot/ *adj* (of the eye) red and inflamed with blood.

**bloodthirsty** /'blədθɜːsti/, /blud-thur-stee/ *adj* eager to shed blood, taking pleasure in killing.

**blood vessel** /'blədvesəl/, /blud-vess-l/ *n* a vein or artery.

**bloody** /'blədi/, /blud-ee/ *adj* 1 bleeding, covered with blood. 2 stained with blood. 3 with a lot of wounding or killing.

**bloom** /'blum/, /bloom/ *n* 1 a blossom, a flower. 2 the state of flowering. 3 freshness, perfection. • *vb* to blossom.

**blot** /blɒt/, /blot/ *n* 1 a spot or stain, often of ink. 2 disgrace. 3 something that spoils something beautiful or good. • *vb* (**blotted**, **blotting**) 1 to spot, to stain, especially with ink. 2 to dry ink with blotting paper.

**blotch** /blɒtʃ/, /blotsh/ *n* a large spot or mark.

**blouse** /blauz, bleʊs/, /blouse/ *n* a loose upper garment.

**blow<sup>1</sup>** /blo:/, /blo/ *vb* (*pt* **blew**, *pp* **blown**) 1 to cause air to move. 2 to breathe hard. 3 to pant. • *vb blow up* 1 to fill with air. 2 to destroy by explosives.

**blow<sup>2</sup>** /blo:/, /blo/ *n* 1 a stroke. 2 a misfortune.

**blow<sup>3</sup>** /blo:/, /blo/ *vb* (*pt* **blew**, *pp* **blown**) to bloom.

**blowlamp** /blə:læmp/, /blø-lamp/ *n* a lamp producing heat by a rush of air.

**blowy** /'blo:i/, /blo-ee/ *adj* (*inf*) windy.

**blubber** /'blebər/, /blub-er/ *n* the fat of whales, etc. • *vb* (**blubbered**, **blubbing**) to weep noisily.

**bludgeon** /'blʌdʒən/, /blud-zhen/ *n* a short club. • *vb* to strike repeatedly with something heavy.

**blue** /blu:/, /bloo/ *n* a primary colour, as that of the sky on a clear day. • *also adj.*

**bluebell** /'blu:bɛl/, /bloo-bel/ *n* 1 the harebell. 2 in Scotland, the wild hyacinth.

**blueberry** /'blu:bəri:/, /bloo-ber-ee/ *n* a round, sweet blue berry grown on a bush.

**bluebottle** /'blu:bətəl/, /bloo-botl/ *n* a large bluish fly.

**blue jeans** /'blu:dʒi:nz/, /bloo jeenz/ *n* trousers made of blue denim material.

**blueprint** /'blu:prɪnt/, /bloo-print/ *n* 1 a photographic print of a plan for a structure. 2 a detailed plan or scheme.

**bluff** /blʌf/, /bluf/ *n* 1 a cliff, a steep headland. 2 a pretence. • *adj* frank and abrupt but good-natured. • *vb* to try to deceive by a show of boldness.

**blunder** /'blʌndər/, /blun-der/ *vb* 1 to make a foolish mistake. 2 to stumble about or into something. • *also n.*

**blunt** /blʌnt/, /blunt/ *adj* 1 not sharp. 2 short and plain in speech. 3 outspoken. • *vb* 1 to make less sharp. 2 to weaken.

**blur** /blər/, /blur/ *n* 1 an indistinct mass. 2 a stain, a blot, a smear. • *vb (blurred, blurring) to make unclear.*

**blurb** /blərb/, /blurb/ *n* a short description of something written to promote it.

**blurt** /blərt/, /blurt/ *vb* to speak suddenly or thoughtlessly.

**blush** /blʌʃ/, /blush/ *vb* to become red in the face from shame, modesty, etc. • *n* the reddening of the face so caused. • *adv* **blushingly**.

**bluster** /'blʌstər/, /blust-er/ *vb* 1 (*of wind*) to blow violently. 2 to talk boastfully, noisily or threateningly. • *n* boastful, noisy or threatening talk.

**boa** /'bo:a/, /boe-a/ *n* 1 a snake that kills by crushing its victim. 2 a scarf of fur or feathers.

**boa constrictor** /'bo:akən,strɪktər/, /boe-a con-stric-ter/ *n* a type of boa snake.

**boar** /bɔːr/, /bɔːrə/ *n* 1 a male pig. 2 a wild pig.

**board** /bɔːrd/, /bɔːred/ *n* 1 a long, broad strip of timber. 2 food. 3 a group of people who meet, for example, for business reasons. 4 the deck of a ship. 5 *pl* the stage. 6 a flat surface, often marked with a pattern, on which certain games are played. • *vb* 1 to cover with boards. 2 to supply with food and accommodation. 3 to take meals, and usually have accommodation, in. 4 to enter a ship. 5 to get on to.

**boarder** /'bɔːrdər/, /bɔːrə-der/ *n* one who receives food and lodging at an agreed price.

**boarding house** /'bɔːrdɪŋhaʊs/, /bɔːrɪ-dɪŋ hauz/ *n* a house where food and lodging may be obtained.

**boarding school** /'bɔːrdɪŋskul/, /bɔːrɪ-dɪŋ skool/ *n* a school in which pupils live as boarders.

**boast** /bo:st/, /boste/ *vb* 1 to speak with too much pride about oneself or one's belongings, etc. 2 to possess. • *n* proud speech; a proud claim.

**boastful** /'bo:stfʊl/, /boste-fʊl/ *adj* fond of or given to boasting.

**boat** /bo:t/, /bote/ *n* 1 a ship, especially a small one. 2 a dish shaped like a boat. • *vb* to go in a boat. • *n* **boatman**.

**boatswain** /'bo:sən/, /boe-sun/ *n* a petty officer on board ship.

**bob** /bab/, /bob/ *vb* 1 to move quickly up and down. 2 to cut hair short. • *also n.*

**bobbin** /'babɪn/, /bob-in/ *n* a pin or cylinder around which thread is wound, a reel.

**bode** /bo:d/, /bode/ *vb* to foretell, to be an omen of. • **bode ill or well** to be a bad or good sign of future events.

**bodice** /'bɒdɪs/, /bɒd-ɪss/ *n* 1 a woman's tight-fitting, sleeveless garment worn on the upper body. 2 the upper part of a woman's dress.

**bodily** /'bɒdɪli/, /bɒd-il-ee/ *adj* having to do with the body. • *adv* by taking hold of the body.

**bodkin** /'bɒdkɪn/, /bɒd-kiŋ/ *n* 1 an instrument, like a needle, for piercing holes. 2 a blunt needle with a large eye for threading tape through a hem.

**body** /'bɒdi/, /bod-ee/ *n* **1** the physical structure of a human being or animal. **2** the main part of anything. **3** a group of persons. **4** a dead body, a corpse.

**bodyguard** /'bɒdi,gard/, /bod-ee-gard/ *n* a guard to protect a person from attack.

**body piercing** /'bɒdi,pɪrsɪŋ/, /bod-ee peer-sing/ *n* the piercing of part of the body, such as the lip or nose, in order to insert a ring or stud.

**bog** /bɒg, bəg/, /bog/ *n* soft, wet ground, a marsh.

**bogey**, **bogy** /'bo:gɪ/, /boe-gee/ *n* **1** (also **bogeyman**) a goblin, an imaginary evil spirit. **2** an object of fear. **3** in golf, one stroke over par on a hole.

**boogie** /'bo:gi/, /boe-gee/ *n* **1** a four-wheeled truck supporting the front of a railway engine. **2** a low truck.

**bogus** /'bo:gəs/, /boe-gus/ *adj* not genuine, sham.

**bogy** see **bogey**.

**bohemian** /bo:'hi:mi;ən/ /boe-hee-mee-an/ *n* anyone who pays little heed to the customs or conventions of the time.

**boil<sup>1</sup>** /bɔɪl/, /boil/ *vb* **1** to bubble from the action of heat. **2** to cook in boiling water. • *n* **boiler**.

**boil<sup>2</sup>** /bɔɪl/, /boil/ *n* a painful swelling containing pus.

**boisterous** /'bɔɪstərəs/, /boy-struss/ *adj* **1** stormy. **2** noisy and cheerful.

**bold** /bo:lд/, /bolde/ *adj* **1** daring, brave. **2** large and clear.

**boldness** /'bo:ldnəs/, /bolde-ness/ *n* courage.

**bole** /bo:l/, /bole/ *n* the trunk of a tree.

**boll** /bo:l/, /bole/ *n* a seed-container, as of the cotton or flax plant.

**bollard** /'bɒlərd/, /bol-ard/ *n* a short, thick post used to prevent vehicles from going on part of a road.

**boll weevil** /'bo:l,wɪ:vəl/, /bole wee-vil/ *n* an insect that destroys cotton bolls.

**bolster** /'bo:lstər/, /bole-ster/ *n* a long pillow. • *vb* to hold up, to support.

- bolt** /bo:lt/, /bolte/ *n* 1 an arrow. 2 a thunderbolt. 3 a bar of a door. • *vb* 1 to fasten with a bolt. 2 to run away. 3 to eat too quickly.
- bomb** /bɒm/, /bom/ *n* a hollow metal missile containing explosive, gas, etc. • *vb* 1 to attack with bombs. 2 (*inf*) to go very quickly.
- bombard** /bɒm'bard/, /bom-bard/ *vb* 1 to fire many guns at. 2 to direct many questions, statements of criticism, etc, at. • *n* **bombardment**.
- bombshell** /'bɒmʃəl/, /bom-shell/ *n* a very surprising piece of news, often bad news.
- bonbon** /'bɒn,bɒn/, /bon-bon/ *n* (*fml*) a sweet.
- bond** /bɒnd/, /bond/ *n* 1 that which binds. 2 a written agreement, especially to pay money. 3 (*fml*) *pl* chains, fetters.
- bondage** /'bɒndɪdʒ/, /bon-dage/ *n* slavery.
- bone** /bo:n/, /bone/ *n* 1 the hard substance forming the skeleton of human beings and animals. 2 any one of the pieces of this. • *vb* to take out the bones from.
- bonfire** /'bɒn,fair/, /bon-fire/ *n* a large, open-air fire.
- bonk** /bɒŋk/, /bongk/ (*inf*) to have sex with.
- bonnet** /'bɒnət/, /bon-et/ *n* 1 a headdress. 2 the hinged front part of a car that covers the engine.
- bonny** /'bɒni/, /bon-ee/ *adj* 1 pretty. 2 healthy-looking.
- bonus** /'bo:nəs/, /boe-nus/ *n* an extra payment, made for a special effort or services.
- bony** /'bo:ni/, /boe-nee/ *adj* 1 having many bones. 2 having protruding bones.
- booby** /'bu:bi/, /boo-bee/ *n* a stupid person.
- booby prize** /'bu:bi praɪz/, /boo-bee prize/ *n* a prize given to the worst performer.
- booby trap** /'bu:bi træp/, /boo-bee trap/ *n* a trap hidden in a place so obvious that no one suspects it.
- book<sup>1</sup>** /buk/, /book/ *n* printed matter, bound between covers.
- book<sup>2</sup>** /book/ *vb* to reserve in advance.
- bookish** /'buk/ɪʃ/, /boo-kish/ *adj* fond of reading or study.

**bookkeeper** /'bʊk-kee-per/ *n* one who keeps accounts. • *n bookkeeping.*

**bookmaker** /'bʊk,meɪkər/, /book-may-ker/ *n* (also *inf*) **bookie** /boo-kee/) one who makes his or her living by accepting and paying out on bets.

**bookworm** /'bʊk,wɜːm/, /book-wurm/ *n* one who reads a great deal.

**boom<sup>1</sup>** /buːm/, /boom/ *n* 1 a long pole to stretch the bottom of a sail.  
2 a barrier set up across a harbour entrance or river.

**boom<sup>2</sup>** /buːm/, **boom** *n* a long deep sound. • also *vb.*

**boom<sup>3</sup>** /buːm/, /boom/ *n* a time of rapid increase or growth. • *vb* to increase or grow quickly.

**boomerang** /'buːmə,ræŋ/, /boo-me-rang/ *n* a curved throwing stick that returns to the thrower, used by Australian Aboriginals. • *vb (of an action, plan, etc.)* to go wrong in such a way that harm or damage is caused to the person responsible.

**boon** /buːn/, /boon/ *n* 1 (*old*) a favour, a special request. 2 an advantage, a blessing.

**boor** /'buər/, /boor/ *n* a rough, ill-mannered person. • *adj boorish* /'buərɪʃ/, /boor-ish/.

**boot** /'buːt/, /boot/ *n* 1 a covering for the foot and lower leg. 2 the compartment to the rear of a car used for carrying luggage. • *vb* to kick.

**booth** /buːθ/, /booth/ *n* 1 a tent at a fair. 2 a covered stall at a market. 3 a small, enclosed structure.

**booty** /'buːti/, /boo-tee/ *n* 1 goods seized and divided by the victors after a battle. 2 goods taken by thieves. 3 (*slang*) the human bottom.

**booze** /buːz/, /booz/ *n* (*inf*) alcoholic drink.

**border** /'bɔːdər/, /bor-der/ *n* 1 the outer edge of anything. 2 the boundary between two countries. 3 a flowerbed round a lawn, etc. • *vb* to be next to. • **border (up)on** to come close to.

**bore<sup>1</sup>** /bɔːr/, /bore/ *vb* to make a hole in. • *n* 1 the hole made by boring. 2 the greatest breadth of a tube, especially of a gun.

**bore**<sup>2</sup> /bɔr/, /bɔre/ *vb* to weary by uninteresting talk, etc. • *n* a person whose talk is wearisome. • *adj* **boring**.

**bore**<sup>3</sup> /bɔr/, /bɔre/ *n* a large tidal wave.

**bored** /bɔrd/, /board/ *adj* weary and dissatisfied with one's circumstances.

**boredom** /'bɔrdəm/, /bore-dom/ *n* the state of being bored.

**born** /bɔrn/, /born/ *pp of bear*, sense 6.

**borne** /bɔrn/, /born/ *pp of bear*, senses 1–5, 7.

**borrow** /'bɔro:/, /bɔro:/, /bor-o/ *vb* to ask or receive as a loan. • *n* **borrower**.

**bosom** /'bu:zəm/, /boo-zum/ *n* 1 the breast. 2 (*lit* or *fml*) the heart, considered as the seat of desires and feelings. • *adj* close, well-loved.

**boss**<sup>1</sup> /bɒs/, /boss/ *n* a knob.

**boss**<sup>2</sup> /bɒs/, /boss/ *n* (*inf*) a master, a manager(ess). • *vb* 1 to be in charge. 2 to order about.

**bossy** /'bɒsi/, /boss-ee/ *adj* (*inf*) fond of ordering others about.

**botany** /'bɒtəni/, /bot-(a)-nee/ *n* the science or study of plants. • *adj* **botanic, botanical** /bo-ta-nic-al/. • *n* **botanist** /bot-a-nist/.

**bother** /baw-ther/ *vb* 1 to annoy. 2 to trouble oneself. • *n* 1 a trouble, an inconvenience. 2 trouble.

**Botox** /bəutɒx/, /boe-tox/ *n* (*TM*) a drug used in medicine to relax muscles and in beauty treatment to reduce wrinkles.

**bottle** /bɒtəl/, /baw-tl/ *n* 1 a container, usually of glass, with a narrow neck. 2 (*inf*) courage, boldness. • *vb* to put into bottles.

**bottleneck** /bɒtəl\_næk/, /baw-tl-neck/ *n* 1 a narrow or busy part of a road where traffic has to slow down or stop. 2 something that slows down progress.

**bottom** /'bɒtəm/, /bot-um/ *n* 1 the lowest part. 2 the buttocks. • *adj* lowest. • *adj* **bottomless**.

**botulism** /'bɒtʃu:lɪzəm/, /boch-oo-liz-um/ *n* a dangerous form of food poisoning.

**boudoir** /bu:dwar/, /boo-dwar/ *n* (*fml*) a lady's private room.

**bough** /bau/, /ba-oo/ *n* (*fml*) the branch of a tree.

**bought** /bau/, /bot/ *pt of buy.*

**bouillon** /'bu:ljõ/, 'bu:ljan/, /'bu,ljən/, *Fr.* /bu:'jõ:/, /boo-yon, bool-yon/ *n* a strong broth.

**boulder** /'bo:lðər/, /bole-der/ *n* a large smooth stone.

**boulevard** /bulə,vard/, /boo-le-vard/ *n* a wide street, with trees planted along either side.

**bounce** /bauns/, /bounse/ *vb* to jump or rebound suddenly. • *also n.*

**bouncer** /'baunsər/, /boun-ser/ *n* (*inf*) a door supervisor; a security person employed at a nightclub to exclude or remove unwanted customers.

**bouncing** /'baunsɪŋ/, /boun-sing/ *adj* big, strong.

**bound<sup>1</sup>** /baund/, /bound/ *n* a limit or boundary beyond which one must not go. • *vb* to form a limit or boundary.

**bound<sup>2</sup>** /baund/, /bound/ *vb* to jump, to leap. • *also n.*

**bound<sup>3</sup>** /baund/, /bound/ *adj* 1 on the way to. 2 (*pt of bind*). 3 obliged. 4 sure. 5 tied. 6 covered.

**boundary** /'baundri, 'baundəri/, / boun-dree, boun-dar-ee/ *n* 1 an outer limit. 2 a border.

**boundless** /'bandləs/, /bound-less/ *adj* without limit, endless.

**bountiful** /'bauntə,ful/, /boun-tee-ful/ *adj* (*fml*) giving generously.

**bounty** /'baunti/, /boun-tee/ *n* (*fml*) 1 generosity, kindness. 2 a gift of money above what is earned.

**bouquet** /bu:kɛ/, /boo-kay/ *n* 1 a bunch of flowers. 2 perfume of wine.

**bout** /baut/, /bout/ *n* 1 a period of action. 2 an attack (of illness). 3 a contest.

**boutique** /bu:tik/, /boo-teek/ *n* a small shop selling fashionable clothes.

**bovine** /'bo:vain/, /boe-vine/ *adj* 1 of or like a cow. 2 slow and stupid.

**bow<sup>1</sup>** /bau/, /bow/ *vb* 1 to bend, especially in respect or greeting. 2 to lower. • *n* a bending of the head or body in respect or greeting.

**bow<sup>2</sup>** /bo:/, /boe/ *n* 1 a weapon for shooting arrows. 2 a looped knot. 3 a stick for playing a stringed instrument (e.g. the violin).

**bow<sup>3</sup>** /bau/, /bow/ *n* the curved front part of a ship.

**bowed** /bəud/, /bode/ *adj* bent, stooping.

**bowels** /bauwəlz/, /ba-wels/ *npl* 1 the inside of the body, the intestines. 2 the organ by means of which waste matter is expelled from the body.

**bowie knife** /'bo:i,naif, 'bau-i-/, /boe-ee nife, bao-o-wee nife/ *n* a long curved hunting knife.

**bowl<sup>1</sup>** /bo:l/, /bole/ *n* a roundish dish or basin.

**bowl<sup>2</sup>** /bo:l/, /bole/ *n* 1 a heavy, wooden ball. 2 *pl* the game played with such balls. • *vb* 1 to play bowls. 2 to deliver the ball at cricket.

**bowlegged** /'bo:legəd/, /boe-le-ged/ *adj* having legs wide apart at the knees.

**bowler<sup>1</sup>** /'bo:lər/, /boe-ler/ *n* one who bowls.

**bowler<sup>2</sup>** /'bo:lər/, /boe-ler/, **bowler hat** *n* a stiff felt hat with a rounded crown, also known as a **derby** in the US.

**bowline** /'bo:lən, 'bo:li:n/, /boe-lin, boe-leen/ *n* 1 a rope on a sailing ship. 2 a knot that does not slip.

**bowling** /'bo:lin/, /boe-ling/ *n* a game where you attempt to knock down 10 pins by rolling a large, heavy ball down an alley.

**bow tie** *n* /'bo:,taɪ/, /boe tie/ a tie, tied in the shape of a bow, usually for formal occasions.

**bow window** /bo:'windo:/, /bow win-doe/ *n* a window built into a section of wall that curves out and back.

**box<sup>1</sup>** /boks/, /boks/ *n* a type of hardwood tree.

**box<sup>2</sup>** /boks/, /boks/ *n* 1 a case or container. 2 in a theatre, a separate compartment with seats, overlooking the stage. • *vb* to put in a box.

**box<sup>3</sup>** /boks/, /boks/ *vb* 1 to strike. 2 to fight in sport, wearing padded gloves. • *n* **boxer**.

**boxing** /'boksɪŋ/, /bok-sing/ *n* the sport of fighting with padded gloves on.

**Boxing Day** /'boksɪŋ,dei/, /bok-sing day/ *n* the day after Christmas Day.

**box room** /'boks,ru:m/, /boks room/ *n* a storage room in a house.

**boy** /bɔɪ/, /boɪ/ *n* 1 a male child. 2 a young male person. • *n boyhood.*

**boycott** /'bɔɪ,kɒt/, /boy-cot/ *vb* to refuse to have any dealings with. • *also n.*

**Boy Scout** /'bɔɪ,skauət/, /boy scout/ *n* formerly the name given to a member of an international youth organization for boys, now **Scout**.

**bra** /braæ/, /bra/ *n abbr = brassiere* /bræ'zi:r/, /bra-zeer/: underwear worn by women to support the breasts.

**brace** /breɪs/, /brase/ *n* 1 a support. 2 a pair or a couple. 3 a boring tool. 4 (*pl*) elastic straps for holding up trousers. 5 (*often braces*) a wire device used to straighten the teeth. • *vb* to steady or prepare oneself.

**bracelet** /'breɪslət/, /brase-let/ *n* an ornament for the wrist.

**bracing** /'breɪsɪŋ/, /bray-sing/ *adj* giving strength.

**bracket** /'brækət/, /bra-ket/ *n* 1 a support for something fixed to a wall. 2 *pl* marks in printing to enclose a word, as {}, //, (), or <>. • *vb* 1 to enclose in brackets. 2 to link or connect.

**brag** /bræg/, /brag/ *n* a boast. • *vb (bragged, bragging) to boast.*

**braid** /breɪd/, /brade/ *vb* to twist together into one. • *n* 1 a plait of cords or of hair so twisted together. 2 a narrow edging of decorated tape.

**braided** /'breɪ,dəd/, /bray-did/ *adj* edged with braid.

**Braille** /breɪl/, /bray-el/ *n* a system of printing for blind people in which the letters of the alphabet and numbers are printed as raised dots that can be read by touching them.

**brain** /breɪn/, /brane/ *n* 1 the soft matter within the skull, the centre of the nervous system. 2 *pl* cleverness, intelligence. 3 (*inf*) someone very clever or intelligent. • *vb* to dash the brains out.

**brainless** /breɪnləs/, /brane-les/ *adj* stupid.

**brainy** /'breini/, /bray-nee/ *adj (inf)* clever.

**brake<sup>1</sup>** /breɪk/, /brake/ *n* 1 a fern. 2 a clump of bushes or undergrowth.

**brake<sup>2</sup>** /breɪk/, /brake/ *n* 1 a large wagon. 2 an apparatus for slowing or stopping a vehicle. • *vb* to apply the brake.

**bramble** /'braembəl/, /bram-bl/ *n* **1** a prickly bush, especially the blackberry bush. **2** the berry from this bush.

**bran** /bræn/, /bran/ *n* the husks of grain when separated from the flour.

**branch** /bræntʃ/, /branch/ *n* **1** a shoot growing out of the trunk or one of the boughs of a tree. **2** any connected part of a larger body (e.g. office, store, bank, etc.). • *vb* to divide into branches. • **branch out** **1** to begin something new. **2** to expand.

**brand** /brænd/, /brand/ *n* **1** (*fm*) a burning piece of wood. **2** a mark made with a hot iron to identify cattle, etc. **3** a trademark, a special make of article. **4** variety. • *vb* **1** to mark with a hot iron. **2** to mark down.

**brandish** /'brændɪʃ/, /bran-dish/ *vb* to wave, to shake.

**brandy** /'brændi/, /bran-dee/ *n* a strong, alcoholic drink made from wine.

**brass** /bræs/, /brass/ *n* **1** an alloy of copper and zinc. **2** (*inf*) impudence. • *adj* **brassy**.

**brassiere** see **bra**.

**brat** /bræt/, /brat/ *n* an ill-mannered child.

**bravado** /brə'vedo:/, /bre-va-do/ *n* pretended courage, boastful talk.

**brave** /breɪv/, /brave/ *adj* courageous, daring. • *vb* **1** to defy. **2** to face with courage. • *n* a North American Indian warrior.

**bravery** /'breɪvəri/, /bray-ve-ree/ *n* courage, daring.

**brawl** /brɔ:l/, /brawl/ *vb* to quarrel noisily. • *n* a noisy row. • *n* **brawler**.

**brawn** /brɔ:n/, /brawn/ *n* muscle, strength.

**brawny** /brɔnni/, /braw-nee/ *adj* muscular, strong.

**bray** /breɪ/, /bray/ *vb* to make a loud, harsh sound, as an ass. • *also n.*

**brazen** /'breɪzən/, /bray-zen/ *adj* **1** made of brass. **2** impudent, bold. • *vb* to face boldly and impudently.

**breach** /bri:tʃ/, /breech/ *n* **1** act of breaking. **2** (*fm*) a gap. **3** a fault. **4** a quarrel, separation. • *vb* to make a gap or opening in.

**bread** /bred/, /bred/ *n* a food made from flour or meal and baked.

**breadth** /bredθ/, /bredθ/ *n* the distance from side to side, width.

**breadwinner** /'bredwɪnər/, /bred-win-er/ *n* the person whose earnings supply the needs of the family.

**break** /breɪk/, /brake/ *vb* (*pt* **broke**, *pp* **broken**) **1** to separate into two or more parts, usually by force. **2** to become unusable or in need of repair. **3** to tame. **4** to fail to keep. **5** to tell gently. **6** to go with force. **7** to do better than. • *n* **1** an opening. **2** a separation. **3** a pause. **4** a short rest. • *adj* **breakable**.

**breakage** /breɪkædʒ/, /brake-idge/ *n* **1** a breaking. **2** the thing broken.

**breaker** /breɪkər/, /bray-ker/ *n* a wave broken by rocks.

**breakfast** /'brekfəst/, /brek-fast/ *n* the first meal in the day. • *vb* to eat breakfast.

**breakthrough** /'breɪkθru:/, /brake-throo/ *n* an important new development.

**breakwater** /'breɪkwɔ:tər/, /brake-wa-ter/ *n* a wall to break the force of the waves.

**breast** /brɛst/, /brest/ *n* **1** (*fmpl*) the front part of the body from the neck to the stomach, the chest. **2** each of the milk-producing glands in a female. • *vb* **1** to face. **2** to touch. **3** to come to the top of.

**breastplate** /'brestpleɪt/, /brest-plate/ *n* armour for the breast.

**breath** /brɛθ/, /breth/ *n* **1** the air taken into and put out from the lungs. **2** a gentle breeze.

**breathe** /bri:ð/, /breeth/ *vb* **1** to take air into one's lungs and put it out again. **2** (*fmpl*) to live. **3** (*fmpl*) to whisper.

**breathless** /'brɛθləs/, /breth-less/ *adj* **1** out of breath, panting. **2** excited, eager. • *adv* **breathlessly**.

**breech** /bri:tʃ/, /breech/ *n* **1** the back part of a gun barrel. **2** *pl* **breeches** trousers that fasten just below the knee.

**breed** /bri:d/, /breed/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **bred**) **1** to produce young. **2** to keep. **3** to be the cause of. • *n* a type, variety, species.

**breeding** /'bri:dɪŋ/, /bree-ding/ *n* **1** the bearing of offspring. **2** good manners.

**breeze** /bri:z/, /breez/ *n* a light wind.

**breezy** /'bri:zi/, /bree-zee/ *adj* **1** windy. **2** lively. • *adv* **breezily**.

**brethren** /'brɛðrən/, /breth-ren/ *npl* (*old or relig*) brothers.

**brevity** /'breviti/, /bre-vi-tee/ *n (fml)* shortness.

**brew** /bru:/, /broo/ *vb* 1 to make beer. 2 to make tea. 3 to be about to start. • *n* the mixture made by brewing. • *n brewer*.

**brewery** /bru:əri/, /broo-e-reel/ *n* a factory where beer is made.

**briar** /braɪər/ see **brier**.

**bribe** /braɪb/, /bribe/ *n* a reward offered to win favour or preference unfairly. • *vb* to win over by bribes. • *n bribery*.

**bric-a-brac** /'brɪkə,bræk/, /bri-ke-brak/ *n* small ornaments.

**brick** /brɪk/, /brick/ *n* 1 a block of baked clay. 2 (*inf*) a good or helpful person.

**brickbat** /'brɪkbæt/, /brick-bat/ *n* a piece of criticism.

**bricklayer** /'brɪklɛɪər/, /brick-lay-er/ *n* one who builds with bricks.

**bridal** /'braɪdəl/, /bride-al/ *adj* concerning a bride or a wedding.

**bride** /braɪd/, /bride/ *n* a woman about to be married, or newly married.

**bridegroom** /'braɪdgrum/, /bride-groom/ *n* a man about to be married, or newly married.

**bridesmaid** /'braɪdzmeɪd/, /brides-made/ *n* a girl or woman who attends the bride at a wedding.

**bridge**<sup>1</sup> /brɪdʒ/, /bridge/ *n* 1 a roadway built across a river, etc. 2 the small deck for a ship's captain. 3 the piece of wood that supports the strings of a violin, etc. • *vb* 1 to build a bridge over. 2 to close a gap or a pause so as to make a connection.

**bridge**<sup>2</sup> /brɪdʒ/, /bridge/ *n* a card game.

**bridle** /'braɪdəl/, /bride-il/ *n* 1 the head straps and metal bit by which a horse is guided. 2 a check. • *vb* 1 to put a bridle on. 2 to check. 3 to toss the head in anger, etc. 4 to show anger or indignation.

**brief** /bri:f/, /breef/ *n* a summary of an argument, especially a law case for use in court. • *adj* short. • *vb* to provide with a summary of the facts.

**briefcase** /'bri:fkeɪs/, /breef-case/ *n* a case for carrying papers.

**brier**, **briar** /'braɪər/, /brie-er/ *n* a thorn bush, the wild rose.

**brigade** /bri'geɪd/, /bri-gade/ *n* an army unit consisting usually of three battalions.

**brigadier** /'brɪgə'dɪər/, /bri-gad-ir/ *n* an officer commanding a brigade.

**brigand** /'brɪgənd/, /bri-gand/ *n* (*old*) a member of a band of robbers.

**bright** /brɔɪt/, /brite/ *adj* 1 shining. 2 strong, vivid. 3 lively, cheerful. 4 clever. • *n* **brightness**.

**brighten** /'brɔɪtən/, /brie-ten/ *vb* to make or become bright.

**brill** /brɪl/, /bril/ *n* a type of flatfish.

**brilliant** /'brɪljənt/, /bril-yant/ *adj* 1 sparkling. 2 very bright. 3 very clever. 4 excellent. • *n* a diamond. • *n* **brilliance**, **brilliancy** /bril-yan-see/.

**brim** /brɪm/, /brim/ *n* 1 the rim. 2 the edge.

**brimful** /'brɪm,fʊl/, /brim-ful/, **brimming** /brɪm-ing/ *adj* full to the brim.

**brimstone** /'brɪmsto:n/, /brim-stone/ *n* sulphur.

**brindled** /'brɪndləd/, /brin-duld/ *adj* marked with streaks.

**brine** /brain/, /brine/ *n* salt water. • **the briny** the sea.

**bring** /brɪŋ/, /bring/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **brought**) 1 to fetch, to carry. 2 to cause. • **bring about** to cause to happen. • **bring off** to succeed. • **bring up** 1 to rear, to educate. 2 to raise.

**brink** /brɪŋk/, /bringk/ *n* 1 the edge of a steep place. 2 the edge, the point.

**brisk** /brɪŋk/, /brisk/ *adj* keen; lively. • *adv* **briskly**. • *n* **briskness**.

**brisket** /'brɪskət/, /briss-ket/ *n* a cut of meat from the breast of an animal.

**bristle** /'brɪsəl/, /briss-el/ *n* a short, stiff hair. • *vb* to stand on end.

**bristly** /'brɪsli/, /briss-(u)-lee/ *adj* having bristles, rough.

**brittle** /brɪtlə/, /bri-tl/ *adj* hard but easily broken.

**broach** /bro:tʃ/, /broach/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to open up. 2 to begin to speak of.

**broad** /brɒd/, /brawd/ *adj* 1 wide. 2 not detailed, general. 3 (*of speech*) with a strong local accent. • *n* **broadness**.

**broadcast** /'brɒdkæst/, /brawd-cast/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **broadcast**) 1 to make widely known. 2 to send out by radio or television. 3 to scatter widely. • *also n.*

**broaden** /'brədən/, /braw-den/ *vb* to make or become broad or broader.

**broad-minded** /brəd'maɪndɪd/, /brawd-mīnd-ded/ *adj* 1 ready to listen to and consider opinions different from one's own. 2 liberal.

**brocade** /bro:'keɪd/, /bro-kādə/ *n* a silk cloth with a raised pattern.

**broccoli** /'brɒkəli/, /broc-o-lee/ *n* a green vegetable.

**brochure** /bro:'ʃur, 'bro:ʃər/, /broe-shoor, broe-sher/ *n* a small book, a pamphlet.

**broke** *pt* of **break**.

**broken** *pp* of **break**.

**broker** /'bro:kər/, /bro-ker/ *n* 1 one who buys and sells for others for a commission. 2 a stockbroker.

**bronchial** /'braŋkiəl/, /brong-kee-al/ *adj* having to do with the bronchi, the branches of the windpipe to the lungs.

**bronchitis** /braŋ'kaitis/, /bronk-eye-tis/ *n* an illness affecting the windpipe to the lungs.

**bronco, broncho** /'brɒŋko/, /brong-co/ *n* a half-tamed horse.

**brontosaurus** /brɒntə'sɔrəs/, /bron-to-saw-rus/ *n* a very large plant-eating dinosaur.

**bronze** /brɒnz/, /bronz/ *n* 1 an alloy of copper and tin. 2 a reddish brown colour. • *vb* to give or become a reddish brown colour.

**brooch** /bro:tʃ/, /broach/ *n* an ornamental pin.

**brood** /bru:d/, /brood/ *vb* 1 to sit on eggs. 2 to think deeply or anxiously about. • *n* 1 children. 2 a family of young birds.

**broody** /'bru:di/, /brood-ee/ *adj* 1 hatching eggs. 2 badly wanting to have children.

**brook<sup>1</sup>** /bruk/, /brook/ *n* a small stream.

**brook<sup>2</sup>** /bruk/, /brook/ *vb* (*fml*) to bear, to tolerate.

**broom** /bru:m/, /broom/ *n* 1 a plant with yellow flowers. 2 a brush, especially one of twigs.

**broomstick** /'bru:mstɪk, brumstɪk/, /broom-stick/ *n* the handle of a broom.

**broth** /brɒθ/, /brawθ/ *n* a meat soup with vegetables.

**brother** /'brəðər/, /bru-ther/ *n* (*pl* **brothers** or *old* or *relig*, **brethren** /'brəðrən/, /breth-ren/) **1** a son of the same parents. **2** a member of the same group.

**brotherhood** /'brəðərhud/, /bru-ther-hood/ *n* **1** the relation of a brother. **2** a group with one common purpose.

**brotherly** /'brəðərlɪ/, /bru-ther-lee/ *adj* of or like a brother.

**brought** /brɔ:t/, /braw-t/ *pp, pt of bring*.

**brow** /braʊ/, /braoo/ *n* **1** the forehead. **2** the jutting-out edge of a cliff or hill.

**browbeat** /'braubi:t/, /braoo-beet/ *vb* to bully.

**brown** /braʊn/, /braoon/ *adj* of a dark colour. • *also n.* • *vb* to make or become brown.

**brownie** /'brauni/, /braoo-nee/ *n* **1** a small, rich, chocolate cake, usually square, with nuts. **2** a kindly fairy. **3** a junior member of the Guides Association.

**browse** /brauz/, /braooz/ *vb* **1** to feed upon. **2** to glance through a book.

**bruise** /bru:z/, /brooz/ *n* a dark spot on the skin, caused by a knock. • *vb* to cause a bruise on.

**brunette** /bru:'net/, /broo-net/ *n* a woman with dark brown hair.

**brunt** /brənt/, /brunt/ *n* the main force or shock of something, the worst effects.

**brush** /brəʃ/, /brush/ *n* **1** an instrument for cleaning, sweeping, or smoothing. **2** an instrument for putting paint on to something. **3** the tail of a fox. **4** small trees and bushes. **5** a short battle. **5** (*inf*) a slight disagreement or hostile encounter. • *vb* **1** to clean with a brush. **2** to touch lightly.

**brushwood** /'brəʃwud/, /brush-wood/ *n* **1** small trees and bushes. **2** a thicket.

**brusque** /brəsk, brusk/, /brusk/ *adj* blunt, rude and abrupt in speech or manner. • *adv* **brusquely**. • *n* **brusqueness**.

**Brussels sprout** /brəsəl'sprauət/, /brus-sel sprout/ *n* a small, round, green vegetable like a very small cabbage.

**brutal** /'bru:təl/, /broo-tal/ *adj* cruel, savage.

**brutality** /bru'tæləti/, /broo-ta-li-tee/ *n* cruelty, savagery.

**brute** /'bru:t/, /broot/ *n* 1 an animal. 2 (*inf*) a cruel person.

**bubble** /'bəbəl/, /bu-bul/ *n* a film of water or other liquid, containing air. • *vb* to form bubbles. • *adj* **bubbly**.

**buccaneer** /bəkə'nir/, /bu-ca-neer/ *n* a pirate.

**buck** /bək/, /buck/ *n* 1 a male deer, goat, rabbit, etc. 2 (*old*) a dandy, a lively young man. 3 (*inf*) a dollar. • *vb* to jump straight up with the back arched.

**bucket** /'bəkət/, /bu-ket/ *n* a vessel for carrying water, a pail.

**buckle** /bəkəl/, /bu-kl/ *n* a fastener for joining the ends of a belt or band. • *vb* 1 to fasten. 2 to bend out of shape.

**buckskin** /'bəkskin/, /buck-skin/ *n* a soft leather.

**bud** /bəd/, /bud/ *n* a leaf or flower before it opens. • *vb* (**budded**, **budding**) to put out buds.

**Buddhist** /'bʊdɪst/, /boo-dist/ *n* a person who believes in the religious teaching of Buddha. • *n* **Buddhism**.

**budding** /'bədɪŋ/, /bu-ding/ *adj* promising.

**budge** /'bədʒ/, /budge/ *vb* (*inf*) to move, to stir.

**budgerigar** /'bədʒəri,gar/, /bu-je-ree-gar/ *n* a type of small parrot that can be trained to talk.

**budget** /'bədʒət/, /bu-jet/ *n* 1 a statement of government taxation and intended spending for the coming year. 2 a plan to ensure that household expenses or those of a firm or organization will not be greater than income. • *vb* 1 to make such a plan. 2 to allow for something in a budget.

**buff** /bəf/, /buf/ *n* 1 a type of leather. 2 a pale dull yellow colour. • *adj* light yellow.

**buffalo** /'bəfəlo:/, /buf-a-lo/ *n* (*pl* **buffalos** or **buffaloes**) a type of ox.

**buffer** /'bəfer/, /buf-er/ *n* an apparatus to lessen the force of a collision or shock.

**buffet**<sup>1</sup> /'bəfeɪ, bə'feɪ, bu'feɪ/, /bu-fay, boo-fay/ *n* 1 a sideboard. 2 a counter or bar at which refreshments may be obtained. 3 a meal, often cold, set out on tables so that people can help themselves.

**buffet**<sup>2</sup> /'bəfet/, /buf-et/ *n* (*fml*) a blow, a slap. • *vb* 1 to strike. 2 to knock about.

**buffoon** /bə'fū:n/, /bu-foon/ *n* 1 a clown. 2 a person who plays the fool.

**bug** /bəg/, /bug/ *n* 1 a blood-sucking insect. 2 any insect. 3 (*inf*) an infection. 4 (*inf*) a hidden microphone used to record other people's conversations secretly. 5 a defect or error in a computer program or system. • *vb* (**bugged**, **bugging**) 1 to install or use a hidden microphone in. 2 (*inf*) to annoy.

**bugle** /bju:gəl/, /byoo-gul/ *n* a small brass instrument like a trumpet.  
• *n* **bugler** /'bju:glər/.

**build** /bild/, /bild/ *vb* (*pt, pp built*) to put together materials in order to make something; to construct. • *n* **builder**.

**building** /bɪldɪŋ/, /bild-ing/ *n* the thing built.

**bulb** /bəlb/, /bulb/ *n* 1 the round root of certain flowers. 2 a pear-shaped glass globe surrounding the element of an electric light.

**bulbous** /bəlb/, /bul-bus/ *adj* bulb-shaped, swollen.

**bulge** /bəldʒ/, /bulge/ *n* a swelling. • *vb* to swell out. • *adj* **bulgy**.

**bulimia** /bu:'li:miə/, /boo-lee-mee-ya/ *n* an eating disorder in which bouts of over-eating are followed by bouts of vomiting in order to lose weight. • *adj* **bulimic**.

**bulk** /bəlk/, /bulk/ *n* 1 the size, especially of large things. 2 the main part. • **in bulk** in a large quantity. • *vb* to make fuller, to increase in size. • **bulk large** (*fml*) to be important or prominent.

**bulkhead** /bəlk'hed/, /bulk-hed/ *n* an inside wall between one part of a ship or aeroplane and another.

**bulky** /bəlki/, /bul-kee/ *adj* very large and awkward to move or carry.

**bull<sup>1</sup>** /bul/, /bool/ *n* 1 the male of cattle. 2 the male ox, elephant, whale, etc.

**bull<sup>2</sup>** /bul/, /bool/ *n* a ruling by the pope.

**bulldog** /buldəg/, /bool-dog/ *n* a type of dog.

**bulldozer** /bul'do:zər/, /bool-doe-zer/ *n* a heavy tractor for clearing away obstacles and making land level.

**bullet** /'bulət/, /boo-let/ *n* a small piece of metal shot from a rifle or pistol.

**bulletin** /'bulətɪn/, /boo-le-tin/ *n* **1** a short, official report of news. **2** a printed information sheet or newspaper.

**bulletproof** /'bulətpru:f/, /boo-let-proof/ *adj* not able to be pierced by bullets.

**bullfrog** /-,frɒg/, /bool-frog/ *n* a large frog.

**bullion** /'buljən/, /bool-yon/ *n* uncoined gold and silver in lumps.

**bulls-eye** /'bul,zai/, /boolz-eye/ *n* **1** the centre of a target. **2** a shot that hits it. **3** a type of candy.

**bully** /'buli/, /boo-lee/ *n* a person who uses his or her strength to hurt or to terrify those who are weaker. • *vb* to intimidate, oppress, or hurt.

**bulrush** /'bulrəʃ/, /bool-rush/ *n* a tall weed.

**bum** /bəm/, /bum/ (*inf*) *n* a person's bottom, the buttocks.

**bumble** /'bəmbəl/, /bum-bel/ *v* to speak or act in a clumsy way. • *n* a mistake.

**bumblebee** /'bəmbəl,bi:/, /bum-bel-bee/ *n* a large type of bee.

**bump** /bəmp/, /bump/ *n* **1** a heavy blow, or the dull noise made by it. **2** a lump caused by a blow. • *vb* to knock against. • *adj* bumpy.

**bumper** /'bəmpər/, /bum-per/ *n* **1** (*old*) a full glass or cup. **2** a protective bar at the front and the back of an automobile. • *adj* unusually large or full.

**umptious** /'bəmpʃəs/, /bum(p)-shus/ *adj* conceited, too full of oneself.

**bun** /bʌn/, /bun/ *n* **1** a small cake or bread roll. **2** hair styled in a rounded mass.

**bunch** /bəntʃ/, /bunch/ *n* **1** a group or collection of things of the same kind. **2** (*inf*) a group of people. • *vb* to come or put together in groups or bunches.

**bundle** /'bʌndəl/, /bun-del/ *n* a collection of things tied together. • *vb* **1** to tie in a bundle. **2** to force to go in a hurry.

**bungalow** /'bʌŋgə,lo:/, /bung-ga-loe/ *n* a low house usually of one storey.

**bungee jumping** /'bʌndʒi:, dʒəmpɪŋ/, /bun-jee jum-ping/ *n* the act of jumping from a high place while the ankles are secured by an elastic cord.

- bungle** /'bʌŋgəl/, /bung-gul/ *vb* to do badly or clumsily. • *also n.*
- bunion** /'bʌnjən/, /bun-yon/ *n* a swelling on the foot, especially on the big toe.
- bunk** /bungk/ *n* 1 a narrow bed, especially in a ship. 2 one of a pair of beds placed one above the other.
- bunker** /'bʌŋkər/, /bung-ker/ *n* 1 a ship's coal store. 2 a large chest for storing coal. 3 an indentation full of sand in a golf course.
- bunny** /'bʌni/, /bu-nee/ *n* (*inf*) a rabbit.
- bunting** /'bʌntɪŋ/, /bun-ting/ *n* 1 a material used for making flags. 2 flags.
- buoy** /bɔɪ/, /boy/ *n* an object floating in a fixed position to show ships the safe course. • *vb* 1 to keep afloat. 2 to support, to keep high. 3 to raise the spirits of.
- buoyant** /'bɔɪənt/, /boy-ant/ *adj* 1 floating, able to float easily. 2 cheerful, optimistic. • *n buoyancy*.
- bur**, **burr** /bər/, /bur/ *n* the prickly seed container of certain plants.
- burden** /'bɜːrdən/, /bur-den/ *n* 1 a load. 2 the chorus of a song. 3 the leading idea. • *vb* to load heavily. • *adj burdensome*.
- bureau** /'bjuro:/, /byoo-ro/ *n* (*pl bureaux or bureaus*) 1 a writing desk with drawers. 2 an office.
- bureaucracy** /'bjʊəkrəsi/, /byoo-rok-ra-see/ *n* 1 a system of government by paid officials working for a government. 2 these officials taken as a group. 3 a system of doing things officially, often unnecessarily complicated and time-consuming.
- burger** see **hamburger**.
- burglar** /'bɜːrglər/, /bur-glar/ *n* a thief who breaks into a house.
- burglary** /'bɜːrgləri/, /bur-gla-ree/ *n* the crime of breaking into a house.
- burgle** /'bɜːrgəl/, /bur-gul/ *vb* to commit burglary.
- burial** /'bəriəl/, /ber-ee-al/ *n* the act of putting into a grave.
- burlap** /'bɜːrlæp/, /bur-lap/ a coarse material used in making sacks.
- burlesque** /bərlesk/, /bur-lesk/ *n* a comic or mocking imitation, a parody, a caricature. • *also adj and vb.*
- burly** /'bərli/, /bur-lee/ *adj* stout, big and strong.

**burn** /'bərn/, /burn/ *vb (pt, pp burned or burnt)* **1** to be alight, to give out heat. **2** to be on fire. **3** to destroy or damage by fire. **4** to hurt or injure by fire. **5** to be very hot. **6** to feel great anger, passion, etc. • *n* a hurt caused by fire.

**burner** /'bərnər/, /bur-ner/ *n* the part of a stove, etc, from which the flame comes.

**burnish** /'bərnɪʃ/, /bur-nish/ *vb* to polish. • *also n.*

**burr** see **bur**.

**burrow** /'bəroʊ/, /bu-ro/ *n* a hole in the earth made by certain animals, e.g. rabbits, foxes, etc. • *vb* **1** to make by digging. **2** to search for something.

**burst** /bərst/, /burst/ *vb (pt, pp burst)* **1** to break in pieces. **2** to rush, to go suddenly or violently. • *n* a sudden outbreak.

**bury** /'beri/, /ber-ee/ *vb* **1** to put into a grave. **2** to put under ground.

**bus** /bəs/, /bus/ *n* a large road vehicle for carrying passengers (short for **omnibus**). • *vb (bussed, bussing) to transport by bus*.

**bush** /buʃ/, /boosh/ *n* **1** a small low tree. **2** wild, uncleared country; forest country.

**bushel** /'buʃəl/, /boo-shel/ *n* a dry measure (35.3 litres) for grain, etc.

**bulky** /'buʃi/, /boo-shee/ *adj* **1** full of bushes. **2** thick-growing.

**business** /'biznəs/, /biz-nis/ *n* **1** one's work or job. **2** trade and commerce. **3** a matter that concerns a particular person. • *adj businesslike*.

**bust** /'bəst/, /bust/ *n* **1** a statue showing only the head, shoulders and breast of a person. **2** the shoulders and breast.

**bustle**<sup>1</sup> /'bəsəl/, /bu-sel/ *vb* to move about busily and often fussily. • *n* noisy movement, hurry.

**bustle**<sup>2</sup> /'bəsəl/, /bu-sel/ *n* a frame or pad once worn to hold out the back of a woman's skirt.

**busy** /'bizi/, /bi-zee/ *adj* **1** always doing something. **2** at work, engaged in a job, etc. **3** full of people, traffic, etc. • *vb* to occupy. • *adv busily*.

**busybody** /'bizi,bədi/, /bi-zee-bod-ee/ *n* one who shows a lot of interest in the affairs of others, a meddler.

**butcher** /'butʃər/, /boo-cher/ *n* 1 one who kills and sells animals for food. 2 a cruel killer. • *vb* 1 to kill for food. 2 to kill cruelly.

**butchery** /'butʃəri/, /boo-che-ree/ *n* cruel slaughter.

**butler** /'bətlər/, /but-ler/ *n* the chief manservant in a household, formerly in charge of the wine cellar.

**butt**<sup>1</sup> /bət/, /but/ *n* 1 a large barrel. 2 the thicker end of a thing. 3 a cigarette end. • *vb* to strike with the head or horns.

**butt**<sup>2</sup> /but/ *n* 1 a mark to be shot at. 2 the mound behind the targets for rifle practice. 3 a person who is always being made fun of.

**butter** /'bətər/, /but-er/ *n* a spread made from milk.

**buttercup** /'bətər,kəp/, /but-er-cup/ *n* a common yellow wild flower.

**butterfly** /'bətər,flaɪ/, /but-er-flie/ *n* 1 an insect with large colourful wings. 2 a frivolous unreliable person.

**buttermilk** /'bətər,mɪlk/, /but-er-milk/ *n* the liquid that remains after butter has been made.

**butterscotch** /'bətər,skɒtʃ/, /but-er-scotch/ *n* a hard toffee.

**button** /'bətən/, /but-on/ *n* 1 a knob or disc to fasten one part of a garment to another. 2 something shaped like a button, especially a knob or switch on an electrical appliance. • *vb* to fasten with buttons.

**buttonhole** /'bətən,ho:l/, /but-on-hole/ *n* 1 a hole for a button. 2 a flower worn in a buttonhole. • *vb* to stop and hold in conversation.

**buy** /baɪ/, /bye/ *vb* (*pt, pp bought*) to obtain by paying for.

**buyer** /baɪər/, /bye-yer/ *n* 1 one who buys. 2 one whose job is to buy goods.

**buzz** /baʊz/, /buz/ *n* a humming noise. • *also vb.*

**buzzard** /'baʊzərd/, /bu-zard/ *n* a type of hawk.

**by** /baɪ/, /bye/ *prep* 1 next to. 2 by the means of. 3 through the work of. 2 past.

**by and by** /baɪ ən 'baɪ/, /bye ən bye/ *adv* soon. • *n* **by-and-by** a future occasion or time.

**bye** /baɪ/, /bye/ *n* 1 in cricket, a run made from a ball that is not hit. 2 in a competition, a pass without contest into the next round.

**bye-law** see **bylaw**.

**by-election** /'baɪlɛkʃən/, /bye-e-lec-shun/ *n* an election held when the person elected at a general election has resigned or has died.

**bygone** /'baɪgɒn/, /bye-gon/ *adj (fml)* past.

**bylaw**, **bye-law** /'baɪ'lɒ/, /by-law/ *n* a law made by a local body and applying to the area in which the body has authority.

**by-product** /'baɪprədʌkt/, /by-prod-uct/ *n* something made in the course of making a more important article.

**bystander** /'baɪstændər/, /bye-stan-der/ *n* an onlooker, a spectator.

**byte** /bəɪt/, /bite/ *n* the unit of storage in a computer memory.

**byway** /'baɪwei/, /bye-way/ *n* a side road.

# C

**C, c** /si:/, /see/ *n* **1** the third letter of the English alphabet. **2** (*mus*) the first note of the scale of C major.

**cab** /kæb/, /cab/ *n* **1** a taxi. **2** (*old*) a horse carriage for public hire. **3** the driver's part of a railway engine or truck.

**cabaret** /'kæbə'reɪ/, /ca-ba-ray/ *n* a form of light entertainment consisting of songs and dancing, usually performed in a nightclub or restaurant.

**cabbage** /'kæbədʒ/, /ca-bidge/ *n* a common vegetable with edible leaves formed into a bud.

**cabin** /'kæbɪn/, /ca-bin/ *n* **1** a small, simple house, a hut. **2** a room on a ship for passengers to stay in. **3** the space available for passengers or crew on an aircraft. **4** the covered part of a yacht.

**cabinet** /'kæbɪnət/, /cab-net/ *n* **1** a display case. **2** a piece of furniture with drawers. **3** a case or container for a radio, television, etc. **4** (*cap*) the chief ministers in a government.

**cable** /'keɪbəl/, /cay-bl/ *n* **1** a strong rope, often of wire. **2** a chain attached to a ship's anchor. **3** an undersea or underground telegraph or telephone line. **4** a bundle of electric wires enclosed in a pipe. **5** a message sent by cable. **6** cable television. • *vb* to send a message by cable, sense **3**.

**cablegram** /'keɪbəl,græm/, /cay-bl-gram/ *n* a more formal name for cable, sense **5**.

**cable television** /'keɪbəl 'telɪvɪʒən/, /cay-bl te-le-vi-zhon/ *n* a television service that is supplied using underground cables.

**cacao** /kæ'kæo:/, /ca-kaow/ *n* a tropical tree that bears seeds from which chocolate and cocoa are made.

**cackle** /'kækəl/, /ca-kl/ *n* **1** the shrill, broken sound of a hen or goose. **2** noisy chatter. **3** loud unpleasant laughter. • *also vb*.

**cacophony** /kə'kɒfəni/, /ca-cof-u-nee/ *n* (*fml*) loud, unpleasant mixture of different sounds. • *adj cacophonous*.

**cactus** /'kæktəs/, /cac-tus/ *n* (*pl cacti* /cac-tie/) a desert plant with fleshy stems, reduced or prickly leaves and often bright, colourful flowers.

**CAD** *abbr = computer-aided design.*

**cadet** /kə'det/, /ca-det/ *n* **1** someone training in the armed forces. **2** a boy at a military school. **3** (*frm*) a younger son.

**café** /'kæfeɪ/, /ca-fay/ *n* a small restaurant serving coffee and light meals.

**cafeteria** /kæfə'ti:riə/, /ca-fe-tir-ee-ya/ *n* a restaurant in which a person serves him or herself from a variety of meals that are displayed on or behind a counter.

**caffeine** /'kæfi:n, kæfi:n/, /ca-feen, ca-feen/ *n* a chemical that is a stimulant and is found in tea, coffee and some soft drinks.

**cage** /keɪdʒ/, /cage/ *n* a box with one or more walls consisting of bars or wire netting in which animals or birds can be kept. • *vb* to shut in a cage or prison.

**cake** /keɪk/, /cake/ *n* **1** a dessert, made from flour, eggs, milk, sugar, etc, that is baked and usually covered with icing. **2** a small, usually flat amount of dough, or some other food, that is baked or fried. **3** a small, flat lump.

**calamity** /kæ'ləmrti/, /ca-la-mi-tee/ *n* **1** a tragedy. **2** a serious misfortune. • *adj calamitous.*

**calcium** /'kælsiəm/, /cal-see-um/ *n* a soft, silver-white metal found in chalk, marble, etc. and is the basic part of bones, teeth and shells.

**calculate** /'kælkjʊleɪt/, /cal-kyu-late/ *vb* **1** to work with numbers and mathematics. **2** to estimate. **3** to plan for a purpose. • *adj calculable.*

**calculating** /'kælkjʊleɪtɪŋ/, /cal-kyu-late-ing/ *adj* scheming, clever, or sly, especially in a selfish way.

**calculation** /'kælkjʊleɪʃən/, /cal-kyu-lay-shun/ *n* **1** the act or process of calculating. **2** a sum.

**calculator** /'kælkjʊleɪtər/, /cal-kyoo-lay-tor/ *n* a small electronic machine used to make arithmetical and mathematical calculations.

**calendar** /'kæləndər/, /ca-len-dar/ *n* a table showing the relation of the days of the week to the dates of a particular year.

**calf**<sup>1</sup> /kæf/, /caf/ *n* (*pl* **calves** /cavz/) the young of the cow, elephant, whale, etc.

**calf**<sup>2</sup> /kæf/, /caf/ (*pl* **calves** /cavz/) the fleshy back part of the leg below the knee.

**calfskin** /'kæfskin/, /caf-skin/ *n* a type of leather made from a calf's skin.

**calibre** /'kæləbər/, /ca-li-bur/ *n* **1** the diameter of the bore of a gun. **2** quality.

**calico** /'kælə,ko:/, /ca-li-co/ *n* a cotton cloth from India.

**calk**<sup>1</sup> see **caulk**.

**calk**<sup>2</sup> *n* /kɒlk/, /colk/ a metal spike on a shoe to prevent slipping.

**calk**<sup>3</sup> *vb* /kɒlk/, /colk/ to trace a pattern using a blunt implement.

**call** /kɒl/, /cawl/ *vb* **1** to say or read in a loud voice; to shout or announce. **2** to give a name. **3** to request or demand. **4** to make a short visit. **5** to ask to come. **5** to telephone. • *n* **1** a cry. **2** a short visit. **3** a telephone call. **4** need, demand. • **a close call** a narrow escape.

**calligraphy** /kə'lɪgrəfi/, /ca-lig-ro-fee/ *n* **1** handwriting as an art. **2** the art of writing well.

**calling** /'kɔlin/, /caw-ling/ *n* (*fml*) **1** profession or employment. **2** an inner urging towards some profession.

**callous** /'kæləs/, /ca-lus/ *adj* hardened, unfeeling, insensitive. • *n* **callousness**.

**calm** /kɒm/, /cahm/ *adj* **1** quiet, still. **2** unexcited, not agitated. • *n* **1** stillness. **2** freedom from excitement. • *vb* to make calm. • *n* **calmness** /cahm-nes/.

**calorie** /'kæləri/, /ca-lo-ree/ *n* **1** a measure of heat. **2** a unit for measuring the energy value of food.

**calve** /kæv/, /cav/ *vb* to give birth to a calf.

**calypso** /kə'lipso:/, /ca-lip-so/ *n* songs sung as originally by the native people of Trinidad, with stresses and short emphasized rhythms.

**cam** /kæm/, /cam/ *n* a wheel-like part of a machine that creates a straight movement from a rotating one.

**camcorder** /'kæmkɔrdər/, /cam-cor-der/ *n* a portable video camera that records pictures and sound.

**came** /keɪm/, /came/ *pt* of **come**.

**camel** /'kæməl/, /ca-mel/ *n* an animal, found in Asian and African deserts, that has a long neck and one or two humps on its back.

**cameo** /'kæmio:/, /ca-me-o/ *n* 1 a raised carving (usually of the side view of a person's head) on a gem or shell, with a different-coloured background. 2 a precious stone with a raised design carved on it, often of a different colour. 3 a small but important role in a film or play performed by a celebrity.

**camera** /'kæmərə/, /ca-me-ra/ *n* a device for taking photographs or recording images, consisting of a closed box into which light enters through a lens.

**camisole** /'kæmi,so:l/, /ca-mi-sole/ *n* a woman's light undergarment, sleeveless and trimmed in lace, worn on the upper part of the body.

**camp** /kæmp/, /camp/ *n* 1 a place where people live in tents, caravans, huts, etc. 2 a group of tents, caravans, huts, or other kinds of temporary shelter. • *vb* to stay in or set up a camp.

**campaign** /kæm'peɪn/, /cam-pane/ *n* 1 a battle or series of battles in a war. 2 any series of actions, meetings, etc directed to one purpose. • *vb* to take part in or conduct a campaign.

**camp bed** /'kæmp ,bed/, /camp bed/ *n* a folding portable bed.

**camphor** /'kæmfər/, /cam-for/ *n* a strong-smelling chemical mixture used in protecting fabrics from moths, in making plastics and in medicine.

**campus** /'kæmpəs/, /cam-pus/ *n* the grounds of a school or college.

**can<sup>1</sup>** /kæn/, /can/ *vb* (*pt could*) 1 indicates the ability to do something. 2 indicates permission to do something. 3 indicates the opportunity to do something.

**can<sup>2</sup>** /kæn/, /can/ *n* a small metal container in which food or drink is preserved. • *vb* (**canned**, **canning**) to put into tins to preserve.

**canal** /kə'næl/, /ca-nal/ *n* a human-made waterway.

**canary** /kə'nærɪ/, /ca-nay-ree/ *n* a small, yellow bird often kept as a pet. • *adj* bright yellow.

**cancel** /'kænsəl/, /can-sel/ *vb* (**cancelled**, **cancelling**) **1** to cross out.

**2** to do away with. • *n cancellation*.

**cancer** /'kænsər/, /can-ser/ *n* **1** a harmful, sometimes fatal growth in the body. **2** a growing evil.

**candid** /'kændɪd/, /can-did/ *adj* very honest or frank in what you say. • *adv candidly*.

**candidate** /'kændɪdeɪt/, /can-di-date/ *n* **1** someone who seeks a post or position. **2** someone who takes an exam.

**candle** /'kændəl/, /can-dl/ *n* a mass of formed, shaped wax or tallow containing a wick for lighting.

**candlestick** /'kændəlstɪk/, /can-del-stick/ *n* a holder for a candle.

**candour** /'kændər/, /can-dor/ *n* also **candor** (US) frankness.

**candy** /'kændi/, /can-dee/ *n* **1** sugar hardened by boiling. **2** (US) any sweet or sweets. • *vb* to preserve by boiling with sugar.

**cane** /keɪn/, /cane/ *n* **1** a usually bendable, slender, jointed, hollow stem, such as bamboo, sugar cane, etc. **2** a walking stick. • *vb* to beat with a cane.

**cane sugar** /'keɪn ſugə/, /cane ſhu-gar/ *n* sugar obtained from the sugar cane.

**canine** /'keɪnain/, /cay-nine/ *adj* having to do with dogs or other animals in the dog family. • *n* one of the pointed teeth in the front of the mouth (*also canine tooth*).

**canister** /'kænistər/, /ca-nis-ter/ *n* a small box or tin.

**cannabis** /'kænəbis/, /can-a-bis/ *n* a drug made from the dried leaves and flowers of the hemp plant, smoked or chewed, and illegal in many countries.

**cannibal** /'kænəbəl/, /ca-ni-bal/ *n* **1** a person who eats human flesh. **2** an animal that eats flesh of its own species. • *n cannibalism/ca-ni-ba-li-zum/*.

**cannon** /'kænən/, /ca-non/ *n* a large, mounted weapon.

**cannonball** /'kænənbɔl/, /ca-nun-bol/ *n* an iron ball fired from a cannon.

**cannot** /kæ'nɒt, 'kænɒt/, /ca-not, ca-not/ often shortened to **can't** *v* to be unable to do something.

**canoe** /kə'nu:/, /ca-noo/ *n* a narrow, light boat moved by paddles.

**canon** /'kænən/, /ca-non/ *n* **1** the law or laws of a church. **2** a member of clergy who lives according to the laws in a church.

**canopy** /'kænəpi/, /ca-no-pee/ *n* a hanging cover forming a shelter above a throne, bed, etc.

**cant<sup>1</sup>** /kænt/, /cant/ *n* **1** a special way of speaking used by a particular group of people. **2** meaningless or insincere talk.

**cant<sup>2</sup>** /kænt/, /cant/ *vb* to tilt up. • *n* a tilt.

**can't** /kænt/, *contraction* a shortened form of **cannot**.

**cantaloupe** /'kæntəlo:p/, /can-ta-lope/ *n* a type of melon with sweet orange flesh.

**canteen** /kæn'tin/, /can-teen/ *n* **1** a place where food and drink can be obtained in a camp, factory, office, etc. **2** a small metal or plastic container used to carry water. **3** a case containing a set of cutlery.

**canter** /'kæntər/, /can-ter/ *vb* to gallop at a smooth, easy pace. • *also n.*

**cantor** /'kæntər/, /can-ter/ *n* someone who leads the singing and prayer in a synagogue.

**canvas** /'kænvəs/, /can-vas/ *n* **1** a coarse cloth of cotton, hemp, or linen, often unbleached, and used for sails, tents, etc, or for painting on. **2** the sails of a ship. **3** an oil painting.

**canvass** /'kænvəs/, /can-vas/ *vb* **1** to ask for votes or orders. **2** to look at or discuss in detail. • *n canvasser*.

**canyon** /'kænjən/, /can-yin/ *n* a long, narrow valley between cliffs, often with a river or stream flowing through it.

**cap** /kæp/, /cap/ *n* **1** a covering for the head with no brim or only part of one. **2** a cover or top piece. • *vb (capped, capping)* **1** to put a cap on. **2** to improve on. **3** to impose an upper limit on.

**capable** /'keɪpəbəl/, /cay-pa-bl/ *adj* **1** able to. **2** likely to. **3** able to do things well, efficient. • *n capability*.

**capacity** /kə'pæsiti/, /ca-pa-si-tee/ *n* **1** ability to hold or contain. **2** ability to produce or perform, experience, etc. **3** (*fml*) position.

**cape<sup>1</sup>** /keɪp/, /cape/ *n* a short cloak for covering the shoulders, a sleeveless cloak.

**cape**<sup>2</sup> /keɪp/, /cape/ *n* a piece of land jutting out into the water.

**caper**<sup>1</sup> /'keɪpər/, /cay-per/ *vb* to jump about playfully. • *n* **1** a jump or leap. **2** a prank, a mischievous act. **3** a robbery.

**caper**<sup>2</sup> /'keɪpər/, /cay-per/ *n* a kind of tree or shrub that has tiny, green flower buds that are picked and used to flavour food.

**capillary** /'kæpɪləri/, /ca-pil-a-ree/ *adj* small and thin, hairlike. • *npl* **capillaries** small blood vessels.

**capital** /'kæpitəl/, /ca-pi-tal/ *adj* **1** chief. **2** punishable by death. **3** (*inf*) excellent. • *n* **1** the top of a column or pillar. **2** the chief city. **3** money, especially when used for business. **4** a large letter, as used first in proper names.

**capital punishment** /'kæpitəl pənɪʃmənt/, /ca-pi-tal pun-ish-ment/ *n* punishment by death.

**capitalist** /'kæpitəlist/, /ca-pi-tal-ist/ *n* wealthy businessman, a person who owns capital.

**capitalism** /'kæpitəlɪzəm/, /ca-pi-ta-li-zum/ *n* an economic system where production is privately owned and run to make a profit.

**caprice** /kə'pri:s/, /ca-preess/ *n* a sudden desire or fancy.,

**capricious** /kə'prɪʃəs/, /ca-pri-shus/ *adj* changeable, unreasonable.

**capsize** /'kæpsaɪz/, /cap-size/ *vb* to overturn or upset.

**capsule** /'kæpsjəl/, /cap-syul/ *n* **1** a hollow pill containing medicine. **2** the part of a spacecraft containing the instruments and crew.

**captain** /'kæptən/, /cap-tin/ *n* **1** a commander. **2** an officer. **3** a leader. • *also vb.*

**caption** /'kæpʃən/, /cap-shon/ *n* the heading over (or under) a picture or newspaper report.

**captivate** /'kæptə'veit/, /cap-ti-vate/ *vb* to charm, to fascinate.

**captive** /'kæptɪv/, /cap-tiv/ *n* a prisoner. • *also adj.*

**captivity** /kæp'tɪvɪti/, /cap-ti-vi-tee/ *n* the state of being a prisoner.

**captor** /'kæptər/, /cap-tor/ *n* someone who holds something or someone captive.

**capture** /'kæptʃər/, /cap-shur/ *vb* **1** to take prisoner, to catch. **2** to take control of. • *n* **1** act of catching or taking prisoner. **2** the thing so caught or taken.

**car** /kɑːr/, /kɑːr/ *n* 1 a wheeled vehicle. 2 a motor car. 3 a carriage.

**carafe** /kə'raef/, /ca-raf/ *n* a glass bottle.

**caramel** /'kærəməl/, /ca-ra-mel/ *n* 1 burnt sugar used as colouring and flavouring in cooking. 2 a type of sweet made with sugar, milk, etc.

**carat** /'kærət/, /ca-rat/ *n* a unit of weight used for jewellery, equal to 200 milligrams.

**caravan** /'kærəvæn/, /ca-ra-van/ *n* 1 a covered vehicle for passengers, circus animals, etc. 2 a road vehicle without an engine and containing living quarters, pulled by a car. 3 a group of people travelling together for safety.

**caraway** /'kærəweɪ/, /ca-ra-way/ *n* a plant whose seeds are used to flavour cakes, breads etc.

**carbohydrate** /,karbo:'haɪdrat/, /car-bo-hie-drat/ *n* the compound in foods that gives you energy; examples are sugars and starch.

**carbon** /'karbən/, /cahr-bun/ *n* a natural element, found in coal, charcoal, soot, etc.

**carbon dioxide** /,karbən daɪ'ɒksaɪd/, /car-bun die-oc-side/ *n* a gas without colour or smell, breathed out by people and animals and absorbed by plants.

**carbon footprint** /'karbən ,fʊtprɪnt/, /car-bun foot-print/ *n* a means of measuring the carbon dioxide produced by an individual person or an organization.

**carbon monoxide** /,karbən mən'ɒksaɪd/, /car-bun mon-oc-side/ *n* a poisonous gas, without colour or smell, produced by the exhausts of cars, etc.

**carbon paper** /'karbən ,peɪpər/, /car-bun pay-per/ *n* thin, prepared paper used to make copies of letters as they are written.

**car boot sale** /kar 'bu:t seɪl/ /car boot sale/ *n* a public sale where people sell things, often unwanted objects, from the backs of their cars.

**carburettor** /'karbə,reɪtər/, /car-bu-ray-tor/ *n* the part of a motor engine in which air is mixed with petrol, etc, to make a vapour that will burn.

**carcass** /'karkəs/, /car-cas/ *n* the dead body of an animal.

**card**<sup>1</sup> /kard/, /card/ *n* a small piece of thick paper for various purposes.

**card**<sup>2</sup> /kard/, /card/ *vb* to comb wool or flax before making it into thread. • *n* an instrument for combing wool or flax. • *n* **carder**.

**cardboard** /'kardbɔːd/, /card-bored/ *n* stiff, thick paper.

**cardiac** /'kardiæk/, /car-dee-ac/ *adj* to do with the heart.

**cardigan** /'kardɪgən/, /car-di-gan/ *n* a jumper that buttons down the front.

**cardinal** /'kardɪnəl/, /car-di-nal/ *adj* very important, principal. • *n* 1 in the Roman Catholic Church, a high-ranking official with the right to take part in the election of the pope. 2 a bright red, crested bird.

**care** /ker/, /care/ *n* 1 worry. 2 attention. 3 being looked after. • *vb* 1 to be interested. 2 to look after. 3 to have a liking or love.

**career** /kə'ri:r/, /ca-reer/ *n* someone's work or profession in life. • *vb* to move at full speed.

**careful** /'kerfʊl/, /care-ful/ *adj* 1 taking trouble. 2 cautious. • *adv* **carefully**.

**care home** /'ker,həʊm/, /care home/ *n* a place where people who are too ill or too old to take care of themselves live and are looked after.

**careless** /'kerləs/, /care-less/ *adj* taking little or no trouble. • *adv* **carelessly**. • *n* **carelessness**.

**carer** /'kerər/, /cay-rer/ *n* someone who is responsible for looking after someone, such as an ill person, usually in the person's own home.

**caress** /kə'res/, /ca-res/ *vb* to touch or stroke lovingly. • *also n.*

**caretaker** /'ker,teɪkər/, /care-tay-ker/ *n* someone who looks after a building or place.

**cargo** /'kɑ:gɒ:/, /car-go/ *n* the goods carried by a ship, plane, etc.

**caribou** /'kærɪ,bu:/, /ca-ri-boo/ *n* the North American reindeer.

**caricature** /'kærɪkətʃər/, /ca-ri-ca-choor/ *n* a cartoon picture of a person or thing that exaggerates a particular feature to make others laugh. • *vb* to draw a caricature. • *n* **caricaturist**.

**carnage** /'kɑ:nidʒ/, /car-nidge/ *n* widespread killing, slaughter.

**carnal** /'karnəl/, /car-nal/ *adj* having to do with the body rather than the spirit.

**carnation** /kɑr'neɪʃən/, /car-nay-shun/ *n* a plant with usually double flowers of white, pink, or red that smell of cloves.

**carnival** /'karnəvəl/, /car-ni-val/ *n* 1 a time of feasting and merriment just before Lent, a Christian time of fasting. 2 a circus or fair.

**carnivore** /'karnə,vɔr/, /car-ni-vore/ *n* a flesh-eating animal. • *adj* **carnivorous**.

**carol** /'kærəl/, /ca-rol/ *n* a song of joy, especially one sung at Christmas. • *vb* (**caroled**, **caroling**) to sing joyfully.

**carotid** /kə'rɒtɪd/, /ca-rot-id/ *n* having to do with the two large arteries in the neck.

**carousal** /kæ'rauzəl/ or , /ca-row-zul/ *n* (*fmf*) a noisy drinking party.

**carouse** /kə'rauzl/, /ca-rowz/ *vb* (*fmf*) to drink freely.

**carousel** /,kærə'sel/, /ca-ro-sel/ *n*, also **carrousel** 1 a merry-go-round. 2 a rotating conveyor belt.

**carp**<sup>1</sup> /karp/, /carp/ *vb* to find fault or complain, often unreasonably.

**carp**<sup>2</sup> /karp/, /carp/ *n* a freshwater fish.

**carpenter** /'karpəntər/, /car-pen-ter/ *n* someone who builds and repairs wooden things, especially for houses, ships, etc. • *n* **carpentry**.

**carpet** /'karpət/, /car-pet/ *n* 1 a thick covering of wool or other material for a floor. 2 a covering. • *vb* 1 to cover with a carpet. 2 to cover. 3 (*inf*) to scold, to reprimand.

**carpetbag** /'karpət,bæg/, /car-pet-bag/ *n* an old-fashioned travelling bag made of carpeting.

**carriage** /'kærɪdʒ, /ca-ridge/ *n* 1 act of carrying. 2 the price of carrying. 3 the way someone stands or moves. 4 a cart with wheels or other passenger vehicle.

**carrier** /'kærɪər/, /ca-ree-yer/ *n* 1 someone who carries or transports goods. 2 anyone or anything that carries.

**carrier bag** /'kærɪər ,bag/, /ca-ree-yer bag/ *n* a paper or plastic bag with handles.

**carrier pigeon** /'kæriər ˈpɪdʒən/, /ca-ree-yer pi-jin/ *n* a pigeon used for carrying letters.

**carrion** /'kærɪən/, /ca-ree-yon/ *n* rotten flesh.

**carrot** /'kærət/, /ca-rot/ *n* an orange-red root vegetable.

**carry** /'kæri/, /ca-ree/ *vb* 1 to take from one place to another. 2 to go from one place to another. 3 to have or hold. • **carry on** 1 to continue to do. 2 to behave badly or in an uncontrolled manner. • **carry out** to perform.

**cart** /kart/, /cart/ *n* a two-wheeled vehicle (usually made of wood) for carrying goods. • *vb* to carry by cart. • *n* **carter**.

**cartilage** /'kɑ:təlɪdʒ/, /car-ti-lige/ *n* an elastic substance surrounding the joints of bones.

**cartography** /kar'togrəfi/, /car-tog-ra-fee/ *n* the art of map making. • *n* **cartographer**.

**carton** /'kɑ:tn/, /car-ton/ *n* a cardboard box.

**cartoon** /kar'tu:n/, /car-toon/ *n* 1 a comic drawing. 2 an animated drawing. • *n* **cartoonist**.

**cartridge** /'kɑ:trɪdʒ/, /car-tridge/ *n* 1 the container for the explosive that fires the bullet or shell from a gun. 2 any small container that carries a substance for a larger device.

**carve** /kɑ:v/, /carve/ *vb* 1 to cut into a special shape. 2 to make by cutting wood or stone. 3 to cut into slices.

**carver** /'kɑ:vər/, /car-ver/ *n* 1 someone who carves. 2 a carving knife.

**cascade** /kæs'keɪd/, /ca-scade/ *n* 1 a waterfall. 2 something like a waterfall. • *vb* to fall or drop in a cascade.

**case<sup>1</sup>** /keɪs/, /case/ *n* 1 a box or container. 2 a covering. 3 a suitcase. 4 a piece of furniture for displaying or containing things.

**case<sup>2</sup>** /keɪs/, /case/ 1 an event, instance, or example. 2 a person having medical, etc, treatment. 3 a statement of facts and arguments or reasons. 4 a question to be decided in a court of law, a lawsuit.

**cash** /kæʃ/, /cash/ *n* 1 coins or paper money, not cheques or credit cards, etc. 2 immediate payment rather than by credit. 3 (*inf*) money generally. • *vb* to turn into money.

**cashier** /kæʃiər/, /ca-sheer/ *n* someone who has charge of money in a store or a bank. • *vb* to dismiss (an officer from the army, navy, etc.) in disgrace.

**cash machine** see **ATM (see 1)**.

**cashmere** /'kæʃ,mi:r/, /cazh-meer/ *n* a fine, soft, woollen material.

**casino** /kə'sino:/, /ca-see-no/ *n* a hall for dancing or gambling.

**cask** /kæsk/, /cask/ *n* a barrel.

**casket** /'kæskit/, /cas-ket/ *n* a jewel case.

**casserole** /'kæsə,rəʊl/, /ca-se-role/ *n* 1 a glass or earthenware dish in which food can be cooked in an oven and then served at table. 2 the food so prepared.

**cassette** /kə'set/, /ca-set/ *n* a flat plastic case containing tape for recording or playing back sounds or pictures.

**cassock** /'kæsək/, /ca-sok/ *n* a long, close-fitting robe worn by clergymen and those taking part in services.

**cast** /kæst/, /cast/ *vb* (pt, pp **cast**) 1 to throw. 2 to throw off. 3 to shape. • *n* 1 a throw. 2 a squint (in the eye). 3 a model made in a mould. 4 the actors in a play.

**castaway** /'kæstəwei/, /cas-ta-way/ *n* a shipwrecked person.

**caste** /kæst/, /cast/ *n* in India, the social class or rank into which someone is born.

**caster** /'kæstər/, /ca-ster/ *n*, also **castor** 1 a small jar or bottle with holes in the top for sprinkling salt, sugar, etc. 2 a small wheel on a piece of furniture, making it easy to move.

**castigate** /'kæstri,geɪt/, /ca-sti-gate/ *vb* (*fml*) to scold or criticize severely. • *n* **castigation**.

**cast iron** /'kæst'aɪrən/, /cast eye-urn/ *n* iron that has been melted and shaped in a mould. • *adj* very strong.

**castle** /'kæsəl/, /ca-sel/ *n* 1 a large building, usually one strengthened against attack. 2 a piece in chess. • **castles in the air** a daydream.

**casual** /'kæʒjuəl/, /cazh-yoo-ul/ *adj* 1 happening by chance. 2 not regular. 3 uninterested. 4 not careful, not thorough. 5 informal. • *adv* **casually**.

**casualty** /'kæʒuəlti/, /ca-zhul-tee/ *n* **1** an accident, especially a fatal one. **2** an injured or wounded person. **3** (*inf*) the accident and emergency (A&E) department of a hospital. **4** something that is damaged or destroyed as a result of an event.

**cat** /kæt/, /cat/ *n* **1** an animal with soft fur and sharp claws, commonly kept as a pet. **2** a family of meat-eating animals.

**catacomb** /'kætə,kɒm/, /ca-ta-com/ *n* an underground tomb.

**catalogue** /'kætə,lɒg/, /ca-ta-lawg/ *n*, also **catalog** (*US*) a complete list arranged in a special order so that the items can be found easily. • *vb* to make a list.

**catalyst** /'kætəlist/, /ca-ta-list/ *n* **1** a substance that aids a chemical reaction but is not itself changed. **2** something or someone that causes a change in a situation or has a marked effect on the course of events.

**catamaran** /kætəmə'ræn/, /ca-ta-me-ran/ *n* a sailing boat made in long, narrow parts joined by a bridge.

**catapult** /'kætəpəlt/, /ca-ta-pult/ *n* **1** a machine used for hurling heavy stones in war. **2** a Y-shaped stick with elastic for shooting stones, etc.

**cataract** /'kætə,rækt/, /ca-ta-ract/ *n* **1** a large waterfall. **2** a disease of the eye, causing gradual loss of sight.

**catastrophe** /kə'tæstrefi/, /ca-ta-stro-fee/ *n* a sudden, great disaster. • *adj* **catastrophic**.

**catch** /kætʃ/, /catch/ *vb* (*pt, pp* **caught**) **1** to take and hold. **2** to capture. **3** to become accidentally attached or held. **4** to surprise in the act of. **5** to succeed in hearing. **6** to get by infection. **7** to be in time for, to get on. • *n* **1** the act of catching. **2** the number of fish caught at one time. **3** a fastener. **4** a snag. **5** a song in which the same words and tune are repeated by several singers starting at different times.

**catchy** /'kætʃi/, /ca-chee/ *adj* memorable.

**categorical** /kætə'gorɪkəl/, /ca-te-gawr-ic-all/ *adj* definite. • *adv* **categorically**.

**category** /'kætəgori/, /ca-te-go-ree/ *n* a class or group of things in a system of grouping.

**cater** /'keɪtər/, /cay-ter/ *vb* 1 to supply with food and drinks, especially at social occasions. 2 to provide what is needed or desired. • *n caterer*.

**caterpillar** /'kætərpilər/, /ca-ter-pi-lar/ *n* the wormlike larvae of insects such as the butterfly or moth.

**cathedral** /kæθɪdrəl/, /ca-thee-dral/ *n* the main church in a district in which a bishop has his throne.

**catholic** /'kæθəlɪk/, /cath-lic/ *adj* wide-ranging, broad, including many different things. • *n catholicity*.

**Catholic** /'kæθəlɪk/, /cath-lic/ *n* a member of the Roman Catholic Church. • *also adj*.

**catkin** /'kætkɪn/, /cat-kin/ *n* the fuzzy blossom of the willow, hazel, etc.

**CAT scan** /'kætskæn/, /cat-scan/ *abbr* = **computerized axial tomography**: a series of x-rays that create a 3D image of the body.

**cattle** /'kætəl/, /cat-tl/ *n pl* cows, bulls and oxen.

**caught** /kɔ:t/, /cawt/ *pt and pp of catch*.

**cauldron** /'kɔ:ldrən/, /col-drone/ *n* a large boiling pot.

**caulk, calk** /kɔ:k/, /cawk/ *vt* to render watertight by pressing a sealant into the seams.

**cauliflower** /'kʊlfəflaʊr/, /caw-li-fla-wer/ *n* a type of cabbage, of which the white, fleshy flower is eaten as a vegetable.

**cause** /kɔ:z/, /cawz/ *n* 1 something or someone that produces an effect or result. 2 the reason for an action, a motive. 3 a purpose, aim. • *vb* to make happen.

**causeway** /'kɔ:zwei/, /cawz-way/ *n* a road or path raised on a mound above the surrounding country, as over wet ground or water.

**caustic** /'kɔstɪk/, /caw-stic/ *adj* 1 burning. 2 bitter, severe. • *adv caustically*.

**caution** /'kɔʃən/, /caw-shen/ *n* 1 carefulness, especially to avoid risk or danger. 2 warning. • *vb* 1 to warn against possible danger. 2 to give a warning to, often with the threat of future punishment.

**cautious** /'kɔʃəs/, /caw-shess/ *adj* careful, showing caution.

**cavalcade** /kævəl'keɪd/, /ca-val-cade/ *n* a procession.

**cavalier** /kævə'li:r/, /ca-va-leer/ *n* an armed horseman. • *adj* offhand, casual and disrespectful. • *adv* **cavalierly**.

**cavalry** /'kævəlri/, /ca-val-ree/ *n* originally soldiers on horses, but now often riding in armoured trucks or tanks.

**cave** /keɪv/, /cave/ *n* a hollow place in the earth, as in a hillside extending back. • **cave in** to fall in over a hollow.

**cave man** /'keɪvmæn/, /cave man/ *n* 1 (*old*) a human who, in the earliest times, lived in a cave. 2 a man with very rough manners, especially towards women.

**cavern** /'kævərn/, /ca-vern/ *n* a large cave. • *vb* to hollow out.

**cavernous** /'kævərns/, /ca-ver-nus/ *adj* large and hollow, like a cavern.

**caviar(e)** /'kæviər/, /ca-vee-ar/ *n* the eggs of sturgeon, salmon and similar fish eaten as a delicacy.

**cavity** /'kæviti/, /ca-vi-tee/ *n* 1 a hollow place. 2 a hole.

**cayenne** /kaɪ'en/, /kie-yen/ *n* a very hot red pepper.

**CCTV** /si:siti:vɪ/, /see-see-tee-vee/ *abbr* = **closed-circuit television**: a type of surveillance camera system.

**CD** /si:di:/, /see dee/ *abbr* = **compact disc** or **compact disk (US)**: a small, mirrored, plastic disc that stores music, images, or files that are read optically by a laser beam.

**CD-ROM** /'si:di:rɒm/, /see-dee-rom/ *abbr* = **compact disc read-only memory**: a disc that holds files that can be read by a computer, but that cannot be altered.

**cease** /si:s/, /sees/ *vb* 1 to stop. 2 to come to an end.

**ceaseless** /si:sləs/, /sees-less/ *adj* endless, continuous.

**cedar** /si:dər/, /see-dar/ *n* a large, cone-bearing tree or its wood.

**ceiling** /'si:lɪŋ/, /see-ling/ *n* 1 the inside roof of a room. 2 the greatest height to which a particular aircraft can climb. 3 an upper limit.

**celebrate** /'selə,breɪt/, /se-le-brate/ *vb* 1 to perform a religious ceremony. 2 to honour an event by feasting and rejoicing. • *n* **celebration**.

**celebrated** /'selə,breɪtəd/, /se-le-bray-ted/ *adj* famous.

**celebrity** /sə'lɛbrəti/, /se-le-bri-tee/ *n* a famous person.

**celery** /'seləri/, /se-le-ree/ *n* a kind of vegetable, of which the green stem is eaten either cooked or raw.

**celestial** /sə'lɛstəl/, /se-les-chal/ *adj* 1 heavenly. 2 having to do with the sky.

**celibacy** /'selɪbəsi/, /se-li-ba-see/ *n* the state of being unmarried, not having sexual relationships.

**celibate** /'selɪbət/, /se-li-bet/ *adj* unmarried, not having sexual relationships.

**cell** /sel/, /sell/ *n* 1 a small, bare room, especially in a prison or monastery. 2 a space in a honeycomb. 3 a single unit of living matter. 4 a unit of an electric battery. 5 a small group of people working towards the same end.

**cellar** /'selər/, /se-lar/ *n* an area underneath a house, often used for storage.

**cello** /'tʃelə/, /che-lo/ (*short for violoncello*) a musical instrument of the violin family, between the viola and bass in size and pitch. • *n* **cellist**.

**cellophane** /'seləfēn/, /se-lo-fane/ *n* a thin, transparent wrapping material.

**cellular** /'selju:lər/, /sell-ye-lar/ *adj* having cells, made up of cells.

**cellulose** /'selju;lō:z/, /sell-ye-loze/ *n* a substance obtained from wood or plants and used in making paper, imitation silk, film, etc.

**Celsius** /'selsiəs/, /sell-see-es/ *adj* a way of measuring temperature so that 0 degrees is the freezing point of water and 100 degrees is the boiling point.

**cement** /sə'ment/, /si-ment/ *n* a powdered substance that, mixed with liquid, forms a solid material used to make things stick together. • *vb* 1 to join with cement. 2 to unite closely.

**cemetery** /'semə,tēri/, /se-me-te-ree/ *n* a burial ground, a graveyard.

**censer** /'sensər/, /sen-ser/ *n* a decorated container in which incense is burned.

**censor** /'sensər/, /sen-ser/ *n* someone who examines letters, books, films, etc, to see if they contain anything inappropriate, offensive, or harmful to society. • *also vb.* • *n* **censorship**. • *adj censorious*.

**census** /'sensəs/, /sen-ses/ *n* **1** an official counting of a country's population. **2** an official counting of other things.

**cent** /sent/, /sent/ *n* a coin that is worth one-hundredth of a dollar, euro etc.

**centaur** /'sen,tɔr/, /sen-tawr/ *n* in Greek myths, an imaginary creature that is half man and half horse.

**centenarian** /,sɛntə'nɛri:ən/, /sen-te-ne-ree-an/ *n* a person at least 100 years old.

**centenary** /,senti'nəri/, /sen-tee-ne-ree/ *n* the 100th year after a certain event.

**centennial** /sən'tenɪəl/, /sen-ten-ee-al/ *adj* happening once every 100 years.

**centimetre** /'sentɪ,mi:tər/, /sen-ti-mee-ter/ *n* one-hundredth of a metre, *abbr cm*.

**centipede** /'sentɪ,pi:d/, /sen-ti-peed/ *n* a small, insect-eating, caterpillar-like animal with a segmented body and many feet.

**central** /'sentrəl/, /sen-tral/ *adj* **1** in the middle. **2** chief.

**centralize** /'sentrə,laɪz/, /sen-tra-lize/ *vb* also **centralise** to bring together to one place. • *n centralization* also **centralisation**.

**centre** /'sentər/, /sen-ter/ also **center** (US) *n* **1** the middle point or part of anything. **2** a place where certain activities or facilities are concentrated. **3** a political position that is not extreme. • *vb* **1** to put into the middle. **2** to collect or concentrate at or around.

**centrifugal** /səntri'trifjəgəl/, /sen-trif-yew-gul/ *adj* describing a physical force that causes an object that is rotating around a central point to move away from that point.

**centripetal** /sən'trɪpətəl/, /sen-trip-it-ul/ *adj* describing a physical force that pulls something towards the centre point it is rotating around.

**centurion** /sən'tʃuriən/, /sen-choo-ree-en/ *n* (*old*) the captain of 100 men, especially in an ancient Roman army.

**century** /'sentʃəri/, /sen-choo-ree/ *n* 100 years.

**ceramic** /sə'ræmɪk/, /se-ra-mic/ *adj* having to do with pottery, earthenware, tile, etc.

**ceramics** /sə'ræmɪks/, /se-ra-mics/ *n* the art or work of making pottery, earthenware, tile, etc.

**cereal** /'si:riəl/, /see-ree-al/ *n* 1 any grain that can be eaten. 2 food made from such grain, often eaten at breakfast.

**cerebral** /'sɛrəbrəl, sə'ri:brəl/, /se-re-bral, se-ree-bral/ *adj* 1 having to do with the brain. 2 intellectual rather than emotional.

**ceremonial** /,sɛrə'mo:nɪəl/, /se-re-mo-nee-al/ *n* the actions connected with a ceremony. • *adj* having to do with a ceremony.

**ceremonious** /'sɛrə,mɔ:nɪəs/, /se-re-mo-nee-es/ *adj* full of ceremony, very formal.

**ceremony** /'sɛrə,mɔ:ni/, /se-re-mo-nee/ *n* 1 the performing of certain actions in a fixed order for a religious or other serious purpose. 2 formal behaviour, formality.

**certain** /'sɜ:tən/, /ser-ten/ *adj* 1 sure. 2 particular.

**certainly** /sɜ:tənlɪ/, /ser-ten-lee/ *adv* 1 undoubtedly. 2 willingly.

**certainty** /'sɜ:tənti/, /ser-ten-tee/ *n* 1 the state of being certain or sure. 2 that which is certain.

**certificate** /sɜ:tifikɪt/, /ser-ti-fi-cate/ *n* a written statement of fact.

**certify** /'sɜ:tifai/, /ser-ti-fie/ *vb* 1 to confirm formally the truth of a statement. 2 officially to declare a person mentally ill.

**chafe** /tʃeif/, /chafe/ *vb* 1 to warm by rubbing. 2 to make sore or wear away by rubbing. 3 to be angry.

**chain** /tʃeɪn/, /chane/ *n* 1 a number of metal rings joined to form a rope. 2 a number of connected facts or events, a series. 3 a measure of length. 4 (*of mountains*) a range. • *vb* to bind or fasten with a chain.

**chair** /tʃer/, /chare/ *n* 1 a movable seat with a back. 2 chairperson. 3 the seat or place of an official (e.g. of a professor in a university or a person controlling a meeting). • *vb* to be in charge of a meeting.

**chairman, chairperson, chairwoman** /'tʃermən, 'tʃer,persən, 'tʃer,wumən/, /chair-man, chair-per-son, chair-wu-man/ *n* someone who controls a meeting.

**chalet** /ʃæl'eɪ/, /sha-lay/ *n* a wooden house or hut with a steeply sloping roof, common in Switzerland.

**chalice** /'tʃælis/, /cha-lis/ *n* **1** (*old*) a drinking cup. **2** a cup with a stem, especially used in church services.

**chalk** /tʃɒk/, /chawk/ *n* **1** a soft, white limestone. **2** a piece of chalk used for writing on a blackboard. • *vb* to mark with chalk. • *adj* chalky.

**challenge** /'tʃæləndʒ/, /cha-lenj/ *vb* **1** to call on another to fight or play a match to see who is the better. **2** to doubt the truth of. • *n* **1** the daring of another to a contest. **2** a statement or action that questions something. **3** a difficult or exciting task. • *n* **challenger**.

**chamber** /'tʃeimbər/, /chame-ber/ *n* **1** (*old*) a room. **2** a room in which a meeting takes place. **3** an administrative group. **4** the part of a gun in which the cartridge is held.

**chamber music** /'tʃeimbərmju:zik/, /chame-ber myoo-zik/ *n* music written to be played by only a few people (such as a quartet) for a small audience, as in a room rather than a hall.

**chameleon** /kə'mi:liən/, /ca-meel-ee-en/ *n* a type of lizard that can change the colour of its skin.

**champ** /tʃæmp/, /champ/ *vb* to chew noisily with the teeth. • *n* short for **champion**.

**champagne** /ʃæm'peɪn/, /sham-pain/ *n* a type of sparkling white wine.

**champion** /'tʃæmpiən/, /cham-pee-en/ *n* **1** someone who has beaten all his or her rivals or opponents. **2** someone who fights for a certain cause, or for another person. • *vb* to defend or support.

**championship** /'tʃæmpiənʃɪp/, /cham-pee-en-ship/ *n* **1** a series of contests or matches to discover the champion. **2** the state of being a champion.

**chance** /tʃæns/, /chans/ *n* **1** accident. **2** opportunity. **3** risk. • *vb* **1** (*fml*) to happen. **2** to risk. • *adj* accidental.

**chancel** /'tʃænsəl/, /chan-sel/ *n* the altar end of a church.

**chancellor** /'tʃænsələr/, /chan-se-ler/ *n* **1** a country's leader or high government official. **2** the chief judge of England. **3** the head of a university. • **Chancellor of the Exchequer** in Britain, the chief minister of finance in the government.

**chandelier** /'ʃændə'lɪər/, /shan-de-lir/ *n* a hanging lamp frame with branches to hold lights.

**change** /tʃeindʒ/, /change/ *vb* **1** to become different. **2** to make different. **3** to put or take one thing in place of another, to exchange. • *n* **1** a difference or alteration. **2** money given in return for money received. **3** small coin. • *adj* **changeable**. • *adj* **changeless**.

**changeling** /'tʃeindʒlɪŋ/, /change-ling/ *n* (*myth*) a child put by fairies in the place of another, as told in folk tales.

**channel** /'tʃænəl/, /cha-nel/ *n* **1** the course of a river. **2** the deep part of a river where ships can sail safely. **3** a narrow sea. **4** a band of frequencies used in radio and television. **5** a means of communication.

**chant** /tʃænt/, /chant/ *vb* **1** to sing. **2** to recite slowly in a singing voice. • *n* **1** a song. **2** a way of singing sacred music.

**chaos** /'keɪɒs/, /kay-os/ *n* a state of utter confusion, disorder.

**chaotic** /keɪ'ɒtɪk/, /kay-o-tic/ *adj* completely without order or arrangement.

**chap<sup>1</sup>** /tʃæp/, /chap/ *vb* (**chapped, chapping**) to crack. • *n* a crack in the skin, caused by cold and wet. • *adj* **chapped**.

**chap<sup>2</sup>** /tʃæp/, /chap/ *n* (*inf*) a man, a fellow.

**chapel** /'tʃæpəl/, /cha-pel/ *n* a small church.

**chaperon(e)** /'ʃæpə,ro:n/, /sha-pe-rone/ *n* **1** especially formerly, an older person, usually a woman, who accompanies young unmarried people when they go out. **2** a person who supervises young people on an outing. • *vb* to act as chaperon to.

**chaplain** /'tʃæplən/, /cha-plen/ *n* **1** the clergyman serving a private chapel. **2** a clergyman with the army, navy, or air force.

**chapter** /'tʃæptər/, /chap-ter/ *n* **1** a division of a book. **2** a meeting of the canons of a cathedral.

**char** /tʃar/, /char/ *vb* (**charred, charring**) **1** to burn in part. **2** to burn the outside.

**character** /'kærəktər/, /ca-ric-ter/ *n* **1** a letter or figure or, as in Chinese, a symbol standing for a whole word. **2** a person's nature as known by words, deeds, etc. **3** a reputation. **4** a person in a

story or play. **5** (*inf*) an odd, humorous, or interesting person. **6** (*inf*) a person.

**characteristic** /kærəktə'rɪstɪk/, /ca-ric-te-**ris**-tic/ *n* a single point in a person's character, a special and recognizable quality in someone or something. • *adj* typical.

**characterize** /'kærɪktə,raɪz/, /ca-ric-te-rize/ *vb*, also **characterise** **1** to be characteristic or typical of. **2** (*fml*) to describe as.

**charade** /ʃə'reɪd/, /sha-rayd/ *npl* **1** a word game in which players guess the word clue without saying anything, just using motions. **2** something that is easily seen to be false.

**charcoal** /'tʃarko:l/, /char-cole/ *n* partly burned wood used as fuel.

**charge** /tʃardʒ/, /charge/ *vb* **1** to ask a price. **2** to accuse. **3** to rush. **4** to attack at speed. **5** to fill with electricity or energy. **6** to tell a person to do something as a duty. • *n* **1** a load of electricity or energy. **2** a price. **3** a duty, especially that of a clergyman. **4** a violent attack. **5** an accusation. • *adj* **chargeable**. • **take charge** to take command, take control.

**chariot** /'tʃæriət/, /cha-ree-et/ *n* (*old*) a horse-drawn, two-wheeled cart used in ancient times for war, racing, parades, etc.

**charioteer** /'tʃæriə'tɪr/, /cha-ree-e-**teer**/ *n* (*old*) the driver of a chariot.

**charity** /'tʃæriti/, /cha-ri-tee/ *n* **1** a love of other human beings. **2** kindness to others. **3** generosity in giving to the poor. **4** an organization that raises money to help people in need or other good causes. • *adj* **charitable**.

**charity shop** /'tʃæriti,ʃɒp/, /cha-ri-tee shop/ *n* a shop that sells second-hand goods to raise money for charity.

**charlatan** /'ʃarlətən/, /shar-la-tan/ *n* someone who deceives by pretending to have special knowledge or skill.

**charm** /tʃarm/, /charm/ *n* **1** a magic spell. **2** an object or words possessing magical power. **3** any small ornament worn as decoration on a necklace, bracelet, or other jewellery. **4** attractiveness of character, a pleasant quality. **5** *pl* (*fml*) beauty. • *vb* **1** to put under a spell. **2** to delight.

**chart** /tʃart/, /chart/ *n* **1** a map, especially one for sailors. **2** a paper showing information in a graph or table.

**charter** /'tʃɑ:tər/, /char-ter/ *n* a written document granting certain rights. • *vb* to hire.

**chase**<sup>1</sup> /tʃeɪs/, /chase/ *vb* 1 to run after. 2 to drive away. • *n* a pursuit, a hunt.

**chase**<sup>2</sup> /tʃæs/, /chase/ *vb* 1 to engrave or cut figures on metal. 2 *n* a groove cut into a wall to provide space for a pipe.

**chasm** /'kæzəm/, /ka-zm/ *n* 1 a wide, deep crack in the surface of the earth, a gorge, a canyon. 2 a wide gap or difference of opinion, attitudes, feelings, etc.

**chaste** /tʃeɪst/, /chaste/ *adj* pure, decent, or modest in nature.

**chasten** /'tʃeɪsən/, /chay-sen/ *vb* to teach by suffering or punishment.

**chastise** /tʃæs'taɪz, 'tʃæstətaɪz/, /chas-tize, chas-tize/ *vb* 1 to punish severely, especially by beating. 2 to scold severely. • *n* **chastisement**.

**chastity** /'tʃæstɪti/, /chas-ti-tee/ *n* purity, the state of being chaste.

**chat** /tʃæt/, /chat/ *vb* (**chatted**, **chatting**) to talk about unimportant matters. • *n* a friendly talk.

**chat room**, **chatroom** /tʃæ'trum/, /chat room/ *n* an Internet web site that allows several members at once to send each other typed instant messages.

**château** /ʃæ'to:/, /sha-toe/ *n* (*pl* **châteaux**) a French castle or country house.

**chattel** /'tʃætəl/, /cha-tel/ *n* 1 movable belongings, someone's possessions. 2 a slave or slaves.

**chatter** /'tʃætər/, /cha-ter/ *vb* 1 to talk quickly and continuously, usually about something unimportant. 2 to make meaningless sounds. • *also n.* • *n* **chatterer**.

**chatterbox** /'tʃætər,boks/, /cha-ter-boks/ *n* one who chatters a great deal.

**chauffeur** /'ʃo:fər, ſo:'fər/, /sho-fer, sho-fer/ *n* a person employed to drive someone's car. • *also vb.*

**chauvinism** /ʃo:və,nɪzəm/, /sho-vi-ni-zm/ *n* too great a pride in one's country, race, sex, etc, leading to a dislike or mistreatment of others. • *n* **chauvinist**.

**chav** /tʃæv/, /chav/ *n (slang, derog, Br)* an insulting term for a young working-class person, insinuating inferior and vulgar tastes.

**cheap** /tʃi:p/, /cheep/ *adj* **1** of a low price. **2** of little value.

**cheapen** /'tʃi:pən/, /chee-pen/ *vb* to lessen the price or value of.

**cheat** /tʃi:t/, /cheet/ *vb* to deceive, to use unfair means. • *n* **1** a trick.

**2** a swindler.

**check** /tʃæk/, /check/ *vb* **1** to stop. **2** to slow down. **3** to scold. **4** to look at something to see if it is correct or in order. • *n* **1** a sudden halt or obstacle. **2** a control. **3** US variant of **cheque**. • *adj* **checked** divided into or marked by squares.

**checkers** /tʃekərz/, /che-kers/ *npl (US)* draughts.

**checkmate** /'tʃekmeɪt/, /check-mate/ *n* the winning move in chess. • *vb* to defeat another's plans.

**cheddar** /tʃedər/, /che-der/ *n* a variety of cheese.

**cheek** /tʃi:k/, /cheek/ *n* **1** the side of the face. **2** disrespect, impudence.

**cheeky** /tʃi:ki/, /cheek-ee/ *adj* rude or impudent, sometimes in an amusing way.

**cheep** /tʃi:p/, /cheep/ *n* a faint squeak, a chirp. • *also vb*.

**cheer** /tʃi:r/, /cheer/ *n* **1** (*old*) mood, disposition. **2** a shout of joy or encouragement. • *vb* **1** to brighten up. **2** to encourage, especially by shouts.

**cheerful** /tʃi:rfʊl/, /cheer-ful/ *adj* **1** happy and lively. **2** bright and attractive.

**cheerless** /tʃi:rləs/, /cheer-less/ *adj* sad, gloomy.

**cheese** /tʃi:z/, /cheez/ *n* a solid food made from milk.

**cheetah** /tʃi:tə/, /chee-ta/ *n* a large, wild animal of the cat family that is lean and fast and has a coat with black spots on it.

**chef** /ʃef/, /shef/ *n* a cook in charge of a kitchen.

**chemical** /'kemikəl/, /ke-mi-cal/ *adj* having to do with chemistry. • *n* a substance studied in chemistry.

**chemist** /'kemist/, /ke-mist/ *n* **1** someone who studies or works in chemistry. **2** someone who is authorized to sell medicines. **3** a shop where medicines, toiletries and cosmetics are sold.

**chemistry** /'keməstri/, /ke-mis-tree/ *n* the science that separates and studies the substance(s) of which all things are made.

**cheque** /tʃeɪk/, /check/ *n*, also **check** (US) a written order to a bank to pay out a sum of money from one's bank account.

**cherish** /'tʃerɪʃ/, /cher-ish/ *vb* 1 to treat lovingly, to hold dear. 2 to keep in the mind or heart.

**cherry** /'tʃeri/, /cher-ee/ *n* 1 a small, pitted fruit. 2 a tree bearing cherries.

**cherub** /'tʃerəb/, /cher-ub/ *n* (pl **cherubs** or **cherubim**) 1 an angel. 2 in art, an angel pictured as a winged child. 3 a beautiful, innocent-looking child.

**cherubic** /tʃe'rubik/, /che-roo-bic/ *adj* angelic.

**chess** /tʃes/, /chess/ *n* a game of skill played on a chequered board by two people with 16 chessmen that are limited in their movements according to kind, the object being to capture the king.

**chessmen** /tʃes'men/, /chess-men/ *n* game pieces used in chess, including a king, a queen, two rooks (or castles), two knights, two bishops and eight pawns.

**chest** /tʃest/, /chest/ *n* 1 a large, strong box. 2 the front, upper part of the body, from the shoulders to the lowest ribs.

**chestnut** /tʃesnət/, /chest-nut/ *n* 1 a nut. 2 a tree bearing chestnuts. 3 a reddish brown horse. • *adj* reddish brown.

**chevron** /'ʃevrən/, /shev-ron/ *n* 1 a V-shaped strip of cloth worn on the sleeve as a sign of rank in the military. 2 a pattern of horizontal V shapes, like a zigzag.

**chew** /tʃu:/, /choo/ *vb* to crush with the teeth.

**chic** /sɪ:k/, /sheek/ *adj* smart, fashionable.

**chicanery** /ʃɪ'keɪnəri/, /shi-cane-ree/ *n* trickery.

**chick** /tʃɪk/, /chick/ *n* a young bird.

**chicken** /'tʃɪkən/, /chi-ken/ *n* 1 a farm bird raised for its eggs and meat. 2 a person who is afraid, not brave, timid.

**chickenpox** /'tʃɪkən,pɒks/, /chi-ken poks/ *n* a disease involving fever and red itchy spots, usually affecting children.

**chickpea** /'tʃɪk,pi/, *n* a large kind of pea.

**chicory** /'tʃɪkəri/, /chi-ko-ree/ *n* a plant whose leaves are used in salads, and the roasted root is sometimes mixed with coffee.

**chide** /tʃaɪd/, /chide/ *vb* to scold.

**chief** /tʃi:f/, /cheef/ *adj* 1 highest in rank. 2 most important, main. • *n* a head, a leader. • *adv* **chiefly**.

**chieftain** /tʃi:tən/, /cheef-tin/ *n* a chief, the head of a clan or tribe.

**chiffon** /ʃe'fon/, /shi-fon/ *n* a thin, silky cloth.

**child** /tʃaɪld/, /childe/ *n* (*pl* **children** /chil-dren/) 1 a young boy or girl, an adolescent. 2 a son or daughter. • *n* **childhood**.

**childcare** /tʃaɪld,kər/, /child-care/ *n* the care of children, especially by people other than the parents, when they are at work.

**childish** /tʃaɪldɪʃ/, /chile-dish/ *adj* 1 like a child. 2 silly, immature.

**childminder** /tʃaɪld,maɪndə/, /child-mine-der/ *n* a person who is paid to look after other people's children, usually in his or her own home.

**children** /tʃɪldrən/, see **child**.

**chill** /tʃɪl/, /chil/ *n* 1 coldness. 2 coldness of manner, unfriendliness. • *vb* 1 to make cold. 2 to make cold without freezing. 3 to discourage. • *adj* cold.

**chilli** /'tʃili/, /chi-lee/ *n* (*pl* *chillies*), also **chili** (US) the small red or green seed pod of a type of hot pepper, used in cooking spicy food.

**chilly** /'tʃili/, /chi-lee/ *adj* 1 cold. 2 unfriendly.

**chime** /tʃaim/, /chime/ *n* 1 the sound of a bell. 2 the music of bells. 3 *pl* a set of bells. • *vb* to ring musically. • **chime in** to agree.

**chimney** /'tʃimni/, /chim-nee/ *n* a passage by which smoke may escape from a fireplace.

**chimney pot** /'tʃimni,pot/, /chim-nee pot/ *n* a pipe at the top of a chimney.

**chimney sweep** /'tʃimni,swi:p/, /chim-nee sweep/ *n* someone who cleans chimneys.

**chimpanzee** /tʃimpæn'zi:/, /chim-pan-zee/ *n* a type of ape found in Africa with black fur and large ears.

**china** /tʃaɪnə/, /chine-a/ *n* 1 a fine, thin porcelain or ceramic ware. 2 cups, plates, ornaments, etc, made of this.

**chinchilla** /tʃɪn'tʃɪlə/, /chin-chi-la/ *n* 1 a small rodent valued for its fur.

2 the fur from this animal.

**chink** /tʃɪŋk/, /chingk/ *n* 1 a very narrow opening. 2 a ringing or jingling sound. • *vb* to jingle.

**chintz** /tʃɪnts/, /chints/ *n* a gaily patterned cotton material that is usually glazed.

**chip** /tʃɪp/, /chip/ *n* 1 a small piece. 2 a counter or token used in games. 3 a small piece of deep-fried potato. • *vb* (**chipped**, **chipping**) 1 to cut into small pieces. 2 to break off a small piece, often accidentally.

**chipmunk** /'tʃɪpmʌŋk/, /chip-munk/ *n* a type of small squirrel with black stripes down its head and back, living mainly in the ground and found in North America.

**chiropodist** /kɪ'rɒpədɪst/, /kir-op-od-ist/ *n* someone whose job is to treat feet problems, a podiatrist. • *n* **chiropody**.

**chirp** /tʃɜrp/, /chirp/ *vb* to make a short, sharp whistling sound. • *also n.*

**chisel** /'tʃɪzəl/, /chi-zel/ *n* a tool used for cutting or chipping wood, stone, etc. • *vb* **chiselled**, **chiselling**.

**chivalry** /'ʃɪvəli/, /shi-val-ree/ *n* 1 (*old*) the rules of good behaviour laid down for knights in the Middle Ages; gentlemanly behaviour. 2 good manners, especially towards women. • *adj* **chivalric** /shi-val-ric/, **chivalrous** /shi-val-rus/.

**chloride** /'klɔraɪd/, /clo-ride/ *n* a mixture of chlorine with another substance.

**chlorine** /klɔr'i:n, 'klɔri:n/, /clo-reen, clo-reen/ *n* a chemical used as a bleaching agent or disinfectant.

**chlorophyll** /klɔrəfil/, /claw-ro-fil/ *n* the green colouring of plants.

**chock-a-block** /'tʃækəblɒk/, /choc-a-bloc/, **chock-full** /choc-ful/ *adjs (inf)* completely full.

**chocolate** /'tʃɒklət, 'tʃɒkələt/, /choc-lit, cho-co-lit/ *n* a paste, powder, syrup, or bar made from cacao seeds that have been roasted and ground. • *adj* chocolate-coloured, i.e. reddish brown.

**choice** /tʃɔɪs/, /choyss/ *n* 1 act of choosing. 2 that which is chosen. • *adj* very good, excellent.

**choir** /'kwaɪər/, /kwɪre/ *n* 1 a group of singers. 2 the part of a church where the choir sits.

**choke** /tʃo:k/, /choke/ *vb* 1 to be unable to breathe. 2 to prevent breathing by pressing the windpipe. 3 to block up. • *n* 1 a fit of choking or its sound. 2 a part that controls the flow of air in a carburettor.

**cholera** /'kɒlərə/, /co-le-ra/ *n* a serious stomach illness.

**choose** /tʃu:z/, /chooz/ *vb* (*pt chose, pp chosen*) to select or take what you prefer.

**chop** /tʃɒp/, /chop/ *vb* (**chopped, chopping**) 1 to cut with a quick, strong blow. 2 to cut into pieces. • *n* a piece of pork or mutton on a rib bone.

**choppy** /tʃɒpi/, /chop-ee/ *adj* rough.

**chops** /tʃɒps/, /chops/ *npl* the jaws.

**chopsticks** /'tʃɒpstɪks/, /chop-stiks/ *npl* two long, thin sticks held in one hand, used in some Asian countries to eat food.

**choral** /'kɔrəl/, /core-al/ *adj* having to do with a chorus or choir.

**chord** /kɔrd/, /cawrd/ *n* a group of several musical notes played at once in harmony.

**chore** /tʃɔr/, /chore/ *n* a regular job about the house.

**chorus** /'kɔrəs/, /co-rus/ *n* 1 a group of singers and sometimes dancers. 2 a song or part of a song in which all may join. • *vb* to sing or speak together.

**chose** /tʃo:z/, /choze/, *pt of choose*.

**chosen** /tʃo:zən/, /choze-en/, *pp of choose*.

**christen** /'krɪsən/, /cris-en/ *vb* 1 to baptize, or make part of the Christian church. 2 to name. 3 to make use of for the first time. • *n christening*.

**Christian** /'krɪstʃən/, /cris-chin/ *adj* having to do with Christ and his teaching. • *n* a believer in Christ.

**Christian name** see **first name**.

**Christmas** /'krɪsməs/, /criss-mas/ *n* December 25, the day each year on which the birth of Christ is celebrated.

**Christmas cracker** /'krɪsməs,crækər/, /cris-mas crak-er/ *n* see **cracker**.

**chromatic** /kro:'mætɪk/, /cro-e-**mat**-ic/ *adj* relating to colours.

**chrome** /kro:m/, /**crome**/ *n* something plated with an alloy of chromium

**chromium** /'kro:mi:əm/, /**croe**-mee-um/ *n* a metallic element (symbol Cr).

**chromosome** /'kro:mə,so:m/, /**croe**-ma-zome/ *n* a microscopic body responsible for hereditary characteristics.

**chronic** /'krɒnɪk/, /**cron**-ik/ *adj* lasting for a long time.

**chronicle** /'krɒnɪkəl/, /**cron**-ik-al/ *adj* a record of events, set down in the order in which they happened. • also *vb.* • *n* **chronicler**.

**chronological** /cron-o-lodge-ik-al/ *adj* arranged in order of time.

**chrysalis** /'krɪsəlɪs/, /**cris**-sa-lis/ *n* an early stage in the life of a flying insect, when it is shut up in a cocoon until its wings grow.

**chrysanthemum** /kri'sænθəməm/, /cri-**zanth**-e-mum/ *n* a garden plant with a large, bushy flower.

**chubby** /'tʃəbi/, /**chu**-bee/ *adj* plump.

**chuckle** /tʃəkəl/, /**chu**-kl/ *vb* to laugh quietly. • also *n*.

**chum** /tʃəm/, /**chum**/ *n* (*inf*) a close friend. • *adj* **chummy**.

**chunk** /tʃəŋk/, /**chungk**/ *n* a thick piece.

**church** /tʃɜ:tʃ/, /**church**/ *n* 1 a building set aside for worship. 2 a group of people having the same beliefs and religious organization. 3 those in charge of a religious organization.

**churn** /tʃɜ:n/, /**churn**/ *n* a vessel or machine for making butter. • *vb* to shake or stir (cream) so as to make butter.

**chute** /ʃu:t/, /**shoot**/ *n* 1 a waterfall. 2 a sloping passage or slide.

**chutney** /'tʃətni/, /**chut**-nee/ *n* a savoury preserve or relish made, usually, from fruit, vegetables and spices.

**cider** /saɪdər/, /**sie**-der/ *n* an alcoholic drink made from pressed apple juice.

**cigar** /si'gar/, /**si**-gar/ *n* a roll of tobacco for smoking, consisting of cut tobacco rolled in a whole tobacco leaf.

**cigarette** /,sɪgə'ret, 'sɪgəret/, /si-ga-ret, **si**-ga-ret/ *n* tobacco finely cut and rolled in thin paper for smoking.

**cinder** /'sɪndər/, /**sin**-der/ *n* partly burned coal or wood.

**cinema** /'sɪnəmə/, /si-ne-ma/ *n* **1** a building in which films are shown.

**2** the industry of making films. • *adj* **cinematic**.

**cinnamon** /'sɪnəmən/, /si-na-mon/ *n* a yellowish brown spice made from the dried inner bark of several kinds of trees and shrubs of the laurel family, used in cooking.

**circle** /'sɜːkəl/, /sir-kl/ *n* **1** a perfectly round figure. **2** a group of people. • *vb* **1** to move round. **2** to draw a circle around.

**circlet** /'sɜːklət/, /sir-klet/ *n* a ring or circular band worn as an ornament.

**circuit** /'sɜːkɪt/, /sir-kit/ *n* **1** a path round. **2** the act of moving around. **3** the journey of a judge round a district to hold courts of law in several places. **4** the path of an electric current.

**circular** /'sɜːkjʊlər/, /sir-kyi-lar/ *adj* round. • *n* a letter, copies of which are sent to many people.

**circularize** /'sɜːkjʊləraɪz/, /sir-kyi-la-rize/ *vb*, also **circularise** to send circulars to.

**circulate** /'sɜːkjʊleɪt/, /sir-kyi-late/ *vb* **1** to move in a circle or a fixed path. **2** to pass around, to spread. **3** to move from one person to another.

**circulation** /'sɜːkjʊ'lɪʃən/, /sir-cue-lay-shun/ *n* **1** the act of circulating. **2** the movement of the blood through the body. **3** the number of readers (of a newspaper, etc).

**circumference** /sɜːrkəmfərəns/, /sir-cum-frense/ *n* the line marking the limits of a circle.

**circumnavigate** /'sɜːkəm'nævɪgeɪt/, /sir-cum-na-vi-gate/ *vb* (*fml*) to sail around.

**circumstance** /'sɜːkəmstaːns/, /sir-cum-stanse/ *n* **1** (*usually pl*) a condition relating to or connected with an act or event. **2** *pl* state of affairs, position.

**circus** /'sɜːkəs/, /sir-cus/ *n* **1** a travelling show given largely by skilled acrobats and trained animals.

**cistern** /'sɪstərn/, /sis-tern/ *n* a tank for storing water.

**citadel** /'sɪtədəl/, /si-ta-del/ *n* a fortress above a city for its defence.

**cite** /səɪt/, /site/ *vb* **1** to call to appear in court. **2** to quote. **3** to give as an example.

**citizen** /'sɪtɪzən/, /si-ti-zen/ *n* **1** an inhabitant of a city. **2** a member of a state.

**citizenship** /'sɪtɪzənʃɪp/, /si-ti-zen-ship/ *n* being, or having the rights of, a citizen.

**citrus** /'sɪtrəs/, /si-trus/ *adj* of a group of related fruits, including the lemon, orange, lime and grapefruit.

**city** /'sɪti/, /si-tee/ *n* a centre of population larger than a town or village.

**civic** /'sɪvɪk/, /si-vic/ *adj* **1** having to do with a city. **2** having to do with citizens or citizenship. • *npl civics* the study of the rights and duties of citizens.

**civil** /'sɪvəl/, /si-vil/ *adj* **1** having to do with citizens. **2** having to do with those citizens who are members of neither the armed forces nor the clergy. **3** polite. • *adv civilly*. • *n civility*.

**civilian** /sɪ'vɪljən/, /si-vil-yen/ *n* someone not in the armed forces.

**civilization** /,sɪvɪlai'zeɪʃən/, /si-vi-li-zay-shun/ *n*, also **civilisation** **1** a well-organized and polished society. **2** the state of being civilized.

**civilize** /'sɪvɪlaɪz/, /si-vi-lize/ *vb*, also **civilise** **1** to bring or come out of a primitive condition. **2** to make more polite and well-mannered. • *adj civilized*, also **civilised**.

**civil war** /'sɪvɪlwɔ:r/, /si-vil wor/ *n* a war between citizens of the same country.

**CJD** /sɪjer'di:/, /cee-jay-dee/ *abbr* = **Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease** /kroytz-felt-yak-ob di-zeez/: a fatal degenerative disease that affects the nerve cells of the brain.

**clad** /klæd/, /clad/ *pp of clothe*.

**claim** /kleɪm/, /clame/ *vb* to demand as a right. • *also n*.

**clam** /klæm/, /clam/ *n* a type of shellfish.

**clamber** /'klæmbər/, /clam-ber/ *vb* to climb with difficulty, to scramble. • *also n*.

**clammy** /'klæmi/, /cla-mee/ *adj* damp, cold and sticky.

**clamorous** /'klæmərəs/, /cla-mo-rus/ *adj* noisy.

**clamour** /'klæmər/, /cla-mur/ *n*, also **clamor** (US) loud shouting, a general outcry, especially demanding something. • *vb* to shout.

**clamp** /klæmp/, /clamp/ *n* **1** a device used for holding things firmly together. **2** a device attached to a car to prevent it from being driven away. • *vb* to fasten with a clamp.

**clan** /klæn/, /clan/ *n* an early social group of families with the same name, thought to be related, who were ruled by a chief. • *n* **clansman, clanswoman.**

**clang** /'klæŋ/, /clang/ *n* a loud ringing sound, as of metal against metal. • *also vb.*

**clank** /klæŋk/, /clangk/ *n* a short, sharp ringing sound. • *also vb.*

**clap** /klæp/, /clap/ *vb* (**clapped, clapping**) **1** to smack the hands together noisily. **2** to slap or tap, usually in a friendly way. **3** to put suddenly and quickly. • *n* **1** the noise made by clapping the hands. **2** a sudden sound (e.g. of thunder).

**clarify** /'klærɪ,fai/, /cla-ri-fy/ *vb* to make clear or clearer. • *n* **clarification.**

**clarinet** /klærɪ'net/, /cla-ri-net/ *n* a musical wind instrument with a reed in the mouthpiece. • *n* **clarinettist.**

**clarity** /'klærɪti/, /cla-ri-tee/ *n* clearness.

**clash** /klæʃ/, /clash/ *vb* **1** to strike together noisily. **2** to disagree strongly about. **3** to happen at the same time, as in events. • *n* **1** the loud noise of two objects coming violently together. **2** a quarrel.

**clasp** /klæsp/, /clasp/ *n* **1** a metal fastener. **2** a firm hold. • *vb* **1** to fasten. **2** to hold firmly.

**class** /klæs/, /class/ *n* **1** a group of persons or things of the same kind. **2** a group of pupils or students. **3** a rank, a standard of excellence. **4** the system according to which people are divided into social groups. **5** one of these social groups. • *vb* to put in a class, to regard as being of a certain type.

**classic** /'klæsɪk/, /cla-sic/ *adj* of the best kind or standard. • *n* **1** a great writer or book. **2** *pl* **the classics** ancient Greek and Roman literature.

**classical** /'klæsɪkəl/, /cla-si-cal/ *adj* **1** classic. **2** having to do with ancient Greek and Roman literature, art, or customs.

**classify** /'klæsɪ,fai/, /cla-si-fy/ *vb* to arrange in classes. • *n* **classification.**

**clatter** /'klætər/, /cla-ter/ *vb* to make rattling noises. • *n* a rattling noise.

**clause** /kləz/, /clawz/ *n* 1 a group of words forming a part of a sentence. 2 a section of an agreement.

**claustrophobia** /kləstrə'fɔ:bɪə/, /claw-stri-foe-bee-a/ *n* the fear of being confined in any small enclosed space.

**claw** /klɔ:/, /claw/ *n* 1 the hooked nail of a bird or other animal. 2 a foot with such nails. • *vb* to scratch or tear with claws or nails.

**clay** /kleɪ/, /clay/ *n* a moist, formable earth that hardens when dried, used to make sculptures and pottery. • *adj* **clayey**.

**clean** /kli:n/, /cleen/ *adj* 1 free from dirt. 2 pure, free from guilt, evil, crime, sickness, etc. 3 complete. • *adv* completely. • *vb* to remove dirt, dust, etc, from. • *n* **cleaner**. • *n* **cleanliness**.

**cleanly** /klenli/, /clen-lee/ *adj* having clean habits. • *adv* in a clean manner, neatly. • *n* **cleanliness**.

**cleanse** /klenz/, /clenz/ *vb* to make clean or pure. • *n* **cleanser**.

**clear** /kli:r/, /cleer/ *adj* 1 easy to hear, see or understand. 2 bright. 3 free from difficulties or obstacles. 4 obvious. 5 transparent. • *vb* 1 to make or become clear. 2 to prove innocent. 3 to remove difficulties or obstacles from. 4 to pass through or over. • *adv* **clearly**.

**clearance** /'kli:rəns/, /clee-rans/ *n* 1 act of clearing. 2 permission for something to be done. 3 the distance between two objects.

**clearing** /'kli:rɪŋ/, /clee-ring/ *n* a wide open part of a forest with no trees.

**clef** /klɛf/, /clef/ *n* a mark to show the pitch in music.

**cleft** /kleft/, /cleft/ *n* a crack, a split.

**clench** /klentʃ/, /clench/ *vb* to press tightly together.

**clergy** /klərdʒi/, /cler-jee/ *n* persons who are in charge of and who lead religious services: ministers, priests, rabbis, etc.

**cleric** /'klerɪk/, /cle-ric/ *n* a member of the clergy.

**clerical** /'klerɪkəl/, /cle-ri-cal/ *adj* 1 having to do with the clergy. 2 having to do with a clerk.

**clerk** /klərk/, /clark/ *n* an office employee doing written work.

**clever** /'klevər/, /cle-ver/ *adj* 1 able to learn quickly. 2 able to think quickly. 3 able to do things well with the hands, skilful. • *adv cleverly.* • *n cleverness.*

**cliché** /kli:'ʃeɪ/, 'kli:ʃeɪ/, /clee-shay, clee-shay/ *n* a stock phrase in common use.

**click** /klik/, /click/ *n* a light, sharp sound. • *also vb.*

**client** /'klaɪənt/, /clie-ent/ *n* 1 a customer. 2 someone who employs a member of some profession.

**clientele** /,klaɪən'tel, ,kli:bn'tel/, /clie-en-tel, clee-on-tel/ *n* all the clients of a professional or customers of a shopkeeper.

**cliff** /klɪf/, /cliff/ *n* a high, steep rock face.

**climate** /'klaɪmət/, /clie-mit/ *n* the usual weather conditions of a place. • *adj climatic.*

**climate change** /'klaɪmət ,tʃeɪndʒ/, /clie-mit change/ *n* long-term changes to global weather patterns, including changes in temperature and amounts of rainfall.

**climax** /'klaɪmæks/, /clie-max/ *n* the highest or most exciting point, the most dramatic moment. • *adj climactic.*

**climb** /klaim/, /clime/ *vb* 1 to rise or ascend. 2 to go up, using the feet and often the hands. • *n climber.*

**clinch** /klɪntʃ/, /clinch/ *vb* 1 to settle. 2 in boxing, to stand so close that no strong punches may be given. • *also n.*

**cling** /klɪŋ/, /cling/ *vb (pt, pp clung)* 1 to stick to. 2 to hold firmly to.

**clinic** /'klinik/, /cli-nic/ *n* a building or a part of a hospital for people needing special medical treatment or advice. • *adj clinical.*

**clink** /klɪŋk/, /clingk/ *n* a sharp, thin ringing sound. • *also vb.*

**clip<sup>1</sup>** /klip/, /clip/ *vb (clipped, clipping)* to cut. • *n* 1 something that has been clipped. 2 a sharp blow.

**clip<sup>2</sup>** /klip/, /clip/ *n* a fastener. • *vb (clipped, clipping)* to fasten.

**clipper** /'klipər/, /cli-per/ *n* 1 an instrument for clipping. 2 a fast sailing ship.

**clique** /kli:k/, /cleek/ *n* a small group of people who keep together, not mixing with others.

**clitoris** /'klɪtərɪs/, /cli-tu-riss/ *n* a small sensitive erectile organ of the vulva.

**cloak** /klo:k/, /cloke/ *n* 1 a loose outer garment. 2 something that hides or covers. • *vb* 1 to cover as with a cloak. 2 to conceal.

**cloakroom** /'klo:kru:m/, /cloke-room/ *n* 1 a room where you can leave outer garments, packages, etc, in a public place. 2 a room containing a toilet.

**clock** /klok/, /clock/ *n* an instrument for telling the time. • *vb* to measure time.

**clockwise** /'klokwaɪz/, /clock-wise/ *adj* going around in the direction of the hands of a clock.

**clockwork** /'klokwɜ:k/, /clock-wurk/ *n* machinery like that inside a mechanical clock. • *like clockwork* regularly and smoothly.

**clod** /klɒd/, /clod/ *n* 1 a lump of earth. 2 a clumsy or stupid person.

**clog** /klɒg/, /clog/ *n* 1 a shoe with a wooden sole. 2 something that blocks or gets in the way of. • *vb* (**clogged**, **clogging**) to block, to choke.

**cloister** /'klo:stər/, /cloy-ster/ *n* 1 a monastery or other place where religious people choose to be by themselves. 2 a covered walkway that leads to a courtyard. • *vb* (**cloistered**, **cloistering**) to confine as if in a monastery.

**clone** /klo:n/, /clone/ *n* 1 an animal or plant that has been produced or manufactured from the cells of another and is, therefore, an exact copy. 2 a person or thing that is very like someone or something else. • *vb* to produce an exact copy of an animal or plant from its own cells.

**close<sup>1</sup>** /klo:z/, /cloze/ *vb* 1 to shut. 2 to finish. 3 to bring or come near. • *n* the end.

**close<sup>2</sup>** /kləus/, /cloass/ */close/ adj* 1 shut in. 2 stuffy. 3 near, not far.

**closed-circuit television** see **CCTV**.

**closet** /'klɒzət/, /cloz-it/ (esp US) *n* a large cupboard or small room in which clothes are kept. • *vb* to shut up.

**closure** /'klo:ʒər/, /clo-zhur/ *n* (*frm*) closing, end.

**clot** /klɒt/, /clot/ *n* a soft lump formed on or in liquid. • *vb* (**clotted**, **clotting**) 1 to form into clots. 2 to thicken.

**cloth** /klɒθ/, /cloth/ *n* a material made by weaving threads of wool, cotton, etc.

**clothe** /klo:ð/, /clothe/ *vb* (*pt, pp clothed or clad*) to put clothes on.

**clothes** /klo:z, klo:ðz/, /cloze, cloathes/ *npl* garments.

**clothes peg** /cloze peg/ *n* a wooden or plastic clip that holds washed clothes on a line to dry, sometimes called clothes pin.

**clothing** /'klo:ðɪŋ/, /clothe-ing/ *n* garments.

**cloud** /klaud/, /cloud/ *n* **1** a mass of water vapour floating high in the sky. **2** a great many. **3** a cause of gloom or trouble. • *vb* to darken.  
• *adj* **cloudy, cloudless**.

**cloudburst** /'klaud,bərst/, /cloud-burst/ *n* a sudden, very heavy rainstorm.

**clove** /klo:v/, /clove/ *n* **1** a plant bud from a tree used as a spice. **2** a part of a bulb, such as garlic.

**clover** /'klo:vər/, /clo-ver/ *n* a three-leaved plant grown as food for cattle.

**clown** /klaun/, /cloun/ *n* **1** a fool. **2** one who plays the fool to amuse others. • *vb* to play the fool.

**club** /kləb/, /club/ *n* **1** a heavy stick. **2** a golf stick. **3** a group of people who meet for a common purpose. **4** their meeting place. **5** a place, usually one selling drinks, where people go to listen to music and dance. **6** *pl* a suit of playing cards. • *vb* (**clubbed, clubbing**) **1** to beat with a club. **2** to go to a club, sense **5**.

**cluck** /klək/, /cluck/ *n* a low, sharp, clicking sound, like the sound made by a hen. • *also vb*.

**clue** /klu:/, /cloo/ *n* a fact that, when understood, helps one to find the answer to a problem; a hint.

**clump** /klʌmp/, /clump/ *n* a closely packed group, a cluster. • *vb* to walk heavily.

**clumsy** /'klʌmzi/, /clum-zee/ *adj* **1** awkward in movement, shape, etc. **2** badly done. • *n* **clumsiness**. • *adv* **clumsily**.

**cluster** /'kləstər/, /cluss-ter/ *n* a number of things growing close together; a closely packed group. • *vb* to grow or stand close together.

**clutch** /klʌtʃ/, /cluch/ *vb* 1 to seize. 2 to hold tightly. • *n* 1 a firm hold.

2 *pl* power, control. 3 eggs being hatched at one sitting. 4 in a car, a lever that puts an engine in or out of action. 5 a woman's small handbag or purse.

**clutter** /'klʌtər/, /clu-ter/ *vb* to fill or cover untidily. • *n* an untidy mass.

**cm abbr = centimetre.**

**co-** /kəʊ/, /co-/ prefix together.

**coach** /kəʊtʃ/, /coach/ *n* 1 (*old*) a closed four-wheeled horse carriage. 2 a railway carriage. 3 a bus, especially one with comfortable seats, used for long journeys. 4 a private teacher. 5 one who trains athletes. • *vb* 1 to give private lessons. 2 to prepare.

**coal** /kəʊl/, /cole/ *n* a black rock dug from a mine, used as fuel for fires.

**coalition** /kəʊə'lɪʃən/, /co-wa-li-shun/ *n* 1 a joining together. 2 the joining together of different political parties for a special purpose.

**coarse** /kɔrs/, /coarse/ *adj* 1 rough. 2 rude, vulgar, unrefined. • *adv* coarsely. • *n* coarseness.

**coarsen** /'kɔrsən/, /coar-sen/ *vb* to make coarse.

**coast** /kəʊst/, /coast/ *n* the side of the land next to the sea. • *vb* 1 to sail alongside the coast. 2 to move without the use of power. 3 to go on without much effort. • *adj* **coastal**.

**coast guard** /kəʊstgard/, /coast-gard/ *n* the coast police.

**coastline** /'kəʊstlaɪn/, /coast-line/ *n* the line of the coast or shore.

**coat** /kəut/, /coat/ *n* 1 an outer garment with sleeves. 2 the natural cover of an animal (e.g. hair, wool, fur). 3 anything that covers. • *vb* to cover.

**coating** /'kəʊtiŋ/, /co-ting/ *n* a covering.

**coat of arms** /,kəutəv'ærms/, /coat of arms/ *n* the design on a shield or badge representing a person, family, country, or organization.

**coax** /ko:ks/, /coaks/ *vb* to get someone to do something by speaking kindly or petting.

**cob** /kɒb/, /cob/ *n* 1 a corncob. 2 a male swan. 3 a short-legged, thickset riding horse.

**cobble** /'kɒbəl/, /cob-ul/ *vb* 1 (*old*) to mend. 2 to mend or put together roughly. • *n* a cobblestone.

**cobbler** /'kɒblər/, /cob-ler/ *n* a mender of shoes.

**cobblestone** /'kɒbəl,stəʊn/, /cob-ul-stone/ *n* a rounded stone used to pave roads.

**cobra** /'ko:bərə/, /co-bra/ *n* a poisonous snake, found in Africa and Asia, that has loose skin behind its head that stiffens into a hood when the snake is excited, scared or angry.

**cobweb** /'kɒbwɛb/, /cob-web/ *n* a spider's web found in a house and that has collected dust.

**cocaine** /ko:'keɪn/, /co-cane/ *n* a drug that deadens pain, but is very addictive and can be fatal.

**cock** /kɒk/, /cock/ *n* 1 a male bird. 2 an adult male chicken. 3 a tap. 4 the hammer of a gun. 5 (sl) the penis • *vb* 1 to turn upward, to tilt. 2 to raise, to cause to stand up. 3 (of a gun) to draw back the hammer before firing.

**cockatoo** /kɒkə'tu:/, /cock-a-too/ *n* a type of parrot.

**cockerel** /kɒkərəl/, /cock-rel/ *n* a young cock.

**cocker spaniel** /'kɒkər/, /cock-er span-yel/ *n* a small, long-haired, long-eared dog.

**cockle** /kɒkəl/, /cock-ul/ *n* a type of shellfish.

**cockleshell** /'kɒkəl,ʃəl/, /cock-ul-shell/ *n* 1 the shell of the cockle. 2 a small, light boat.

**cockpit** /'kɒkpɪt/, /cock-pit/ *n* 1 (*old*) a pit in which cocks were made to fight each other. 2 the pilot's place in an aircraft.

**cockroach** /'kɒkro:tʃ/, /cock-roach/ *n* a kind of black beetle with long antennae and a flat body.

**cocktail** /'kɒkteɪl/, /cock-tale/ *n* a strong drink made by mixing alcoholic drinks with juice or other drinks.

**cocky** /'kɒki/, /cock-ee/ *adj* absolutely sure, overconfident.

**cocoa** /'kəʊkə:/, /co-co/ *n* 1 a powder made from cacao seeds. 2 a drink made from this powder: hot chocolate.

**coconut** /'kəʊkə,nət/, /co-co-nut/ *n* the fruit of the coconut palm tree, with a white inside flesh covered in a brown husk surrounded by a hard shell.

**coconut palm** /'kəukə,næt/, /co-co-nut pam/ *n* a tropical palm tree.

**cocoon** /kə'ku:n/, /co-coon/ *n* a silky case spun by many insects as they grow and transform, as from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

**COD** /siəu'di:/, /see-oh-dee/ *abbr = cash on delivery*: a method of payment whereby a person receiving a package must pay for it when he or she receives it.

**cod** /kɒd/, /cod/ *n* a large sea fish.

**coddle** /'kɒdəl/, /cod-ul/ *vb* **1** to pet, to treat with too much care. **2** to cook gently.

**code** /kəud/, /code/ *n* **1** a collection of laws, rules, or signals. **2** a method of sending secret messages by using signs, sounds, or words.

**coerce** /kəʊ'ərs/, /co-erse/ *vb* to make to do, to force. • *n* **coercion**. • *adj* **coercive**.

**coexist** /kəʊəg'zist/, /co-eg-zist/ *vb* to live at the same time or in the same place with another, especially peacefully. • *n* **coexistence**.

**coffee** /'kɒfi:/, /co-fee/ *n* a dark brown drink brewed from the roasted, ground seeds of the coffee tree or shrub.

**coffin** /'kɒfin/, /co-fin/ *n* a box in which a dead body is put for burial.

**cog** /kɒg/, /cog/ *n* the tooth of a wheel for receiving motion by fitting between the teeth of another wheel, as on the gears for a bicycle.

**coherent** /kəʊ'hɪ:rənt/, /co-hee-rent/ *adj* clear and logical. • *n* **coherence**.

**cohesion** /kə'hɪ:ʒən/, /co-hee-zhen/ *n* **1** the force that holds the parts of a substance together. **2** coherence. • *adj* **cohesive**.

**coil** /kɔɪl/, /coil/ *vb* to wind in a series of rings. • *n* a ring or rings into which a rope, etc, is wound.

**coin** /kɔɪn/, /coin/ *n* a metal piece of money. • *vb* **1** to make money out of metal. **2** to invent.

**coinage** /'kɔɪnidʒ/, /coy-nage/ *n* **1** the act of coining. **2** all coined money. **3** the coined money in use in a particular country. **4** a newly invented word.

**coincide** /,ko:in'said/, /co-in-side/ *vb* **1** to happen at the same time. **2** to be in agreement.

**coincidence** /koɪn'sɪdəns/, /ko-wɪn(t)-si-dense/ *n* the accidental happening of one event at the same time as another. • *adj*s **coincident, coincidental** /ko-wɪn(t)-si-den-tal/.

**coke** /kəʊk/, /kɔk/ *n* coal from which most of the gas has been extracted by heating, used as industrial fuel.

**colander** /'kɒləndər/, /kol-an-der/ *n* a strainer.

**cold** /kəuld/, /koald/ *adj* 1 not hot or warm. 2 without emotion or excitement; unenthusiastic. 3 unfriendly. • *n* 1 absence of heat. 2 an illness, usually consisting of a runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, coughing, aches and pains.

**cold-blooded** /'kəuld,blədɪd/, /koald blu-ded/ *adj* 1 having body temperature that depends on the environment, as fish, snakes, etc. 2 completely unfeeling, cruel.

**collaborate** /kə'læbə'reɪt/, /co-la-bo-rate/ *vb* 1 to work together, especially in writing, study, art, or science. 2 to work with another to betray secrets, etc. • *n* **collaboration, collaborator**.

**collapse** /kə'læps/, /co-lapse/ *n* 1 a fall. 2 a sudden loss of consciousness. 3 a failure. • *vb* 1 to fall down. 2 to lose consciousness. 3 to fail completely.

**collar** /'kɒlər/, /col-ar/ *n* 1 the part of the clothing that covers or surrounds the neck. 2 a strap or band put round the neck of an animal. • *vb* (*inf*) to take hold of, to seize.

**colleague** /'kɒli:g/, /col-eeg/ *n* a fellow worker.

**collect** /kə'lekt/, /co-lect/ *vb* 1 to bring together. 2 to come together. 3 to gather and keep things of the same kind. 4 to obtain money by contributions. 5 to go somewhere to fetch someone or something.

**collected** /kə'lɛktəd/, /co-lek-ted/ *adj* 1 gathered together. 2 calm, cool, in control.

**collection** /kə'lɛkʃən/, /co-lek-shun/ *n* 1 act of collecting. 2 the things collected. 3 the gathering of money for a special purpose. • *n* **collector**.

**collective** /kə'lɛktɪv/, /co-lek-tive/ *adj* taken as a whole, joint. • *n* a collective enterprise, as a farm. • *adv* **collectively**.

**college** /'kɒlədʒ/, /col-edge/ *n* 1 a society of learned or professional people that have certain duties. 2 a place of further education, especially in a particular field.

**collide** /kə'laid/, /co-lide/ *vb* to run into, to strike against. • *n* **collision**.

**collie** /'kɒli/, /col-ee/ *n* a long-haired dog with a long, narrow head, originally bred for herding sheep.

**collision** see **collide**.

**colloquial** /kə'lɔ:kwiəl/, /co-lo-kwee-al/ *adj* conversational, having to do with the spoken language of ordinary people.

**colloquialism** /kə'lɔ:kwiəlɪzəm/, /co-lo-kwee-a-li-zum/ *n* a popular expression.

**collusion** /kə'lu:ʒən/, /co-loo-zhun/ *n* a secret agreement to do something wrong.

**colon** /'ko:lən/, /co-lon/ *n* 1 a mark of punctuation (:). 2 a part of the bowel, or lower intestine.

**colonel** /'kɔrnəl/, /cur-n(e)l/ *n* a military officer.

**colonial** /kə'lɔ:niəl/, /co-lo-nee-al/ *adj* 1 having to do with a colony. 2 relating to a country that rules other countries, often from far away.

**colonist** /'kɔlənist/, /col-un-ist/ *n* a settler in a colony.

**colonize** /kɔlənaɪz/, /col-un-ise/ *vb*, also **colonise** to form or set up a colony in.

**colonnade** /kɔlə'neid/, /col-un-adə/ *n* a row of columns or pillars.

**colony** /'kɔləni/, /col-un-ee/ *n* 1 a community of settlers in a new land. 2 the place in which they settle.

**colossal** /kə'lɔ:səl/, /cu-law-sal/ *adj* very big, gigantic.

**colour** /'kʌlər/, /cul-ur/ *n*, also **color** (US) 1 a quality that objects have and that can be seen only when light falls on them. 2 paint. 3 redness (of the face). 4 a skin colour varying with race. 5 brightness. 6 *pl* a flag. • *vb* 1 to paint, to put colour on or into. 2 to give interesting qualities to, to elaborate. 3 to affect. 4 to blush.

**colourblind** /'kʌlər/, /cul-ur-blinde/ *n*, also **colorblind** (US) *adj* unable to see the difference between colours or certain colours.

**colourful** /'kʌlər,fʊl/, /cul-ur-ful/ *adj*, also **colorful** (US) 1 full of colour, bright. 2 bright and interesting.

**colourless** /'kʌlər,ləs/, /'kul-ur-less/ *adj, also colorless (US)* **1** without colour. **2** uninteresting.

**colt** /ko:lt/, /colt/ *n* a young, male horse or donkey.

**columbine** /'kɒləm,bain/, /kol-um-bine/ *n* a kind of wild flower of the buttercup family.

**column** /'kɒləm/, /col-um/ *n* **1** a pillar used to support or ornament a building. **2** something similar in shape. **3** a body of troops standing one behind the other in one or more lines. **4** a vertical row in a list, table or chart. **5** a narrow division of a page. • *adj columnar*.

**columnist** /'kɒləmɪst/, /col-um-nist/ *n* the writer of a regular series of articles for a newspaper or magazine.

**coma** /'ko:mə/, /co-ma/ *n* a long-continuing state of being unconscious or not awake or aware of one's surroundings.

**comatose** /'ko:mə,to:z/, /co-ma-toze/ *adj* **1** of, like, or in a coma. **2** (*inf*) very sleepy, drowsy.

**comb** /ko:m/, /coam/ *n* **1** a toothed instrument for passing through and arranging hair, wool, etc. **2** the crest of a cock. • *vb* to pass through or arrange with a comb.

**combat** /'kɒmbæt/, /com-bat/ *vb* (**combated, combating**) to fight against, to try to defeat, destroy, etc. • *n* a fight.

**combatant** /kɒm'bætənt/, /com-ba-tant/ *n* one taking part in a fight. • *also adj.*

**combative** /kɒm'bætɪv/, /com-ba-tive/ *adj* liking to fight.

**combination** /kɒmbrɪ'neʃən/, /com-bi-nay-shun/ *n* **1** a joining, a union. **2** *pl* a one-piece undergarment covering the upper and lower body.

**combine** /kəm'bain/, /com-bine/ *vb* to join.

**combust** /kəm'bəst/, /com-bust/ *vb* to burn.

**combustible** /kəm'bəstəbəl/, /com-bus-ti-bul/ *adj* able to take light and burn easily.

**combustion** /kəm'bətʃən/, /com-bus-chin/ *n* the process of burning.

**come** /kəm/, /cum/ *vb* (*pt came, pp come*) **1** to move towards. **2** (*inf*) to have an orgasm • **come across** to discover. • **come to pass** (*old or fml*) to happen. • *n* **coming**.

**comedian** /kə'mi:dɪən/, /cu-mee-dee-an/ *n* **1** a performer who tells jokes, a comic. **2** one who is always trying to make others laugh. • *f comedienne*.

**comedy** /'kɒmədɪ/, /com-ed-ee/ *n* **1** a light or amusing play with a happy ending. **2** an amusing happening, the amusing side of something.

**comely** /'kɛmli/, /cum-lee/ *adj (old or fml)* pleasant-looking, graceful. • *n comeliness*.

**comet** /'kɒmət/, /com-et/ *n* a bright heavenly body made up of frozen dust and gas that orbits the sun, seen only rarely, with a tail of light.

**comfort** /'kəmfərt/, /cum-furt/ *n* **1** the state of being free from anxiety, worry, pain, etc, and having all one's physical needs satisfied; ease. **2** something that satisfies one's physical needs. **3** strength, hope, sympathy, etc. **4** the cause of comfort to others. • *vb* to give comfort to, to cheer (someone) up.

**comfortable** /'kəmfərbəl/, /cumf-te-bl/ *adj* **1** at ease, free from anxiety, worry, etc. **2** providing comfort, soft and restful, relaxing.

**comforter** /'kəmfərtər/, /cum-fur-ter/ *n* someone who comforts.

**comic** /'kɒmɪk/, /com-ic/ *adj* **1** having to do with comedy. **2** amusing, laughable. • *n* **1** a comedian. **2** a magazine of cartoons, or an illustrated story.

**comical** /'kɒmɪkəl/, /com-ic-al/ *adj* funny, amusing.

**comma** /'kɒmə/, /com-a/ *n* a mark of punctuation (,).

**command** /kə'mænd/, /cu-manned/ *vb* **1** to order. **2** to be in charge. **3** to control. **4** to overlook. • *n* **1** an order. **2** mastery.

**commander** /kə'mændər/, /cu-man-der/ *n* **1** an officer in charge of troops. **2** an officer in the navy.

**commanding** /kə'mændɪŋ/, /cu-man-ding/ *adj* arousing respect.

**commandment** /kə'mændmənt/, /cu-mand-ment/ *n* an order, a law.

**commemorate** /kə'memə'reɪt/, /cu-mem-o-rate/ *vb* to make people remember something by holding a service or doing something special. • *n commemoration*.

**commence** /kə'mens/, /cu-mense/ *vb (fml)* to begin. • *n commencement*.

**commend** /kə'mend/, /cu-mend/ *vb* 1 to praise. 2 (*frm*) to recommend.

**commendable** /kə'mendəbl/, /cu-men-da-bl/ *adj* deserving praise.

**commendation** /kɒmən'deɪʃən/, /com-en-day-shun/ *n* praise.

**comment** /'kɒmənt/, /com-ent/ *vb* 1 to say something about, to remark on. 2 to write notes in explanation of. • *n* 1 a remark. 2 an explanation.

**commentary** /'kɒmən̩teri/, /com-en-te-ree/ *n* 1 a series of remarks or notes. 2 a spoken description of an event as it happens. • **running commentary** a description of an event as it happens, given by an onlooker.

**commentator** /'kɒmən̩teɪtər/, /com-en-tay-tor/ *n* 1 one who comments. 2 the writer or speaker of a commentary.

**commerce** /'kɒmərs/, /com-erse/ *n* the buying and selling of goods, trade.

**commercial** /kə'mərʃəl/, /co-mer-shal/ *adj* 1 having to do with trade or commerce. 2 profit-making. • *n* (US) an advertisement for radio or television.

**commiserate** /kə'mizə'reɪt/, /co-miz-u-rate/ *vb* to pity, to sympathize with. • *n* **commiseration**.

**commission** /kə'miʃən/, /co-mi-shun/ *n* 1 act of committing. 2 an order for a work of art. 3 a group of people appointed to study and report on a particular matter. 4 money paid to someone who has helped to arrange a business deal. • *vb* to give an order or request to, to appoint.

**commissionaire** /kə'miʃəneɪr/, /co-mi-shun-air/ *n* a uniformed attendant at the entrance of some public buildings.

**commit** /kə'mit/, /co-mit/ *vb* (**committed, committing**) 1 to perform or do, especially something illegal. 2 to make a definite agreement. 3 to give (someone) into care. 4 (*frm*) to put in or on.

**commitment** /kə'mitmənt/, /co-mit-ment/ *n* 1 the act of committing. 2 a promise, a duty, a responsibility. 3 state of being devoted.

**committee** /kə'mit̩i/, /co-mi-tee/ *n* a group of people appointed from a larger body to manage its affairs or perform a particular duty.

**commodity** /kə'mɒdəti/, /co-mod-i-tee/ *n* (often *pl*) anything bought and sold; a useful thing.

**common** /'kɒmən/, /com-on/ *adj* 1 belonging to everyone, of no special rank or quality. 2 found everywhere. 3 ordinary. 4 frequent. 5 rough, regarded as being low class. • *n* land belonging to or open to the community.

**common denominator** /kɒmən dɪ'nomɪneɪtər/, /com-on di-nom-in-ay-tor/ *n* a denominator shared by two or more fractions.

**commonplace** /'kɒmənpleɪs/, /com-on-place/ *n* a well-known remark, an ordinary or unoriginal remark. • *adj* ordinary, not regarded as special.

**common sense** /'kɒmən,sens/, /com-on sense/ *n* practical knowledge of how to act in everyday matters.

**commonwealth** /'kɒmən,welθ/, /com-on-welth/ *n* 1 a state in which everyone has a say in the type of government. 2 a group of states united by certain common interests.

**commotion** /kə'mo:ʃən/, /co-mo-shun/ *n* confused movement, disorder.

**communal** /kə'mju:nəl/, /cu-myoo-nal/ *adj* shared by all.

**commune** /'kɒmju:n/, /cu-myoon/ *vb* (*fml*) to talk together (with), to exchange thoughts or feelings with.

**communicable** /kə'mju:nikəbəl/, /scu-myoo-ni-ca-bl/ *adj* 1 able to be passed to others. 2 able to be communicated or explained to others.

**communicant** /kə'mju:nikənt/, /cu-myoo-ni-cant/ *n* one who receives Holy Communion, a religious ceremony practised in some Christian churches.

**communicate** /kə'mju:nəkeɪt/, /cu-myoo-ni-cate/ *vb* 1 to make known to, to tell. 2 to get in touch with. 3 to make information, ideas, feelings, etc, known clearly to others. 4 to pass.

**communication** /kə'mju:nəkeɪʃən/, /cu-myoo-ni-cay-shun/ *n* 1 a message. 2 a means of communicating.

**communicative** /kə'mju:nikətɪv/, /cu-myoo-ni-ca-tiv/ *adj* talkative, ready to give information.

**communion** /kə'mju:nɪən/, /cu-myoon-yun/ *n* the act of sharing. •

**Holy Communion** a religious ceremony practised in some Christian churches.

**communism** /'kɒmju,nɪzəm/, /com-yoo-ni-zum/ *n* the belief in an economic system that is based on all property being owned by the whole community and not by the individual.

**communist** /kə'mju:nist/, /com-yoo-nist/ *n* a believer in communism.

• *adj* to do with communism. • *adj* **communistic**.

**community** /kə'mju:nɪti/, /cu-myoo-ni-tee/ *n* the whole body of the people living in a town, district, country, etc.

**commute** /kə'mju:t/, /cu-myoot/ *vb* 1 to travel daily from the place where one lives to the place where one works. 2 to change into something less unpleasant. • *adj* **commutable**. • *n* **commutation**.

**commuter** /kə'mju:tər/, /cu-myoo-ter/ *n* one who commutes.

**compact** /'kɒmpækɪt/, /com-pact/ *adj* 1 tightly packed, firm. 2 fitted neatly together in a small space. 3 short, concise. • *n* **compact** a flat case for face powder. • *n* **compactness**.

**compact disc** /'kɒmpækɪt/, /com-pact disc/ *n* a small, hard, plastic disc on which sound or information is recorded in a form readable by a laser, often called **CD**.

**companion** /kəm'pænjən/, /com-pan-yon/ *n* 1 a friend, a person, etc, who regularly accompanies another. 2 one who goes with or accompanies. 3 a person employed to live with someone and keep him or her company. 4 one of a matching pair or set of things. • *n* **companionship**.

**companionable** /kəm'pænjənəbəl/, /com-pan-yu-na-bl/ *adj* liking company.

**company** /'kəmpæni/, /com-pa-nee/ *n* 1 a number of people gathered together by chance or invitation. 2 being together with another or others. 3 a group of persons who have put together money to run a business. 4 a group of people working together. 5 a body of soldiers commanded by a captain. 6 the crew of a ship.

**comparable** /'kɒmpərəbəl/, /com-pa-ra-bl/ *adj* 1 able to be compared. 2 nearly or just as good as.

**comparative** /kəm'pærətɪv/, /com-pa-ra-tive/ *adj* judged alongside something else, relative.

**compare** /kəm'per/, /com-pare/ *vb* 1 to consider things together to see how they are alike and different. 2 to point out the likeness or difference between.

**comparison** /kəm'pærɪsən/, /com-pa-ris-son/ *n* 1 act of comparing. 2 likeness, similarity.

**compartment** /kəm'pɑːtmənt/, /com-part-ment/ *n* 1 a part (e.g. of a drawer) divided off from the rest. 2 one of the small rooms in a railway carriage.

**compass** /'kəmpəs/, /com-pass/ *n* 1 a direction-finding instrument containing a magnetic needle that always points north. 2 (*frm*) full extent or range. 3 *pl* **compasses** an instrument for drawing circles, consisting of two pointed legs connected at one end.

**compassion** /kəm'pæʃən/, /com-pa-shun/ *n* pity, deep sympathy.

**compassionate** /kəm'pæʃənət/, /com-pa-shu-nate/ *adj* feeling or showing pity or deep sympathy.

**compatible** /kəm'pætəbəl/, /com-pa-ti-bl/ *adj* 1 able to exist together peacefully. 2 in agreement with.

**compatriot** /kəm'peɪtriət/, /com-pay-tree-ut/ *n* a person from the same country.

**compel** /kəm'pel/, /com-pel/ *vb* (**compelled**, **compelling**) to make to do, to force. • *adj* **compelling** very interesting, attractive.

**compendium** /kəm'pɛndiəm/, /com-pen-dee-um/ *n* a summary containing the important aspects of a subject.

**compensate** /'kɒmpən'seɪt/, /com-pen-sate/ *vb* 1 to give something to make up for harm or injury done. 2 to undo or counteract the effect of a disadvantage, loss, etc.

**compensation** /kɒmpən'seɪʃən/, /com-pen-say-shun/ *n* something given, such as a payment, to make up for harm or injury.

**compete** /kəm'pi:t/, /com-peet/ *vb* 1 to try to do better than one's fellows in work, games, etc. 2 to take part in the hope of winning.

**competence** /'kɒmpətəns/, /com-pe-tense/, **competency** /com-pe-ten-see/ *n* 1 ability, skill. 2 (*old*) a sufficient amount of money to live on.

**competent** /'kɒmpətənt/, /com-pe-tent/ *adj* 1 good at one's job. 2 well-done. 3 (*fml*) having the necessary powers. • *adv* **competently**.

**competition** /kɒmpə'tɪʃən/, /com-pe-ti-shun/ *n* 1 the act of competing, rivalry. 2 a contest for which a prize is offered. 3 people competing for a prize, etc.

**competitive** /kəm'petitɪv/, /com-pe-ta-tive/ *adj* encouraging competition or rivalry.

**competitor** /kəm'petɪtər/, /com-pe-ti-tor/ *n* 1 one who competes. 2 a rival.

**compile** /kəm'paɪl/, /com-pile/ *vb* to collect (facts and figures, etc.) and put together in an orderly form. • *n* **compiler**. • *n* **compilation**.

**complacence** /kəm'pleɪsəns/, /com-play-sense/, **complacency** /com-play-sen-see/ *n* satisfaction, especially self-satisfaction, smugness.

**complacent** /kəm'pleɪsənt/, /com-play-sent/ *adj* smug, satisfied with oneself and one's actions, etc.

**complain** /kəm'pleɪn/, /com-plane/ *vb* 1 to grumble. 2 to say that one is not satisfied.

**complainant** /kəm'pleɪnənt/, /com-play-nant/ *n* one who accuses another of an offence against the law.

**complaint** /kəm'pleɪnt/, /com-playnt/ *n* 1 a grumble. 2 an expression of dissatisfaction. 3 an illness. 4 an accusation.

**complaisant** /kəm'pleɪzənt/, /com-play-sant/ *adj* agreeable, ready to please. • *n* **complaisance**.

**complement** /'kɒmpləmənt/, /com-pli-ment/ *n* 1 that which completes. 2 the number or quantity needed to make something complete.

**complementary** /kɒmpli'mentəri/, /com-pli-men-ta-ree/ *adj* adding what is necessary to make complete.

**complementary medicine** /kɒmpli'mentəri 'medəsɪn/, /com-pli-men-ta-ree me-di-sin/ *n* a range of therapies other than the usual scientific medical treatments, including herbal medicine, homoeopathy and acupuncture.

**complete** /kəm'pli:t/, /com-plet/ *adj* 1 finished. 2 whole. 3 perfect. • *vb* 1 to finish. 2 to make whole. • *n* completion.

**complex** /'kɒmpléks/, /com-plex/ *adj* 1 having many parts. 2 not simple. • *n* /com-plex/ 1 a group of connected or similar things. 2 an abnormal mental state, often caused by past experiences or suppressed desires or fears, that influences a person's behaviour.

**complexion** /kəm'plékʃən/, /com-plek-shun/ *n* the colour, texture and general appearance of the skin, especially the face.

**complexity** /kəm'pléksəti/, /com-plek-si-tee/ *n* 1 the state of being complex. 2 difficulty.

**compliant** /kəm'plaɪənt/, /com-plie-ant/ *adj* giving in easily to others. • *n* compliance. • see also **comply**.

**complicate** /'kɒmplékeɪt/, /com-pli-cate/ *vb* to make difficult.

**complicated** /'kɒmplékeɪtəd/, /com-pli-cay-ted/ *adj* 1 difficult to understand. 2 confusing because of having many parts.

**complication** /kɒmplí'keɪʃən/, /com-pli-cay-shun/ *n* 1 a confused state of affairs. 2 an event or fact that makes things difficult.

**complicity** /kəm'plisiti/, /com-pli-si-tee/ *n* helping to do something wrong.

**compliment** /'kɒmplémənt/, /com-pli-ment/ *n* 1 praise, a flattering remark. 2 *pl* (*frm*) good wishes. • *vb* to praise, to express admiration.

**complimentary** /,kɒmplé'mentəri/, /com-pli-men-ta-ree/ *adj* 1 flattering, showing admiration. 2 free.

**comply** /kəm'plai/, /com-ply/ *vb* (*usually accompanied by with*) 1 to agree to. 2 to obey. • *n* compliance.

**component** /kəm'ponənt/, /com-po-nent/ *n* a part necessary to the whole object. • *also adj*.

**comport** /kəm'pɔrt/, /com-poart/ *vb* (*frm*) to behave.

**compose** /kəm'po:z/, /com-poze/ *vb* 1 to make up by putting together. 2 to write. 3 to calm.

**composed** /kəm'po:zd/, /com-pozed/ *adj* calm.

**composer** /kəm'po:zər/, /com-po-zer/ *n* one who writes music.

**composite** /'kɒmpəzɪt/, /com-poz-it/ *adj* made up of several parts.

**composition** /kəm'pe'zɪʃən/, /com-po-zì-shun/ *n* 1 act of putting together. 2 the arrangement of parts to form a pleasing whole. 3 the thing composed or written. 4 a mixture.

**compost** /'kəm'po:st/, /com-post/ *n* rotting vegetable matter, etc, used as a fertilizer.

**composure** /kəm'po:ʒər/, /com-po-zhur/ *n* calmness.

**compote** /'kəmpɔ:t/, /com-pote/ *n* preserved fruit.

**compound<sup>1</sup>** /kəm'paund/, /com-pound/ *vb* 1 to put together, to mix. 2 to increase greatly. • *adj* /com-pound/ made up of two or more parts. • *n* /com-pound/ a mixture of two or more substances.

**compound<sup>2</sup>** /'kəm,paund/, /com-pound/ *n* an enclosed space with a building or buildings in it.

**comprehend** /kəmprɪ'hend/, /com-pre-hend/ *vb* 1 to understand. 2 (*fml*) to include.

**comprehensible** /kəmprɪ'hensibəl/, /com-pre-hen-si-bl/ *adj* able to be understood.

**comprehension** /kəmprɪ'hɛnʃən/, /com-pre-hen-shun/ *n* the power of understanding.

**comprehensive** /kəmprɪ'hensiv/, /com-pre-hen-sive/ *adj* taking in as much as possible.

**compress** /kəm'pres/, /com-press/ *vb* to press together into a smaller space. • *n* **compression**. • *n* /com-press/ a soft pad.

**comprise** /kəm'praɪz/, /com-prize/ *vb* to be made up of.

**compromise** /'kəmprə'maɪz/, /com-pro-mize/ *vb* 1 to reach agreement by giving way on certain points. 2 to leave open to suspicion or criticism. • *n* an agreement reached when each party gives way on certain points.

**compulsion** /kəm'pʌlʃən/, /com-pul-shun/ *n* 1 force. 2 an irresistible urge.

**compulsory** /kəm'pəlsəri/, /com-pulse-ree/ *adj* forced, compelled.

**compunction** /kəm'pʌŋksən/, /com-punc-shun/ *n* regret, feeling of guilt.

**compute** /kəm'pjut/, /com-pyoot/ *vb* (*fml*) to calculate or estimate. • *n* **computation**.

**computer** /kəm'pjū:tər/, /com-pyoo-ter/ *n* an electronic machine capable of storing and processing large amounts of information and of doing calculations. • *vb computerize, also computerise.* • *n computerization, also computerisation.*

**computer-aided design** /kəm'pjū:tər 'eɪd-ed de-zīn/, /com-pyoo-ter aid-ed de-zine/ *n* the use of a computer to create plans and drawings, *also known as CAD.*

**computer graphics** /kəm'pjū:tər ,græfɪks/, /com-pyoo-ter gra-fiks/ *npl* artwork or design that is created on a computer.

**comrade** /'kɒmræd/, /com-rade/ *n* a friend, a companion.

**comradeship** /kəm'pjū:tər/, /com-rade-ship/ *n* good fellowship.

**con<sup>1</sup>** /kɒn/, /con/ *vb* (**conned, conning**) to deceive, to trick.

**con<sup>2</sup>** /kɒn/, /con/ *n* a reason, vote, or position in opposition.

**concave** /'kɒnkeɪv/, /con-cave/ *adj* hollow, curved inward.

**conceal** /kən'si:l/, /con-seel/ *vb* to hide, to keep from others.

**concealment** /kən'si:lmənt/, /con-seel-ment/ *n* act of concealing.

**concede** /ken'si:d/, /con-seed/ *vb* 1 to admit as true. 2 to give up. • *n concession.*

**conceit** /kən'si:t/, /con-seet/ *n* 1 too high an opinion of oneself. 2 (*fml*) a fanciful or imaginative idea.

**conceited** /kən'si:təd/, /con-see-ted/ *adj* too proud of oneself, vain.

**conceivable** /kən'si:vəbəl/, /con-see-va-bl/ *adj* able to be thought of or imagined.

**conceive** /kən'si:v/, /con-seev/ *vb* 1 to grasp clearly with the mind. 2 to imagine. 3 to become pregnant.

**concentrate** /'kɒnsən,treɪt/, /con-sen-trate/ *vb* 1 to bring together to one point. 2 to bring all the powers of the mind to bear on. 3 to make a substance stronger by reducing its volume. 4 to pack tightly. • *n* a concentrated substance. • *n concentration.*

**concentric** /kən'sentrik/, /con-sen-tric/ *adj* having the same centre.

**concept** /'kɒnsept/, /con-sept/ *n* a general idea. • *adj conceptual.*

**conception** /kən'sepʃən/, /con-sep-shun/ *n* 1 act of conceiving. 2 an idea.

**concern** /kən'sərn/, /con-sərn/ *vb* 1 to have to do with. 2 to take interest. 3 (*fml*) to be anxious about. • *n* 1 an affair. 2 interest. 3 anxiety. 4 a business.

**concerning** /kən'sərnɪŋ/, /con-sər-ning/ *prep* having to do with, about.

**concert** /'kɒnsərt/, /con-sert/ *n* a musical entertainment.

**concerted** /kən'sərtəd/, /con-sər-ted/ *adj* planned together, worked out together.

**concertina** /kɒnsər'ti:nə/, /con-ser-tee-na/ *n* a musical wind instrument similar to an accordian but with buttons instead of a keyboard.

**concerto** /kən'tʃerto:/, /con-cher-toe/ *n* a musical composition for a solo player accompanied by an orchestra.

**concession** /kə'nɛʃən/, /con-se-shun/ *n* 1 the act of giving up. 2 a thing conceded, a favour. 3 a reduction on the cost of something, such as a theatre ticket.

**conch** /kɒntʃ/, /conch/ *n* the large, spiral seashell of certain shellfish.

**conciliate** /kən'silieɪt/, /con-si-lee-ate/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to make less angry or more friendly. 2 to create peace between.

**conciliation** /kən'sili'eʃən/, /con-si-lee-ay-shun/ *n* the bringing together in peace or friendship of those who have quarrelled.

**conciliatory** /kən'siljətɔri/, /con-sil-ya-toe-ree/ *adj* calming, peace-making.

**concise** /kən'seɪs/, /con-sice/ *adj* short and to the point, brief. • *n* conciseness.

**conclave** /'kɒnklerɪv/, /con-clave/ *n* 1 in Catholicism, the meeting of cardinals to choose a new pope. 2 a meeting held in private.

**conclude** /kən'klu:d/, /con-clood/ *n* 1 (*fml*) to end, to bring to an end. 2 to arrange, to settle on. 3 to come to believe after consideration of the facts.

**conclusion** /kən'klu:ʒən/, /con-cloo-zhun/ *n* 1 (*fml*) end. 2 the idea finally reached after thinking something out.

**conclusive** /kən'klu:sɪv/, /con-cloo-siv/ *adj* convincing, putting an end to doubt.

**concoct** /kən'kɒkt/, /con-coct/ *vb* **1** to make by mixing. **2** to make up, invent.

**concoction** /kən'kɒkʃən/, /con-coc-shun/ *n* something, such as food or drink, made by mixing several things.

**concomitant** /kən'kɒmɪtənt/, /con-com-i-tant/ *adj* (*fml*) accompanying, going together. • *also n.*

**concord** /'kɒnkɔrd/, /con-cord/ *n* (*fml*) **1** agreement. **2** peace and friendship.

**concordance** /kən'kɔrdəns/, /con-cor-danse/ *n* **1** agreement. **2** an alphabetical list of the most important words used in a book or by a writer and exactly where they can be found.

**concordat** /kən'kɔrdæt/, /con-cor-dat/ *n* a treaty, a formal agreement.

**concourse** /'kɒnkɔrs/, /con-coarse/ *n* **1** a large, open space for people. **2** (*fml*) a gathering, a crowd.

**concrete** /'kɒnkri:t/, /con-creet/ *adj* **1** solid, having a real bodily existence. **2** definite. • *n* a mixture of cement, sand and gravel with water.

**concur** /kən'kər/, /con-cur/ *vb* (**concurred**, **concurring**) **1** to happen at the same time. **2** to agree.

**concurrence** /kən'kərəns/, /con-cur-ense/ *n* **1** happening together at the same place. **2** (*fml*) agreement.

**concurrent** /kən'kərənt/, /con-cur-ent/ *adj* **1** in agreement. **2** happening at the same time. • *adv* **concurrently**.

**concussion** /kən'kʌʃən/, /con-cu-shun/ *n* **1** a violent shaking. **2** an injury that affects the function of an organ, especially the brain, as a result of a violent blow or impact.

**condemn** /kən'dem/, /con-dem/ *vb* **1** to blame. **2** to find guilty. **3** to name a punishment for a guilty person. • *n* **condemnation**.

**condemnatory** /kən'demnətɔ:rɪ/, /con-dem-na-toe-ree/ *adj* laying the blame on.

**condense** /kən'dens/, /con-dense/ *vb* **1** to make shorter or smaller. **2** to make a substance more solid (e.g. to change vapour into liquid). • *n* **condensation**.

**condescend** /kəndə'send/, /con-di-send/ *vb* to descend to the level, regarded as lower, of the person or people with whom one is

dealing, usually in an ungracious, proud manner. • *adj condescending*. • *n condescension*.

**condiment** /'kɔndəmənt/, /con-di-mənt/ *n* a seasoning, sauce, or relish eaten with food to bring out its flavour or enhance its taste.

**condition** /kən'diʃən/, /con-di-shən/ *n* 1 state. 2 something that must be or happen before something else can take place.

**conditional** /kən'diʃənəl/, /con-dish-nəl/ *adj* depending on something else happening.

**condolence** /kən'do:ləns/, /con-doe-lense/ *n* (often *pl*) expression of sympathy.

**condone** /kən'do:n/, /con-doan/ *vb* to forgive, to pardon, to overlook a wrong.

**condor** /'kɔndɔr/, /con-dor/ *n* a large vulture with black feathers, a bald head and neck and soft, white feathers at the base of the neck.

**conducive** /kən'dju:siv/, /con-dyoo-sive/ *adj* helping to produce, leading.

**conduct** /'kɔndɛkt/, /con-duct/ *vb* 1 to lead, to guide. 2 to carry. 3 to direct. 4 (*fm*) to behave. • *n* /con-duct/ behaviour.

**conductor** /kən'dektər/, /con-duc-tor/ *n* 1 the director of an orchestra. 2 the person who takes the fares on a bus. 3 a substance that passes on heat or electricity to something else. • *f conductress*.

**conduit** /'kɔnduɪt/, /con-dwit/ *n* 1 a pipe or channel made to carry fluids. 2 tubing or piping that protects electric wires.

**cone** /ko:n/, /cone/ *n* 1 a figure with a circular base and a pointed top. 2 the fruit of pines and firs. 3 any object shaped like a cone.

**confection** /kən'fekʃən/, /con-fec-shun/ *n* 1 the process of making something by mixing. 2 any kind of sweet or other sugary treat.

**confectionary** /kən'fekʃən,əri/, /con-fec-shu-na-ree/ *adj* of or like a confection, of confectioners or their work.

**confectioner** /kən'fekʃənər/, /con-fec-shu-ner/ *n* a person whose work is making or selling sweets.

**confectionery** /kən'fekʃən,əri/, /con-fec-shu-na-ree/ *n* 1 sweets; sweet treats made from sugar, chocolate, etc. 2 the business or work of a confectioner. 3 a sweet shop.

**confederate** /kən'fēdərət/, /con-fē-de-rit/ *adj* joined together by agreement or common purpose. • *n* a supporter, a helper, often in wrongdoing. **confederation** *n* a group of states or nations that have agreed to act together.

**confer** /kən'fēr/, /con-fēr/ *vb* (**conferred**, **conferring**) **1** to talk together. **2** to give.

**conference** /'kōnfērəns/, /con-frense/ *n* a meeting held to discuss matters.

**confess** /kən'fēs/, /con-fēss/ *vb* to own up, to admit fault or guilt.

**confession** /kən'fēshən/, /con-fē-shun/ *n* the act of confessing, an account of the wrong one has done.

**confessional** /kən'fēshənəl/, /con-fēsh-nal/ *n* in the Catholic church, the small room in which a priest hears confessions.

**confessor** /kən'fēsər/, /con-fē-sor/ *n* **1** a person who confesses. **2** in the Catholic church, a priest who hears confessions.

**confetti** /kən'fētē/, /con-fē-tee/ *n* small pieces of coloured paper thrown during celebrations.

**confidant** /kōnfī'dānt/, /con-fi-dawnt/ *n* a person trusted with a secret. • *f confidante*.

**confide** /kən'fād/, /con-fide/ *vb* to give or tell something to a person one trusts.

**confiding** /kən'fādīŋ/, /con-fie-ding/ *adj* trusting.

**confidence** /'kōnfidəns/, /con-fi-dense/ *n* **1** trust. **2** belief in one's own abilities.

**confident** /'kōnfidənt/, /con-fi-dent/ *adj* having no fear of failure. • *adv confidently*.

**confidential** /kōnfī'dēnshəl/, /con-fi-den-shal/ *adj* **1** trusted. **2** secret. • *adv confidentially*.

**configuration** /kən'figyū'reiʃən/, /con-fig-yu-ray-shun/ *n* (*frm*) shape that is determined by the arrangement of various parts.

**configure** /kən'figjur/ /con-fi-gyer/ *vb* to arrange in a certain way.

**confine** /'kōnfain/, /con-fine/ *vb* **1** to shut up. **2** to keep within limits. • *n* /con-fine/ a limit, a boundary.

**confinement** /kən'faimmənt/, /con-fine-ment/ *n* **1** imprisonment. **2** childbirth.

**confirm** /kən'fərm/, /con-firm/ *vb* 1 to say that something is undoubtedly certain or true. 2 to give final approval to.

**confirmation** /kənfər'meɪʃən/, /con-fir-may-shun/ *n* 1 proof. 2 the ceremony by which one becomes a full member of certain churches.

**confirmed** /kən'fərmɪd/, /con-firmɪd/ *adj* settled, habitual.

**confiscate** /'kɒnfɪskeɪt/, /con-fi-skate/ *vb* to seize a person's private property, especially as a punishment. • *n* **confiscation** /con-fi-skay-shun/.

**conflagration** /kənflæ'greɪʃən/, /con-fla-gray-shun/ *n* (fml) a big, destructive fire.

**conflict** /'kɒnflɪkt/, /con-flict/ *n* 1 a state of disagreement. 2 a fight. • *vb* /con-flict/ to disagree, to clash.

**conflicting** /kən'flɪktɪŋ/, /con-flic-ting/ *adj* 1 going against each other, fighting, or quarrelling. 2 clashing, disagreeing.

**confluence** /'kɒnfluəns/, /con-floo-ense/ *n* 1 a flowing together. 2 the meeting of streams. • *adj* confluent.

**conform** /kən'fɔrm/, /con-fawrm/ *vb* 1 to act or think like most other people, to accept the laws and practices of the time or place. 2 to obey, to be in accordance with.

**conformation** /kənfɔr'meɪʃən/, /con-for-may-shun/ *n* the way in which a thing is put together; shape.

**conformity** /kən'fɔrmɪti/, /con-fawr-mi-tee/ *n* 1 behaviour, attitudes, etc, that are the same as most people's. 2 agreement, obedience.

**confound** /kən'faʊnd/, /con-found/ *vb* 1 to defeat completely. 2 to confuse, to mix up.

**confront** /kən'frənt/, /con-frunt/ *vb* to meet face to face. • *n* confrontation.

**confuse** /kən'fju:z/, /con-fyooz/ *vb* 1 to put into disorder, to muddle. 2 to puzzle, to bewilder. 3 to mistake one person or thing for another.

**confusion** /kən'fju:ʒən/, /con-fyoo-zhun/ *n* 1 disorder. 2 puzzlement, bewilderment.

**confute** /kən'fju:t/, /con-fyoot/ *vb* to prove (someone) wrong, to prove untrue. • *n* confutation.

**congeal** /kən'dʒi:l/, /con-jeel/ *vb* 1 to become thick by cooling or freezing. 2 to become solid and stiff.

**congenial** /kən'dʒi:nɪəl/, /con-jee-nee-al/ *adj* 1 having the same likes and dislikes. 2 pleasing.

**congenital** /kən'dʒenɪtəl/, /con-jen-i-tal/ *adj* existing from birth.

**conger** /'kəŋgər/, /cong-ger/ *n* a saltwater eel with a long fin on its back, sharp teeth and powerful jaws.

**congested** /kən'dʒestɪd/, /con-jess-tid/ *adj* 1 overcrowded. 2 too full of blood or mucus. • *n* **congestion**.

**conglomerate** /kən'glɒmə,rət/, /con-glom-rit/ *adj* stuck together in a lump. • *n* 1 a cluster. 2 a rock made up of different kinds of pebbles sticking together. 3 a large corporation formed by merging several different firms.

**conglomeration** /kən,gləmə'reɪʃən/, /con-glom-e-ray-shun/ *n* a mixed collection.

**congratulate** /kən'grætʃə,leɪt/, /con-gra-chu-late/ *vb* to express pleasure at another's success, a happy event, etc. • *n* **congratulation**. • *adj* **congratulatory**.

**congregate** /'kɔŋgrə,geɪt/, /cong-gri-gate/ *vb* to meet, to form a crowd.

**congregation** /'kɔŋgrə'geɪʃən/, /cong-gri-gay-shun/ *n* a gathering of people, especially at a church service.

**congress** /'kɔŋgrɛs/, /cong-gress/ *n* 1 a formal meeting of statesmen, etc, to settle certain questions. 2 **Congress** the part of the US government that makes laws, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. • *adj* **congressional**.

**congruent** /'kɔŋgruənt/, /cong-groo-ent/ *adj* suitable, agreeing. • *n* **congruity**.

**congruous** /'kɔŋgruəs/, /cong-groo-us/ *adj* suitable, agreeing.

**conic** /'kənɪk/, /con-ic/, **conical** /con-i-cal/ *adj* cone-shaped.

**conifer** /'kənifər/, /con-i-fer/ *n* a cone-bearing tree. • *adj* **coniferous**.

**conjectural** /kən'dʒektʃərəl/, /con-jec-che-ral/ *adj* due to guesswork, not certain.

**conjecture** /kən'dʒekʃər/, /con-jec-cher/ *vb* to guess, to suppose. • *n* guess.

**conjoin** /kən'ðʒɔɪn/, /con-join/ *vb (fml)* to join, unite.

**conjoint** /kən'ðʒɔɪnt/, /con-joint/ *adj (fml)* joined, united. • *adv conjointly*.

**conjugal** /'kɒndʒʊgəl/, /con-ji-gal/ *adj* having to do with marriage or the relationship between husband and wife.

**conjugate** /'kɒndʒu,geɪt/, /con-ji-gate/ **1 adj** joined, especially in a pair, coupled. **2 vb** to give the forms (i.e. mood, tense, person, etc.) of a verb. • *n conjugation*.

**conjunction** /kən'dʒʌŋkʃən/, /con-jung-shun/ *n 1* a connection. **2** in grammar, a joining word, such as 'and', 'but', 'or'. • *adj conjunctive*.

**conjunction** /kən'dʒʌŋktʃən/, /con-jungk-cher/ *n (fml)* a combination of events or situations, especially one causing difficulties.

**conjure** /'kɒndʒər/, /con- jer/ **1** to do magic; to do tricks so quickly and skilfully that the onlooker cannot see how they are done. **2** to summon, to cause to appear as if by magic.

**conjurer** /'kɒndʒərər/, /con-ju-rer/ *n, also conjuror* one who entertains by doing tricks, one who performs magic.

**connect** /kə'nekt/, /co-nect/ **1** to join. **2** to see that a thing or idea is related to another, to associate in the mind. • **well-connected** related to important or powerful people.

**connection** /kə'nekʃən/, /co-nec-shun/ *n 1* something that joins. **2** a relation by blood or marriage. **3** something that makes one think of a certain person, place, event, etc, when one sees another.

**connive** /kə'nairv/, /co-nive/ **1** to pretend not to see wrongdoing. **2** to cooperate secretly with someone, especially in wrongdoing. • *n connivance*.

**connoisseur** /kɒnə'sur/, /con-i-sur/ *n* one with expert knowledge of something and the ability to tell what is bad from what is good.

**connotation** /kɒnə'teɪʃən/, /con-i-tay-shun/ *n* what is suggested by a word in addition to its actual meaning.

**connote** /kə'no:t/, /co-note/ **vb** to suggest in addition to the actual meaning.

**connubial** /kə'nub:bɪəl/, /co-noo-bee-al/ *adj (fml)* having to do with marriage or married life.

**conquer** /'kɔŋkər/, /cong-ker/ *vb* 1 to win by war. 2 to defeat. 3 to overcome. • *n conqueror*.

**conquest** /'kɔn,kwest/, /con-kwest/ *n* 1 act of conquering. 2 a thing gained by force.

**conscience** /'kɔnʃəns/, /con-shense/ *n* one's sense of right and wrong.

**conscientious** /kɔnʃi'ɛnʃəs/, /con-she-en-shus/ *adj* careful to do one's duty. • *n conscientiousness*.

**conscientious objector** /kɔnʃi'ɛnʃəs əb'dʒek,tər/, /con-she-en-shus ob-jec-tor/ *n* one who, in war, refuses to fight because he or she believes it is wrong to do so.

**conscious** /'kɔnʃəs/, /con-shus/ *adj* 1 knowing what is going on around one. 2 aware. • *n consciousness*.

**conscript** /'kɔn,skript/, /con-script/ *n* one made by law to serve in the armed forces.

**conscription** /kən'skrɪpfʃən/, /con-scrip-shun/ *n* the act of making people serve in the armed forces by law.

**consecrate** /'kɔnsə,kreɪt/, /con-si-crate/ *vb* 1 to make holy. 2 to devote, to set apart. • *n consecration*.

**consecutive** /kən'sekjutɪv/, /con-sec-yu-tiv/ *adj* following one after the other, in order.

**consensus** /kən'sensəs/, /con-sen-sis/ *n* general agreement.

**consent** /kən'sent/, /con-sent/ *vb* to agree, to give one's permission.  
• *n agreement, permission*.

**consequence** /'kɔnsəkwəns/, /con-se-kwense/ *n* 1 a result, an effect.  
2 importance.

**consequent** /'kɔnsəkwənt/, /con-se-kwent/ *adj* (*frm*) following, resulting.

**consequential** /kɔnsə'kwənʃəl/, /con-se-kwen-shal/ *adj* 1 following upon. 2 consequential.

**conservatism** /kən'sərvə,trizəm/, /con-ser-va-ti-zum/ *n* dislike of changes, especially in governing.

**conservative** /kən'sərvətɪv/, /con-ser-va-tiv/ *adj* 1 disliking change. 2 moderate, cautious, safe. 3 (*cap*) describing a member of the British Conservative political party. • *n* 1 a person with politically

conservative views. **2** (*cap*) a member of the British Conservative party.

**conservatory** /kən'sərvətɔri/, /con-**ser**-va-toe-ree/ *n* **1** a room enclosed in glass; a greenhouse. **2** a school of fine arts, usually music.

**conserve** /kən'sərv/, /con-**serv**/ *vb* **1** to keep something as it is. **2** to keep from being wasted or spoiled. • *n* fruits preserved in sugar, a kind of jam. • *n* **conservation**.

**consider** /kən'sɪdər/, /con-**si**-der/ *vb* **1** to think about. **2** to think seriously. **3** to take into account. **4** to regard as.

**considerable** /kən'sɪdərəbəl/, /con-**si**-der-a-bl/ *adj* fairly large, great.

**considerate** /kən'sɪdərət/, /con-**sid**-rit/ *adj* thoughtful of others.

**consideration** /kən'sɪdə'refʃən/, /con-**si**-de-**ray**-shun/ *n* **1** serious thought. **2** thought for others and their feelings. **3** a payment or reward.

**considering** /kən'sɪdərɪŋ/, /con-**si**-de-ring/ *prep* allowing for.

**consign** /kə'sain/, /con-**sine**/ *vb* (*fm*) **1** to deliver to, to put in the care of another. **2** to send.

**consignment** /kən'saimmənt/, /con-**sine**-ment/ *n* the goods sent.

**consist** /kən'sist/, /con-**sist**/ *vb* to be made up of.

**consistency** /kən'sistənsi/, /con-**sis**-ten-see/ *n* **1** degree of density or (of liquids) thickness. **2** the quality of being consistent.

**consistent** /kən'sistənt/, /con-**sis**-tent/ *adj* **1** fixed, having a regular pattern. **2** agreeing with. **3** always thinking or acting on the same principles.

**consolation** /kən'sələfʃən/, /con-so-**lay**-shun/ *n* **1** comfort. **2** a person or thing that brings comfort in sorrow or sadness.

**console**<sup>1</sup> /kən'so:l/, /con-**sole**/ *vb* to comfort.

**console**<sup>2</sup> /'kɒnso:l/, /con-**sole**/ *n* a unit, e.g. between the two front seats in a car, containing switches and/or controls.

**consolidate** /kə'sɒlɪ,dæt/, /con-**sol**-i-date/ *vb* **1** to make solid or firm, to strengthen. **2** to unite or combine into a single whole, to merge. • *n* **consolidation**.

**consonance** /'kɒnsənəns/, /con-**si**-nanse/ *n* (*fm*) agreement.

**consonant** /'kɔnsənənt/, /con-si-nant/ *n* a speech sound or letter other than a vowel. • *adj* in agreement with.

**consort** /'kɔn,sɔrt/, /con-sort/ *n* a partner, a husband or wife. • *vb* /con-sort/ (*fml*) to go out together, to associate with.

**conspicuous** /kən'spikjʊəs/, /con-spic-yoo-us/ *adj* easily seen, very noticeable.

**conspiracy** /kən'sprɪəsi/, /con-spi-ra-see/ *n* 1 a coming together to plan wrongdoing. 2 a plot.

**conspire** /kən'spair/, /con-spire/ *vb* 1 to plan secretly together to do something wrong or unlawful. 2 to unite. • *n* **conspirator**.

**constable** /'kɔnstəbəl/, /con-stab-il/ *n* a police officer of the lowest rank.

**constant** /'kɔnstənt/, /con-stant/ *adj* 1 never stopping. 2 unchanging. 3 (*fml*) faithful, loyal. • *n* **constancy**.

**constantly** /'kɔnstəntli/, /con-stant-lee/ *adv* 1 again and again, nearly always, regularly. 2 without stopping.

**constellation** /kɔnstə'leɪʃən/, /con-ste-lay-shun/ *n* a group of stars, usually named for an object or animal that it resembles.

**consternation** /kɔnstər'neɪʃən/, /con-ster-nay-shun/ *n* great surprise, dismay.

**constipated** /kɔnstəpeɪtəd/, /con-sti-pay-ted/ *adj* having difficulty in clearing the bowels.

**constipation** /kɔnstri'peɪʃən/, /con-sti-pay-shun/ *n* a condition in which clearing the bowels is difficult.

**constituency** /kən'stitjuənsi/, /con-stich-wan-see/ *n* the people of a district who vote for a representative, e.g. a member of parliament.

**constituent** /kən'stitjuənt/, /con-stich-wint/ *adj* being part of, forming. • *n* 1 a necessary part. 2 a member of a constituency.

**constitute** /'kɔnstri,tju:t/, /con-sti-toot/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to be. 2 to make up, to form.

**constitution** /,kɔnstri'tju:ʃən/, /con-sti-tyoo-shun/ *n* 1 the way something is made up. 2 the general health of the body. 3 the body of law with which a country is governed.

**constitutional** /,kɔnstri'tu:ʃənəl/, /con-sti-toosh-in-nal/ *adj* having to do with the laws of a country. • *n* (*old*) a short walk taken to

improve the health.

**constrain** /kən'streɪn/, /kən-streɪn/ *vb* to force, to compel.

**constraint** /kən'streɪnt/, /kən-streɪnt/ *n* **1** force, compulsion. **2** a limit.

**3** strained manner, lack of friendliness.

**constrict** /kən'strɪkt/, /kən-strikt/ *vb* **1** to make smaller or narrower, to make tight. **2** to prevent free movement. • *n* **constriction**.

**constrictor** /kən'strɪktər/, /kən-striktər/ *n* a large snake that crushes its prey.

**construct** /kən'strəkt/, /kən-struct/ *vb* **1** to build. **2** to make by putting the parts together.

**construction** /kən'strækʃən/, /kən-struc-shun/ *n* **1** act of constructing. **2** the thing constructed. **3** the way of arranging words to give a certain meaning. **4** (*fml*) meaning.

**constructive** /kən'stræktrɪv/, /kən-struc-tiv/ *adj* useful and helpful.

**construe** /kən'struː/, /kən-stroo/ *vb* **1** to translate into another language. **2** to explain, to interpret.

**consul** /'kɒnsəl/, /kən-sul/ *n* a person appointed to look after the interests of his or her country in a foreign country.

**consular** /'kɒnsjələr/, /kən-sy়ি-লাৰ/ *adj* having to do with a consul.

**consulate** /'kɒnsjələt/, /kən-sy়ি-লিট/ *n* the office of a consul.

**consult** /kən'səlt/, /kən-sult/ *vb* **1** to ask advice, information, or help from. **2** to discuss matters with. **3** to look up. • *n* **consultation**.

**consultant** /kən'səltənt/, /kən-sul-tant/ *n* one able to advise, especially a doctor who is an expert in a particular branch of medicine.

**consume** /kən'sju:m/, /kən-syoom/ *vb* **1** to eat. **2** to use up. **3** to destroy, to waste.

**consumer** /kən'sju:mər/, /kən-syoo-mer/ *n* one who buys or uses.

**consummate** /'kɒnsjə,meɪt/, /kən-su-mate/ *vb* **1** to finish, to make complete or perfect. **2** to make a marriage or relationship complete by having sex. • *adj* complete, perfect. • *n* **consummation**.

**consumption** /kən'səmpʃən/, /kən-sum-shun/ *n* **1** the act of using. **2** the amount used. **3** (*old*) a disease of the lungs.

**contact** /'kɒn,tækt/, /kən-tact/ *n* **1** touch. **2** communication. • *vb* to get in touch with, to communicate with.

**contact lens** /'kɒn,tækt lɛnz/, /con-tact lɛnz/ *n* a small convex piece of thin plastic placed on the front of the cornea to help the wearer see better.

**contagious** /'kɒn,eɪdʒəs/, /con-tay-jus/ *adj* (of disease) able to be passed on, quickly spreading to others. • *n* **contagion**.

**contain** /kən'teɪn/, /con-tane/ *vb* 1 to have in it. 2 to keep control of.

**container** /kən'teɪnə/, /con-tay-ner/ *n* anything made to hold something else in it.

**contaminate** /kən'tæmɪneɪt/, /con-ta-mi-nate/ *vb* to make dirty, infected, or impure; to pollute. • *n* **contamination**.

**contemplate** /'kɒntəm,pléit/, /con-tem-plate/ *vb* 1 to look at thoughtfully. 2 to think deeply about. 3 to think of doing. • *n* **contemplation**.

**contemplative** /kən'templə,tɪv/, /con-tem-pla-tiv/ *adj* 1 thoughtful. 2 spending time in prayer.

**contemporary** /kən'tempə,rəri/, /con-tem-po-ra-ree/ *adj* 1 belonging to the same time. 2 modern. • *n* one who lives at the same time as another.

**contempt** /kən'tempt/, /con-temt/ *n* the feeling that another person or thing is worthless and to be looked down on; scorn.

**contemptible** /kən'temptibəl/, /con-tem-ti-bl/ *adj* deserving to be looked down on.

**contemptuous** /kən'temptʃuəs/, /con-tem-choo-us/ *adj* showing contempt or scorn.

**contend** /kən'tend/, /con-tend/ *vb* 1 to struggle against. 2 to compete. 3 to maintain, to state. • *n* **contender**.

**content<sup>1</sup>** /'kɒntent/, /con-tent/ *n* that which is in something else.

**content<sup>2</sup>** /kən'tent/, /con-tent/ *adj* satisfied, pleased, not wanting more than one has. • also *vb*. • *n* **contentment**.

**contention** /kən'tenʃən/, /con-ten-shun/ *n* 1 disagreement, argument. 2 competition. 3 an opinion.

**contentious** /kən'tenʃəs/, /con-ten-shus/ *adj* quarrelsome.

**contest** /kɒn'test/, /con-test/ *vb* 1 to try to prove wrong. 2 to try hard to gain. • *n* /con-test/ 1 a struggle. 2 a competition.

**contestant** /kən'testənt/, /con-tes-tant/ *n* one who contests.

**context** /'kɒn.tɛkst/, /con-tecst/ *n* 1 the parts of a sentence, book, paragraph, etc, surrounding a word or meaning. 2 circumstances, the whole situation, background, or environment to a particular event.

**contiguous** /kən'tɪgjuəs/, /con-ti-gyoo-uss/ *adj (fml)* touching, next to, neighbouring. • *n contiguity*.

**continence** /'kɒntɪnəns/, /con-ti-nense/ *n* self-control.

**continent<sup>1</sup>** /'kɒntɪnənt/, /con-ti-nent/ *adj* able to control oneself.

**continent<sup>2</sup>** /'kɒntɪnənt/, /con-ti-nent/ *n* one of the large land masses in the world (e.g. Africa).

**continental** /kɒntrɪ'nentəl/, /con-ti-nen-tal/ *adj* having to do with a continent.

**contingency** /kən'tɪndʒənsi/, /con-tin-jen-see/ *n* something that may happen but is not certain to do so.

**contingent** /kən'tɪndʒənt/, /con-tin-jent/ *adj* 1 happening only if something else happens first. 2 accidental. • *n* a body of soldiers, scouts, etc.

**continual** /kən'tɪnjʊəl/, /con-tin-yoo-wal/ *adj* 1 going on all the time. 2 happening again and again, repeated.

**continuance** /ken'tɪnjʊəns/, /con-tin-yoo-wanse/ *n* the going on or lasting of.

**continuation** /kən,tɪnjʊ'eɪʃən/, /con-tin-yoo-way-shun/ *n* 1 act of going on or carrying on. 2 something that continues from something else.

**continue** /kən'tɪnu:/, /con-tin-yoo/ *vb* 1 to go on doing. 2 to carry on with later. 3 to go or move further. 4 to remain.

**continuity** /kəntɪ'nju:iti/, /con-ti-nyoo-wi-tee/ *n* uninterrupted connection, a series, the fact or quality of being continuous.

**continuous** /kən'tɪnjʊ:əs/, /con-tin-yoo-wus/ *adj* 1 never stopping. 2 unbroken.

**contort** /kən'tɔrt/, /con-tort/ *vb* to twist out of shape.

**contortion** /kən'tɔrʃən/, /con-tor-shun/ *n* 1 act of twisting. 2 a twisting of the body.

**contortionist** /kən'tɔːʃənist/, /con-tor-shu-nist/ *n* one who entertains people by twisting his or her body into strange shapes; an acrobat.

**contour** /'kən.tur/, /con-toor/ *n* 1 an outline, a shape. 2 a line drawn on a map through all places of the same height.

**contraband** /'kəntrə,bænd/, /con-tra-band/ *n* 1 goods that it is forbidden by law to bring into the country. 2 goods brought into the country against the law. • *adj (of goods)* forbidden by law.

**contraceptive** /kəntrə'septiv/, /con-tra-sep-tiv/ *n* something which is used to prevent a woman becoming pregnant. • *also adj.*

**contract** /'kəntrækt/, /con-tract/ *vb* 1 to arrange by agreement. 2 to make or become smaller or shorter. 3 to begin to have. • *n* /con-tract/ a legal written agreement.

**contraction** /kən'trækʃən/, /con-trac-shun/ *n* 1 the act of becoming smaller. 2 a shortened form.

**contractor** /'kən,træktər/, /con-trac-tor/ *n* one who undertakes to do certain jobs.

**contradict** /kəntrə'dikt/, /con-tra-dict/ *vb* 1 to say the opposite. 2 to say that something is not true. • *n contradiction.*

**contradictory** /kəntrə'diktəri/, /con-tra-dic-tree/ *adj* saying the opposite.

**contralto** /kən'trɔːlto:/, /con-tral-toe/ *n* 1 a low female singing voice. 2 a singer with a voice in this range. • *also adj.*

**contraption** /kən'træpʃən/, /con-trap-shun/ *n* an unusual machine or instrument.

**contrary** /'kən,trəri/, /con-tra-ree/ *adj* 1 opposite. 2 /con-tray-ree/ always choosing to act differently from others, difficult to deal with. • *n /con-tra-ree/ the opposite.*

**contrast** /kən'træst/, /con-trast/ *vb* 1 to put things together to show clearly the differences between them. 2 to appear very different from. • *n /con-trast/ a clear difference.*

**contravene** /kəntrə'vein/, /con-tra-veen/ *vb* to go against (a law or rule), to conflict with. • *n contravention.*

**contribute** /kən'tribju:t/, /con-tri-byut/ *vb* 1 to give part of what is needed. 2 to write something for. • *n contribution.* • *n contributor.*

**contributory** /kən'tribjutəri/, /con-tri-byu-toe-ree/ *adj* giving a share, helping.

**contrite** /kən'trɔɪt/, /con-trite/ *adj* showing or feeling guilt or sorrow for something one has done. • *n contrition*.

**contrive** /kən'traɪv/, /con-trive/ *vb* 1 to succeed in, usually with difficulty. 2 to succeed in bringing about, usually with difficulty.

**control** /kən'tro:l/, /con-trole/ *n* 1 power over the movements and actions of another person or thing. 2 power over one's own thoughts and feelings. 3 *pl* those parts of a machine that start, stop, or change the movement of all other parts. • *vb (controlled, controlling)* 1 to have power or authority over. 2 to direct the movements of. 3 to hold back, to restrain. 4 to regulate, to cause to keep to a fixed standard. • *n controller*.

**control tower** /kən'tro:l 'taʊər/, /con-trole tow-er/ *n* an airport building from which messages are sent by radio to aircraft.

**controversial** /kɒntrə'verʃəl/, /con-tro-ver-shal/ *adj* causing disagreement, discussion, argument.

**controversy** /'kɒntrə,vərsi, kən'trɒvərsi/, /con-tro-ver-see, con-tro-  
ver-see/ *n* disagreement, discussion, argument.

**controvert** /'kɒntrə,vərt/, /con-tro-vert/ *vb* to argue or reason against.

**conundrum** /kə'nʌndrəm/, /co-nun-drum/ *n* a riddle or puzzle, the answer to which is often a play on words.

**convalesce** /kɒnvə'ləs/, /con-va-less/ *vb* to recover gradually after an illness. • *n convalescence*. • *adj, n convalescent*.

**convection** /kən'veekʃən/, /con-vec-shun/ *n* warming by the spreading of heat from a portion of water or air to that surrounding it until a current of warmth is set up.

**convector** /kən'vektər/, /con-vec-tor/ *n* a heater that works by convection.

**convene** /kən'vei:n/, /con-veen/ *vb* 1 to call together. 2 to meet.

**convener** /kən'vei:nər/, /con-vee-ner/ *n* 1 one who calls members to a meeting. 2 the chairman of a committee.

**convenience** /kən'vei:nəns/, /con-veen-yense/ *n* 1 quality of being convenient or suitable. 2 comfort.

**convenient** /kən'vi:nɪənt/, /con-veen-yent/ *adj* 1 suitable, not causing trouble or difficulty. 2 easy to reach, accessible. 3 easy to use or manage.

**convent** /'kɒnvənt/, /con-vent/ *n* a community of nuns or sometimes monks living under strict religious vows. • *adj conventional*.

**convention** /kən'venʃən/, /con-ven-shin/ *n* 1 a large meeting called for a special purpose. 2 an agreement. 3 a way of behaving that has been in use for so long that it is regarded as necessary; a custom.

**conventional** /kən'venʃənəl/, /con-vench-nal/ *adj* 1 following convention. 2 accepting the manners and ideas of others, not original.

**converge** /kən'verdʒ/, /con-verge/ *vb* to move from different directions towards one point. • *n convergence*. • *adj convergent*.

**conversant** /kən'versənt/, /con-ver-sant/ *adj* having knowledge of.

**conversation** /kɒnvər'seɪʃən/, /con-ver-say-shun/ *n* talk or speech with others.

**conversational** /kɒnvər'seɪʃənəl/, /con-ver-say-shnal/ *adj* having to do with talk or speech with others.

**conversationalist** /kɒnvər'seɪʃənəlist/, /con-ver-say-shna-list/ *n* one who is good at talking easily with others.

**converse**<sup>1</sup> /'kɒn,vərs/, /con-verse/ *vb (fml)* to talk together.

**converse**<sup>2</sup> /kən'vərs/, /con-verse/ *n* the exact opposite. • *also adj*.

**conversely** /kən'vərsli:/, /con-verse-lee/ *adv* looked at in the opposite way.

**conversion** /kən'verʒən/, /con-ver-zhun/ *n* a change, especially in belief or way of life.

**convert** /kən'vert/, /con-vert/ *vb* 1 to change from one state or form to another. 2 to get another to change his or her ideas, especially on religion. • *n /con-vert/ one who has changed his or her beliefs or way of life*.

**convertible** /kən'vertibəl/, /con-ver-ti-bl/ *adj* able to be changed into something else. • *n a car whose roof rolls or folds back so that the driver and passengers are riding in open air*.

**convex** /kɒn'veks/, /con-veks/ *adj* curved outward. • *n convexity*.

**convey** /kən'vi:/, /con-vay/ *vb* 1 to carry, to take from one place to another. 2 to pass (e.g. property) from one person to another. 3 to make known.

**conveyance** /kən'veeəns/, /con-vay-anse/ *n* 1 any kind of vehicle that carries people or things. 2 the document by which property is passed from one person to another.

**conveyancing** /kən'veeənsiŋ/, /con-vay-an-sing/ *n* the preparing of the papers to make a change in ownership lawful.

**convict** /kən'vikt/, /con-vict/ *vb* to prove guilty, especially in a court of law. • *n* /con-vict/ a person imprisoned for a crime.

**conviction** /kən'vikʃən/, /con-vic-shun/ *n* 1 a proving of guilt. 2 a strong belief.

**convince** /kən'vins/, /con-vince/ *vb* to persuade a person that something is true.

**convincing** /kən'vinsiŋ/, /con-vin-sing/ *adj* 1 able to convince. 2 clear.

**convivial** /ken'viviəl/, /con-viv-yal/ *adj* 1 having to do with a feast or festive activity. 2 fond of eating, drinking and good company. • *n* **conviviality**.

**convocation** /kənvə'keiʃən/, /con-vo-cay-shun/ *n* a meeting, especially for religious or academic purposes.

**convoke** /kən'vo:k/, /con-voke/ *vb* to call together.

**convolution** /kənvə'lju:ʃən/, /con-vo-loo-shun/ *n* 1 a twisting or winding together. 2 complication. • *adj* **convolute**. • *vb* **convolve**.

**convoy** /kənvɔɪ/, /con-voy/ *vb* to go with to protect. • *n* 1 warships accompanying other ships to protect them. 2 the ships so protected. 3 a number of army wagons travelling together for protection.

**convulse** /kən'vels/, /con-vulse/ *vb* 1 to shake violently. 2 to agitate, to disturb.

**convulsion** /ken,vəlʃən/, /con-vul-shun/ *n* a fit, shaking.

**convulsive** /ken,vəl'siv/, /con-vul-sive/ *adj* sudden and jerky.

**coo** /ku:/, /coo/ *vb* to make a soft, murmuring sound as a dove would; to speak gently and lovingly. • *also n.*

**cook** /kuk/, /cook/ *vb* to prepare food by heating it. • *n* one who prepares food for eating.

**cooker** /'kukər/, /cook-er/ *n* a kitchen appliance for cooking food.

**cookery** /'kukəri/, /coo-ke-ree/ *n* the art, practice, or work of preparing food.

**cookie** /'kuki/, /coo-kee/ *n* 1 (*US*) **biscuit**, sense 1. 2 a small file placed on a computer by a Web site or online service to store information about the user.

**cool** /ku:l/, /cool/ *adj* 1 slightly cold, pleasantly cold. 2 calm, not easily excited. • *vb* 1 to make or become colder. 2 to become calmer or less interested. • *n* **coolness**.

**coolly** /'ku:li:/, /cool-lee/ *adv* without excitement.

**coop** /ku:p/, /coop/ *n* a cage for hens or other small animals. • *vb* to shut up in a small space.

**cooper** /ku:pər/, /coo-per/ *n* one who makes or repairs barrels.

**cooperate, co-operate** /ko:'ɒpə,reɪt/, /co-op-er-ate/ *vb* to work or act together. • *n* **cooperation, co-operation**.

**cooperative, co-operative** /ko:'ɒpərətɪv/, /co-op-er-a-tive/ *adj* 1 willing to work with others, helpful. 2 made, done, etc, by people working together. • *also n*.

**co-opt** /ko:'ɒpt/, /co-opt/ *vb* to elect into a society or committee by the votes of the members.

**coordinate, co-ordinate** /ko:'ɒrdɪneɪt/, /co-or-di-nate/ *vb* to make things work or happen together for the same purpose. • *npl* figures that indicate a position on a map or squared paper. • *n* **coordination, co-ordination**.

**coot** /ku:t/, /coot/ *n* a ducklike freshwater bird.

**cope<sup>1</sup>** /ko:p/, /cope/ *n* a capelike garment worn by a clergyman on certain occasions.

**cope<sup>2</sup>** /ko:p/, /cope/ *vb* to deal with, especially successfully.

**coping** /'ko:pɪŋ/, /co-ping/ *n* the top row of stones, bricks, or concrete on a wall, usually sloped to carry off water.

**copious** /'ko:pɪəs/, /co-pee-us/ *adj* plentiful.

**copper** /'kɔpər/, /cop-er/ *n* 1 a reddish brown metal, used to make pennies. 2 a large metal container. 3 (*inf*) a policeman.

**copperplate** /'kɔpər,pleɪt/, /cop-er-plate/ *n* 1 a plate of copper on which something has been engraved. 2 a print made from this.

**copse, coppice** /kɔps/, /cops/ *n* a group of small trees or bushes growing close together.

**copulate** /'kɔpjul,eɪt/, /cop-yew-late/ *vi* to have sexual intercourse.

**copy** /'kɔpi/, /cop-ee/ *n* 1 a thing done or made in exactly the same way as another. 2 a single example of a newspaper, magazine, book, etc. 3 written material given to the printer for printing. • *vb* to imitate, to make a copy of.

**copyright** /'kɔpi,rəɪt/, /cop-ee-rite/ *n* the right, given to one person, team of people or publisher only, to reproduce and sell a particular book, musical work, or picture for a certain number of years.

**coquette** /ko:kɛt/, /co-ket/ *n* a woman who flirts. • *adj* coquettish.

**coracle** /'kɔrəkəl/, /cawr-a-cl/ *n* a boat made of basketwork or wicker and covered with animal skins.

**coral** /'kɔrəl/, /cawr-al/ *n* a rocklike material found under the sea made of the secretions of tiny creatures.

**cord** /kɔrd/, /cawrd/ *n* 1 a thin rope, a thick string. 2 an electric flex. 3 a part of the body resembling this.

**cordial** /'kɔrdʒəl/, /cawr-jal/ *adj* 1 very friendly. 2 heartfelt. • *n* a refreshing drink.

**cordiality** /kɔrdiæ'liti/, /cawr-jee-a-li-tee/ *n* friendliness.

**cordon** /'kɔrdən/, /cawr-don/ *n* a line of soldiers, police, etc, to prevent people from entering an area. • *vb* to surround with a cordon.

**corduroy** /'kɔrdə,rɔɪ/, /cawr-du-roy/ *n* a strong cotton cloth with raised, cordlike lines running from one end to the other.

**core** /kɔr/, /core/ *n* 1 the central part of a fruit in which the seeds are stored. 2 the innermost part, the most important part.

**cork** /kɔrk/, /cawrk/ *n* 1 the cork tree or its bark. 2 a stopper made from cork. • *vb* to stop a bottle with a cork.

**corkscrew** /'kɔrkskru:/, /cawrk-scroo/ *n* an instrument for taking the cork out of a bottle.

**corn<sup>1</sup>** /kɔrn/, /cawrn/ *n* **1** a small, hard seed or seedlike fruit, kernel.

**2** the seeds of some cereal plants, especially wheat. **3** (*US*) maize, sweetcorn • *vb* to put salt on or soak in salt water to preserve.

**corn<sup>2</sup>** /kɔrn/, /cawrn/ *n* a hard, painful growth of skin on the toe or foot.

**cornea** /'kɔrnɪə/, /cawr-nee-ya/ *n* the clear covering of the eyeball.

**corner** /'kɔrnər/, /cawr-ner/ *n* **1** the meeting place of two walls. **2** a bend in a road. **3** a difficult position. • *vb* **1** to drive into a position from which there is no escape. **2** to put into a difficult situation. **3** to gain total control of.

**cornerstone** /'kɔrnər,stɔ:n/, /cawr-ner stone/ *n* **1** a stone put at the corner of the foundation of a new building. **2** something very important, something on which everything is based.

**cornet** /'kɔrnət/, /cawr-net/ *n* a musical instrument similar to a trumpet.

**cornflour** /'kɔrnflaʊr/, /cawrn-flaoo-wer/ *n* flour made from maize.

**cornflower** /'kɔrn,flaʊr/, /cawrn-flaoo-wer/ *n* a plant with white, pink, or blue flowers that form a round head at the top of the stem.

**cornice** /'kɔrnɪs/, /cawr-nis/ *n* **1** a plaster decoration running along the top of a wall of a room. **2** an ornamental line of stone sticking out at the top of a wall of a building.

**corollary** /kɔ:rɒləri/, /cor-ol-la-ree/ *n* something that must be true if another thing is proved true.

**coronation** /kɔrə'neɪʃən/, /caw-ro-nay-shun/ *n* the crowning of a king or queen.

**coroner** /'kɔrənər/, /caw-ro-ner/ *n* an officer of the law who determines the cause of death when it is not obviously due to natural causes.

**corporal<sup>1</sup>** /'kɔrpərl/, /cawr-pral/ *adj (fml)* having to do with the body.

**corporal<sup>2</sup>** /'kɔrpərl/, /cawr-pral/ *n* an officer in the army.

**corporal punishment** /'kɔrpərl/, /cawr-pral pun-ish-ment/ *n* punishing by beating the body.

**corporate** /'kɑrpərət/, /cawr-pe-rit/ *adj* **1** forming one group. **2** of or shared by all the members of a group. • *adv corporately*.

**corporation** /kɔrpə'reiʃən/, /cawr-pe-ray-shun/ *n* a group of people allowed by the law to act as one person in certain cases (e.g. in business matters).

**corps** /kɔr/, /core/ *n* **1** a large body of soldiers, a division of an army.

**2** a group of people working together for one purpose.

**corpse** /kɔrps/, /cawrps/ *n* the dead body of a person.

**corpulent** /'kɔrpjulənt/, /cawr-pyu-lent/ *adj* (*fml*) fat, stout. • *n corpulence*.

**corral** /'kɔræl/, /co-ral/ *n* enclosure for horses or cattle.

**correct** /kə'rekt/, /co-rect/ *adj* right, having no mistakes. • *vb* **1** to set right, to remove mistakes from. **2** to point out or mark mistakes. • *n correctness*.

**correction** /kə'rekʃən/, /co-rect-shun/ *n* **1** act of correcting. **2** the right thing put in place of a mistake. **3** (*old or fml*) punishment.

**corrective** /kə'rektiv/, /co-rec-tive/ *adj* putting right or improving what is wrong. • *also n.*

**correspond** /kɔrə'spond/, /caw-re-spond/ *vb* **1** to write letters to. **2** to fit in with, to agree with. **3** to be like, to be the equal of.

**correspondence** /kɔrə'spondəns/ /caw-re-spon-dense/ *n* **1** all the letters a person or office sends or receives. **2** likeness.

**correspondent** /kɔrə'spondənt/, /caw-re-spon-dent/ *n* **1** one who writes letters to another. **2** one who makes special reports to a newspaper or news service.

**corresponding** /kɔrə'spondɪŋ/, /caw-re-spon-ding/ *adj* like or similar.

**corridor** /'kɔridɔr/, /cawr-i-dore/ *n* an indoor passage or hallway.

**corroborate** /kə'rɒbə'reɪt/, /co-rob-e-rate/ *vb* to support or confirm the story or idea of another. • *n* **corroboration**. • *adj corroborative*.

**corrode** /kə'ro:d/, /co-rode/ *vb* to eat or wear away slowly. • *n corrosion*.

**corrosive** /kə'ro:zɪv/, /co-roe-siv/ *adj* able to eat away. • *also n.*

**corrugate** /'kɔru,geɪt/, /caw-ru-gate/ *vb* to shape into an uneven, wavy, grooved surface. • *adj corrugated*.

**corrupt** /kə'rept/, /co-rupt/ *vb* to make or become evil or morally bad. • *adj* **1** evil. **2** ready to act dishonestly for money. • *n corruption*. •

*adv corruptly.*

**corset** /'kɔrsət/, /cawr-set/ *n* a stiff, tight-fitting undergarment.

**cosmetic** /kɔz'metik/, /coz-met-ic/ *n* something used to make the face and/or hair more beautiful. • *adj* 1 intended to improve the appearance. 2 dealing only with outside appearances.

**cosmic** /kɔzmik/, /coz-mic/ *adj* 1 having to do with the universe. 2 (*inf*) very great.

**cosmology** /kɔz'mɒlədʒi/, /coz-mol-o-jee/ *n* the study of the universe as a whole.

**cosmopolitan** /kɔzmə'pɔlitən/, /coz-mo-pol-i-tan/ *adj* 1 consisting of people from many different parts of the world. 2 having or showing wide experience of different people and places.

**cosmos** /kɔz'mo:s/, /coz-mus/ *n* the whole universe as an orderly system.

**cosset** /'kɔset/, /cos-et/ *vb* to treat with great or too much kindness, to pamper.

**cost** /kɔst/, /cost/ *vb* (*pt, pp cost*) 1 to be on sale at a certain price. 2 to cause loss or suffering. • *n* 1 the price. 2 loss. 3 *pl* the money needed to pay for a lawsuit.

**costly** /'kɔstli/, /cost-lee/ *adj* having a high price.

**costume** /'kɔstu:m/, /cos-toom/ *n* the clothes worn in a special place or at a special time.

**costumer** /'kɔstju:mər/, /cos-too-mer/ *n* a person who makes, sells, or rents costumes.

**cosy** /'ko:zi/, /co-zee/ *adj*, also **cozy** (US) pleasantly comfortable or warm. • *n* a teapot or egg cover. • *adv* **cosily**.

**cot** /'kɔt/, /cot/ *n* a small bed with high barred sides for a baby or young child.

**cot death** /'kɔt deθ/, /cot deth/ *n* (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, SIDS) a sudden unexplained death of a baby in its sleep.

**cottage** /'kɔtædʒ/, /cot-idge/ *n* a small house. • *n* **cottager** a person who lives in a cottage.

**cotton** /'kɔtən/, /cot-on/ *n* 1 a soft white substance from the cotton plant. 2 thread or cloth made of cotton. • *also adj.*

**cotton wool** /'kɒtən 'wu:l/, /cot-on-wool/ *n* raw cotton before it is made into thread or cloth.

**couch** /kaʊtʃ/, /couch/ *n* a sofa; a long piece of furniture on which one sits or lies. • *vb (fml)* to put into words.

**cougar** /'ku:gər/, /coo-ger/ *n* (US) a puma.

**cough** /kɒf/, /cof/ *vb* to force air noisily from the throat, often to clear it of some matter, such as dust or phlegm. • *n 1* a noisy forcing of the air from the throat. *2* an illness marked by frequent coughing.

**council** /'kaʊnsəl/, /coun-sil/ *n* a group of people chosen to make decisions, to advise, or to discuss issues affecting a larger number.

**councillor** /'kaʊnsələr/, /coun-si-lor/ *n* a member of a council.

**counsel** /'kaʊnsəl/, /coun-sil/ *n 1* (*fml*) advice. *2* professional advice given by a counsellor. *3* the lawyer who presents a case in a court of law. • *vb* to advise.

**counselling** /'kaʊnsəlɪŋ/, /coun-sel-ing/ *n*, also **counseling** (US) the act of listening to people's difficulties or problems and giving professional advice as to how to cope with them or solve them.

**counsellor** /'kaʊnsələr/, /coun-se-lor/ *n*, also **counselor** (US) an adviser, one who gives counsel.

**count<sup>1</sup>** /kaunt/, /count/ *vb 1* to number. *2* to consider. *3* to matter. • *n* a numbering.

**count<sup>2</sup>** /kaunt/, /count/ *n* a European nobleman.

**countenance** /'kauntənəns/, /coun-te-nanse/ *n* (*fml*) *1* the face. *2* the expression of the face. • *vb (fml)* to tolerate, to allow.

**counter** /'kauntər/, /coun-ter/ *n 1* a person or thing that counts. *2* a small flat object used in some games to keep score. *3* the table in a shop across which goods are sold. • *vb* to act in order to oppose or defend oneself against.

**counter-** /'kauntər/, /coun-ter/ *prefix* against, opposite to.

**counteract** /'kauntər'ækt/, /coun-te-ract/ *vb* to undo or prevent the effect of by opposite action.

**counterattack** /'kauntərə,tæk/, /coun-ter-a-tac/ *n* an attack made in reply to an enemy attack. • *also vb.*

**counterbalance** /'kauntər,bæləns/, /coun-ter-**ba**-lanse/ *vb* to put something of equal weight or importance on the other side.

**counterfeit** /'kauntərfit/, /coun-ter-fit/ *vb* 1 to copy or imitate with intent to deceive. 2 (*fml*) to pretend. • *adj* 1 not real. 2 made alike so as to deceive. 3 pretended. • *n* something copied, not real or true. • *n* **counterfeiter**.

**counterpart** /'kauntər,part/, /coun-ter-part/ *n* a person or thing similar to another or having a similar function to another.

**counterpoint** /'kauntərpɔɪnt/, /coun-ter-point/ *n* (*mus*) the art of arranging two different tunes so that they can be played together.

**countess** /'kauntəs/, /coun-tess/ *n* the wife of a count or of an earl.

**countless** /'kauntləs/, /count-less/ *adj* too many to be counted.

**country** /'kəntri/, /cun-tree/ *n* 1 the land of one nation or people. 2 the land outside and away from towns. 3 an area or stretch of land. • *adj* having to do with the country rather than the town.

**countryside** /'kəntri,said/, /cun-tree-side/ *n* country or rural areas.

**county** /'kaunti/, /coun-tee/ *n* a district of a country or state.

**coup** /ku:/, /coo/ *n* a sudden successful action.

**coupé** /ku:p/, /coo-pay/ *n* a two-door car.

**couple** /'kəpəl/, /cu-pl/ *n* 1 (*inf*) two. 2 husband and wife. 3 two people who are in a committed relationship. • *vb* 1 to join. 2 to link or associate with.

**couplet** /'kəplət/, /cu-plet/ *n* two lines of poetry, one after the other, that rhyme.

**coupling** /'kæplɪŋ/, /cu-pling/ *n* a joining link, as that between two railway carriages.

**coupon** /ku:pɒn/, /coo-pon/ *n* a ticket that can be exchanged for money or goods.

**courage** /'kəridʒ/, /cur-age/ *n* bravery.

**courageous** /kə'reidʒəs/, /cur-ay-jus/ *adj* brave, fearless.

**courgette** /kur'ʒet/, /coor-jet/ *n* a long thin vegetable with green skin.

**courier** /'kuri:ər/, /coo-ree-yer/ *n* 1 a messenger. 2 a guide in charge of a party of travellers.

**course** /kɔ:ərs/, /koarse/ *n* 1 the way along which a thing moves or runs. 2 the ground on which a race is run or golf is played. 3 a number of lectures or lessons given for the same purpose. 4 a row or layer, as of bricks in a wall or shingles on a roof. 5 part of a meal served at one time. • *vb* 1 to chase. 2 (*fml*) to move quickly.

**court** /kɔ:t/, /coart/ *n* 1 an open area surrounded or partly surrounded by buildings, houses, or walls; a courtyard. 2 a place marked out for tennis, badminton, etc. 3 a king and queen and all their advisers and attendants. 4 the building in which judges hear cases and give decisions. 5 all the judges and officials in a court of law. 6 attentions paid to someone to gain favour. • *vb* 1 to pay attention to someone to try and gain the love of. 2 (*fml*) to try to gain. 3 to act in a way that is likely to bring about.

**courteous** /'kɔrti:əs/, /cur-tee-us/ *adj* polite, considerate and respectful.

**courtesy** /'kɔrtisi/, /cur-ti-see/ *n* politeness, good manners.

**courtier** /'kɔrti:ər/, /core-tee-yer/ *n* someone who attends the court of a king or queen.

**court-martial** /'kɔrt,mærʃəl/, /court-mar-shal/ *n* (*pl courts-martial*) a military court, with officers acting as judges. • *vb* **court-martial** (**court-martialled**, **court-martialling**) to try by court-martial.

**courtship** /'kɔrtʃɪp/, /coart-ship/ *n* courting or wooing in hopes of obtaining love.

**courtyard** /kɔrtjard/, /coart-yard/ *n* an open space surrounded or partly surrounded by buildings, walls, or houses.

**cousin** /kəzən/, /cu-zin/ *n* the child of an uncle or aunt, the child of a parent's brother or sister.

**cove** /ko:v/, /coav/ *n* a small bay or inlet.

**covenant** /'kəvənənt/, /cuv-nant/ *n* a written agreement. • *vb* to enter into written agreement, to promise.

**cover** /kəvər/, /cu-ver/ *vb* 1 to spread over. 2 to protect. 3 to wrap. 4 to include. • *also n.*

**covering** /'kəvəriŋ/, /cuv-ring/ *n* anything that covers.

**covert** /ko:vərt, ko:'vərt, /co-e-vert, coe-vert/ *adj* secret, hidden. • *n* 1 a shelter. 2 a group of bushes or trees in which hunted birds or

animals can hide.

**covet** /'kəvət/, /cu-vet/ *vb* to want to have something belonging to another. • *adj covetous*. • *n covetousness*.

**cow** /kau/, /cow/ *n* the female of certain animals (e.g. of cattle, oxen, elephants, whales).

**coward** /'kauərd/, /cow-ard/ *n* one easily frightened in the face of danger.

**cowardice** /'kauərdɪs/, /ca-war-diss/ *n* fear of danger.

**cowardly** /'kauərdli/, /ca-ward-lee/ *adj* having no bravery, showing fear.

**cowboy** /kaubɔɪ/, /cow-boy/ *n* a man who looks after cattle on a ranch on horseback. • *f cowgirl*.

**cower** /'kauər/, /cow-er/ *vb* to crouch or shrink back out of fear.

**cowherd** /'kauhərd/, /cow-herd/ *n* one who looks after cows.

**coy** /kɔɪ/, /coy/ *adj* 1 shy, bashful, especially excessively so. 2 hesitant to give information. • *adv coyly*.

**coyote** /kai'o:ti/, /kie-yo-te/ *n* an animal of the dog family resembling a small wolf, found in North America.

**cozy** /'ko:zi/, /coe-zee/ *US variant of cosy*.

**crab** /kræb/, /crab/ *n* 1 a sea creature with eight legs and two pincers, a flat shell and a short, wide belly. 2 the sideways motion of an aircraft. • *vb* to fish for crab.

**crabbed** /kræbd/, /crab-bed/ *adj* bad-tempered, cross.

**crab apple** /'kræb ,æpəl/, /crab a-pl/ *n* 1 very small apples growing wild or grown for making jellies or preserves. 2 a tree bearing crab apples.

**crack** /kræk/, /craak/ *n* 1 a sudden, sharp noise. 2 a break in which the parts remain together. 3 a sharp blow. 4 (*s/l*) a highly addictive form of the drug cocaine. • *also vb*.

**cracked** /krækt/, /crakt/ *adj* 1 broken, but not in pieces. 2 (*inf*) mad.

**cracker** /krækər/, /cra-ker/ *n* 1 a crisp, thin wafer or biscuit. 2 (**Christmas ~**) a tube of brightly coloured paper, often containing a small toy, which makes a sharp noise when two people pull it apart. 3 (*inf*) something considered very good.

**crackle** /'krækəl/, /cra-kl/ *vb* to make a series of short, sharp, popping noises, to rustle. • *n* the act or sound of crackling.

**crackling** /'kræklin/, /cra-kling/ *n* the crisp fatty skin of roast pork.

**cradle** /'kreɪdəl/, /cray-dl/ *n* 1 a baby's bed that can be rocked or swung. 2 the frame in which something is cradled, such as the frame under a ship when it is being built or the base of a telephone where the receiver is placed. 3 the place of a thing's early development. • *vb* to hold or rock as in a cradle.

**craft** /kræft/, /craft/ *n* 1 a special skill, especially with the hands. 2 cleverness, especially in deceiving. 3 a ship. 4 (**the ~**) (*inf*) witchcraft.

**craftsperson** /'kræftspersən/, /crafts-per-sun/ *n* a skilled worker, especially with the hands. • *n* **craft(s)manship**.

**crafty** /'kræfti/, /craf-tee/ *adj* good at deceiving, clever. • *adv* **craftily**.

**crag** /kræg/, /crag/ *n* a steep, rough rock that rises above others or projects from a rock mass. • *adj* **craggy**.

**cram** /kræm/, /cram/ *vb* (**crammed, cramming**) 1 to fill very full by pressing or squeezing. 2 to learn many facts immediately before a test.

**crammer** /'kræmər/, /cra-mer/ *n* a teacher who prepares someone for a test by making him or her learn many facts in a short time.

**cramp** /kræmp/, /cramp/ *n* a sudden pain in a muscle. • *vb* to prevent free movement, to hinder.

**cranberry** /'kræn,bəri/, /cran-be-ree/ *n* a sour, red berry used in making juice, in cooking and in baking.

**crane** /kreɪn/, /crane/ *n* 1 a long-legged, long-necked water bird. 2 a machine for lifting or moving heavy weights using a moving beam or arm anchored to its base by an overhead support. • *vb* to stretch out one's neck.

**cranium** /'kriːniəm/, /cray-nee-um/ *n* (*fml*) the skull. • *adj* **cranial**.

**crank** /kræŋk/, /crank/ *n* 1 in machines, a part that changes an up-and-down or side-to-side movement into a round-and-round movement (or the other way round). 2 a person with fixed, obsessive ideas, a person with strange ideas. • *vb* to turn or wind.

**cranny** /'kræni/, /cra-nee/ *n* a small narrow opening, a crack.

**crash** /kræʃ/, /crash/ *vb* 1 to fall with a loud noise. 2 to dash violently against something. 3 to collide with another vehicle. • *n* 1 the loud noise of a breakage or collision. 2 the sudden failure of a business.

**crass** /kræs/, /crass/ *adj* very stupid, insensitive.

**crate** /kret/, /crate/ *n* a large box, basket, or packing case, made with wooden boards or out of wicker or plastic.

**crater** /'kreɪtər/, /cray-ter/ *n* 1 the bowl-shaped mouth of a volcano. 2 a deep, wide hole in the ground.

**cravat** /krə'vet/, /cra-vat/ *n* a piece of cloth worn round the neck.

**crave** /kreɪv/, /crave/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to beg for. 2 to desire very much.

**craving** /'kreɪvɪŋ/, /cray-ving/ *n* a strong desire.

**crawfish** /'krɒfɪʃ/, see **crayfish**.

**crawl** /krɒl/, /crawl/ *vb* 1 to move with the body on or near the ground, to move on the hands and knees. 2 to move slowly. • *n* 1 act of crawling. 2 a style in swimming.

**crayfish** /'kreifɪʃ/, /cray-fish/ *n*, also **crawfish** small, usually freshwater shellfish that look like little lobsters.

**crayon** /'kreɪɒn/, /cray-on/ *n* a stick of coloured chalk, wax, or charcoal used for drawing, colouring, or writing. • *vb* to draw with crayons.

**craze** /kreɪz/, /craze/ *n* a popular fashion, a temporary excitement for.

**crazy** /'kreɪzi/, /cray-zee/ *adj* 1 (*inf*) mad. 2 very foolish. 3 excited, liking very much.

**creak** /kri:k/, /creek/ *vb* to make a harsh grating or squeaking sound. • *also n.* • *adj creaky.*

**cream** /kri:m/, /creem/ *n* 1 the oily, yellowish part of the milk that rises to the top and from which butter is made. 2 any sweet, smooth substance that is made from cream. 3 the best of anything. 4 a creamlike substance for rubbing into the skin. 5 the colour of cream.

**creamery** /'kri:məri/, /creem-ree/ *n* a place where milk is made into butter and cheese.

**creamy** /kri:mi:/, /cree-mee/ *adj* like cream.

**crease** /kri:s/, /creess/ *n* a mark made by folding, crushing, or pressing. • *vb* to make creases in.

**create** /kri'eit/, /cree-ate/ *vb* 1 to bring into existence. 2 to make.

**creation** /kri'eisən/, /cree-ay-shun/ *n* 1 act of creating. 2 anything made or invented.

**creative** /kri'eitiv/, /cree-ay-tiv/ *adj* 1 involving creation. 2 able to create or invent, producing original ideas and works.

**creator** /kri'eitər/, /cree-ay-tor/ *n* one who creates or invents. • **the Creator** God, the Supreme Being.

**creature** /'kri:tʃər/, /cree-chur/ *n* anything created, especially humans, animals and other living things.

**crèche** /krɛʃ/, /cresh/ *n* a kind of day nursery for small children.

**credence** /'kredəns/, /cree-dense/ *n* belief, trust.

**credentials** /krə'denʃəls/, /cri-den-shals/ *npl* papers saying that the owner of them may be trusted.

**credible** /'kredibəl/, /cre-di-bl/ *adj* able to be believed. • *n* **credibility**.

**credit** /'kredit/, /cre-dit/ *n* 1 belief, trust in. 2 approval or praise. 3 a cause of honour. 4 a system of buying goods or services and paying for them later. 5 the quality of being able to pay debts. 6 the money a person has in a bank. • *vb* 1 to believe. 2 to sell or lend in trust. 3 to write in on the credit side of an account. 4 to consider as having.

**creditable** /'kreditəbəl/, /cre-di-ta-bl/ *adj* deserving praise.

**credit card** /'kredit ,kærд/, /cre-dit card/ *n* a plastic card with which goods can be purchased and paid for later.

**credit crunch** /'kredit ,krəntʃ/, /cre-dit crunch/ *n* (*inf*) a sudden reduction in the availability of credit, such as bank loans and mortgages.

**creditor** /'kreditər/, /cre-di-tor/ *n* one to whom money is owed.

**credulous** /'kredjuləs/, /cre-ju-lus/ *adj* too ready to believe, too trusting. • *n* **credulity**.

**creed** /kri:d/, /creed/ *n* 1 that which one believes, especially in religion. 2 a statement of one's faith or beliefs.

**creek** /kri:k/, /creek/ *n* long narrow inlet of water that flows from the sea into the land.

**creel** /kri:l/, /creel/ *n* a basketlike cage for catching fish.

**creep** /kri:p/, /creep/ *vb* (*pt, pp crept*) **1** to move with the body on or near the ground. **2** to move slowly and silently. **3** to shiver with horror. • *n* a person regarded as annoying or disgusting.

**creeper** /'kri:pər/, /cree-per/ *n* **1** a person, animal, or thing that creeps. **2** a plant that grows along the ground or up walls, trees, etc.

**creepy** /'kri:pɪ/, /cree-peel/ *adj* (*inf*) eerie, strange, causing fear or disgust.

**cremate** /'kri:meɪt, kri'meɪt/, /cree-mate, cre-mate/ *vb* to burn a dead body to ashes.

**cremation** /'krəmeɪʃən/, /cre-may-shun/ *n* act of cremating.

**crematorium** /'krəmətɔriəm/, /cre-ma-toe-ree-um/ *n* a place where dead bodies are cremated.

**creosote** /'kri:ə,so:t/, /cree-u-zote/ *n* an oily liquid taken from tar and used to disinfect or preserve wood from decay.

**crepe** /kreɪp/, /crep/ *n* **1** a thin, soft, crinkly cloth. **2** any crinkly material. **3** a thin pancake, generally served rolled or folded with a filling.

**crept** /krep/, /crept/ *pt and pp of creep*.

**crescendo** /krə'sɛndo:/, /cri-shen-doe/ *n* **1** a sign used in writing music. **2** a gradual increase in loudness.

**crescent** /'krɛsənt/, /cre-sent/ *n* **1** the shape of the moon in its first and last quarter. **2** a narrow, tapering curve. **3** a curving street. • *adj* shaped like a crescent.

**cress** /krɛs/, /cress/ *n* an edible water plant.

**crest** /krest/, /crest/ *n* **1** a tuft or comb on the heads of certain birds. **2** a bunch of feathers on the top of a helmet. **3** a sign or badge of a family, seen on a coats-of-arms, writing paper, etc. **4** the top of a slope, wave, etc. • *vb* to get to the top of.

**crestfallen** /'krɛst,fɔlən/, /crest-faw-len/ *adj* sad, disappointed.

**cretin** /'krɛtɪn/, /cree-tin/ *n* (*inf*) a foolish or stupid person.

**Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease** see **CJD**.

**crevasse** /krə'ves/, /cri-vas/ *n* **1** a deep crack in a glacier. **2** a break in the outside walls of a river.

**crevice** /'krevɪs/, /cre-vis/ *n* a narrow opening caused by a crack or split.

**crew** /kru:/, /croo/ *n* **1** the sailors of a ship. **2** a group of people working or classed together, a gang. **3** the rowers on a rowing team.

**crib** /krɪb/, /crib/ *n* **1** a baby's bed. **2** something copied dishonestly from someone else. **3** a translation of a text. **4** the house, apartment, etc where a person lives. • *vb* (**cribbed**, **cribbing**) to copy unfairly the work of another.

**cribbage** /'krɪbɪdʒ/, /crib-idge/ *n* a card game for up to four players in which the object is to form various combinations for points.

**crick** /krɪk/, /crick/ *n* a painful stiffness, especially of the neck. • *vb* to cause this.

**cricket<sup>1</sup>** /'krɪkɪt/, /cri-ket/ *n* a small, jumping insect that makes chirping noises with its legs.

**cricket<sup>2</sup>** /'krɪkit/, /cri-ket/ *n* an outdoor game played with a flat bat and red leather ball by a team of eleven. • *n* **cricketer**.

**crime** /kraɪm/, /crime/ *n* a breaking of the law.

**criminal** /'krɪmɪnəl/, /cri-mi-nal/ *adj* **1** against the law. **2** wrong, wicked. • *n* one who breaks the law.

**crimp** /krɪmp/, /crimp/ *vb* **1** to compress into small folds or ridges. **2** to curl.

**crimson** /'krɪmzən/, /crim-zon/ *n* a deep red colour. • *also adj*. • *vb* to make or become red.

**cringe** /krɪndʒ/, /cringe/ *vb* **1** to shrink back in fear. **2** to behave too humbly towards.

**crinkle** /'krɪŋkəl/, /cring-kl/ *vb* to twist or bend into many folds, to wrinkle. • *n* a fold or wrinkle.

**cripple** /'krɪpəl/, /cri-pl/ *vb* **1** to make unable to move freely, to make lame. **2** to make less strong, to cause not to work as well, etc.

**crisis** /'krəɪsɪs/, /crie-sis/ *n* (*pl* **crises** /crie-seez/) **1** a turning point at which things must become either better or worse. **2** a very serious state of affairs.

**crisp** /krɪsp/, /crisp/ *adj* **1** hard but easily broken. **2** tight. **3** fresh and firm. **4** firm and clear. **5** dry and clear. • *vb* to curl or twist. • *adj*

**crispy**. • *adv* **crisply**. • *n* a thin, crisp slice of fried potato.

**criterion** /kraɪ'tɪriən/, /cri-tee-ree-on/ *n* (*pl* **criteria** /cri-tee-ree-ya/) a rule or standard with which things may be compared to judge their value; a test.

**critic** /'krɪtɪk/, /cri-tic/ *n* 1 one who judges something by pointing out its good and bad points. 2 one who finds fault, a person who expresses dislike and disapproval of.

**critical** /'krɪtɪkəl/, /cri-ti-cal/ *adj* 1 pointing out both good and bad. 2 hard to please, ready to find fault. 3 having to do with a crisis. 4 most important.

**criticism** /'krɪtɪsɪzəm/, /cri-ti-si-zum/ *n* 1 judgment. 2 fault-finding.

**criticize** /'krɪtɪsaɪz/, /cri-ti-size/ *vb*, also **criticise** 1 to point out the good and bad in. 2 to find fault with.

**critique** /kri'ti:k/, /cri-tee-k/ *n* an essay or discussion in which a criticism is made.

**croak** /kro:k/, /croak/ *vb* to make a low, hoarse noise in the throat. • also *n*. • *adj* croaky.

**crochet** /kro:'ʃeɪ/ /cro-shay, croa-shay/ *n* a type of knitting done with one hooked needle. • also *vb*.

**crock<sup>1</sup>** /krɒk/, /crok/ *n* a pot or jar.

**crock<sup>2</sup>** /krɒk/, /crok/ *n* an old, broken-down animal, anything useless. • *vb* to injure.

**crockery** /'krɒkərɪ/, /crok-e-ree/ *n* earthenware or china cups, plates and other dishes.

**crocodile** /'krɒkə,darl/, /crok-o-dile/ *n* a large, lizardlike reptile with a long snout, long tail, large teeth and a scaly body that lives in or around water.

**crocodile tears** /'krɒkədail ,ti:rs/, /crok-o-dile teerz/ *npl* pretended sorrow or grief.

**crocus** /'kro:kəs/, /cro-cus/ *n* a spring plant grown from a bulb with yellow, purple, or white flowers that bloom in early spring.

**croissant** /kwæ'sɒ̄/, Fr. krwa'sɔ̄/, *n* /qua-song/ a light, crescent-shaped roll made of flaky pastry, usually eaten at breakfast.

**crone** /kro:n/, /crone/ *n* (*old*) an old woman.

**crony** /'kro:ni/, /cro-nee/ *n* (*inf*) a close friend.

**crook** /krʊk/, /crook/ *n* **1** a bend, curve. **2** a stick, hook-shaped at one end, as carried by a shepherd or bishop. **3** (*inf*) a dishonest person, a criminal. • *vb* to bend, to shape like a hook.

**crooked** /'krʊkəd/, /croo-ked/ *adj* **1** not straight, twisted. **2** dishonest, illegal. **3** dishonest, not to be trusted. • *n* **crookedness**.

**croon** /kru:n/, /croon/ *vb* to sing softly.

**crop** /krɒp/, /crop/ *n* **1** a pocket in the throat of birds in which the food is partly digested before passing to the stomach. **2** a riding whip. **3** the whole amount of grain, fruit, etc. that is grown or gathered at one place or time. **4** a short haircut. • *vb* (**cropped**, **cropping**) **1** to cut short. **2** to bite off. **3** to sow or gather. • **crop up** to turn up unexpectedly. • **come a cropper** **1** to fall heavily. **2** to fail completely.

**croquet** /kro:'keɪ/, /cro-kay/ *n* a game in which wooden balls are hit through hoops with long hammer-shaped wooden clubs.

**cross** /krɒs/, /crawss/ *n* **1** a mark made by drawing one straight line across another, e.g. +, x. **2** one piece of wood fastened across another in the shape of a cross. **3** anything made in the shape of a cross. **4** the sign of the Christian religion. **5** (*old*) a cross-shaped wooden frame to which criminals were fixed as a punishment. **6** a place where roads meet. **7** a monument in the shape of a cross. **8** a source of suffering or sorrow. **9** an animal or plant that is the offspring of different breeds or varieties. • *vb* **1** to draw a line through or across. **2** to go from one side to the other side. **3** to pass across each other. **4** to put or place something across or over something of the same type. **5** to hinder, to obstruct. • *adj* angry, bad-tempered. • *n* **crosser**, **crossness**. • *adv* **crossly**.

**crossbow** /'krɒsbo:/, /crawss-boe/ *n* a bow fixed across a support or stand onto which the string is looped when drawn back, then fired by a trigger.

**crossbreed** /'krɒsbri:d/, /crawss-breed/ *n* a mixture of two breeds. • *also vb*.

**cross-country** /krɒs'kʌntri/, /crawss-cun-tree/ *adj* going across fields, etc, instead of along roads.

**cross-examine** /,krɒsɪg'zæmɪn/, /crawss-ig-za-min/ *vb* to ask a person questions about a statement he or she has made to test its

truth, especially in a court of law. • *n* **cross-examination**.

**cross-eyed** /'krɒs,aid/, /crawss-eyed/ *adj* an abnormal condition in which the eyes are turned towards each other, facing inward.

**crossing** /'krɒsɪŋ/, /craw-sing/ *n* a place at which one may cross a street, river, etc.

**cross-purpose** /'krɒspərpəs/, /crawss-pur-pus/ *n*. • **to be at cross-purposes** to disagree with another through a misunderstanding.

**cross-question** /'krɒs'kwestʃən/, /crawss-kwess-chin/ *vb* to cross-examine.

**cross-reference** /'krɒs,referəns/, /crawss-re-frense/ *n* the mention in a book of another passage in the same book in which the same subject is discussed.

**crossroads** /'krɒs'ro:dz/, /crawss-roadz/ *n* the place where two roads cross.

**crossword** /'krɒswɜrd/, /crawss-wurd/ *n* a word puzzle with squares and clues, in which each answer shares a letter with another answer or answers.

**crotchet** /'krɒtʃət/, /croch-et/ *n* 1 a strange desire or idea, a whim. 2 a hook.

**crotchety** /'krɒtʃəti/, /cro-che-tee/ *adj* 1 (*old*) having strange desires or ideas. 2 cross, bad-tempered.

**crouch** /kraʊtʃ/, /crouch/ *vb* to bend low.

**croup** /kru:p/, /croop/ *n* a disease of the throat in children consisting of a swollen throat, a hoarse cough and trouble breathing.

**croupier** /'krupiər/, /croo-pee-ay/ *n* the person who takes in and gives out the money at a gambling table.

**crow** /krəʊ/, /croe/ *n* 1 a large black bird. 2 the cry of a male chicken. 3 a baby's cry of pleasure. • *vb* 1 to cry like a male chicken. 2 (*of a baby*) to make sounds expressing pleasure. 3 (*inf*) to boast. • **as the crow flies** following the straightest and shortest way from one place to another.

**crowbar** /krəʊ/bar/, /croe-bar/ *n* a bar of iron used to raise heavy objects or open things that are stuck or tightly shut.

**crowd** /kraud/, /croud/ *n* a large number of people gathered together, especially into a small space. • *vb* 1 to come together in

large numbers. **2** to fill too full by coming together in.

**crowded** /'kraʊdəd/, /crou-ded/ *adj* full of people or objects.

**crown** /kraʊn/, /crown/ *n* **1** an ornamental head-covering worn by a king or queen as a sign of office. **2** a wreath worn on the head. **3** the top of certain things. • *vb* **1** to put a crown on. **2** to finish with a success. **3** (*inf*) to hit on the head.

**crows-feet** /'krəuzfɪt/ /croze-feet/ *npl* the little lines on the face at the outside corners of the eye.

**crucial** /'kru:ʃəl/, /croo-shal/ *adj* of the greatest importance, needing a clear decision.

**crucible** /'kru:səbəl/, /croo-si-bl/ *n* a melting pot.

**crucifix** /'kru:səfiks/, /croo-si-fiks/ *n* a figure of Jesus Christ on a cross.

**crucifixion** /'kru:sə'fikʃən/, /croo-si-fik-shun/ *n* act of crucifying. • **the Crucifixion** the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

**crucify** /'kru:sə,fai/, /croo-si-fy/ *vb* **1** to put to death by fastening on a cross and being left. **2** to treat cruelly, to deal with severely.

**crude** /kru:d/, /crood/ *adj* **1** rough. **2** in the natural state. **3** vulgar, not civilized. • *n* **crudity**.

**cruel** /'kru:əl/, /crool/ *adj* **1** taking pleasure in making others suffer, hard-hearted. **2** causing pain. • *n* **cruelty**.

**cruet** /'kru:ət/, /croo-et/ *n* a small glass bottle for vinegar, salt, oil, etc.

**cruise** /kru:z/, /crooz/ *vb* **1** to sail from place to place, often now for pleasure. **2** to travel at the speed that uses the least amount of fuel. • *also n*.

**cruiser** /k'rū:zər/, /croo-zer/ *n* **1** a fast warship. **2** anything that cruises.

**crumb** /krəm/, /crum/ *n* **1** a very small bit, especially of some form of bread. **2** a small piece.

**crumble** /'krəmbəl/, /crum-bl/ *vb* **1** to break into small bits or dust. **2** to fall to pieces or into dust. **3** gradually to get into a poor state and come to an end.

**crumpet** /'krəmpit/, /crum-pet/ *n* a small flat cake with holes in it, eaten toasted.

**crumple** /'krʌmpəl/, /crum-pl/ *vb* **1** to press into many folds, to crush out of shape. **2** to fall down suddenly. **3** to collapse, to fail. • *also n.*

**crunch** /krʌntʃ/, /crunch/ *vb* to crush noisily with the teeth. • *also n.*

**crusade** /kru:'seɪd/, /croo-sade/ *n* **1** an attempt by Christian armies from the eleventh to thirteenth centuries to win back control of the Holy Land from Muslims. **2** any attempt by a number of people to do what is considered to be good or work against what is considered to be evil. • *n crusader*.

**crush** /kraʃ/, /crush/ *vb* **1** to squeeze or press together with force. **2** to press out of shape. **3** to defeat completely. • *n* the crowding together of things or persons. • *adj crushing*.

**crust** /krəst/, /crust/ *n* the hard, crispy, or crunchy outside of anything (e.g. bread). • *vb* to cover with a crust.

**crusty** /krəsti:/, /cru-stee/ *adj* **1** having a distinctive crust. **2** short-tempered. • *adv crustily*.

**crutch** /kretʃ/, /cruch/ *n* **1** a stick, with a top made to fit under the armpits, to support people whose legs have been injured. **2** a person or thing that provides help and/or support.

**crux** /kruks/, /cruks/ *n* the most important or difficult part of a matter, issue, etc.

**cry** /krai/, /craee/ *vb* (**cried, crying**) **1** to make shrill, loud sounds, as of weeping, joy, etc. **2** to weep. **3** to shout. • *also n.*

**crying** /'kraiɪŋ/, /craee-ying/ *adj* dreadful, needing to be put right. • **crying shame**.

**crypt** /kript/, /cript/ *n* an underground chamber or vault, found in some churches, often used as a burial place.

**cryptic** /'kriptɪk/, /crip-tik/ *adj* difficult to understand, sometimes on purpose.

**crystal** /'krɪstəl/, /cri-stal/ *n* **1** a clear, bright glass. **2** a hard, glassy-looking stone. **3** one of the regular shapes in which the atoms of certain bodies are arranged. • *also adj.*

**crystalline** /'krɪstə,laɪn/, /cri-sta-line/ *adj* **1** clear. **2** made of or like crystal.

**crystallize** /'krɪstə,laɪz/, /cri-sta-lize/ *vb, also crystallise* **1** to form into crystals. **2** to make or become clear or definite. • *n*

**crystallization**, *also crystallisation*.

**cub** /kəb/, /cub/ *n* the young of certain animals (e.g. bear, fox, etc).

**cube** /kju:b/, /cyoob/ *n* **1** a solid body with six equal square sides. **2** the answer got by multiplying a number twice by itself (e.g.  $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ , therefore 8 is the *cube* of 2, and 2 is the **cube root** of 8).

**cubic** /'kju:bɪk/, /cyoo-bic/ *adj* **1** cube-shaped. **2** having to do with cubes.

**cubicle** /'kju:bɪkəl/, /cyoo-bi-call/ *n* **1** a small sleeping area in a dormitory. **2** any small compartment in a larger room.

**cuckoo** /'kuku:/, /coo-coo/ *n* a greyish brown bird with a white underside, whose call sounds similar to its name.

**cucumber** /'kju:kəmbər/, /cyoo-cum-ber/ *n* a creeping plant with a long green fruit used in salads.

**cud** /kəd/, /cud/ *n* the food that certain animals bring up from their stomachs to chew again.

**curlie** /'kədəl/, /cu-dl/ *vb* **1** to hug lovingly. **2** to lie close and comfortably.

**cue** /kju:/, /cyoo/ *n* **1** a word or sign that reminds a person of what to say or do next. **2** the long stick used for striking the balls in billiards and pool.

**cuff<sup>1</sup>** /kəf/, /cuf/ *n* the part of a sleeve near the wrist.

**cuff<sup>2</sup>** /kəf/, /cuf/ *n* a blow. • *also vb.*

**cuisine** /kwi'zi:n/, /cwi-zeen/ *n* a style of cooking.

**cul-de-sac** /'kəldəsæk/, /cul-di-sac/ *n* a street closed at one end, a dead-end street.

**culinary** /'kəli'neri/, /cu-li-ne-ree/ *adj* having to do with cooking.

**cull** /kəl/, /cul/ *vb* **1** to gather, choose, or select. **2** to select and destroy.

**culminate** /'kəlmɪneɪt/, /cul-mi-nate/ *vb* to reach the highest point. • *n* **culmination**.

**culprit** /'kəlpri:t/, /cul-prit/ *n* a wrongdoer, one accused of a crime.

**cult** /kəlt/, /cult/ *n* **1** a particular system of beliefs, especially religious. **2** a sect with a particular set of beliefs that separates

itself from ordinary life. • *adj* fashionable amongst a minority, often temporarily.

**cultivate** /'kʌltɪ'veɪt/, /cul-ti-vate/ *vb* **1** to prepare. **2** to make to grow. **3** to improve. • *n* **cultivation**. • *n* **cultivator**.

**culture** /'kʌltʃər/, /cul-chur/ *n* **1** the character of an age and people as seen in customs, arts, etc. **2** learning and good taste. **3** the rearing of creatures or growing of plants in conditions not natural to them. • *adj* **cultural**.

**cultured** /'kʌltʃərd/, /cul-churd/ *adj* having learning and good taste.

**cumbersome** /'kʌmbərsəm/, /cum-ber-sum/ *adj* **1** heavy and difficult to move. **2** slow and not working to the best ability.

**cumulative** /'kjumjʊlətɪv/, /cyoom-yu-la-tive/ *adj* (*fml*) growing gradually larger by being added to. • *vb* **cumulate**.

**cumulus** /'kjumjʊləs/, /cyoom-yu-lus/ *n* a mass of white rounded clouds. • *adj* **cumulous**.

**cunning** /'kʌnɪŋ/, /cun-ing/ *adj* **1** clever, skilful, crafty. **2** good at deceiving. **3** clever. • *n* skill, deceit.

**cup** /kəp/, /cup/ *n* a small drinking vessel. • *vb* (**cupped**, **cupping**) to put (usually the hands) into the shape of a cup.

**cupboard** /'kəbərd/, /cu-board/ *n* a shelved place for storing food, dishes, etc.

**cupcake** /'kəpkɛɪk/, /cup-cake/ *n* a small sponge cake, cooked in a paper case, usually with icing on top.

**cupful** /'kəp,fʊl/, /cup-ful/ *n* the amount a cup holds.

**curator** /kjʊ'reɪtər/, /cyoo-ray-tor/ *n* one in charge of a museum, art gallery, etc.

**curb** /kərb/, /curb/ *vb* to control, to keep in check. • *n* **1** anything that controls or holds in check. **2** a chain or strap fastened to the bit in a horse's mouth.

**curd** /kərd/, /curd/ *n* a solid substance that forms in sour milk, and from which cheese is made.

**curdle** /'kərdəl/, /cur-dl/ *vb* **1** to thicken. **2** when solids separate from liquid in a mixture.

**cure** /'kjər/, /cyoor/ *n* **1** act of healing. **2** that which heals or gives back health. • *vb* **1** to heal. **2** to preserve meat, fish, etc.

**curfew** /'kərfju:/, /cur-fyoo/ *n* **1** (*old*) a bell rung in the evening as a signal to put out all lights. **2** a military order for people to be indoors and keep the streets empty after a certain hour. **3** the time at which people have to be indoors or in their homes.

**curiosity** /kjuri'ɒsiti/, /cyoo-ree-oss-i-tee/ *n* **1** the desire to learn, or to find out about. **2** a rare or strange object.

**curious** /'kjuriəs/, /cyoo-ree-us/ *adj* **1** wanting to learn. **2** wanting to know the private affairs of others. **3** strange.

**curl** /kərl/, /curl/ *vb* **1** to form into ringlets. **2** to twist around. **3** to play at the game of curling. • *n* a ringlet.

**curling** /'kərlɪŋ/, /cur-ling/ *n* a winter game played on ice, involving sliding heavy smooth stones towards a target.

**curly** /'kərli/, /cur-lee/ *adj* having curls.

**currant** /'kərənt/, /cur-ant/ *n* **1** a small dried grape. **2** a type of sour, red, black, or white berry growing on certain shrubs and used in jellies or jams.

**currency** /'kərənsi/, /cur-en-see/ *n* **1** the money in present use in a country. **2** the state of being widely known.

**current** /kərənt/, /cur-ent/ *adj* **1** in general use. **2** belonging to the present time. • *n* **1** a stream of water or air moving in a certain direction. **2** a flow of electricity.

**curriculum** /kə'rɪkjʊləm/, /cu-ri-cyu-lum/ *n* a course of study at a school, university, etc.

**curry<sup>1</sup>** /'kəri/, /cu-ree/ *n* a dish of meat, vegetables, etc, cooked with a spicy sauce.

**curry<sup>2</sup>** /'kəri/, /cu-ree/ *vb* to rub down a horse with a comb. • **curry favour** to try to win the favour of another by pleasing.

**curse** /kərs/, /curse/ *vb* **1** to use bad language, to swear. **2** to call down harm and evil upon. • *n* **1** the wish that another may suffer harm and evil. **2** a great evil or cause of suffering. **3** a swear word.

**cursor** /'kərsər/, /cur-sor/ *n* a movable pointer on a computer screen that shows, for example, where the next piece of text would be typed.

**cursory** /'kərsəri/, /cur-so-ree/ *adj* quick, careless.

**curt** /kərt/, /curt/ *adj* **1** abrupt, rude. **2** brief, abrupt. • *n* **curtness**.

**curtail** /kər'teɪl/, /cur-tale/ *vb (fm)* to cut short. • *n curtailment*.

**curtain** /'kərtən/, /cur-tin/ *n* a cloth hung up, as over a window or stage, to darken, or to hide things behind it. • *also vb*.

**curtsy** /'kərtsi/, /curt-see/ *n* a bow made by women as a respectful greeting by bending the knees with a slight lowering of the upper body. • *also vb*.

**curve** /kərv/, /curv/ *n* 1 a line that is not straight and that changes direction without angles. 2 something shaped like this. • *vb* to bend into a curve.

**cushion** /'kuʃən/, /coo-shin/ *n* 1 a cloth bag filled with soft material, for sitting, leaning, or kneeling on. 2 anything that takes the force of a blow or shock. • *vb* to lessen a blow or shock.

**custard** /'kəstərd/, /cu-stard/ *n* a dish of milk, eggs and sugar, baked or boiled.

**custodian** /kə'sto:dɪən/, /cu-sto-dee-an/ *n* a keeper, one who takes care, especially of a museum or other public building.

**custody** /'kəstədi/, /cu-sto-dee/ *n* 1 care. 2 safekeeping. 3 imprisonment.

**custom** /'kəstəm/, /cu-stom/ *n* 1 the usual way of doing something. 2 something done often as a habit. 3 the buying of certain things at one particular shop, etc. 4 *pl* the taxes payable on goods brought into a country. 5 *pl* the office where such taxes are paid, or the officials collecting them.

**customary** /'kəstəməri/, /cu-sto-me-ree/ *adj* usual.

**customer** /'kəstəmər/, /cu-sto-mer/ *n* one who usually buys things (in a particular shop).

**cut** /kət/, /cut/ *vb (cut, cutting)* 1 to make an opening with a sharp instrument. 2 to divide into pieces with a sharp instrument. 3 to shorten or shape by cutting. 4 to divide a pack of cards. 5 to lessen. 6 to refuse to look at or speak to. • *n* 1 an opening made by cutting. 2 a wound. 3 the way a thing is shaped. 4 a lessening. 5 a piece of meat.

**cutback** /'kətbæk/, /cut-back/ *n* a reduction in the amount of something.

**cute** /kju:t/, /cyoot/ *adj* 1 (*inf*) cunningly clever. 2 pretty, attractive, especially in a lively way.

**cuticle** /'kju:tɪkəl/, /cyoo-ti-cl/ *n* 1 the outer skin of a plant or of the body. 2 the hardened skin at the base of the fingernails and toenails.

**cutlass** /'kætləs/, /cut-lass/ *n* a short, curving sword.

**cutlery** /'kætləri/, /cut-le-ree/ *n* knives, forks, spoons, etc.

**cutlet** /'kætlət/, /cut-let/ *n* a thin slice of meat, usually from a rib or leg; a chop.

**cutter** /'kætər/, /cu-ter/ *n* 1 a light sailing boat. 2 a tailor who cuts out a cloth.

**cutting** /'kætɪŋ/, /cu-ting/ *adj* hurting the feelings. • *n* 1 a piece of a plant cut off for replanting. 2 a piece cut out of a newspaper. 3 a passage cut through rock for a road or railway.

**cuttlefish** /'kætəlfɪʃ/, /cu-tul-fish/ *n* a sea creature with eight legs that gives out a black liquid when attacked.

**CV** /si:vi:/, /cee-vee/ *abbr = curriculum vitae*: a written account of a person's qualifications and previous employment, often accompanying a job application.

**cyber café** /,sarbər'kæfeɪ/, /sie-bur ca-fay/ *n* a café that provides computer terminals so that customers can browse the Internet.

**cyberspace** /,sarbər'speɪs/, /sie-bur-space/ *n* worldwide communication via computer networks.

**cycle** /'səɪkəl/, /sie-cul/ *n* 1 a series of events that are regularly repeated in the same order. 2 a number of stories, songs, etc, about the same person or event. 3 (*inf*) a bicycle. • *vb* to ride a bicycle.

**cyclic** /'səɪklɪk/, /sie-clic/ *adj* happening in cycles.

**cyclist** /saɪklɪst/, /sie-clist/ *n* one who rides a bicycle.

**cyclone** /'saɪklən/, /sie-clone/ *n* a violent storm of wind that moves in a circular motion, such as a hurricane or tornado.

**cygnet** /'sɪgnət/, /sig-net/ *n* a young swan.

**cylinder** /'sɪlɪndər/, /si-lin-der/ *n* 1 a solid or hollow shape with circular ends and straight sides. 2 an object or container shaped like this. • *adj cylindrical*.

**cymbal** /'simbəl/, /sim-bal/ *n* one of two brass plates used as a musical instrument and struck together to make a clanging noise.

**cynic** /'sī-nik/, /si-nic/ *adj* one who believes that people do not do things for good or kindly reasons but for their own advantage. • *also adj. • adj cynical. • n cynicism /si-ni-si-zum/.*

**cyst** /sist/, /sist/ *n* a small bag full of liquid that forms on or in the body.

**czar** /zar/, /zar/ *n, also tsar, tzar* the title of former emperors of Russia, or any person having great or unlimited power. • *f czarina.*

# D

**D, d** /di:/, /dee/ **1** the fourth letter of the English alphabet. **2** (*mus*) the second note of the scale of C major.

**dab**<sup>1</sup> /dæb/, /dab/ *vb* (**dabbed**, **dabbing**) to touch or hit gently with something soft or damp. • *n* **1** a gentle touch. **2** a small lump of anything soft or damp.

**dab**<sup>2</sup> /dæb/, /dab/ *n* a flatfish.

**dabble** /'dæbəl/, /da-bul/ *vb* **1** to splash, to wet. **2** to take up in a small way. • *n* **dabbler**.

**dachshund** /'dækshənt/, /daks-hoont/ *n* a small dog with a long body and short legs.

**dad** /dæd/, /dad/, **daddy** /'dædi:/, /da-dee/ *n* (*inf*) father.

**daddy long legs** /'dædi: 'laŋlegz/, /da-dee long-legs/ *n* the informal name for the crane fly, a fly with a long thin body and long spindly legs.

**daffodil** /'dæfədıl/, /da-fo-dil/ *n* a yellow bell-shaped spring flower.

**daft** /dæft/, /daft/ *adj* (*inf*) foolish, silly.

**dagger** /'dægər/, /da-ger/ *n* a short sharp-pointed sword.

**daily** /'deɪli/, /day-lee/ *adj* happening every day. • *also adv.* • *n* a daily newspaper.

**dainty** /'deɪnti/, /dane-tee/ *adj* small, delicate and pretty. • *n* **daintiness**.

**daintily** /'deɪntili:/, /dane-ti-lee/ *adv* **1** in a dainty way. **2** with very great care.

**dairy** /'dəri/, /day-ree/ *n* a place where milk is sold, or made into butter or cheese.

**dais** /'deɪs/, /day-us/ *n* a low platform.

**daisy** /'deɪzi/, /day-zee/ *n* a usually white, common wild flower with many petals and a yellow centre.

**dalmatian** /dæl'meɪʃən/, /dal-may-shun/ *n* a large black-and-white-spotted dog.

**dam<sup>1</sup>** /dæm/, /dam/ *n* a wall to stop or control the flow of water. • *vb* (**dammed**, **damming**) to keep back by a dam.

**dam<sup>2</sup>** /dæm/, /dam/ *n* (*of animals*) a mother.

**damage** /'dæmɪdʒ/, /da-midge/ *n* **1** injury, harm. **2** *npl* money paid to make up for loss or harm. • *vb* to harm.

**dame** /deɪm/, /dame/ *n* the status of a lady of the same rank as a knight.

**damn** /dæm/, /dam/ *vb* **1** in religion, to send to everlasting punishment. **2** to condemn, to declare to be bad. **3** to curse. • *n* a curse.

**damp** /dæmp/, /damp/ *adj* slightly wet. • *n* slight wetness. • *vb* to make slightly wet. • *n* **dampness**.

**dampen** /'dæmpən/, /dam-pen/ *vb* **1** to make or become damp. **2** to make less strong, etc.

**dance** /dæns/, /danss/ *vb* **1** to move in time to music. **2** to move in a lively way. • *n* **1** act of dancing. **2** a social gathering for the purpose of dancing. • *n* **dancer**.

**dandelion** /'dændɪ,laɪən/, /dan-dee-lie-on/ *n* a wild plant with a yellow flower.

**dandruff** /'dændrəf/, /dan-druff/ *n* small pieces of dead skin on the scalp.

**dandy<sup>1</sup>** /dændi/, /dan-dee/ *n* a man who pays what is considered to be too much attention to his appearance and clothes. • *adj* **dandified**.

**dandy<sup>2</sup>** /'dændi/, /dan-dee/ *adj* great or fine.

**danger** /'deɪndʒər/, /dane-jer/ *n* **1** the risk of hurt or harm. **2** something that may cause harm, injury, death, etc.

**dangerous** /'deɪndʒərəs/, /dane-je-russ/ *adj* full of risks.

**dangle** /'dæŋgəl/, /dang-gul/ *vb* to hang loosely.

**dank** /dæŋk/, /dangk/ *adj* cold and damp.

**dapple** /'dæpəl/, /da-pel/, **dappled** /da-puld/ *adj* marked with spots of a different shade.

**dare** /dər/, /dare/ *vb* 1 to be brave enough (to), to undertake to do. 2 to challenge. • *n* a challenge.

**daredevil** /'dər,dəvəl/, /dare-de-vil/ *n* a person who is ready to face any danger.

**daring** /'dərɪŋ/, /dare-ing/ *adj* brave, fearless. • *n* courage.

**dark** /dark/, /dark/ *adj* 1 without light. 2 having black or brown hair. 3 evil. • *n* **darkness**.

**darken** /'dɑ:kən/, /dar-ken/ *vb* to make or become darker.

**darkroom** /'dɑ:kru:m/, /dark-room/ *n* a room that is kept dark in which photographs are developed and printed.

**darling** /'dɑ:lin/, /dar-ling/ *n* a person who is dearly loved. • *also adj.*

**darn** /darn/, /darn/ *vb* to mend holes in clothes. • *also n.*

**dart** /dɑ:t/, /dart/ *n* 1 a pointed weapon thrown by hand. 2 a sudden quick movement. 3 in needlework, a small pleat. • *npl* a game in which darts are thrown at a target. • *vb* to move quickly.

**dash** /dæʃ/, /dash/ *vb* 1 to run quickly. 2 to smash against. 3 to discourage. • *n* 1 a quick movement. 2 a small amount. 3 a mark of punctuation (—).

**dashboard** /'dæʃbɔ:d/, /dash-board/ *n* the instrument board in a car.

**data** /'dætə, 'deɪtə/, /dah-ta, day-ta/ *npl* (*now often regarded as singular*), *sing datum* /'deɪtəm/, /day-tum/ a known fact or piece of information.

**database** /'deɪtə,bɛis/, /day-ta-base/ *n* a collection of data that is stored in a computer.

**date**<sup>1</sup> /deɪt/, /date/ *n* 1 the day and month and/or year in which something happened or is going to happen. 2 (*inf*) an arrangement to meet at a certain time, especially a social meeting with a member of the opposite sex. • *vb* 1 to write the date on. 2 (*inf*) to make a date, often to see a romantic partner. • **date from** to have a beginning at a certain time. • **out of date** no longer in use.

**date**<sup>2</sup> /deɪt/, /date/ *n* the edible fruit of the date palm.

**dateline** /'deɪtlain/, /date-line/ *n* the line in the Pacific Ocean where one day is regarded as beginning and another as ending.

**datum** *sing of data*.

**daub** /dəʊb/, /dawb/ *vb* 1 to put on in lumps or smears. 2 to paint roughly. • *n* a smear.

**daughter** /'dətər/, /daw-ter/ *n* a parent's female child.

**daughter-in-law** /'dətərin,lɔ/, /daw-ter-in-law/ *n* (*pl*) **daughters-in-law** the wife of a son.

**daunt** /dənt/, /dawnt/ *vb* to make less brave, to discourage. • *adj* **dauntless** /dawnt-less/.

**dawdle** /'dədəl/, /daw-dul/ *vb* to move slowly, often stopping; to waste time.

**dawn** /dən/, /dawn/ *n* 1 the beginning of day. 2 a beginning. • *vb* to grow light. • **dawn on** to become clear eventually.

**day** /deɪ/, /day/ *n* 1 during daylight. 2 24 hours.

**daybreak** /'deɪbreɪk/, /day-brake/ *n* the beginning of day, dawn.

**day care** /'deɪ keɪr/, /day care/ *n* 1 the taking care of children, during daytime, usually while their parents are at work. 2 the place where children go to be taken care of.

**daydream** /'deɪdri:m/, /day-dream/ *vb* to dream while awake. • *also n.*

**daylight** /'deɪlət/, /day-lite/ *n* the light of day.

**daytime** /'deɪtaɪm/, /day-time/ *n* the hours of day.

**daze** /deɪz/, /daze/ *vb* to confuse, to bewilder. • *n* confusion.

**dazzle** /'dæzəl/, /da-zul/ *vb* 1 to prevent from seeing clearly with strong light. 2 to confuse or impress.

**dead** /dɛd/, /ded/ *adj* 1 without life. 2 dull, lifeless. 3 absolute, complete. 4 not working. • *adv* 1 completely. 2 straight. • *n* **the dead** the quietest time. • *npl* **the dead** dead people.

**deaden** /'dɛdən/, /de-den/ *vb* to dull, to lessen.

**dead end** /'dɛd'ənd/, /ded end/ *n* a road that is closed at one end.

**deadline** /'dɛdlain/, /ded-line/ *n* a time by which something must be done.

**deadlock** /'dɛdlɒk/, /ded-lock/ *n* a complete disagreement.

**deadly** /'dɛdli/, /ded-lee/ *adj* 1 causing death. 2 (*inf*) very boring. • *n* **deadliness**.

**deaf** /dɛf/, /def/ *adj* 1 unable to hear. 2 unable to hear very well. 3 unwilling to listen. • *n* **deafness**.

**deafen** /'dɛfən/, /def-en/ *vb* to make deaf. • *adj* **deafening**.

**deal** /di:l/, /deel/ *n* 1 an amount. 2 the giving out of playing cards. 3 a business agreement. • *vb (pt, pp dealt)* 1 to give out. 2 to cope with, to handle. 3 to do business with.

**dealer** /'di:lər/, /dee-ler/ *n* 1 a person who buys and sells. 2 a person who gives out playing cards in a game.

**dealings** /'di:lɪŋs/, /dee-lingz/ *npl* acts of business, relations.

**dean** /di:n/, /deen/ *n* 1 a leader of the church in charge of a cathedral. 2 the head of a university faculty.

**dear** /di:r/, /deer/ *adj* 1 well-loved. 2 expensive, high in price. • *n* a loved person. • *n* **dearness**. • *adv* **dearly**.

**death** /dɛθ/, /deth/ *n* 1 act of dying. 2 state of being dead.

**deathly** /'dɛθli/, /deth-lee/ *adj, adv* like death.

**deathtrap** /'dɛθtræp/, /deth-trap/ *n (inf)* a place that is very dangerous.

**debate** /də'beit/, /de-bate/ *n* 1 an argument. 2 the formal discussion of a question in public. • *vb* 1 to argue. 2 to discuss. • *adj* **debatable**.

**debilitate** /də'bili,tet/, /de-bi-li-tate/ *vb* to weaken.

**debility** /də'biliti/, /de-bi-li-tee/ *n* weakness.

**debit** /'dɛbit/, /de-bit/ *n* the written note in an account book of a sum owed. • *vb* to note the sum owed.

**debris** /'dɛbri:, də'bri:/, /de-bree, /de-bree/ *n* 1 the remains of something broken, destroyed, etc, wreckage. 2 rubbish, litter, etc.

**debt** /dɛt/, /det/ *n* anything owed.

**debtor** /'dɛtər/, /de-tor/ *n* a person who owes.

**debug** /di'bɛg/, /dee-bug/ *n* to correct the errors in a computer program.

**debut** /dei'bju:, 'deibju:/, /day-byoo, day-byoo/ *n* a first appearance in public.

**decade** /'dɛkeid/, /de-cade/ *n* 1 a period of 10 years. 2 (*inf exaggeration*) a long time.

**decaffeinated** /di'kæfi'neɪtəd/, /dee-ca-fi-nay-ted/ *adj* of a drink such as coffee, having had most of the caffeine removed, often abbreviated to **decaf** /dee-caf/.

**decagon** /'dɛkə,gɒn/, /de-ca-gon/ *n* a figure with 10 sides. • *adj decagonal*.

**decamp** /dɪ'kæmp/, /di-camp/ *vb* to go away secretly.

**decant** /dɪ'kант/, /di-cant/ *vb* to pour carefully from one vessel to another.

**decanter** /dɪ'kæntər/, /di-can-ter/ *n* a stoppered bottle in which wine or spirits are served.

**decapitate** /dɪ'kæpɪ,tate/, /di-ca-pi-tate/ *vb* to cut off the head of. • *n decapitation*.

**decathlon** /də'kæθlɒn/, /di-cath-lon/ *n* a track-and-field event in which people compete in 10 different sports.

**decay** /dɪ'keɪ/, /di-cay/ *vb* 1 to go rotten. 2 to fall into ruin. • *also n*.

**deceased** /dɪ'si:st/, /di-seesst/ *adj* dead. • *n* a dead person.

**deceit** /dɪ'si:t/, /di-seet/ *n* anything said or done to deceive; trickery. • *adj deceitful*.

**deceive** /dɪ'si:v/, /di-seev/ *vb* to make someone believe what is not true, to trick. • *n deceiver*.

**December** /dɪ'sembər/, /di-sem-ber/ *n* the 12th month of the year.

**decency** see **decent**.

**decent** /'dɪ:sənt/, /dee-sent/ *adj* 1 proper, not shocking. 2 reasonable, satisfactory. • *n decency*.

**deception** /də'sepʃən/, /di-sep-shun/ *n* 1 act of deceiving. 2 a trick, pretence. • *adj deceptive*.

**decibel** /'desibəl/, /de-si-bel/ *n* a unit for measuring how loud something is.

**decide** /dɪ'saɪd/, /di-side/ *vb* 1 to make up your mind. 2 to settle a question, etc.

**decided** /dɪ'saɪdɪd/, /di-sie-ded/ *adj* 1 firm. 2 definite.

**decidedly** /dɪ'saɪdli/, /di-sie-ded-lee/ *adv* undoubtedly.

**deciduous** /dɪ'sɪdjʊəs/, /di-si-joo-wus/ *adj* having leaves that drop off in the autumn.

**decimal** /'dɛsɪməl/, /de-si-mal/ *adj* counted by tens, hundreds, etc. •

*n* a fraction worked out to the nearest tenth, hundredth, etc.

**decimalize** /'dɛsɪməlaɪz/, /de-si-mal-ize/, *vb also decimalise* to change to a decimal system of money or measurement. • *n decimalization, also decimalisation.*

**decimal point** /'dɛsɪməl pɔɪnt/, /de-si-mal poynt/, *n* a period, or full stop, in a number that is used to show fractions. The numbers appearing to the right of the period are less than 1.

**decimal system** /'dɛsɪməl sɪstəm/, /de-si-mal si-stem/ *n* a system of weights, measures, and money based on multiplying and dividing by 10.

**decipher** /di'seɪfər/, /di-sie-fer/ *vb* to work out the meaning of.

**decision** /dɪ'sɪʒən/, /di-si-zhun/ *n* 1 act of deciding. 2 a judgment.

**decisive** /dɪ'səsɪv/, /di-sie-siv/ *adj* 1 firm. 2 settling a matter finally.

**decisively** /dɪ'səsɪvli:/, /di-sie-siv-lee/ *adv* firmly, clearly.

**deck** /dæk/, /deck/ *vb (fml)* to cover, to decorate. • *n* the covering or floor on a ship.

**declare** /dɪ'klər/, /di-clare/ *vb* 1 to make known, to announce. 2 to state firmly. • *n declaration.*

**decline** /dɪ'klain/, /di-cline/ *vb* 1 to refuse. 2 to slope downward. 3 to become worse or weaker. 4 to give the cases of a noun or adjective. • *n* a gradual worsening or weakening.

**decode** /dī:kō:d/, /dee-code/ *vb* to work out the meaning of a message in code.

**decompose** /dī:kōm'po:z/, /dee-com-poze/ *vb* to decay, to rot. • *n decomposition.*

**decontaminate** /dīkən'tæməneɪt/, /dee-con-ta-mi-nate/ *vb* to free from what is infectious or harmful. • *n decontamination.*

**décor** /'deikər, də'kɔr/, /day-cawr, de-cawr/ *n* the style of decoration in a room or house.

**decorate** /'dɛkə,reɪt/, /de-cu-rate/ *vb* 1 to make beautiful or ornamental. 2 to put wallpaper, paint, etc, on the walls of. 3 to give a badge or medal of honour to. • *n decoration.*

**decorative** /'dɛkrətɪv/, /de-cra-tiv/ *adj* ornamental.

**decorator** /'dɛkə'reɪtər/, /de-cu-rate-or/ *n* a person who paints and wallpapers houses.

**decoy** /'di:kɔɪ/, /dee-coy/ *n* anything intended to lead people, animals, etc, into a trap. • *vb* to lead into a trap, to trick into a place of danger by using a decoy.

**decrease** /dɪ'kri:s/, /di-creess/ *vb* to become or make less. • *n* /'di:kris/, /dee-creess/ a lessening.

**decree** /dɪ'kri:/, /di-cree/ *n* 1 an order or law. 2 a judgment at law. • *vb* to make a decree.

**decrepit** /dɪ'krɛpɪt/, /di-crep-it/ *adj* broken down with age. • *n* **decrepitude**.

**dedicate** /'dɛdɪkeɪt/, /de-di-cate/ *vb* 1 to set apart for a special purpose. 2 to write another's name at the beginning of a book to show that you think highly of him or her. • *n* **dedication**.

**deduce** /dɪ'dju:s/, /di-dyooss/ *vb* to work out a truth from things already known. • *adj* **deductive**.

**deduct** /dɪ'dækt/, /di-duct/ *vb* to subtract, to take away.

**deduction** /dɪ'dækʃən/, /di-duc-shun/ *n* 1 an amount taken away. 2 a conclusion worked out from things already known.

**deed** /di:d/, /deed/ *n* 1 that which is done, an act. 2 a written agreement.

**deem** /di:m/, /deem/ *vb* (*fml*) to judge, to consider.

**deep** /di:p/, /deep/ *adj* 1 going far down. 2 difficult to understand. 3 strongly felt. 4 cunning. 5 (of sounds) low in pitch. 6 (of colour) strong, dark, intense. • *n* **the deep** the sea.

**deepen** /'di:pən/, /dee-pen/ *vb* to become or make deep.

**deer** /di:r/, /deer/ *n* (pl **deer**) a swift-moving animal with hooves and horns (e.g. the reindeer).

**deface** /dɪ'feɪs/, /di-face/ *vb* to damage, to spoil the appearance of. • *n* **defacement**.

**default** /dɪ:'fɔlt/, /di-fawlt/ *n* 1 failure to do what is necessary. 2 failure to pay a debt. 3 the action that a computer takes unless you give it a different command. • *also vb*. • *n* **defaulter**.

**defeat** /də'fi:t/, /di-feet/ *vb* 1 to beat in a fight or contest. 2 to make to fail. • *n* a lost fight or contest.

**defeatist** /də'fi:tɪst/, /di-fee-tist/ *adj* expecting or being ready to accept defeat or failure. • *n* a defeatist person. • *n* **defeatism**.

**defecate** /'dɛfə,kéit/, /deh-feh-cate/ *vb* to expel faeces from the body through the anus.

**defect<sup>1</sup>** /'di:fekt/, /dee-fect/ *n* a fault or flaw.

**defect<sup>2</sup>** /di'fekt/, /di-fect/ *vb* to desert a country, army, group, or political party to join an opposing one. • *n* **defection**.

**defective** /di'fekt/tiv/, /di-fec-tiv/ *adj* 1 below average or normal. 2 faulty, flawed.

**defend** /də'fend/, /di-fend/ *vb* 1 to protect or guard against attack. 2 to give reasons in support of your ideas. 3 to present the case for an accused person.

**defendant** /dɪ'fendənt/, /di-fen-dant/ *n* in law, the person accused.

**defence** /də'fens/, /di-fense/ *n*, also **defense** (US) 1 the act of holding off an attack. 2 that which protects. 3 the arguments in favour of an accused person, especially in a court of law.

**defenceless** /də'fensləs/, /di-fense-less/ *adj*, also **defenseless** (US) without protection.

**defensible** /də'fensibəl/, /di-fen-si-bul/ *adj* able to be defended.

**defensive** /də'fensiv/, /di-fen-siv/ *adj* 1 suitable for defence, protecting. 2 ready to defend against attack. • *n* state of defending.

**defer<sup>1</sup>** /də'fər/, /di-fer/ *vb* (**deferred**, **deferring**) to put off till later. • *n* **deferment**.

**defer<sup>2</sup>** /də'fər/, /di-fer/ *vb* (**deferred**, **deferring**) to give in to another's wishes from respect.

**defiance** /də'faiəns/, /di-fie-anse/ *n* defiant behaviour.

**defiant** /də'faiənt/, /di-fie-ant/ *adj* fearlessly and boldly refusing to obey.

**deficiency** /də'fiʃənsi/, /di-fi-shen-see/ *n* lack, want.

**deficient** /də'fiʃənt/, /di-fi-shent/ *adj* lacking something that should be present.

**deficit** /'defisit/, /de-fi-sit/ *n* the amount by which a sum of money falls short of what is needed; a shortage.

**define** /də'fain/, /di-fine/ *vb* 1 to mark out the limits of. 2 to explain exactly.

**definite** /'defɪnit/, /de-fi-nit/ *adj* fixed, certain. • *adv* **definitely**.

**definition** /,dɛf'i'nɪʃən/, /de-fi-ni-shun/ *n* an exact meaning or explanation.

**definitive** /,dɛf'i'nɪtɪv/, /de-fi-ni-tiv/ *adj* 1 clear and certain. 2 final.

**deflate** /də'flēt/, /di-flate/ *vb* 1 to let the air out of. 2 to reduce, especially someone's pride, importance, etc. • *n* **deflation**.

**deflect** /də'flekt/, /di-flect/ *vb* to make to change direction, to turn aside. • *n* **deflection**.

**deforest** /di:'fɔrəst/, /dee-faw-rest/ *vb* to clear a forest by cutting down or burning trees in an area. • *n* **deforestation**.

**deform** /də'fɔrm/, /di-form/ *vb* to spoil the shape or appearance of.

**deformed** /də'fɔrmd/, /di-formd/ *adj* badly or unnaturally shaped. • *n* **deformity**.

**defraud** /di'frəd/, /di-frawd/ *vb* to cheat.

**defrost** /di:'frɒst/, /di-frawst/ *vb* to thaw out frozen food.

**deft** /dɛft/, /deft/ *adj* skilful. • *n* **deftness**.

**defunct** /di'fʌŋkt/, /di-funct/ *adj* dead, out of existence.

**defuse** /di:'fju:z/, /dee-fyooz/ *vb* 1 to remove the fuse from. 2 to calm down.

**defy** /di'fai/, /di-fie/ *vb* 1 to challenge. 2 to refuse to obey or to respect. 3 to care nothing for.

**degenerate** /di'dʒenəreɪt/, /di-jen-er-rate/ *vb* to become worse, to lose good qualities. • *also adj.* • *n* a person whose character has become worse. • *n* **degeneracy**, **degeneration** /di-je-ne-ray-shun/.

**degrade** /di'greɪd/, /di-grade/ *vb* 1 to lower in rank or importance. 2 to disgrace. • *n* **degradation**.

**degree** /də'grɪ:/, /di-gree/ *n* 1 a step or stage. 2 a unit of measurement for heat, angles, etc. 3 the title given by a university to those who reach a certain standard of learning.

**dehydrate** /di:'haɪ,dreɪt/, /dee-hie-drate/ *vb* 1 to take the water out of. 2 to lose water from the body.

**de-ice** /di:'eɪs/, /dee-ice/ *vb* to remove ice or frost from a vehicle's windshield, etc. • *n de-icer*.

**deity** /'dɪ:ɪti/, /day-i-tee/ *n* a god or goddess. • **the Deity God.**

**déjà vu** /deɪʒə'vu:/, /day-zha voo/ *n* the feeling that you have experienced something before.

**dejected** /di'jɛktid/, /di-jec-tid/ *adj* sad, discouraged. • *n dejection*.

**delay** /də'leɪ/, /di-lay/ *vb* 1 to put off till later. 2 to make late. 3 to wait before going on. • *also n*.

**delectable** /də'lɛktəbəl/, /di-lec-ta-bul/ *adj* (*fml*) delightful, very pleasing.

**delegate** /'dələgeɪt/, /de-le-gate/ *vb* 1 to send a person to act or speak for others. 2 /de-le-git/ to give certain powers to another. • *n* a person who acts or speaks for others.

**delegation** /dələ'geɪʃən/, /de-le-gay-shun/ *n* a body of delegates.

**delete** /də'li:t/, /de-leet/ *vb* to rub out, to cross out, to remove. • *n deletion*.

**deli** see **delicatessen**.

**deliberate** /də'lɪbərət/, /de-li-be-rate/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to think over carefully, to consider. 2 to talk over. • *adj* /de-li-be-rit/ 1 done on purpose. 2 slow. • *adv deliberately*.

**deliberation** /dəlɪbə'reɪʃən/, /de-li-be-ray-shun/ *n* (*fml*) 1 careful thought. 2 discussion.

**delicate** /'dɛləkət/, /de-li-kit/ *adj* 1 fine, easily hurt, or damaged. 2 fine, dainty. 3 not very healthy, easily made ill. 4 light, subtle. • *n delicacy*.

**delicatessen** /dɛləkə'tɛsən/, /de-li-ca-te-sen/ *n* a store, or part of one, that sells cold meats and cheese and speciality foods from other countries. Often shortened to **deli**.

**delicious** /də'lɪʃəs/, /di-li-shus/ *adj* very pleasing, especially to the taste.

**delight** /də'ləɪt/, /di-lite/ *n* great joy or pleasure. • *vb* to gladden, to give great joy.

**delightful** /də'ləɪtfʊl/, /di-lite-ful/ *adj* causing delight, pleasant. • *adv delightfully*.

**delinquency** /də'lɪŋkwənsi/, /di-ling-kwen-see/ *n* 1 (*fml*) failure to do duty. 2 wrongdoing, minor crime.

**delinquent** /də'lɪŋkwənt/, /di-ling-kwent/ *adj* 1 (*fml*) not doing your duty. 2 doing wrong, committing minor crimes. • *n* 1 a person who does not do his or her duty. 2 a wrongdoer, especially a young one.

**delirious** /də'lɪrɪəs/, /di-li-ree-us/ *adj* 1 wandering in the mind. 2 highly excited. • *n* **delirium**.

**deliver** /də'lvər/, /di-li-ver/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to set free, to rescue. 2 to hand over. 3 to make. 4 to aim.

**delivery** /də'lvəri/, /di-li-ve-ree/ *n* 1 childbirth. 2 a giving out of letters, parcels, etc. 3 manner of speaking in public.

**dell** /dɛl/, /dell/ *n* a small valley.

**delta** /'dɛltə/, /del-ta/ *n* the land between the branches of a river with two or more mouths.

**delude** /də'lu:d/, /di-lood/ *vb* to deceive, to trick.

**deluge** /'dɛljʊʒ/, /del-yoodge/ *n* a great flood.

**delusion** /də'lu:ʒən/, /di-loo-zhun/ *n* a mistaken belief.

**delusive** /də'lu:sɪv/, /di-loo-siv/ *adj* deceiving, misleading.

**delusory** /də'lu:səri/, /di-loo-su-ree/ delusive.

**deluxe** /də'lɛks/, /di-luks/ *adj* luxurious, top-quality.

**delve** /dəlv/, /delv/ *vb* (*old*) to dig, to search deeply.

**demand** /də'mænd/, /di-mand/ *vb* 1 to ask for firmly or sharply. 2 require or need. • *n* 1 a claim. 2 a pressing request.

**demean** /də'mi:n/, /di-meen/ *vb* to lower.

**demeanour** /də'mi:nər/, /di-mee-nor/ *n* (*fml*), also **demeanor** (US) behaviour, manner.

**demi-** /'dəmi/, /de-mee/ *prefix* half.

**demigod** /'dəmi,gɒd/, /de-mee-god/ *n* in fable, a being that is half-human, half-divine.

**demise** /də'maɪz/, /de-mize/ *n* 1 (*fml*) death. 2 end, often due to failure.

**democracy** /də'mɒkrəsi/, /de-mok-ra-see/ *n* 1 government by the people. 2 a state that is governed by the people or by persons

elected by the people.

**democrat** /'dəmə,kræt/, /de-mo-crət/ *n* a person who believes in democracy. • *adj democratic*.

**Democrat** /'dəmə,kræt/, /de-mo-crət/ *n* a member or supporter of the Democratic Party in the USA. • *adj Democratic*.

**Democratic Party** /'dəmə,krætik 'pærti/, /de-mo-cra-tik par-tee/ *n* one of the main political parties of the USA.

**demolish** /də'mɒlɪʃ/, /de-mol-ish/ *vb* 1 to pull down. 2 to destroy. • *n demolition*.

**demon** /'di:mən/, /dee-mon/ *n* an evil spirit, a devil.

**demonstrate** /'dəmən,streɪt/, /de-mon-strate/ *vb* 1 to show. 2 to show how something works. 3 to take part in a public show of strong feeling or opinion, often with marching, large signs, etc. • *n demonstrator*.

**demonstration** /'dəmən'streɪʃən/, /de-mon-stray-shun/ *n* 1 a proof. 2 actions taken by a crowd to show their feelings. 3 a display to show how something works.

**demonstrative** /də'mənstrətɪv/, /de-mon-stra-tiv/ *adj* 1 indicating the person or thing referred to. 2 quick to show feelings, showing feelings openly.

**demoralize** /dɪ'mɔ:rəlaɪz/, /di-maw-ra-lize/ *vb*, also **demoralise** to weaken the courage or self-confidence of. • *n demoralization, also demoralisation*.

**demure** /də'mjʊə/, /di-myoor/ *adj* serious and modest in manner. • *n demureness*.

**den** /dən/, /den/ *n* 1 the home. 2 a secret meeting place. 3 (*inf*) a small room for studying in.

**denim** /'dənəm/, /de-nim/ *n* a cotton material used for jeans, overalls, etc.

**denomination** /də,nɒmɪ'neɪʃən/, /di-nom-in-ay-shun/ *n* 1 a class or unit of measurement or money. 2 all those sharing the same religious beliefs.

**denominational** /di,nɒmɪ'neɪʃənəl/, /di-nom-in-aysh-nal/ *adj* having to do with a religious group or sect.

**denominator** /di'nomɪneɪtər/, /di-nom-in-ay-tor/ *n* the number below the line in a vulgar fraction.

**denote** /di'no:t/, /di-note/ *vb* to be a sign of, to mean.

**denounce** /di'naʊns/, /di-nounse/ *vb* to speak openly against, to accuse publicly. • *n* **denunciation** /di,nən'si'eʃən/, /de-nun-see-ay-shun/.

**dense** /dɛns/, /dense/ *adj* 1 thick. 2 closely packed. 3 stupid.

**density** /'densiti/, /den-si-tee/ *n* thickness.

**dent** /dɛnt/, /dent/ *n* a hollow made by a blow or by pressure on the surface. • *also vb*.

**dental** /'dɛntəl/, /den-tal/ *adj* having to do with the teeth.

**dental floss** /'dɛntəl flas/, /den-tal floss/ *n* a fine string used to clean between the teeth. • *also floss*.

**dentist** /'dɛntɪst/, /den-tist/ *n* a person who takes out or repairs bad teeth, makes false teeth, and in general cares for the teeth of others. • *n* **dentistry**.

**denture** /'dɛntʃər/, /den-chur/ *n* a set of artificial teeth.

**denunciation** see **denounce**.

**deny** /di'nai/, /di-nie/ *vb* 1 to say that something is not true. 2 to refuse. • *n* **denial**.

**deodorant** /di'o:dərənt/, /dee-oe-de-rant/ *n* a liquid or powder that takes away or hides bad smells.

**deodorize** /di'o:dəraɪz/, /dee-oe-de-rize/ *vb* (*fmf*), *also deodorise* to take the smell away from something.

**depart** /də'part/, /di-part/ *vb* 1 (*fmf*) to go away, to set out. 2 to cease to follow. 3 (*fmf*) to die. • *n* **departure**.

**department** /də'partmənt/, /di-part-ment/ *n* a separate part.

**department store** /də'partmənt stɔ:r/, /di-part-ment store/ *n* a large store that has many different sections, each selling a different type of goods.

**departure** /də'partʃər/, see **depart**.

**depend** /də'pend/, /di-pend/ *vb* 1 to be likely to happen only under certain conditions. 2 to trust, to rely on. 3 to need for support.

**dependable** /də'pendəbəl/, /di-pen-da-bul/ *adj* trustworthy.

**dependant** /di'pendənt/, /di-pen-dant/ *n* a person who looks to another for support or livelihood.

**dependence** /də'pendəns/, /di-pen-dense/ *n* the state of depending.

**dependency** /də'pendənsi/, /di-pen-den-see/ *n* a country governed by another country.

**dependent** /də'pendənt/, /di-pen-dent/ *adj* 1 relying on another for support. 2 to be decided by.

**depict** /də'pikt/, /di-pict/ *vb* 1 to describe. 2 to draw, paint, etc.

**deplete** /di:'pli:t/, /di-pleet/ *vb* to lessen in amount, size, or numbers.  
• *n depletion*.

**deplorable** /di:'plɔrəbəl/, /di-plo-ra-bul/ *adj* very bad, regrettable.

**deplore** /di:'plɔr/, /di-ploar/ *vb* to regret, to express disapproval of.

**deploy** /di:'plɔɪ/, /di-ploy/ *vb* to spread out over a wide front. • *n deployment*.

**deport** /di:'pɔrt/, /di-poart/ *vb* 1 to send a person out of the country. 2 (*fmf*) to behave.

**deportation** /di:pɔr'teɪʃən/, /dee-pore-tay-shun/ *n* act of sending out of the country.

**deportment** /di:pɔrtmənt/, /di-poart-ment/ *n* (*fmf*) the manner in which you stand, move, etc.

**depose** /di:'po:z/, /di-poze/ *vb* to remove from high office or the throne. • *n deposition*.

**deposit** /di'pɔzət/, /di-poz-it/ *vb* 1 (*fmf*) to lay down. 2 to put in a safe place. • *n* 1 an amount paid into a bank. 2 a first payment towards a larger amount. 3 solid matter in liquid, collecting at the bottom.

**depository** /di:pɔzətɔri/, /di-poz-i-toe-ree/ *n* a storehouse.

**depot** /'dɛpo:/, /de-pot/ *n* 1 a storehouse. 2 a military station or headquarters. 3 a garage for buses.

**depreciate** /di'pri:sjɪ,eɪt/, /di-pree-shee-ate/ *vb* 1 to lower the value of. 2 (*fmf*) to represent as being of little value. • *n depreciation*.

**depress** /di:'pres/, /di-press/ *vb* 1 to press down, to lower. 2 to make sad.

**depression** /di'preʃən/, /di-pre-shun/ *n* 1 gloom, sadness. 2 a hollow. 3 low atmospheric pressure, causing unsettled or stormy weather.

**deprivation** /di:pri'veiʃən/, /de-pri-vay-shun/ *n* 1 loss. 2 want, hardship.

**deprive** /di:'praɪv/, /di-prive/ *vb* to take away from.

**depth** /dɛpθ/, /depth/ *n* 1 deepness. 2 strength (of feeling). • *npl depths* the deepest or most central part.

**depute** /dɪ'pjʊ:t/, /di-pyoot/ *vb* 1 to send someone to act or speak for others. 2 to hand over to someone else to do. • *adj* /de-pyoot/ acting for another. • *vb deputize, also deputise.*

**deputy** /'dɛpjutɪ/, /de-pyoo-tee/ *n* a person who acts for another.

**derail** /di:'reɪl/, /dee-rail/ *vb* to cause to leave the rails. • *n derailment.*

**deranged** /dɪ'reɪndʒd/, /di-rainjd/ *adj* mentally ill or unbalanced.

**derelict** /'dərə'lɪkt/, /de-re-lict/ *adj* left as useless.

**derivation** /dərɪ'veiʃən/, /de-ri-vay-shun/ *n* the history of something back to its earliest known form.

**derivative** /də'rɪvətɪv/, /di-ri-va-tiv/ *n* something made or coming from from another thing. • *adj* not original, copying others.

**derive** /də'raɪv/, /di-rive/ *vb* 1 to obtain from. 2 to come from.

**dermatology** /dərmə'tɒlədʒi/, /der-ma-tol-o-jee/ *n* the study of the skin and its diseases. • *n dermatologist.*

**derrick** /'dərɪk/, /der-ick/ *n* a type of crane.

**descend** /də'send/, /di-send/ *vb* 1 to climb down. 2 to attack. 3 to have as an ancestor.

**descendant** /də'sendənt/, /di-sen-dant/ *n* someone who has a certain person as an ancestor.

**descent** /də'sent/, /di-sent/ *n* 1 (*frm*) act of climbing down. 2 a slope. 3 a sudden attack. 4 a line of ancestors.

**describe** /də'skrəib/, /di-scribe/ *vb* 1 to tell what happened. 2 to tell what a thing or person is like. • *n description.* • *adj descriptive.*

**desert<sup>1</sup>** /'dezərt/, /deh-zert/ *adj* without inhabitants. • *n* a large area of barren, often sandy, land.

**desert<sup>2</sup>** /də'zərt/, /di-zert/ *vb* 1 to leave, to run away from. 2 to go away from. • *n desertion.*

**deserter** /də'zərtər/, /di-**zər**-ter/ *n* a person who leaves the army, navy, etc, without permission.

**deserve** /də'zərv/, /di-**zərv**/ *vb* to be worthy of. • *adj* **deserving**.

**deservedly** /də'zərvədli:/, /di-**zər**-ved-lee/ *adv* justly.

**design** /də'zain/, /di-**zine**/ *vb* 1 to make a plan of. 2 to plan, to intend.

- *n* 1 a plan or drawing of something to be made. 2 a plan, a purpose. 3 a pattern.

**designate** /'dezɪg,næɪt/, /de-**zɪg**-nate/ *vb* 1 to name. 2 to point out. 3 to appoint to a particular post or position. • *adj* appointed to a post, but not yet in it.

**designation** /,dezɪg'neɪʃən/, /de-**zɪg**-nay-shun/ *n* (*fmf*) name, title.

**designer** /də'zaimər/, /di-**zɪe**-ner/ *n* a person who designs something.

- *adj* made by a famous designer and bearing a label with that name on it.

**designing** /də'zainɪŋ/, /di-**zɪe**-ning/ *adj* always planning cunningly or to gain advantage.

**desirable** /də'zairəbəl/, /di-**zɪe**-ra-bul/ *adj* 1 much wanted. 2 arousing longing for. • *n* **desirability** /di-**zɪe**-ra-bi-li-tee/.

**desire** /də'zair/, /di-**zire**/ *vb* 1 (*fmf*) to wish for, to long for. 2 to be physically attracted to. • *n* 1 a longing, a wish. 2 a strong physical attraction to someone. 3 something or someone that is desired. • *adj* (*fmf*) **desirous**.

**desk** /desk/, /**desk**/ *n* a table for reading or writing at.

**desktop** /'desk tap/, /**desk**-top/ *n* 1 the surface of a desk. 2 (*comput*) the backdrop on a computer screen on which icons and windows appear. • *adj* suitable for use on a desk.

**desktop publishing** /'desktaɒp 'pʌblɪʃɪŋ/, /**desk**-top pu-bli-shing/ *n* the act or business of printing and publishing material by means of a desktop computer.

**desolate** /'dɛsələt/, /de-so-lit/ *adj* 1 deserted and miserable. 2 miserable, lonely. • *vb* to lay waste.

**desolation** /,dɛsə'leɪʃən/, /de-so-lay-shun/ *n* 1 loneliness, grief. 2 a wilderness.

**despair** /də'sper/, /di-**spar**/ *vb* to be without hope, to give up hope. • *n* hopelessness.

**despatch** see **dispatch**.

**desperate** /'dɛspərət/, /de-sprɪt/ *adj* 1 hopeless, and therefore ready to take risks. 2 without hope. 3 urgent and despairing. • *n* **desperation**.

**despicable** /də'spɪkəbəl/, /di-spi-ca-bul/ *adj* mean, deserving to be despised.

**despise** /də'spaɪz/, /di-spize/ *vb* to look down upon, to consider worthless.

**despite** /də'speɪt/, /di-spite/ *prep* in spite of.

**despondent** /də'spɒndənt/, /di-spon-dent/ *adj* without hope, downcast. • *n* **despondency**.

**dessert** /də'zərt/, /di-zert/ *n* the sweet course at the end of a meal.

**destination** /dəstɪ'neɪʃən/, /des-ti-nay-shun/ *n* the place to which a person or thing is going.

**destined** /'destɪnd/, /des-tinned/ *adj* marked out for a special purpose.

**destiny** /'dɛstɪni/, /des-ti-nee/ *n* a power that seems to arrange people's lives in advance; fate.

**destitute** /'dɛstɪ,tju:t/, /des-ti-toot/ *adj* in great want, very poor. • *n* **destitution**.

**destroy** /də'strɔɪ/, /di-stroy/ *vb* 1 to break to pieces. 2 to ruin. 3 to kill.

**destroyer** /də'strɔɪər/, /di-stroy-er/ *n* 1 a person who destroys. 2 a fast-moving warship.

**destructible** /də'strɛktɪbəl/, /di-struc-ti-bul/ *adj* able to be destroyed.

**destruction** /də'strɛkʃən/, /di-struc-shun/ *n* 1 the act of destroying. 2 ruin. 3 death.

**destructive** /də'strɛktɪv/, /di-struc-tiv/ *adj* 1 causing ruin. 2 unhelpful.

**detach** /də'tætʃ/, /di-tach/ *vb* 1 to unfasten. 2 to take away from the rest.

**detachable** /də'tætʃəbəl/, /di-ta-cha-bul/ *adj* able to be detached.

**detached** /də'tætʃd/, /di-tacht/ *adj* 1 separate, not joined to others. 2 not influenced by others, impartial.

**detachment** /də'tætʃmənt/, /di-tach-ment/ *n* 1 a group of soldiers taken away from a larger group. 2 freedom from prejudice, impartiality.

**detail** /'di:teil/, /di-tale, dee-tale/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to give a very full account or description. 2 to set apart for a particular job. • *n* a small part or item.

**detailed** /də'teɪld, di:tæld/, /di-taild, dee-taild/ *adj* very full and exact.

**detain** /di'teɪn/, /di-tane/ *vb* 1 to prevent from leaving or doing something, to delay. 2 to arrest, to keep in custody. • *n* **detainee**. • *n* **detention**.

**detect** /də'tekt/, /di-tect/ *vb* 1 to find out, to notice, to discover. 2 to investigate and solve. • *n* **detection**.

**detective** /də'tektɪv/, /di-tec-tiv/ *n* a person whose job it is to find those guilty of crimes.

**detention** see **detain**.

**deter** /də'tər/, /di-ter/ *vb* (**deterring**, **deterred**) to keep from, to discourage.

**detergent** /də'tərdʒənt/, /di-ter-jent/ *n* a chemical material used instead of soap for washing and cleansing.

**deteriorate** /dɪ'ti:rɪəreɪt/, /di-ti-ree-o-rate/ *vb* to become worse.

**determination** /də'tərmɪ'neɪʃən/, /di-ter-mi-nay-shun/ *n* strength of will, firmness.

**determine** /də'tərmin/, /di-ter-min/ *vb* 1 to fix, to decide on. 2 to find out exactly.

**determined** /də'tərmɪnd/, /di-ter-mind/ *adj* strong-willed.

**deterrant** /də'tərənt/, /di-te-rent/ *n* something that keeps people from acting in a certain way. • *also adj*.

**detest** /dɪ'test/, /di-test/ *vb* to hate, to loathe. • *adj* **detestable**. • *n* **detestation**.

**detonate** /'detəneɪt/, /de-tu-nate/ *vb* to explode. • *n* **detonation**.

**detonator** /'detəneɪtər/, /de-tu-nay-tor/ *n* a mechanism that sets off an explosion.

**detour** /'di:tʊər/, /dee-toor/ *n* a roundabout way.

**detox** /di:tɒks/, /dee-toks/ *n* (*inf*) the process of detoxifying an alcoholic or drug addict. • *also vb*.

**detoxify** /di:tɒksi,fai/, /dee-tok-si-fie/ *vb* 1 to remove a poison from. 2 to subject someone to the withdrawal of addictive substances in order to cure their addiction.

**detract** /di:'trækt/, /di-tract/ *vb* to take away from. • *n detraction*.

**detriment** /'detrɪmənt/, /de-tri-ment/ *n* (*frm*) harm, damage, disadvantage.

**detrimental** /də'trɪ'mēntəl/, /de-tri-men-tal/ *adj* harmful, disadvantageous.

**devalue** /di:'væljoo/, /dee-val-yoo/ *vb* to reduce the value of. • *n devaluation*.

**devastate** /'dɛvəsteɪt/, /de-va-state/ *vb* 1 to lay waste. 2 to overwhelm with grief or disappointment. • *n devastation*.

**develop** /də'veləp/, /di-ve-lop/ *vb* 1 to grow bigger or better. 2 to make to grow bigger or better. 3 in photography, to treat a film with chemicals to make the picture appear.

**developing country** /də'veləpɪŋ 'kʌntri:/, /di-ve-lop-ing cun-tree/ *n* a relatively poor country that is working towards improving its industrial production and living conditions.

**development** /də'veləpmənt/, /di-ve-lop-ment/ *n* 1 growth. 2 a stage of growth. 3 a new product or invention.

**deviate** /'di:vi,eɪt/, /dee-vee-ate/ *vb* to turn aside.

**deviation** /,di:vi'eɪʃən/, /dee-vee-ay-shun/ *n* a turning aside from the normal or expected course.

**device** /də'veɪs/, /di-vice/ *n* 1 a plan, scheme, trick. 2 an invention, tool, or mechanism. 3 an emblem or sign.

**devil** /'dɛvəl/, /de-vil/ *n* 1 an evil spirit. 2 (*Bible*) Satan. 3 a very wicked person. 4 a person who does detailed or routine work for some professional people (e.g. a lawyer, printer, etc.).

**devilish** /'dɛvəlɪʃ/, /de-vul-ish/ *adj* very evil.

**devilment** /'dɛvəlmənt/, /de-vil-ment/, **deviltry** /de-vil-tree/ *n* mischief, naughtiness.

**devious** /'di:viəs/, /dee-vee-us/ *adj* 1 roundabout, indirect. 2 not direct, not straightforward and honest.

**devise** /də'veائز/, /de-vise/ *vb* to plan, to invent, to work out, especially cleverly.

**devoid** /də'veɪd/, /de-void/ *adj* lacking in, free from.

**devote** /də'vo:t/, /di-vote/ *vb* to give up wholly to.

**devoted** /də'vo:təd/, /di-vo-ted/ *adj* loving.

**devotee** /də'vet̬i:/, /de-vu-tee/ *n* a very keen follower.

**devotion** /də'vo:ʃən/, /di-vo-shun/ *n* 1 great love, dedication. 2 (*fml*) prayer.

**devour** /də'veər/, /di-vour/ *vb* 1 to eat greedily. 2 to destroy. 3 to possess completely. 4 to read eagerly.

**devout** /də'veut/, /di-vout/ *adj* 1 given to prayer and worship, religious. 2 sincere, deeply felt.

**dew** /du:/, /dyoo/ *n* tiny drops of water that fall on the ground when air cools during the night. • *adj* dewy.

**dexterity** /dɛks'terəti/, /dek-ste-ri-tee/ *n* cleverness with the hands, skill. • *adj* dext(e)rous.

**diabetes** /daɪə'bɪ:t̬i:z/, /die-a-bee-teez/ *n* a disease causing too much sugar in the body. • *adj, n* diabetic.

**diabolic** /daɪə'bɒlɪk/, /die-a-bol-ic/, **diabolical** /die-a-bol-ic-al/ *adj* 1 devilish. 2 very wicked, very cruel. 3 (*inf*) very bad.

**diagnose** /daɪəg'nɔ:z/, /die-ag-noaz/ *vb* to decide by examining a sick person the kind of illness that he or she has. • *n* diagnosis.

**diagonal** /daɪ'ægənəl/, /die-ag-u-nal/ *adj* going from corner to opposite corner. • *n* a line joining opposite corners. • *adv* diagonally at a slant.

**diagram** /'daɪə,græm/, /die-a-gram/ *n* a plan or sketch, a drawing made to help to explain something.

**dial** /'daɪəl/, /die-al/ *n* 1 the face of a watch or clock. 2 the numbered disc or pad by means of which you ring a telephone number. • *vb* (**dialed**, **diailling** /die-a-ling/) to ring a telephone number.

**dialect** /'daɪə,lɛkt/, /die-a-lect/ *n* the way of speaking in a particular part of a country.

**dialogue** /'daɪə,lɒg/, /die-a-lawg/ *n* a conversation between two or more people.

**diameter** /dai'æmətər/, /die-a-me-ter/ *n* a straight line passing from one side of a circle to the other through its centre.

**diametrically** /,daɪə'metri:kəli/, /die-a-met-ri-ca-lee/ *adv*: **diametrically opposed** exactly opposite.

**diamond** /'daimənd/, /die-mond/ *n* 1 a hard, very valuable precious stone. 2 *npl* a suit of playing cards.

**diamond wedding** /daɪmənd 'wedɪŋ/, /die-mond wed-ing/ *n* the 60th anniversary of marriage.

**diaper** /'dəɪpər/, /die-per/ *n* the US word for **nappy**.

**diaphragm** /'daɪəfræm/, /die-a-fram/ *n* a muscle separating the chest from the abdomen.

**diarrhoea** /'daɪə'rɪə/, /die-a-ree-a/ *n*, also **diarrhea** (US) looseness of the bowels.

**diary** /'daɪəri/, /die-a-ree/ *n* a book in which you write something every day.

**dice<sup>1</sup>** /dəɪs/, /dice/ *vb* to cut into pieces shaped like cubes.

**dice<sup>2</sup>** /dəɪs/, /dice/ *npl* of **dice<sup>2</sup>** sense 2.

**dictate** /dɪk'teɪt/, /dik-teit/, /dic-tate, dic-tate/ *vb* 1 to speak aloud something to be written down by another. 2 to give orders, to order about. 3 to fix, to determine. • *n* /dic-tate/ an order. • *n* **dictation**.

**dictator** /dɪk'teɪtər/, /dic-tay-tor/ *n* one person with complete power of government. • *n* **dictatorship**.

**dictatorial** /dɪkta'tɔriəl/, /dic-ta-toe-ree-al/ *adj* 1 like a dictator. 2 liking to order others about.

**dition** /dɪkʃən/, /dic-shun/ *n* 1 choice of words. 2 way of speaking.

**dictionary** /dɪkʃənəri/, /dic-shu-ree/ *n* a book in which words are arranged in alphabetical order and their meanings and other information about them given.

**did** /dɪd/, /did/ *vb, pt* of **do**.

**die<sup>1</sup>** /daɪ/, /die/ *vb* 1 to stop living. 2 to fade away.

**die<sup>2</sup>** /daɪ/, /die/ *n* 1 (*pl* **dice**) a small cube, its sides marked with numbers from 1 to 6, used in games of chance. 2 (*pl* **dies**) a stamp for marking designs on paper, coins, etc.

**diesel** /'di:zəl/, /dee-zel/ *n* 1 a petroleum oil, heavier than petrol, used as fuel. 2 a vehicle driven by diesel.

**diesel engine** /di:zəl 'endʒɪn/, /dee-zel en-jin/ *n* an engine that works by burning diesel oil using heat produced by compressing air.

**diet** /'daɪət/, /die-it/ *n* 1 food, the type of food on which you live. 2 a course of limited foods designed to help lose weight, treat a

medical condition, etc. • *vb* to eat certain foods only, especially in order to lose weight.

**dietary** /'daɪətəri/, /dī-i-ter-ee/ *adj* concerning diet.

**differ** /'dɪfər/, /di-fer/ *vb* **1** to be unlike. **2** to disagree.

**difference** /'dɪfrəns/, /di-frense/ *n* **1** unlikeness. **2** a disagreement, a quarrel.

**different** /'dɪfrənt/, /di-frent/ *adj* **1** unlike, not the same. **2** (*inf*) unusual, special.

**differentiate** /,dɪfə'renʃi,eɪt/, /di-fe-ren-shee-ate/ *vb* **1** to see or point out the difference between. **2** to make different. **3** to treat differently.

**difficult** /'dɪfɪ,kəlt/, /di-fi-cult/ *adj* **1** hard to do. **2** hard to please. **3** troublesome. • *n* **difficulty**.

**diffident** /'dɪfɪdənt/, /di-fi-dent/ *adj* bashful, not sure of yourself. • *n* **diffidence**.

**diffuse** /dɪ'fju:z/, /di-fyooz/ *vb* (*fml*) to spread widely. • *adj* /di-fyooz/ **1** widely spread. **2** long-winded, wordy. • *n* **diffusion**.

**dig** /dɪg/, /dig/ *vb* (**dug, digging**) **1** to turn up earth or soil. **2** to prod, to poke. **3** (*inf*) to search. • *n* a prod, a sharp push. • *n* **digger**.

**digest** /dai'dʒest/, /die-jest/ *vb* **1** to dissolve in the stomach. **2** to think over and understand fully.

**digestible** /dai'dʒestəbəl/, /die-jes-ti-bul/ *adj* able to be digested.

**digestion** /dai'dʒestʃən/, /die-jes-chun/ *n* the process of digesting food.

**digestive** /dai'dʒestiv/, /die-jes-tiv/ *adj* concerning digestion.

**digit** /'dɪdʒɪt/, /di-jit/ *n* **1** any figure from 0 to 9. **2** (*fml*) a finger or toe.

**digital** /'dɪdʒətəl/, /di-ji-tal/ *adj* **1** showing information in the form of numbers. **2** recording or transmitting information as numbers in the form of very small signals. **3** to do with the fingers or toes. • *adv* **digitally**.

**digital television** /'dɪdʒətəl 'telɪvɪʒən/, /di-ji-tal te-le-vi-zhun/ *n* a system of television in which the picture is transmitted as a digital signal and decoded by a device attached to the viewer's television set.

**digital video disk** see **DVD**.

**dignified** /dɪgnə'faɪd/, /dig-ni-fied/ *adj* noble in manner, stately.

**dignify** /dɪgnə'faɪ/, /dig-ni-fie/ *vb* 1 to give grace or nobility to. 2 to make something seem important.

**dignitary** /dɪgnə'terɪ/, /dig-ni-ter-ee/ *n* a person of high rank.

**dignity** /dɪgnɪtɪ/, /dig-ni-tee/ *n* 1 goodness and nobleness of character, worthiness. 2 seriousness, calmness, formality.

**digress** /daɪ'grɛs/, /die-gress/ *vb* to speak or write on a subject other than the one being considered. • *n* **digression**.

**dike**, **dyke** /daɪk/, /dike/ *n* 1 a ditch or wall. 2 a bank built up to hold back the sea or floods.

**dilapidated** /dɪlæpɪdeɪtəd/, /di-la-pi-day-ted/ *adj* completely worn out, falling to bits. • *n* **dilapidation**.

**dilate** /daɪ'læit/, /die-late/ *vb* 1 to become larger or wider. 2 to cause to become larger or wider. • *n* **dilatation**, **dilation** /die-lay-shun/.

**dilemma** /dɪ'lɛmə/, /di-le-ma/ *n* a choice between two things or actions, usually equally unpleasant.

**diligent** /dɪlɪdʒənt/, /di-li-jent/ *adj* very careful, painstaking, hardworking. • *n* **diligence**.

**dilly-dally** /'dɪli,dæli/, /di-lee-da-lee/ *vb* (*inf*) to waste time, to wait about.

**dilute** /daɪ'lju:t/, /die-loot/ *vb* 1 to water down, to reduce in strength by adding water or another liquid. 2 to weaken in force, effect, etc. • *n* **dilution**.

**dim** /dɪm/, /dim/ *adj* 1 faint, not bright. 2 indistinct. 3 (*inf*) not intelligent, not understanding clearly. • *vb*.

**dime** /daɪm/, /dime/ *n* a silver coin that is a 10th part of a dollar, 10 cents.

**dimension** /də'menʃən/, /di-men-shun/ *n* 1 the measure of length, breadth, and depth. 2 (*often pl*) size, extent.

**diminish** /dɪ'minɪʃ/, /di-mi-nish/ *vb* to make or become less.

**diminutive** /dɪ'mɪnjətɪv/, /di-mi-nyu-tiv/ *adj* very small, tiny. • *n* a word or part of a word suggesting smallness (e.g. *-kin* in *lambkin*).

**dimple** /'dɪmpəl/, /dim-pul/ *n* a small hollow, especially on the cheek or chin. • *vb* to show dimples.

**din** /dɪn/, /din/ *n* a loud noise that lasts a long time. • *also vb*.

**dine** /dain/, /dīn/ *vb* to eat dinner.

**diner** /'daimər/, /dī-ner/ *n* **1** one who dines. **2** an informal restaurant.

**dinghy** /'dīŋgi, dīŋgi/, / ding-ee , ding-gee/ *n* a small boat, a ship's boat.

**dingy** /'dīŋdʒi/, /din-gee/ *adj* dull, dirty-looking, faded. • *n* **dinginess**.

**dinner** /'dīnər/, /di-ner/ *n* the principal meal of the day.

**dinner jacket** /'dīnər ,dʒækɪt/, /di-ner jak-et/ *n* a formal black (sometimes white) jacket worn with a bow tie by men on formal occasions in the evening.

**dinosaur** /'dānəsɔr/, /die-no-sawr/ *n* a very large lizard-like animal of prehistoric times.

**dip** /dip/, /dīp/ *vb* (**dipped**, **dipping**) **1** to put into liquid for a moment. **2** to lower sheep into a liquid that disinfects them or kills insects. **3** to lower for a short time. **4** to take a sudden downward slope. • *n* **1** (*inf*) a quick wetting, a bathe. **2** a liquid or semi-liquid substance into which something is dipped. **3** a cleansing liquid for dipping sheep. **4** a downward slope.

**diploma** /dī'plo:mə/, /di-plo-ma/ *n* a printed paper showing that a person has passed certain examinations.

**diplomacy** /dī'plo:məsī/, /di-plo-ma-see/ *n* **1** the discussing of affairs and making of agreements with foreign countries. **2** the ability to get people to do things without annoying them.

**diplomat** /dīplə,mæt/, /di-plo-mat/ *n* **1** a person who represents his or her country in discussions with foreign governments. **2** a person who is good at managing people.

**diplomatic** /dīplə'mætik/, /di-plo-ma-tic/ *adj* **1** having to do with or good at diplomacy. **2** tactful.

**dire** /dair/, /dīre/ *adj* very great, extreme, terrible.

**direct** /dī'rekt/, /di-rect, die-rect/ *adj* **1** straight. **2** without any other reason or circumstances coming between. **3** saying openly what you think. • *vb* **1** to point or aim at. **2** to show or tell the way to. **3** to control. **4** (*fml*) to order. **5** to address.

**direction** /dī'rekʃən/, /di-rec-shun/ *n* **1** the way in which someone or something is looking, pointing, going, etc. **2** control. **3** an order. **4**

an address. **5** *npl* information as to how to do something or how to get somewhere.

**directly** /dɪ'rektli:/, /di-rect-lee/ *adv* **1** in a direct manner. **2** at once, very soon.

**director** /dɪ'rektər/, /di-rec-tor/ *n* **1** one of a group of people who manage a business, etc. **2** a person in charge of putting on a play or making a film.

**directory** /dɪ'rektəri/, /di-rec-tree/ *n* **1** a book containing people's names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. **2** in a computer, a folder that contains files.

**dirge** /'dɜːrdʒ/, /durge/ *n* a song of mourning, a lament.

**dirt** /dɜːt/, /durt/ *n* **1** anything not clean. **2** (*inf*) gossip, scandal. **3** (*inf*) something obscene.

**dirty** /'dɜːti/, /dur-tee/ *adj* **1** unclean. **2** mean or unfair. **3** (*inf*) obscene. **4** (*of weather*) rough. • *also vb*.

**dis** /dɪs/, /dis/ *vb* (**dissed** /dɪst/, **dissing** /di-sing/) (*s/l*) to treat with disrespect.

**disable** /dɪs'eibəl/, /di-say-bul/ *vb* **1** to deprive of some physical or mental ability. **2** to make something unable to work. • *n disability, disablement* /di-say-bul-mənt/.

**disabled** /dɪs'eibəld/, /di-say-buld/ *adj* describing someone who is physically or mentally restricted in some way.

**disadvantage** /,dɪsəd'ventɪdʒ/, /di-sad-van-tidge/ *n* something unfavourable or harmful to your interests, a drawback. • *adj disadvantageous*.

**disadvantaged** /,dɪsəd'ventɪdʒd/, /di-sad-van-tijd/ *adj* suffering from a disadvantage, especially with regard to your economic situation, family background, etc.

**disagree** /,dɪsə'gri:/, /di-sa-gree/ *vb* **1** to differ. **2** to have different opinions, etc. **3** to quarrel. **4** to have a bad effect on. • *n disagreement*.

**disagreeable** /,dɪsə'gri:əbəl/, /di-sa-gree-a-bul/ *adj* unpleasant.

**disallow** /,dɪsə'lau/, /di-sa-lao/ *vb* (*fml*) to refuse to allow.

**disappear** /,dɪsə'pi:r/, /di-sa-peer/ *vb* **1** to go out of sight. **2** to leave or become lost, especially suddenly or without explanation. **3** to

cease to exist. • *n* **disappearance**.

**disappoint** /dɪsə'pɔɪnt/, /di-sa-point/ *vb* **1** to fail to do what is hoped or expected. **2** (*fml*) to fail to fulfil. **3** to cause sorrow by failure. • *n* **disappointment**.

**disapprove** /dɪsə'pru:v/, /di-sa-proov/ *vb* to believe that something is wrong or bad. • *n* **disapproval**.

**disarm** /dɪs'ɑrm/, /di-sarm/ *vb* **1** to take away weapons from. **2** to do away with weapons of war. **3** to make less angry, to charm.

**disarrange** /dɪsə'reɪndʒ/, /di-sa-range/ *vb* (*fml*) to set in the wrong order, to untidy. • *n* **disarrangement**.

**disarray** /dɪsə'rei/, /di-sa-ray/ *n* disorder or untidiness.

**disaster** /dɪ'zæstər/, /di-za-ster/ *n* **1** a great misfortune. **2** an accident affecting many people or causing a lot of damage. **3** a complete failure. • *adj* **disastrous**.

**disband** /dɪs'bænd/, /dis-band/ *vb* to break up and separate. • *n* **disbandment**.

**disbelieve** /dɪs'bɛ'lɪv/, /dis-bi-leev/ *vb* to refuse to believe. • *n* **disbelief**.

**disc** /dɪsk/, /disk/ *n*, also **disk** (US) **1** a round flat object. **2** an audio recording, especially a compact disc. **3** a layer of cartilage between the bones of the spine.

**disc jockey** /dɪsk ,dʒækɪ:/, /disc jock-ee/ *n* a person who introduces and plays recorded pop music on a radio or television show or at a club.

**discard** /dɪs'kard/, /dis-card/ *vb* to throw away.

**discharge** /dɪs'tʃɑrdʒ/, /dis-charge/ *vb* **1** to unload. **2** to set free. **3** to fire. **4** to send away. **5** to give or send out. **6** to do, to carry out. **7** to pay. • *n* **discharge** **1** act of discharging. **2** the matter coming from a sore or wound.

**disciple** /dɪ'saɪpəl/, /di-sie-pul/ *n* a person who believes in the teaching, etc, of another; a follower.

**disciplinarian** /dɪsiplɪ'nærɪən/, /di-si-pli-nay-ree-an/ *n* a person who controls others firmly or severely.

**discipline** /'dɪsiplɪn/, /di-si-plin/ *n* **1** training of mind or character. **2** ordered behaviour. **3** punishment. **4** a branch of knowledge. • *vb* **1**

to train to be obedient. **2** to punish • *adj disciplinary*.

**disclose** /dɪs'klo:z/, /dis-**cloaz**/ *vb* **1** to make known. **2** to uncover.

**disclosure** /dɪs'klo:ʒər/, /dis-**clo-zher**/ *n* the telling or showing of something previously hidden.

**disco** /dɪsko:/, /dis-**co**/ *n* a club to which people go to dance to recorded pop music.

**discolour** /dɪs'kʌlər/, /dis-**cu-lur**/ *vb*, also **discolor** (US) to spoil the colour of, to stain. • *n discolouration, also discoloration*.

**discomfort** /dɪs'kəmfərt/, /dis-**cum-furt**/ *n* the fact or state of being uncomfortable. • *vb* to make uncomfortable.

**disconcert** /dɪskən'sərt/, /dis-**con-sert**/ *vb* to make uneasy.

**disconnect** /dɪskə'nɛkt/, /dis-**cu-nect**/ *vb* **1** to unfasten. **2** to break the connection.

**disconnected** /dɪskə'nɛktəd/, /dis-**cu-nec-ted**/ *adj* showing little connection between.

**disconsolate** /dɪs'kɒnsələt/, /dis-**con-so-lit**/ *adj* sad, disappointed.

**discontent** /dɪskən'tent/, /dis-**con-tent**/ *n* the state of not being satisfied, displeasure. • *adj discontented*. • *n discontentment*.

**discontinue** /dɪskən'tinju:/, /dis-**con-ti-nyoo**/ *vb* to stop or put an end to.

**discord** /'dɪskɔrd/, /dis-**cawrd**/ *n* **1** two or more notes of music that sound unpleasing when played together. **2** (*frm*) disagreement, quarrelling. • *adj discordant*.

**discount** /'diskaunt/, /dis-**count**/ *n* a reduction in the cost or price of. • *vb /dis-**count**/* **1** to give a discount. **2** to regard as unimportant or untrue.

**discourage** /dɪs'kəridʒ/, /dis-**cu-ridge**/ *vb* **1** to dishearten. **2** to persuade not to do. • *n discouragement*.

**discourse** /'diskɔrs/, /dis-**coarse**/ *n* a speech, a lecture. • *vb /dɪs'kɔ:rs/, /dis-**coarse**/* to talk.

**discourteous** /dɪs'kərtiəs/, /dis-**cur-tee-us**/ *adj* rude, impolite. • *n courtesy*.

**discover** /dɪs'kevər/, /dis-**cu-ver**/ *vb* **1** to find. **2** to find out.

**discoverer** /dɪs'kevərər/, /dis-**cu-ve-rer**/ *n* an explorer.

**discovery** /dɪs'kevəri/, /dis-cu-ve-ree/ *n* **1** act of finding. **2** the thing found.

**discredit** /dɪs'kredɪt/, /dis-cre-dit/ *vb* **1** to refuse to believe. **2** to cause to be disbelieved. **3** to damage the good reputation of. • *n* shame, dishonour.

**discreditable** /dɪs'kredɪtəbəl/, /dis-cre-di-ta-bul/ *adj* shameful.

**discreet** /dɪs'kri:t/, /dis-creet/ *adj* thinking carefully before acting or speaking; cautious; not saying anything that is likely to cause trouble. • **discretion, discreetness**.

**discrepancy** /dɪs'krɛpənsi/, /dis-cre-pan-see/ *n* the difference between what a thing is and what it ought to be or is said to be.

**discretion** /dɪs'kresjən/, /dis-cre-shun/ *n* **1** discreetness. **2** judgment, caution.

**discriminate** /dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt/, /dis-cri-mi-nate/ *vb* **1** to see differences, however small. **2** to show judgment. • *n* **discrimination**.

**discriminating** /dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪtɪŋ/, /dis-cri-mi-nay-ting/ *adj* having good judgment.

**discus** /dɪskəs/, /di-scus/ *n* in track-and-field, a heavy disc-shaped object that is thrown in a field event.

**discuss** /dɪskəs/, /di-scus/ *vb* to talk about, to consider. • *n* **discussion** /di-scu-shun/.

**disdain** /dɪsdem/, /dis-dane/ *vb* to look down upon; to be too proud to; to refuse because of pride. • *n* scorn. • *adj* **disdainful**.

**disease** /dɪ'zi:z/, /di-zeez/ *n* an illness or unhealthy condition.

**diseased** /dɪ'zi:zd/, /di-zeezd/ *adj* suffering from a disease.

**disenchant** /dɪsɪn'tʃænt/, /di-sen-chant/ *vb* to free from mistaken positive beliefs. • *adj* **disenchanted**.

**disentangle** /dɪsɪn'tæŋgəl/, /di-sen-tang-gul/ *vb* **1** to take the knots out of. **2** to free from a position that is difficult to escape from. **3** to separate from a confused condition.

**disfigure** /dɪs'figər/, /dis-fi-gyur/ *vb* to spoil the appearance of. • *n* **disfigurement**.

**disgrace** /dɪs'greɪs/, /dis-grace/ *n* **1** shame, loss of favour or respect. **2** a person or thing that should cause shame. • *vb* to bring shame or dishonour upon.

**disgraceful** /dɪs'greɪs/fʊl/, /dɪs-ɡ्रeɪs-fʊl/ *adj* shameful. • *adv* disgracefully.

**disguise** /dɪs'gaɪz/, /dɪs-ɡɪz/ *vb* to change the appearance of, so as not to be recognized. • *n* changed dress or appearance so as not to be recognized.

**disgust** /dɪs'gʌst/, /dɪs-ɡʌst/ *n* strong dislike, loathing. • *vb* to cause to loathe or hate.

**disgusting** /dɪs'gæstɪŋ/, /dɪs-ɡu-stɪŋ/ *adj* sickening.

**dish** /dɪʃ/, /dɪsh/ *n* 1 a broad open vessel for serving food. 2 a particular kind of food. 3 food mixed and prepared for the table. • *vb* to put into a dish. • **dish out** 1 to distribute and give out. 2 (*inf*) to give out generously.

**dishearten** /dɪs'hɑ:tən/, /dɪs-hɑr-ten/ *vb* to discourage.

**dishevel** /dɪ'se:vəl/, /di-shev-el/ *vb* (**dishevelled**, **dishevelling**) to untidy.

**dishevelled** /dɪ'se:vəld/, /di-shev-eld/ *adj* untidy and unkempt.

**dishonest** /dɪs'ɒnəst/, /di-son-est/ *adj* not honest. • *n* **dishonesty**.

**dishonour** /dɪs'ɒnər/, /di-son-ur/ *n*, also **dishonor** (*US*) shame, disgrace. • *vb* 1 to bring shame on. 2 (*fml*) to treat in a shameful way.

**dishonourable** /dɪs'ɒnərəbəl/, /di-son-e-ra-bul/ *adj*, also **dishonorable** (*US*) not honourable, shameful.

**dishwasher** /'dɪʃ, wɒʃər/, /dish-waw-sher/ *n* a machine for washing dishes and cutlery.

**disillusion** /dɪsɪ'lju:ʒən/, /di-si-loo-zhun/ *vb* to free from a wrong idea or belief. • *n* **disillusionment**.

**disinfect** /dɪsɪnfekt/, /di-sin-fect/ *vb* to destroy germs. • *n* **disinfection**.

**disinfectant** /dɪsɪnfektənt/, /di-sin-fec-tant/ *adj* destroying germs, killing infection. • *n* a disinfectant substance.

**disinherit** /dɪsɪn'herɪt/, /di-sin-her-it/ *vb* to take from someone, especially a son or daughter, the right to receive anything by the will of a dead person.

**disintegrate** /dɪs'ɪntɪ,greɪt/, /di-sin-ti-grate/ *vb* 1 to break up into parts. 2 to fall to pieces. • *n* **disintegration**.

**disinterested** /dɪs'ɪntrɛstəd/, /di-sin-tre-stid/ *adj* favouring no side.

**disjointed** /dɪs'dʒɔɪntəd/, /dis-join-tid/ *adj* having no clear connection between ideas, rambling.

**disk** /dɪsk/, /disk/ *n* **1** US variant of **disc**. **2** a circular plate, coated with magnetic material, on which data can be recorded in a form that can be used by a computer.

**dislike** /dɪs'laɪk/, /dis-like/ *vb* not to like. • *also n.*

**dislocate** /'dɪslo;kət/, /dis-lo-cate/ *vb* **1** to put out of joint. **2** (*fm!*) to throw into disorder. • *n dislocation*.

**dislodge** /dɪs'lɒdʒ/, /dis-lodge/ *vb* to move from its place.

**disloyal** /dɪs'lɔɪəl/, /dis-loy-al/ *adj* **1** unfaithful. **2** not true to. • *n disloyalty*.

**dismal** /'dɪsməl/, /diz-mal/ *adj* dark, gloomy.

**dismantle** /dɪs'mæntəl/, /dis-man-tul/ *vb* to take to pieces.

**dismay** /dɪs'meɪ/, /dis-may/ *vb* to make afraid, anxious, discouraged, etc. • *also n.*

**dismiss** /dɪs'mɪs/, /dis-mis/ *vb* **1** to send away. **2** to send someone away from his or her job. • *n dismissal*.

**dismount** /dɪs'maʊnt/, /dis-mount/ *vb* to get down from a horse, etc.

**disobey** /,dɪso:'beɪ/, /dis-o-bay/ *vb* to refuse to do what you are told. • *n disobedience*. • *adj disobedient*.

**disorder** /dɪs'ɔrdər/, /dis-awr-der/ *vb* to put things out of their places, to make untidy. • *n* **1** untidiness. **2** disturbance, riot. **3** a sickness, disease.

**disorderly** /dɪs'ɔrdərli/, /dis-awr-der-lee/ *adj* **1** untidy. **2** out of control.

**disorganize** /dɪs'ɔrgənaɪz/, /dis-awr-ga-nize/ *vb*, *also disorganise* to put out of order, to throw into confusion. • *n disorganization, also disorganisation*.

**disown** /dɪs'o:n/, /dis-oan/ *vb* to refuse to have anything to do with, to refuse to acknowledge as belonging to yourself.

**disparage** /dɪs'pærɪdʒ/, /dis-pa-ridge/ *vb* to suggest, especially unfairly, that something or someone is of little value or importance. • *n disparagement*.

**disparate** /dɪs'pərət/, /dis-pa-rit/ *adj* unlike, completely different.

**disparity** /dɪs'pærəti/, /dis-pa-ri-tee/ *n* difference, inequality.

**dispassionate** /dɪs'pæʃənət/, /dis-pash-nit/ *adj* not influenced by emotion, taking no side, impartial.

**dispatch**, **despatch** /dɪs'pætʃ/, /dis-patch/ *vb* **1** to send off. **2** (*old*) to kill. **3** (*fml*) to do quickly. • *n* **1** the act of sending off. **2** a written official report. **3** (*fml*) quickness in doing.

**dispel** /dɪ'spel/, /dis-pel/ *vb* (**dispelled**, **dispelling**) to drive away, to make disappear.

**dispensable** /dɪ'spɛnsəbəl/, /dis-pen-si-bul/ *adj* able to be done without.

**dispensary** /dɪ'spɛnsəri/, /dis-pen-sa-ree/ *n* a place where medicines are prepared and given out.

**dispensation** /dɪspen'seɪʃən/, /dis-pen-say-shun/ *n* a permission, often from the church, not to do something.

**dispense** /dɪ'spens/, /dis-pense/ *vb* **1** (*fml*) to give out. **2** to prepare and give out. • **dispense with** to do without.

**dispenser** /dɪ'spensər/, /dis-pen-ser/ *n* **1** a person who prepares medicines. **2** a machine from which something can be obtained, sometimes by the insertion of money.

**disperse** /dɪ'spərs/, /dis-perse/ *vb* to scatter. • *n* **dispersal**, **dispersion** /dis-per-shun/.

**dispirited** /dɪ'spɪrɪtəd/, /dis-pi-ri-ted/ *adj* discouraged, in low spirits.

**displace** /dɪs'pleɪs/, /dis-place/ *vb* **1** (*fml*) to put out of place. **2** to take the place of.

**displacement** /dɪs'pleɪsmənt/, /dis-place-ment/ *n* **1** act of displacing. **2** the amount of liquid put out of place when an object is placed in it.

**display** /dɪs'pleɪ/, /dis-play/ *vb* **1** to show, to make obvious. **2** to put where it can be easily seen. • *n* **1** show. **2** a parade. **3** an exhibition.

**displease** /dɪs'pli:z/, /dis-please/ *vb* to anger, to annoy.

**displeasure** /dɪs'pleʒər/, /dis-ple-zhur/ *n* annoyance.

**disport** /dɪ'spɔrt/, /dis-port/ *vb* (*fml*) to play about, to amuse yourself actively.

**disposable** /dɪ'spo:zəbəl/, /dis-**po**-za-bul/ *adj* designed to be used once and then thrown away.

**disposal** /dɪ'spo:zəl/, /dis-**po**-zal/ *n* **1** act of getting rid of. **2** the way that people or things are arranged. **3** use.

**dispose** /dɪ'spo:z/, /dis-**poze**/ *vb* **1** (*fml*) to arrange. **2** (*fml*) to make willing. **3** to get rid.

**disposition** /dɪspə'zɪʃən/, /dis-po-**zi**-shun/ *n* **1** arrangement. **2** a person's character, as revealed by his or her normal behaviour.

**dispossess** /dɪspə'zɛs/, /dis-po-**zess**/ *vb* to take away from.

**disproportion** /dɪsprə'pɔ:rʃən/, /dis-pro-**poar**-shun/ *n* lack of proper or usual relation between things.

**disproportionate** /dɪsprə'pɔ:rʃənət/, /dis-pro-**poar**-shu-nit/*adj* too great (or too small) in the circumstances.

**disprove** /dɪs'pru:v/, /dis-**proov**/ *vb* to prove to be false.

**disputation** /dɪspju:tɪʃən/, /dis-pyu-**tay**-shun/ *n* an argument, a debate.

**dispute** /dɪs'pjut/, /dis-**pyoot**/ *vb* **1** to argue, to quarrel. **2** to refuse to agree with, to question the truth or rightness of. • *also n.*

**disqualify** /dɪs'kwɒlɪfaɪ/, /dis-**kwaw**-li-fy/ *vb* **1** to make unable. **2** to put out of a competition, etc, usually for breaking a rule. • *n* **disqualification**.

**disquiet** /dɪs'kwaɪət/, /dis-**kwie**-it/ *n* anxiety. • *vb* to make anxious. • *n* **disquietude**.

**disregard** /dɪs'rɪ'gard/, /dis-ri-**gard**/ *vb* to take no notice of. • *n* neglect.

**disrepair** /dɪs'reɪ'per/, /dis-ri-**pair**/ *n* a bad state due to lack of repairs.

**disreputable** /dɪs're:pju:təbəl/, /dis-**rep**-yu-ta-bul/ *adj* having a bad character or reputation.

**disrepute** /dɪs'rɪ'pjut/, /dis-ri-**pyoot**/ *n* disgrace, bad reputation.

**disrespect** /dɪs'rə'spekt/, /dis-ri-**spect**/ *n* rudeness, failure to behave in a proper way. • *adj* **disrespectful**.

**disrobe** /dɪs'rə:b/, /dis-**robe**/ *vb* (*fml*) to take off clothing, especially ceremonious or official clothing.

**disrupt** /dɪs'rept/, /dis-**rupt**/ *vb* to put into a state of disorder. • *n* **disruption**.

**disruptive** /dɪs'ruptɪv/, /dis-rup-tiv/ *adj* causing disorder.

**dissatisfied** /dɪ'sætɪsfɪd/, /di-sa-tis-fied/ *adj* not satisfied, discontented.

**dissatisfy** /dɪ'sætɪsfای/, /di-sa-tis-fie/ *vb* to fail to satisfy, to displease.

• *n dissatisfaction*.

**dissect** /'dɪsekt/, /di-sekt/ *vb* 1 to cut into separate parts in order to examine. 2 to study carefully. • *n dissection*.

**dissemble** /dɪ'sembəl/, /di-sem-bul/ *vb* to pretend not to be what you are, to hide your feelings, intent, etc. • *n dissembler*.

**disseminate** /dɪ'semɪneɪt/, /di-se-mi-nate/ *vb* (*fml*) to spread far and wide. • *n dissemination*.

**dissension** /dɪ'senʃən/, /di-sen-shun/ *n* disagreement, quarrelling.

**dissent** /dɪ'sent/, /di-sent/ *vb* to disagree, to think differently from. • also *n*.

**dissertation** /dɪsər'teɪʃən/, /di-ser-tay-shun/ *n* a lecture or essay.

**disservice** /dɪs'ərvɪs/, /di-ser-vis/ *n* a bad turn.

**dissident** /'dɪsɪdənt/, /di-si-dent/ *adj* disagreeing. • *n* a person who disagrees with a government's policies, especially one who is punished.

**dissimilar** /dɪ'similər/, /di-si-mi-lar/ *adj* unlike.

**dissipate** /'dɪsɪpeɪt/, /di-si-pate/ *vb* 1 to scatter. 2 to spend or use wastefully. 3 to waste. • *n dissipation*.

**dissipated** /'dɪsɪpeɪtəd/, /di-si-pay-ted/ *adj* given to living wildly, indulging in drinking and foolish or dangerous pleasures.

**dissociate** /dɪ'so:sjate/, /di-so-shee-ate/ *vb* 1 to separate from. 2 to refuse to be connected with. • *n dissociation*.

**dissolute** /dɪsə'lut/, /di-so-loot/ *adj* living wickedly, immoral.

**dissolution** /dɪsə'lju:ʃən/, /di-so-loo-shun/ *n* act of dissolving.

**dissolve** /dɪ'solv/, /di-zolv/ *vb* 1 to make or become liquid by placing in liquid. 2 to break up, to put an end to.

**dissuade** /'dɪsweɪd/, /di-swade/ *vb* to advise not to do. • *n dissuasion*. • *adj dissuasive*.

**distance** /'distəns/, /dis-tanse/ *n* 1 being far off. 2 the space between two points or places. 3 (*fml*) unfriendliness.

**distant** /'dɪstənt/, /dis-tant/ *adj* 1 far off. 2 not close. 3 cold or unfriendly in manner.

**distaste** /dɪs'teɪst/, /dis-taste/ *n* dislike or disgust.

**distasteful** /dɪs'teɪstfʊl/, /dis-taste-ful/ *adj* unpleasant.

**distemper** /dɪs'temper/, /dis-tem-per/ *n* 1 a disease of dogs. 2 (*old*) an oil-less paint for walls.

**distend** /dɪs'tend/, /dis-tend/ *vb* to stretch, to swell. • *n* **distension**.

**distil** /dɪstɪl/, /dis-til/ *vb*, also **distill** (*US*) 1 to fall in drops. 2 to purify a substance by heating it until it turns into vapour, and then cooling the vapour until it becomes liquid.

**distillation** /dɪstɪ'lēʃən/, /dis-ti-lay-shun/ *n* act of distilling.

**distiller** /dɪ'stɪlər/, /dis-ti-ler/ *n* a maker of whisky or other alcoholic liquor.

**distillery** /dɪ'stɪləri/, /dis-ti-le-ree/ *n* a factory where whisky, etc, is made.

**distinct** /dɪ'stɪŋkt/, /dis-tingkt/ *adj* 1 separate. 2 easily heard, seen, etc.

**distinction** /dɪ'stɪŋkʃən/, /dis-ting-shun/ *n* 1 difference. 2 excellence. 3 a special mark of honour.

**distinctive** /dɪ'stɪŋktɪv/, /dis-ting-tiv/ *adj* different in a special way.

**distinguish** /dɪ'stɪŋgwɪʃ/, /dis-ting-gwish/ *vb* 1 to see or point out the differences. 2 to make different. 3 to make. 4 to see, to make out.

**distinguished** /dɪ'stɪŋgwɪʃt/, /dis-ting-gwished/ *adj* famous.

**distort** /dɪ'stɔrt/, /dis-tawrt/ *vb* 1 to twist out of shape. 2 to give a false meaning to. • *n* **distortion**.

**distract** /dɪ'strækt/, /dis-tract/ *vb* to draw the attention away.

**distracted** /dɪ'stræktəd/, /dis-trac-ted/ *adj* almost mad with grief or anxiety.

**distraction** /dɪ'strækʃən/, /dis-trac-shun/ *n* 1 anything that draws the attention away. 2 confusion of mind.

**distraught** /dɪ'strɒt/, /dis-trawt/ *adj* almost mad with grief or anxiety.

**distress** /dɪ'stres/, /dis-tress/ *n* 1 great pain or anxiety. 2 suffering caused by lack of money. 3 danger. • *vb* to cause anxiety, sorrow, or pain.

**distribute** /drɪ'stribju:t/, /dis-tri-byoot/ *vb* **1** to give out, to give each his or her share. **2** to spread out widely. • *n distribution*.

**distributor** /drɪ'stribju:tər/, /dis-tri-byoo-ter/ *n* **1** a person who gives away or shares something. **2** part of a motor engine.

**district** /dɪstrikt/, /dis-trict/ *n* **1** part of a country. **2** an area marked off for some special purpose.

**distrust** /dɪs't्रɛst/, /dis-trust/ *vb* to have no confidence or belief in. • *n doubt, suspicion. • adj distrustful.*

**disturb** /dɪ'stərb/, /dis-turb/ *vb* **1** to throw into disorder. **2** to trouble. **3** to interrupt.

**disturbance** /dɪ'stərbəns/, /dis-tur-bans/ *n* **1** disorder, riot. **2** disarrangement. **3** an interruption. **4** mental illness.

**disuse** /dɪs'ju:z/, /dis-yoos/ *n* a state of not being used, neglect. • *adj disused.*

**ditch** /dɪtʃ/, /ditch/ *n* a long narrow trench for carrying away water. • *vb* to make a ditch.

**ditto** /'dɪto:/, /di-toe/ *n* the same as before, indicated by the sign ". • abbr do.

**ditty** /'dɪti/, /di-tee/ *n* a short simple song.

**divan** /dɪ'ven/, /di-van/ *n* **1** a long low sofa without back or arms. **2** a kind of bed with a thick base and a mattress.

**dive** /daɪv/, /dive/ *vb* (**dived, dove (US), diving**) **1** to plunge into water head first. **2** to move quickly downward. • *n* **1** a plunge. **2** a sudden downward move.

**diver** /daɪvər/, /die-ver/ *n* **1** one who, with special equipment, is able to work under water. **2** a diving bird.

**diverge** /daɪ'verdʒ/, /die-verge/ *vb* to go off in a different direction, to branch in different directions. • *n divergence. • adj divergent.*

**diverse** /daɪ'vers/, /die-verse/ *adj* different, unlike.

**diversify** /daɪ'versɪ,fai/, /die-ver-si-fy/ *vb* to make or become different. • *n diversification.*

**diversion** /daɪ'verʒən/, /die-ver-shun/ *n* **1** (*fm*) amusement. **2** something that distracts the attention. **3** a turning aside from the main route (e.g. to avoid an obstacle).

**diversity** /'daɪversiti/, /die-ver-si-tee/ *n* difference, variety.

**divert** /dər'veərt/, /die-vert/ *vb* **1** to turn in another direction. **2** to draw away. **3** to amuse.

**diverting** /dər'veərtɪŋ/, /die-ver-ting/ *adj* amusing.

**divest** /dər'veest/, /die-vest/ *vb* **1** to take away, to strip. **2** to take off, especially ceremonial clothes.

**divide** /dī'veɪd/, /di-vide/ *vb* **1** to break up into parts. **2** to share out. **3** to separate. **4** in mathematics, to see how many times one number is contained in another.

**dividend** /'dīvɪdənd/, /di-vi-dend/ *n* **1** in mathematics, a number to be divided. **2** a share of profit. **3** the rate at which the profits of a company are divided among shareholders.

**divine** /dī'veɪn/, /di-vine/ *adj* **1** of or belonging to God. **2** (*inf*) extremely good. • *vb* **1** to foretell, to guess. **2** to learn or discover by intuition, insight. • *n* **divination**.

**divining rod** /dī'veɪnɪŋ rōd/, /di-vie-ning-rod/ *n* a Y-shaped rod, usually of hazel, used to find underground water.

**divinity** /'dīvīniti/, /di-vi-ni-tee/ *n* **1** a god. **2** the study of religion.

**divisible** /dī'veisibəl/, /di-vi-zi-bul/ *adj* able to be divided.

**division** /dī'veɪzhən/, /di-vi-zhun/ *n* **1** the act of dividing. **2** one of the parts into which something is divided. **3** disagreement. **4** a large army group.

**divisional** /dī'veɪzhənl/, /di-vizh-en-nal/ *adj* having to do with a division.

**divorce** /dī'veərs/, /di-voarss/ *n* **1** legal permission to separate from your married partner and to marry someone else if so desired. **2** separation. • *vb* **1** officially to end a marriage. **2** to separate.

**divulge** /dai'veldʒ/, /di-vulge/ *vb* to make known, to reveal.

**Diwali** /dī'wæli/, /di-wa-lee/ *n* a Hindu festival held in the autumn, particularly associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity.

**DNA** /di:en'eɪ/, /dee-en-ay/ *abbr* = **deoxyribonucleic acid**: a substance in your body that stores genetic information.

**DNA fingerprinting** /di:en'eɪ 'fɪngə:priɪntɪŋ/, /dee-en-ay fing-ger-prin-tiŋ/, **DNA profiling**, also **genetic fingerprinting** *n* the process of analysing DNA patterns from body tissues, such as blood and

saliva, in order to establish someone's identity, used particularly in crime detection.

**DIY** /dī:ai'wai/, /dee-eye-why/ *abbr = do it yourself*: the act of making, repairing, or decorating things yourself, as opposed to employing a tradesman.

**dizzy** /'dīzī/, /di-zee/ *adj* giddy, having the feeling that everything is spinning around. • *n dizziness*.

**do<sup>1</sup>** /du:/, /doo/ *vb (pt did, pp done)* 1 to perform, to carry out. 2 to attend to. 3 to act or behave. 4 to be enough or suitable. 5 (*inf*) to cheat or swindle.

**do<sup>2</sup>** see **ditto**.

**docile** /'do:sail/, /do-siel/ *adj* easily managed, controlled, or influenced, quiet. • *n docility*.

**dock<sup>1</sup>** /dōk/, /dock/ *n* 1 an enclosure in a harbour where enough water can be kept to float a ship when it is being loaded or unloaded, repaired, etc. 2 the box in which prisoners stand in a court of law. • *vb* to sail into dock.

**dock<sup>2</sup>** /dōk/, /dock/ *vb* to cut short, to remove part of.

**dock<sup>3</sup>** /dōk/, /dock/ *n* a common weed.

**docket** /'dōkət/, /dock-et/ *n* a label attached to goods.

**dockyard** /'dōkjard/, /dock-yard/ *n* a place where ships are built and repaired.

**doctor** /'dōktər/, /doc-tor/ *n* 1 a person who is qualified by medical training to attend the sick and injured. 2 a person who receives a degree granted by universities to those learned in a certain field. • *vb* 1 to give medical treatment to. 2 to make different in order to deceive; to tamper with.

**doctorate** /'dōktərət/, /doc-trit/ *n* the degree of doctor.

**doctrinal** /'dōktrinəl/, /doc-tri-nal/ *adj* having to do with a doctrine or set of beliefs held by a religious society.

**doctrinaire** /dōktri'nər/, /doc-tri-nare/ *adj* believing in or trying to put into action a system of ideas without considering the practical difficulties of doing so.

**doctrine** /dōktri'n/, /doc-trin/ *n* a set of beliefs held by a person or group.

**document** /'dɒkjumənt/, /doc-yu-ment/ *n* a written or printed paper, often one that can be used as proof. • *vb* to bring forward written evidence.

**documentary** /dɒkjʊ'mentəri/, /doc-yu-men-tu-ree/ *adj* 1 having to do with documents. 2 giving facts and explanations. • *also n.*

**dodder** /'dɒdər/, /dod-er/ *vb* to move unsteadily or shakily.

**dodge** /dɒdʒ/, /dodge/ *vb* 1 to make a quick movement to avoid someone or something. 2 to avoid by cleverness or trickery. • *n* 1 a quick movement aside. 2 a trick.

**dodo** /'do:do:/, /doe-doe/ *n* (*pl dodoes or dodos*) a type of flightless bird no longer in existence.

**doe** /do:/, /doe/ *n* the female of many animals (e.g. deer, rabbit, etc).

**doff** /dɒf/, /doff/ *vb* (*fml*) to take off.

**dog** /dɒg/, /dawg/ *n* 1 a common domestic animal. 2 (*hum or inf*) a fellow. • *vb* (**dogged** /dawg-ed/, **dogging**) to follow closely, to pursue.

**dogcart** /'dɒgkært/, /dawg-cart/ *n* a two-wheeled cart or carriage.

**dog collar** /'dɒgkɔ:lə/, /dawg caw-ler/ *n* 1 a collar for a dog. 2 the collar worn by a member of the clergy.

**dog-eared** /'dɒgi:rd/, /daw-geerd/ *adj* with the corners of the pages turned down.

**dogfish** /'dɒgfɪʃ/, /dawg-fish/ *n* a type of small shark.

**dogged** /'dɒgəd/, /daw-ged/ *adj* determined, unwilling to give in. • *n* **doggedness**.

**doggerel** /'dɒgərəl/, /daw-ge-rel/ *n* bad poetry.

**dogma** /'dɒgmə/, /dawg-ma/ *n* a belief or set of beliefs put forward by an authority to be accepted as a matter of faith.

**dogmatic** /dɒg'mætɪk/, /dawg-ma-tic/ *adj* 1 relating to dogma. 2 holding your beliefs very strongly and expecting other people to accept them without question. • *n* **dogmatism**.

**dog rose** /'dɒg ,rəuz/, /dawg roaz/ *n* the wild rose.

**Dog Star** /'dɒg ,stær/, /dawg star/ *n* Sirius, the brightest of the fixed stars.

**dogwatch** /'dɒgwɒtʃ/, /dawg-watch/ *n* on a ship, a short watch of two hours.

**dainty** /'dɔɪli/, /doi-lee/ *n, also doyley* a small fancy napkin or mat.

**doldrums** /'do:ldrəmz, 'dɔldrəmz/, /doal-drumz, dol-drumz/ *npl* seas near the equator where there is little or no wind. • **in the doldrums** in a sad mood.

**dole** /do:l/, /dole/ *vb* to give out shares of, often in small amounts. • *n (inf)* money paid by the state to unemployed people.

**doleful** /'do:lful/, /dole-ful/ *adj* gloomy, sad. • *adv dolefully*.

**doll** /dɒl/, /dol/ *n* a toy in the shape of a person.

**dollar** /'dɒlər/, /dol-ar/ *n* a unit of American, Australian, or Canadian currency (=100 cents).

**dolorous** /'dɒlərəs/, /dol-o-rus/ *adj (fml)* sad, sorrowful. • *n dolour, also dolor (US)*.

**dolphin** /'dɒlfɪn/, /dol-fin/ *n* a sea animal like the porpoise, belonging to the whale family.

**dolt** /do:lt/, /doalt/ *n* a stupid person.

**domain** /də'meɪn/, /doe-mane/ *n* 1 the land that you own. 2 the country that a monarch rules. 3 an area of interest, knowledge, influence, etc.

**dome** /dɒ:m/, /dome/ *n* 1 a rounded top on a building. 2 something of this shape. • *adj domed*.

**domestic** /də'mestɪk/, /du-mes-tic/ *adj* 1 belonging to or having to do with the house. 2 concerning your personal or home life. 3 tame and living with or used to people. 4 having to do with your own country. 5 (*inf*) interested in and good at cooking, housework, etc. • *n a house servant*.

**domesticated** /də'mestɪkeɪtəd/, /du-mes-ti-cay-ted/ *adj* 1 accustomed to living near and being used by people. 2 fond of and/or good at doing jobs associated with running a house.

**domesticity** /dəmə'stɪsɪti/, /do-mes-ti-si-tee/ *n* 1 home life. 2 the state of being fond of and good at running a home.

**domicile** /dəmə'sail/, /dom-i-sile/ *n (fml)* a house, a home, the place where a person is living.

**dominant** /dəmənənt/, /dom-i-nant/ *adj* 1 controlling others. 2 most important. • *n dominance*.

**dominate** /'dɒməneɪt/, /dom-i-nate/ *vb* 1 to have complete control over. 2 to be the most important. 3 to rise high above. • *n domination*.

**domineer** /dɒmə'nɪər/, /dom-i-neer/ *vb* to bully. • *adj domineering*.

**dominion** /də'mɪnjən/, /du-min-yun/ *n* 1 (*frm*) rule, government. 2 the territory governed.

**dominoes** /dɒmɪno:z/, /dom-i-noaz/ *n* a game played with small flat pieces of wood, ivory, etc, marked with dots.

**don<sup>1</sup>** /don/ *vb* (*old*) (**donned**, **donning**) to put on (clothing).

**don<sup>2</sup>** /don/ *n* a teacher in a university or college.

**donate** /'do:nət/, do:'neit/, /doa-nate, doa-nate/ *vb* to give, especially to a charity, etc; to contribute. • *n donation*.

**done** /dən/, /dun/ *vb, pp of do* • *adj* 1 finished, completed. 2 cooked thoroughly. 3 socially acceptable.

**donkey** /'dəŋki/, /dong-kee/ *n* another word for **ass<sup>1</sup>**.

**donor** /'do:nər/, /doe-nur/ *n* 1 a person who gives or contributes. 2 a person who provides blood for transfusion, organs for transplants, etc.

**doodle** /'du:dəl/, /doo-dul/ *vb* to draw or scribble casually or absent-mindedly. • *also n.*

**doom** /du:m/, /doom/ *n* death, ruin, destruction, terrible and inevitable fate. • *vb* to cause to suffer something unavoidable and terrible, such as death, ruin, or destruction.

**doomsday** /'du:mzdeɪ/, /doomz-day/ *n* the day of judgment at the end of the world.

**door** /dɔ:r/, /dore/ *n* a movable barrier in an entrance to a building or room.

**doorway** /'dɔ:rwei/, /dore-way/ *n* an entrance to a building or room.

**dope** /do:p/, /dope/ *n* (*inf*) a fool, a stupid person.

**dormant** /'dɔrmənt/, /dawr-mant/ *adj* not at present active.

**dormer** /'dɔrmər/, /dawr-mer/ *n* a small window in a sloping roof.

**dormitory** /'dɔrmɪtɔri/, /dawr-mi-toe-ree/ *n* a sleeping room with many beds.

**dormouse** /'dɔrməʊs/, /dawr-mouse/ *n* (*pl* **dormice** /dawr-mice/) a small mouse-like animal that hibernates in winter.

**dorsal** /'dɔrsəl/, /dawr-sal/ *adj* having to do with the back.

**dory** /'dɔri/, /doe-ree/ *n* a sea fish (often **John Dory**).

**dosage** /'do:sidʒ/, /doe-sidge/ *n* the amount to be given in a dose.

**dose** /do:s/, /doze/ *n* the amount of medicine given at one time. • *vb* to give medicine to.

**dossier** /'dɔsi,eɪ/, /doss-ee-yay/ *n* a collection of papers dealing with one particular subject or person.

**dot** /dot/, /dot/ *n* a small point or mark. • *vb* (**dotted**, **dotting**) to mark with dots • **dotted with** having (things) placed here and there.

**dotage** /'do:tɪdʒ/, /doe-tidge/ *n* the weak-mindedness of old age.

**dote** /do:t/, /doat/ *vb* to show great fondness of, especially in a foolish way.

**double** /'dəbəl/, /du-bul/ *adj* 1 twice as much as usual or normal. 2 for two people. 3 forming a pair. 4 combining two things or qualities. • *n* 1 twice the amount. 2 a person or thing looking the same as another. 3 a glass of alcoholic liquor holding twice the standard amount. 4 a running pace. • *vb* 1 to multiply by two, to cause to become twice as large or numerous. 2 to fold in two. 3 to have two uses, jobs, etc. • *adv* **doubly**. • **double back** to turn back in the opposite direction, especially unexpectedly.

**double-bass** /'dəbəlbəs/, /du-bul-base/ *n* a large, low-toned stringed instrument.

**double-cross** /'dəbəl,kros/, /du-bul-crawss/ *vb* to deceive someone who trusts you and believes that you are their friend.

**double-dealing** /'dəbəl,dilɪŋ/, /du-bul-dee-ling/ *n* deceit, dishonesty. • *adj* devious, not to be trusted.

**doublet** /'dəblət/, /du-blet/ *n* 1 a close-fitting body garment worn by men in the 14th to 17th centuries. 2 one of a pair of words having the same meaning.

**doubt** /dəut/, /dout/ *vb* to be uncertain about, to be unwilling to believe or trust. • *n* 1 a feeling of uncertainty. 2 distrust. • *adj* **doubtful**. • *adv* **doubtless**.

**douche** /du:ʃ/, /doosh/ *n* a stream of water directed on to the body to clean it. • *also vb.*

**dough** /do:/, /doe/ *n* 1 flour, etc, moistened with liquid and made into a paste ready for baking. 2 (*inf*) money.

**doughnut** /do:nət/, /doe-nut/ *n* a type of sweet cake, often in the shape of a ring.

**douse** /dəʊs/, /douz/ *vb*, **dowse** 1 to drench in water. 2 to put out.

**dove** /dəv/, /duv/ *n* a bird of the pigeon family.

**dove-cote** /'dəvko:t/, /duv-cot(e)/ *n* a pigeon house.

**dovetail** /'dəvtail/, /duv-tail/ *n* a sticking-out end of wood shaped like a dove's tail made to fit into a hole in another piece of wood to lock the two together. • *vb* to fit neatly or exactly together.

**dowager** /'daʊədʒər/, /dow-i-jer/ *n* the title given to the widow of a nobleman.

**dowdy** /'daʊdi/, /dow-dee/ *adj* badly or shabbily dressed, unfashionable, drab. • *n* **dowdiness**. • *adv* **dowdily**.

**down**<sup>1</sup> /down/ *prep* in a descending direction in, on, along, or through. • *adv* 1 from a higher to a lower position, to a lying or sitting position. 2 towards or to the ground, floor, or bottom. 3 to or in a lower status or in a worse condition. 4 in cash. 5 to or in a state of less activity. • *adj* 1 occupying a low position, especially lying on the ground. 2 (*inf*) depressed. • *n* 1 a low period. 2 (*inf*) a dislike. • *vb* 1 to go or cause to go or come down. 2 to swallow.

**down**<sup>2</sup> /daun/, /down/ *n* the fine soft feathers of a bird. • *adj* **downy**.

**down-and-out** /'daunænaut/, /dow-nan-dout/ *adj* having no job and no home, and no money. • *n* a down-and-out person.

**downcast** /'daunkæst/, /down-cast/ *adj* 1 directed downward. 2 sad, in low spirits.

**downfall** /'daunfɔ:l/, /down-fawl/ *n* ruin, fall from power, prosperity, etc.

**down-hearted** /'daunhærtəd/, /down-har-tid/ *adj* discouraged, in low spirits.

**download** /'daunlo:d/, /down-load/ *vb* to copy or transfer data or a program from one computer to another.

**downpour** /'daunpɔ:r/, /down-poar/ *n* a heavy fall of rain.

**downright** /'daʊnraɪt/, /dəʊn-/rɪt/ *adj* **1** thorough, complete. **2** frank, straightforward, saying exactly what you think. • *also adv.*

**downsize** /'daʊnsaɪz/, /dəʊn-/saɪz/ *vb* to reduce the number of people who work in a company, usually in order to reduce costs.

**dowry** /'dauəri/, /dəʊ-/ri/ *n* the property a woman brings to her husband at marriage.

**dowse** see **douse**.

**doyley** see **doily**.

**doze** /do:z/, /dəʊz/ *vb* to be half asleep. • *n* light sleep.

**dozen** /dəzən/, /du-/zen/ *n* twelve.

**drab** /dræb/, /dræb/ *adj* **1** of a dull greyish brown colour. **2** dull, uninteresting.

**draft** /dræft/, /dræft/ *n* **1** a written order to pay money to someone. **2** a rough copy or plan of work to be done. • *vb* **1** to prepare a plan or rough copy. **2** to pick and send off. **3** (US) to conscript.

**drag** /dræg/, /dræg/ *vb* (**dragged**, **dragging**) **1** to pull along with force. **2** to trail on the ground. **3** (*inf*) to go very slowly. **4** to search underwater with hooks or a net. • *n* anything that causes to go slowly.

**dragon** /'drægən/, /dra-/gon/ *n* **1** in fables, a winged monster. **2** a fierce, stern person.

**dragonfly** /'drægən,flai/, /dra-/gon-fly/ *n* a winged insect.

**dragoon** /drə'gu:n/, /dra-/goon/ *n* a horse soldier. • *vb* to force to obey, to bully into.

**drain** /dreɪn/, /drane/ *vb* **1** to draw off liquid by pipes, ditches, etc. **2** to empty completely. **3** to cause to become dry as liquid flows away. • *n* **1** a pipe or channel to carry away liquid. **2** metal bars over a drain in the ground.

**drainage** /'dreɪndʒ/, /dray-/nidge/ *n* all the means used to draw water away from a certain area.

**drake** /dreɪk/, /drake/ *n* a male duck.

**dram** /dræm/, /dram/ *n* **1** a small measure of weight (1/16 ounce). **2** a small drink of whisky, etc.

**drama** /'dræmə/, /dra-/ma/ *n* **1** a play. **2** plays as a branch of literature and as a performing art. **3** an exciting event, a series of exciting

events. **4** excitement.

**dramatic** /drə'mætɪk/, /dra-ma-tic/ *adj* **1** having to do with drama. **2** sudden or exciting. **3** showing too much feeling or emotion. • *adv dramatically*.

**dramatist** /'dræmətɪst/, /dra-ma-tist/ *n* a writer of plays.

**dramatize** /'dræmətaɪz/, /dra-ma-tize/ *n*, also **dramatise** **1** to turn into a stage play. **2** to exaggerate the importance or significance of. • *n dramatization, also dramatisation*.

**drape** /drēp/, /drape/ *vb* **1** to cover or decorate with cloth, etc, in folds. **2** to cause to hang or rest loosely.

**draper** /'drēpər/, /dray-per/ *n* a person who sells clothes.

**drapery** /'drēpəri/, /dray-pe-ree/ *n* **1** cloth, linen. **2** a draper's shop.

**drastic** /dræstɪk/, /dra-stic/ *adj* acting with strength or violence; thorough. • *adv drastically*.

**draught** /dræft/, /draft/ *n*, also **draft** (US) **1** the amount taken in one drink. **2** a stream of air through a room. **3** the depth a ship sinks in water.

**draughts** /dræfts/, /drafts/ *npl* a game that is played between two people using 12 round, flat pieces on a board divided into checks, the objective being to capture the other player's pieces.

**draughtsman** /'dræftsmən/, /draft-sman/ *n* a man whose job it is to draw plans for buildings, etc.

**draughty** /'dræfti/, /draf-tee/ *adj* cold because of a stream of air.

**draw** /drō/, /draw/ *vb* (*pt drew, pp drawn*) **1** to pull along or towards. **2** to move towards or away from. **3** to attract. **4** to receive money. **5** to make a picture or pictures of, usually with a pencil, crayons, etc. **6** (of a game or contest) to end with nobody winning. **7** (of a ship) to sink to a certain depth in the water. • *n* **1** an attraction. **2** a game or contest won by nobody. **3** the selecting of winning tickets in a raffle, lottery, etc. • **draw the line at** to refuse to have do. • **draw up** **1** to stop. **2** to prepare, especially in writing.

**drawback** /drōbæk/, /draw-back/ *n* a disadvantage.

**drawbridge** /drōbrɪdʒ/, /draw-bridge/ *n* a bridge that can be lifted at one end to prevent crossing.

**drawer** /drɔ:r/, /drɔ:r/ *n* **1** a sliding box or container in a table, closet, etc. **2** (*pl*) see **drawers**.

**drawers** /drɔ:rz/, /drɔ:rz/ *npl* (*old*) an undergarment with legs for the bottom part of the body.

**drawing** /'drɔɪŋ/, /drɔ:ɪŋ/ *n* **1** a picture made with a pencil, crayons, etc. **2** the art of making such pictures.

**drawing room** /'drɔɪŋ ˌrum/, /drɔ:ɪŋ ˌrum/ *n* a sitting room, especially a large one in which guests are received.

**drawl** /drɒl/, /drɒl/ *vb* to speak slowly or lazily. • *also n.*

**dread** /dred/, /dred/ *n* fear, terror. • *adj (fml)* causing great fear, terrible. • *vb* to fear greatly.

**dreadful** /'dredfʊl/, /dred-fʊl/ *adj* **1** terrible. **2** very unpleasant, bad. • *adv dreadfully.*

**dreadlocks** /'dredlɒks/, /dred-lɒks/ *npl* hair that is twisted into long thick braids all around the head.

**dream** /dri:m/, /dreem/ *n* **1** the ideas or fancies passing through the mind of a person sleeping. **2** memories of the past or thoughts of what may happen. **3** state of being occupied by your thoughts, daydream. **4** (*inf*) a beautiful or wonderful person or thing. • *vb (pt, pp dreamed or dreamt)* **1** to have dreams. **2** to imagine.

**dreamer** /'dri:mər/, /dree-mer/ *n* a person who is more interested in thoughts or fancies than facts.

**dreamt** *pt and pp of dream.*

**dreamy** /'dri:mi/, /dree-me/ *adj* **1** given to or relating to daydreaming. **2** extremely attractive.

**dreary** /'dri:ri/, /dree-ree/ *adj* cheerless, gloomy.

**dredge<sup>1</sup>** /dredʒ/, /dredʒ/ *n* a machine for bringing up mud, fish, etc, from the bottom of a river or the sea. • *vb* **1** to bring up with a dredge. **2** to clear with a dredge. **3** to mention something from the past.

**dredge<sup>2</sup>** /'dredʒ/, /dredʒ/ *vb* to sprinkle with.

**dredger** /'dredʒər/, /dre-jer/ *n* a ship fitted to clear mud from the channel in a river or harbour.

**dregs** /drɛgz/, /dregz/ *npl* tiny pieces of matter that sink to the foot of a standing liquid.

**drench** /drəntʃ/, /drenč/ *vb* 1 to make very wet. 2 to force (an animal) to drink.

**dress** /drɛs/, /dres/ *vb* 1 to put on clothes. 2 to wear evening or formal dress. 3 to straighten, to set in order. 4 to bandage. 5 to prepare for use. • *n* 1 clothing. 2 a woman's outer garment. • **dress up** 1 to put on the clothing of another person, nation, etc. 2 to put on your best clothing.

**dress circle** /dres 'sirkəl/, /dress sir-kul/ *n* the first-floor gallery in a theatre.

**dresser** /'drɛsər/, /dre-ser/ *n* 1 a kitchen sideboard. 2 a person who helps an actor to dress.

**dressing** /'drɛsɪŋ/, /dre-sing/ *n* 1 the ointments, bandages, etc, put on a wound. 2 something put on as a covering. 3 sauce for food, especially a mixture of oil and vinegar, etc, for putting on salads.

**dress rehearsal** /dres ri'hɜ:rsəl/, /dress-ri-her-sal/ *n* a practice before a performance, in the appropriate costume.

**dressy** /'drɛsi/, /dre-see/ *adj* 1 (*inf*) fond of nice clothes. 2 elegant, for special occasions.

**dribble** /'drɪbəl/, /dri-bul/ *vb* 1 to fall or let fall in small drops. 2 to allow saliva to run from the mouth. 3 to keep a moving ball under control by little kicks or taps.

**driblet** /'drɪblət/, /dri-blet/ *n* a small amount.

**drift** /drɪft/, /drift/ *n* 1 that which is driven by wind (e.g. snow, sand) or water (e.g. seaweed). 2 meaning. • *vb* 1 to be driven by wind or water current. 2 to do something aimlessly.

**drill<sup>1</sup>** /drɪl/, /drill/ *n* 1 a tool for boring holes. 2 training practice. 3 procedures to be followed in a certain situation, such as an emergency. • *vb* 1 to make holes with a drill. 2 to teach something by making learners do it again and again. 3 to practise military exercises.

**drill<sup>2</sup>** /drɪl/, /drill/ *n* 1 a machine for sowing seeds. 2 a row of seeds. • *vb* to sow in rows.

**drily see** **dry**.

**drink** /drɪŋk/, /dringk/ *vb* (*pt* **drank**, *pp* **drunk**) 1 to swallow. 2 to take alcoholic liquor, especially in too great amounts. • *n* 1 an act of

drinking. **2** a liquid suitable for drinking. **3** alcoholic liquor. **4** a glass of alcoholic liquor.

**drip** /drip/, /drip/ *vb* (**dripped**, **dripping**) to fall or let fall in drops. • *n* a drop.

**dripping** /'driping/, /dri-ping/ *n* the fat that drops from roasting meat.

**drive** /draiv/, /drive/ *vb* (*pt drove*, *pp driven*) **1** to control or guide. **2** to ride in a car or other vehicle. **3** to force or urge along. **4** to hit hard. • *n* **1** a ride in a car or carriage. **2** a private road up to a house. **3** a hard hit. **4** energy.

**drive-in** /'draiv,in/, /drie-vin/ *n* a cinema, restaurant, etc. which you can use while staying in your car.

**drivel** /'drivəl/, /dri-vel/ *n* (*inf*) foolish talk, nonsense. • *also vb.*

**driver** /'draivər/, /drie-ver/ *n* **1** a person who drives. **2** a golf club with a wooden head.

**drizzle** /'drizəl/, /dri-zel/ *vb* to rain in small drops. • *n* a fine rain.

**droll** /dro:l/, /drole/ *adj* amusing, odd.

**dromedary** /'drɒmədəri/, /drom-e-de-ree/ *n* a camel with one hump on its back.

**drone** /dro:n/, /drone/ *n* **1** the male or nonworking bee. **2** a lazy person. **3** a humming sound. • *vb* **1** to make a humming sound. **2** to speak boringly.

**drool** /dru:l/, /drool/ *vb* **1** to dribble saliva from the mouth. **2** (*inf*) to admire very enthusiastically.

**droop** /dru:p/, /droop/ *vb* **1** to hang down. **2** to become weak. • *also n.*

**drop** /drɒp/, /drop/ *n* **1** a very small amount of liquid. **2** the act of falling. **3** the distance that a person may fall. • *vb* (**dropped**, **dropping**) **1** to fall or let fall in drops. **2** to fall or let fall. **3** to fall or cause to fall to a lower level or amount. **4** to stop seeing, talking about, doing, etc.

**drought** /drəut/, /drout/ *n* a long spell of dry weather, lack of rain, dryness.

**drove<sup>1</sup>** /dro:v/, /drove/ *vb*, *pt of drive*.

**drove<sup>2</sup>** /dro:v/, **drove** *n* a herd or flock on the move.

**drover** /'dro:vər/, /dro-ver/ *n* a person who drives cattle.

**drown** /draʊn/, /droun/ *vb* 1 to die under water by water filling the lungs. 2 to kill by keeping under water. 3 to flood, to submerge. 4 to put too much liquid in or on. 5 to prevent from being heard by making a noise.

**drowsy** /'drauzi/, /drou-zee/ *adj* sleepy. • *n* **drowsiness**.

**drub** /drəb/, /drub/ *vb* (**drubbed**, **drubbing**) to beat, to thrash. • *n* **drubbing**.

**drudge** /drədʒ/, /drudge/ *vb* to work hard, to slave. • *n* a person who does hard or boring work.

**drudgery** /'drədʒəri/, /dru-je-ree/ *n* dull or hard work.

**drug** /drəg/, /drug/ *n* 1 any substance used as or in a medicine. 2 a substance that causes sleep or loss of feeling, especially a habit-forming one. • *vb* (**drugged**, **drugging**) to give drugs to in order to make insensible.

**druid** /'drui:d/, /droo-id/ *n* a priest of the Celts in ancient Britain before the Christian era.

**drum** /drəm/, /drum/ *n* 1 a musical instrument in which skin is stretched tightly over the ends of a box and then beaten to produce a booming sound. 2 the tight skin across the inside of the ear. 3 something shaped like a drum. • *vb* (**drummed**, **drumming**) 1 to beat a drum. 2 to make a noise by beating or tapping. • *n* **drummer**.

**drumstick** /'drəmstɪk/, /drum-stick/ *n* a stick for beating a drum.

**drunk** /drəŋk/, /drungk/ *adj* overcome or overexcited by too much alcoholic liquor. • also *adj* **drunken**. • *n* **drunkenness**.

**drunkard** /'drəŋkərd/, /drung-kard/ *n* a person who is often drunk.

**dry** /draɪ/, /drie/ *adj* 1 not wet or damp. 2 with little rainfall. 3 not legally allowed to sell alcohol. 4 not sweet. 5 (*inf*) thirsty. 6 uninteresting. 7 (*of humour*) quiet, not easily noticed. • *vb* to make or become dry. • *adv* **drily**, **dryly**. • *n* **dryness**.

**dryad** /'draɪæd/, /drie-ad/ *n* a mythical spirit of the woods.

**dry-clean** /'draɪklɪ:n/, /drie-cleen/ *vb* to clean with chemicals instead of water. • *n* **dry-cleaner**.

**dry dock** /'draɪ ,dɒk/, /drie dock/ *n* a dock out of which water can be drained so that a ship may be repaired.

**dry rot** /'draɪ,rɒt/, /drie-rot/ *n* a disease of wood that makes it crumble away.

**dual** /'djʊəl/, /joo-el/ *adj* consisting of two; double. • *n* **duality**.

**dual carriageway** /,djʊ:əl 'kærɪdʒweɪ/, /joo-el ca-ridge-way/ *n* a wide road which has a strip of grass or barrier in the middle to separate two lines of traffic moving in opposite directions.

**dub** /dəb/, /dub/ *vb* (**dubbed**, **dubbing**) to make someone a knight by touching with a sword. 2 to nickname someone.

**dubbin, dubbing** /'dəbɪn, 'dəbɪŋ/, /du-bin(g)/ *n* a grease for softening leather.

**dubious** /'dju:bɪəs/, /dyoo-bee-us/ *adj* 1 feeling doubt. 2 causing doubt, of uncertain worth, etc, possibly dishonest. • *n* **dubiety**.

**duchess** /'dətʃəs/, /du-chess/ *n* the wife or widow of a duke.

**duchy** /'dətʃi/, /du-chee/ *n* 1 the lands of a duke. 2 a country ruled by a duke.

**duck<sup>1</sup>** /dək/, /duck/ *n* a type of common waterfowl, both domestic and wild, whose flesh is used as a food.

**duck<sup>2</sup>** /dək/, /duck/ *vb* 1 to plunge or dip under water. 2 to bend to avoid something or to avoid being seen. 3 to avoid or dodge.

**duckling** /'dəklɪŋ/, /duck-ling/ *n* a young duck.

**duct** /'dəkt/, /duct/ *n* 1 a pipe or tube for carrying liquid, gas, electric wires, etc. 2 a tube in the body or in plants through which fluid, etc, passes.

**dud** /dəd/, /dud/ *adj* (inf) of no use. • *also n*.

**dudgeon** /'dədʒən/, /du-jun/ *n* annoyance, anger.

**due** /du:/, /dju:/, /dyoo/ *adj* 1 owed. 2 proper. 3 expected. • *adv* directly. • *n* 1 an amount owed. 2 a right. • *npl* a sum payable. • **due to** caused by.

**duel** /'dju:əl/, /dew-el/ *n* 1 an arranged fight between two armed people. 2 a contest or struggle between two people. • *also vb* (**duelled**, **duelling**).

**duet** /du:'et, dju:'et/, /doo-et, dyoo-wet/ *n* a piece of music for two singers or players.

**duffel, duffle** /'dəfəl/, /du-ful/ *n* a rough woollen cloth.

**dugout** /'dəgrəut/, /du-gout/ *n* 1 an underground shelter. 2 a boat made from a hollowed-out tree.

**duke** /dju:k/, /dyook/ *n* 1 the highest rank of nobleman. 2 in some parts of Europe, especially formerly, a ruling prince.

**dulcet** /'dəlsət/, /dul-set/ *adj* sweet, tuneful.

**dulcimer** /'dəlsimər/, /dul-si-mer/ *n* a musical instrument played by small hammers striking strings, the forerunner of the piano.

**dull** /dəl/, /dull/ *adj* 1 slow, stupid. 2 uninteresting. 3 cloudy, sunless, gloomy. 4 not bright. 5 not sharp. • *vb* to make dull, to blunt. • *n* **dullness**. • *adv* **dully**.

**dullard** /'dələrd/, /du-lard/ *n* a dull or stupid person.

**duly** /'dju:li:/, /dyoo-lee/ *adv* 1 properly. 2 at the due and proper time.

**dumb** /dəm/, /dum/ *adj* 1 unable to speak. 2 silent. 3 (*inf*) stupid, unintelligent. • *n* **dumbness**. • **dumb down** (*inf*) to make something less intellectually challenging.

**dumbbells** /'dəmbəlz/, /dum-belz/ *npl* weights used when exercising the arm muscles.

**dumbfound** /dəm'faund/, /dum-found/ *vb* to astonish greatly.

**dummy** /'dəmi/, /du-mee/ *n* 1 a model of the human figure, used for displaying or fitting clothing. 2 an imitation article. 3 a device containing a rubber or plastic teat given to a baby or young child to suck on in order to soothe them. • *adj* pretended, not real.

**dump** /dəmp/, /dump/ *vb* 1 to throw away. 2 (*inf*) to let fall or set down heavily. 3 to sell goods in another country at a low price. 4 to end a romantic relationship with. • *n* 1 a place where rubbish or waste is left. 2 a military store. 3 (*inf*) a dirty, untidy, or uninteresting place. 4 (*pl*) see **dumps**.

**dumper truck, dump truck** /'dəmpər trək/, /dum-pling/ *n* a heavy truck the back of which can be tilted back and up to unload cargo such as earth, gravel, rocks, etc.

**dumpling** /'dəmplɪŋ/, /dum-pling/ *n* 1 a food consisting of a thick paste, sometimes rolled into balls, or sometimes filled with fruit or meat, and cooked. 2 thin pastry with a savoury filling, steamed, boiled or fried.

**dumps** /'dəmps/, /dumps/ *npl* low spirits.

- dun** /dʌn/, /dʌn/ *adj* of a pale yellowish or greyish brown colour.
- dunce** /dʌns/, /dunse/ *n* a slow learner, a stupid student.
- dune** /dju:n/, /doon/ *n* a low sandhill, especially on the seashore.
- dung** /dʌŋ/, /dung/ *n* the waste matter passed from the bodies of animals. • *vb* to mix dung with earth to fertilize it.
- dungarees, dungarees** /dʌŋgə'ri:z/, /dung-ga-reez/ *npl* outer garments worn to protect the clothing.
- dungeon** /'dʌndʒən/, /dun-jin/ *n* a dark prison, an underground prison cell.
- dunk** /dʌŋk/, /dungk/ *vb* to dip into liquid for a moment.
- duo** /'du:o:/, /dew-oe/ *n* a group of two people, especially two musicians.
- duodenum** /du:o:'di:nəm/, /dew-oe-dee-num/ *n* part of the bowel. • *adj duodenal*.
- dupe** /du:p, dju:p/, /doop, dewp/ *vb* to cheat. • *n* a person who is cheated or deceived.
- duplicate** /'dju:plikət/, /dew-pli-kit/ *adj* exactly the same, exactly like another. • *n* an exact copy. • *vb* /dew-pli-kate/ to make a copy or copies of. • *n* **duplication**.
- duplicity** /dju:'plisiti/, /dew-pli-si-tee/ *n* deceit, trickery.
- durable** /'djurəbəl/, /dew-ra-bul/ *adj* 1 lasting, hard-wearing. 2 lasting or able to last. • *n* **durability**.
- duration** /dju'reiʃən/, /dyoo-ray-shun/ *n* the time for which a thing lasts.
- duress** /dju'rɛs/, /dyoo-ress/ *n* use of force, threats.
- during** /'djuriŋ/, /dyoo-ring/ *prep* 1 in the course of. 2 throughout the time of.
- dusk** /dəsk/, /dusk/ *n* partial darkness, twilight. • *adj dusky*.
- dust** /dəst/, /dust/ *n* tiny dry particles of earth or matter. • *vb* 1 to remove dust. 2 to sprinkle with powder. • *adj dusty*.
- dustbin** /'dəstbɪn/, /dust-bin/ a receptacle into which one puts rubbish.
- duster** /'dəstər/, /dust-er/ *n* a cloth for removing dust, etc.
- dutiable** /'dju:tɪəbəl/, /dyoo-tee-a-bul/ *adj* able to be taxed.

**dutiful** /'dju:tɪfʊl/, /dyoo-tee-ful/ *adj* obedient, careful to do your duty.

**duty** /'dju:ti/, /dyoo-tee/ *n* 1 that which you ought to do. 2 an action or task requiring to be done, especially one attached to a job. 3 a tax on goods.

**duvet** /'du:veɪ/, /doo-vay/ *n* a quilted bed covering.

**DVD** /'di:vɪ:di:/, /dee-vee-dee/ *abbr* = **digital video disc**: a kind of compact disc on which particularly large amounts of information, especially photographs and video material, can be stored.

**dwarf** /dwɔrf/, /dwawrf/ *n* (pl) **dwarfs** /dwawrfs/ or **dwarves** /dwawrvz/) 1 (*sometimes offensive*) a person, animal or plant that is much smaller than average. 2 in fairy tales, a creature like a very small man who has magical powers. • *adj* undersized, very small. • *vb* to make seem small. • *adj* **dwarfish**.

**dwell** /dwel/, /dwell/ *vb* (pt, pp **dwelt** or **dwelled**) 1 (*old or lit*) to live in. 2 to talk or think a lot about.

**dwelling** /'dwelinj/, /dwe-ling/ *n* (*fml or old*) a house.

**dwindle** /'dwɪndəl/, /dwin-dul/ *vb* to grow gradually less or smaller.

**dye** /dai/, /die/ *vb* to give a new colour to, to stain. • *n* a colouring substance. • *n* **dyer**.

**dyke** /dəɪk/, /dike/ see **dike**.

**dynamic** /daɪ'næmɪk/, /die-na-mic/ *adj* active, energetic.

**dynamics** /daɪ'næmɪks/, /die-na-mics/ *n* the science of forces and movement.

**dynamite** /'daɪnə,mət/, /die-na-mite/ *n* a powerful explosive.

**dynamo** /'daɪnə,mo:/, /die-na-mo/ *n* a machine for making electric current.

**dynasty** /'daiməsti/, /di-na-stee/ *n* a line of rulers of the same family. • *adj* **dynastic**.

**dysentery** /'dɪsən,təri/, /di-sen-te-ree/ *n* a disease of the bowels.

**dysfunctional** /dɪs'fʌŋkʃənəl/, /dis-fung-shi-nal/ *adj* not functioning in what is considered the normal fashion.

**dyslexia** /dɪs'lɛksiə/, /dis-lek-see-a/ *n* difficulty with reading and spelling caused by a slight disorder in the brain.

# E

**E, e /ee/** **1** the fifth letter of the English alphabet. **2 (mus)** the third note of the scale of C major.

**each /i:tʃ/, /eech/** *pron, adj* every one taken singly or separately.

**eager /'i:gər/, /ee-ger/** *adj* full of desire, keen. • *n* **eagerness**.

**eagle /'i:gəl/, /ee-gl/** *n* a large bird of prey.

**eagle-eyed /'i:gəl,aɪd/, /ee-gl-eyed/** *adj* having very keen sight.

**eaglet /'i:glət/, /ee-glet/** *n* a young eagle.

**ear<sup>1</sup> /i:x/, /eer/** *n* **1** the organ of hearing. **2** the ability to hear the difference between sounds. **3** attention.

**ear<sup>2</sup> /i:x/, /eer/** *n* a head or spike of corn.

**earache /'i:x,eɪk/, /ee-rake/** *n* a pain in the ear.

**eardrum /'i:rd्रəm/, /eer-drum/** *n* the tight skin across the inside of the ear that enables a person to hear sounds.

**early /'ərli/, /ur-lee/** *adj* **1** before the time arranged. **2** near the beginning. **3** belonging to the first stages of development, etc. **4 (fm!)** soon. • *adv* **1** near the beginning (of a period of time, etc). **2** sooner than usual, sooner than expected, sooner than often, etc.

**earmark /'i:xmark/, /eer-mark/** *vb* to set aside for a special purpose.

**earmuffs /'i:xməfs/, /eer-mufs/** *npl* pads that fit over the ears to keep them from getting cold.

**earn /ərn/, /urn/** *vb* **1** to get money in return for work. **2** to deserve.

**earnest /'ərnɪst/, /ur-nest/** *adj* **1** serious. **2** determined. • *n* **earnestness**. • **in earnest** meaning what one says.

**earnings /'ərnɪŋz/, /ur-nings/** *npl* wages, money paid for work done.

**earring /'i:riŋ/, /ee-ring/** *n* an ornament worn on the ear.

**earshot /'i:rʃɒt/, /eer-shot/** *n* the distance within which one can hear something.

**earth /ərθ/, /urθ/** *n* **1** the planet on which we live. **2** the world as opposed to heaven. **3** dry land, the ground or soil. **4** the hole of a

fox, badger, etc. **5** the wire connecting an electric appliance to the ground. • *adj earthen*.

**earthly** /'ərθli/, /urθ-lee/ *adj* having to do with the world, of worldly rather than heavenly things.

**earthquake** /'ərθ,kweɪk/, /urθ-kwake/ *n* a shaking movement of the surface of the earth.

**earthwork** /'ərθ,wɜːk/, /urθ-wurk/ *n* a defensive wall of earth.

**earthworm** /'ərθ,wɜːm/, /urθ-wurm/ *n* a worm that lives in the soil.

**earthy** /'ərθi/, /urθ-ee/ *adj* **1** like, or of, earth. **2** coarse, not refined.

**ease** /i:z/, /eez/ *n* **1** freedom from anxiety or pain. **2** lack of difficulty.

**3** freedom from work; rest, comfort. **4** naturalness. • *vb* **1** to lessen.

**2** to move gently or gradually.

**easel** /i:zəl/, /ee-zel/ *n* a stand to hold a picture, blackboard, etc, upright.

**east** /i:st/, /eest/ *n, adj, adv* one of the four chief points of the compass, the direction in which the sun rises. • *adj eastern, eastward* /eest-ward/. • **the East** the countries of Asia.

**Easter** /i:stər/, /ee-ster/ *n* a Christian festival that commemorates the rising of Christ from the dead.

**easterly** /i:stərli/, /ee-ster-lee/ *adj* from or towards the east.

**easy** /i:zi/, /ee-zee/ *adj* **1** not difficult. **2** free from anxiety or pain. **3** comfortable. **4** relaxed, leisurely.

**easy-going** /i:zi'go:wɪŋ/, /ee-zee-go-wing/ *adj* not easily worried or angered.

**eat** /i:t/, /eet/ *vb* (*pt ate, pp eaten*) **1** to chew and swallow, as food. **2** to wear away.

**eating disorder** /'i:tɪŋ dɪsɔːrdər/, /ee-ting di-sawr-der/ *n* an emotional disorder in which the sufferer has an irrational attitude towards food.

**eaves** /i:vz/, /eevz/ *npl* that part of the roof that comes out beyond the walls.

**eavesdrop** /'i:vzdrɒp/, /eevz-drop/ *vb* (**eavesdropped, eavesdropping**) to try to hear what others are saying to each other privately. • *n eavesdropper*.

**ebb** /ɛb/, /eb/ *n* **1** the flowing back of the tide. **2** a falling away or weakening. • *vb* **1** to flow back. **2** to grow less, weak, faint, etc.

**ebony** /'ɛbəni/, /e-bu-nee/ *n* a hard black wood. • *adj* **1** made of ebony. **2** black.

**ebook, e-book** /'i:buk/, /ee-book/ *n* an electronic or digital edition of a book, readable on an e-reader.

**eccentric** /ɪk'sentrik/, /ek-sen-tric/ *adj* **1** odd, strange. **2** (*of circles*) not drawn round the same centre. • *n* a person who behaves in an odd or unusual manner. • *n* **eccentricity**.

**echo** /'eko:/, /e-co/ *n* (*pl* **echoes** /e-coaz/) **1** the repeating of a sound by the reflection of sound waves from a surface. **2** an imitation. • *vb* **1** to repeat, to throw back a sound. **2** to imitate.

**eclipse** /'klips/, /e-clips/ *n* **1** the cutting off of the light from the sun by the moon coming between it and the earth. **2** the darkening of the face of the moon by the earth coming between it and the sun. **3** a failure caused by the unexpected success of another. • *vb* **1** to cut off the light from, to darken. **2** to make another seem inferior by outdoing.

**ecology** /ɪ'kɒlədʒi/, /e-col-o-jee/ *n* **1** the science of the life of things in their physical surroundings. **2** the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their surroundings. • **ecological adj.**

**e-commerce** /i'kɒmərs/, /ee-com-erse/ *n* electronic commerce, business conducted online.

**economic** /'ekə'nɒmɪk/, /e-co-nom-ic/ *adj* **1** having to do with economics. **2** designed to give a profit.

**economical** /'ekə'nɒmɪkəl/, /e-co-nom-i-cal/ *adj* careful of money, not wasteful.

**economics** /i:kə'nɒmɪks/, /e-co-nom-ics/ *n* the study of the means of increasing the wealth of a community or nation.

**economist** /'kɒnəmɪst/, /e-con-o-mist/ *n* a person who works in or studies economics.

**economize, economise** /'kɒnə,mائز/, /e-con-o-mize/ *vb* to spend or use carefully, to save, to be economical.

**economy** /'ekənəmɪ/, /e-**con**-o-mee/ *n* 1 management of the wealth, money, goods, etc, of a home, business or country. 2 sparing use of money.

**ecosystem** /i:kɔ:sistəm/, /e-co-sis-tem/ *n* all the plants and living creatures that live in an area and depend on one another, together with their habitat.

**ecstasy** /'ekstæsi/, /e**c**-sta-see/ *n* great delight or joy.

**ecstatic** /æk'statɪk/, /e**c**-sta-tic/ *adj* delighted, carried away by joy.

**eczema** /'eksimə, ɛk'zi:mə/, /eg-ze-ma, ig-zee-ma, e**g**-ze-ma/ *n* a skin disease.

**eddy** /'edi/, /e**d**-ee/ *n* a whirling current of water or air, a whirlpool or whirlwind. • *vb* to move in eddies.

**Eden** /'i:dən/, /e**e**-den/ *n* (OT) the garden of Adam and Eve; paradise.

**edge** /'edʒ/, /e**d**ge/ *n* 1 the sharp side of a blade. 2 a border or boundary. 3 keenness, sharpness. • *vb* 1 to move gradually, especially with small sideways movements. 2 to put a border on.

**edgeways** /'edʒweɪz/, /e**d**ge-wayz/ *adj* sideways.

**edging** /'edʒɪŋ/, /e**d**-jing/ *n* a border or fringe.

**edible** /'edɪbəl/, /e**d**-i-bl/ *adj* able or fit to be eaten.

**edit** /'edɪt/, /e**d**-it/ *vb* to prepare for printing or publication.

**edition** /i:dɪʃən/, /e**d**-di-shun/ *n* the number of copies of a book or newspaper published at one time.

**editor** /'edɪtər/, /e**d**-di-tor/ *n* 1 a person who edits. 2 a person who collects the material for a newspaper or magazine and selects what is to be published or who is in charge of a newspaper or part of a newspaper.

**editorial** /'edɪ'tɔriəl/, /e**d**-di-toe-ree-al/ *adj* of an editor. • *n* an article by the editor or someone chosen by him or her on a matter of immediate interest.

**educate** /'edʒu,keɪt/, /e**d**-ju-cate/ *vb* to teach or train. • *n* **education**.

**educational** /'edʒu'keɪʃənəl/, /e**d**-ju-cay-shu-nal/ *adj* having to do with education.

**eel** /i:l/, /e**e**l/ *n* a snakelike fish.

**eerie, eery** /'i:ri/, /e**e**-ree/ *adj* strange and frightening.

**effect** /'efekt/, /i-fekt/ *n* 1 result; power to bring about a change. 2 impression. 3 *pl* goods, property. 4 *pl* lighting and sounds used in a play, film, etc. • *vb* to bring about, to succeed in doing, to produce.

**effective** /'fektiv/, /i-fec-tive/ *adj* 1 doing what is intended or desired, successful. 2 striking. 3 actual, real. 4 in operation, working.

**effeminate** /'femənət/, /i-fe-mi-nit/ *adj* womanish, unmanly. • *n* effeminacy.

**effervesce** /,efər'ves/, /e-fer-vess/ *vb* to bubble or sparkle. • *n* effervescence.

**effervescent** /,efər'veesnt/, /e-fer-ve-sent/ *adj* 1 bubbling, sparkling. 2 lively and enthusiastic.

**efficient** /'fiʃənt/, /e-fi-shent/ *adj* 1 able to do what is necessary or intended without wasting time, energy, etc. 2 good at one's job, capable. • *n* efficiency.

**effigy** /'efidʒi/, /e-fi-jee/ *n* 1 a likeness in the form of a picture, statue or carving. 2 the head on a coin. 3 a figure of a person.

**effluent** /'efluənt/, /e-floo-ent/ *adj* flowing out from. • *n* 1 the discharge of liquid waste matter, sewage, etc. 2 a stream flowing from a larger stream. • *n* effluence.

**effort** /'efərt/, /e-fort/ *n* 1 an energetic attempt. 2 the making use of strength or ability.

**effortless** /'efərləs/, /e-fort-less/ *adj* with ease, without trying hard.

**effusive** /'fju:siv/, /i-fyoo-siv/ *adj* expressing one's feelings too freely; pretending to feel more than one really feels. • *n* effusiveness.

**egg** /eg/, /eg/ *n* 1 object, usually covered with a hard brittle shell, laid by a bird, reptile, etc, from which a young one is hatched. 2 such an object laid by the domestic hen used as food. 3 in the female mammal, the cell from which the young is formed, the ovum.

**egg on** /,eg 'an/, /eg on/ *vb* to encourage somebody.

**eggplant** /egplænt/, /eg-plant/ *n* the US word for aubergine.

**ego** /'i:go:/, /ee-go/ *n* 1 the image a person has of himself or herself. 2 self confidence to the point of being conceited, egotism.

**egoism** /'i:go:ɪzəm/, /ee-gu-i-zum/ *n* 1 selfishness, self-centredness.

2 egotism. 3 a theory that states that self-interest is the foundation for morality.

**egoist** /'i:go:ɪst/, /ee-gu-wist/ *n* a selfish person, someone who believes in and practises egoism. • *adj* **egoistic**.

**egotism** /'i:gətɪzəm/, /ee-go-tizm/ *n* 1 excessive talking about yourself. 2 an exaggerated opinion of yourself. 3 extreme selfishness.

**egotist** /'i:gətɪst/, /ee-gu-tist/ *n* a person always talking of himself or herself. • *n* **egotism**. • *adj* **egotistic**, **egotistical** /ee-gu-ti-sti-cal/.

**egress** /'i:grɛs/, /ee-gress/ *n* 1 (*fml*) a way out. 2 the right or power of going out.

**eider** /'aɪdər/, /ie-der/ *n* the Arctic duck.

**eiderdown** /'aɪdərdaʊn/, /ie-der-down/ *n* a warm bedcovering stuffed with the soft feathers of the eider.

**eight** /eɪt/, /ate/ *n* a number that is the sum of one and seven. • *adj* **eighth**.

**eighteen** /eɪ'ti:n/, /ay-teen/ *n* a number that is the sum of ten and eight. • *adj* **eighth**.

**eighty** /'eɪti/, /ay-tee/ *n* a number that is the product of ten and eight. • *adj* **eightieth**.

**either** /'aɪðər, 'i:ðər/, /ee-ther, eye-ther/ *adj, pron, conj* and *adv* one or other of two.

**ejaculate** /'ɪdʒækjʊleɪt/, /i-jac-yew-late/ *vt, vi* 1 to emit a fluid. 2 to exclaim.

**eject** /'ɪdʒɛkt/, /i-ject/ *vb* to throw out.

**ejection** /'ɪdʒekʃən/, /i-jec-shun/ *n* act of throwing out.

**elaborate** /'læbə'reɪt/, /i-la-bo-rit/ *adj* 1 worked out with great care. 2 having many parts. 3 very decorative. • *vb* /i-la-bo-rate/ 1 to work out very carefully, to add to and improve upon. 2 to explain fully. • *n* **elaboration**.

**elapse** /'læps/, /ee-lapse/ *vb* (*fml*) (of time) to pass.

**elastic** /'læstɪk/, /ee-la-stic/ *adj* able to stretch or be stretched easily, but returning immediately to its former shape. • *n* a strip of material lined with rubber to make it elastic.

**elasticity** /ɪlæs'tɪsɪti:/, /ee-la-sti-si-tee/ *n* springiness.

**elate** /ɪ'leɪt/, /ee-late/ *vb* to make very glad or proud. • *n* **elation**.

**elated** /ɪ'leɪtəd/, /ee-lay-ted/ *adj* to be filled with happiness or pride.

**elbow** /'elbo:/, /el-bo/ *n* **1** the joint between the forearm and upper arm. **2** a sharp bend or corner. • *vb* to push with the elbow.

**elder<sup>1</sup>** /'eldər/, /el-der/ *adj* older. • *n* **1** an older member of a community. **2** an official in certain Christian churches (e.g. the Presbyterian).

**elder<sup>2</sup>** /'eldər/, /el-der/ *n* a small tree with dark purple berries.

**elderly** /'eldərlɪ/, /el-der-lee/ *adj* old, getting old.

**eldest** /'eldəst/, /el-dest/ *adj* oldest.

**elect** /ɪ'lɛkt/, /i-lec-t/ *vb* **1** (*fml*) to choose. **2** to choose by voting. • *adj* chosen. • *n* **1** those chosen. **2** those chosen by God.

**election** /ɪ'lɛkʃən/, /i-lec-shun/ *n* act of choosing, especially by vote.

**elector** /ɪ'lɛktər/, /i-lec-tor/ *n* a person with the right to vote.

**electoral** /ɪ'lɛktərəl/, /i-lec-tu-ral/ *adj* having to do with electors.

**electorate** /ɪ'lɛktərɪt/, /i-lec-tu-rit/ *n* all those having the right to vote on a certain occasion.

**electric** /ɪ'lɛktrɪk/, /i-lec-tric/ *adj* **1** having to do with electricity. **2** exciting, thrilling. • *npl* electric fittings.

**electrical** /ɪ'lɛktrɪkkəl/, /i-lec-tri-cal/ *adj* having to do with electricity, worked by electricity.

**electrician** /i:lek'triʃən/, /i-lec-tri-shun/ *n* a person who works with electricity or electrical apparatus.

**electricity** /i:lek'trɪsɪti/, /i-lec-tri-si-tee/ *n* an energy produced by chemical or other action, a natural force that can be harnessed to give heat, light and power.

**electrify** /ɪ'lɛktro,fai/, /i-lec-tri-fie/ *vb* **1** to put electricity into. **2** to thrill.

**electrocute** /ɪ'lɛktro,kju:t/, /i-lec-tri-cyoot/ *vb* to kill by electricity. • *n* **electrocution**.

**electrode** /ɪ'lɛktro:d/, /i-lec-trode/ *n* either of the two conductors through which electricity enters or leaves something, such as a battery.

**electron** /'lɛktrɒn/, /i-lec-tron/ *n* the negative electrical unit in an atom.

**electronic** /ɪlek'trɒnɪk/, /i-lec-tron-ic/ *adj* of a device, having many small parts, such as microchips and transistors, which control and direct an electric current.

**electronics** /ɪlek'trɒniks/, /i-lec-tron-ics/ *n* the branch of technology that is concerned with electronic devices such as computers and televisions.

**elegant** /'eləgənt/, /e-le-gant/ *adj* 1 graceful, smart, stylish. 2 stylish, polished. • *n* **elegance**.

**elegy** /'elədʒi/, /e-le-jee/ *n* a mourning or sorrowful poem.

**element** /'eləmənt/, /e-le-men-t/ *n* 1 a necessary part. 2 a substance that cannot be broken down into any other substances and from which all other things are made up. 3 *pl* knowledge without which a subject cannot be properly understood. 4 *pl* **the elements** nature, the weather.

**elemental** /'elə'məntəl/, /e-le-men-tal/ *adj* 1 having to do with elements. 2 having to do with the powers of nature. 3 basic.

**elementary** /'elə'mentəri/, /e-le-men-tu-ree/ *adj* 1 having to do with the beginning. 2 simple, easy.

**elephant** /'eləfənt/, /e-le-fant/ *n* a large very thick-skinned animal with a trunk and ivory tusks. • **white elephant** a gift or purchase that turns out to be of no use, a useless possession that is troublesome to keep up or retain.

**elevate** /'eləveɪt/, /e-le-vate/ *vb* 1 (*frm*) to make finer, better, more educated, etc. 2 to raise to a higher place or rank.

**elevation** /'elə'veiʃən/, /e-le-vay-shun/ *n* 1 the act of raising. 2 (*frm*) a hill. 3 height. 4 a plan showing a building as seen from one side. 5 the angle measuring height.

**elevator** /'elə'veɪtər/, /e-le-vay-tor/ *n* (esp *US*) a lift.

**eleven** /'levən/, /i-le-ven/ *n* the number that is one more than ten. • *adj* **eleventh**.

**elf** /elf/, /elf/ *n* (*pl* **elves** /elvz/) in fairy tales, a mischievous fairy. • *adj* **elfin**, **elfish** /el-fish/, **elvish** /el-vish/.

**eligible** /'elɪdʒəbəl/, /e-li-ji-bl/ *adj* able to be chosen, suitable. • *n  
eligibility.*

**eliminate** /ɪ'lɪməneɪt/, /i-li-mi-nate/ *vb* to get rid of. • *n elimination.*

**elite** /'elɪt/, /i-leet/ *n* a group that is at a higher level or rank, professionally, socially or in ability, etc.

**elixir** /'lɪksər/, /i-lik-sir/ *n* (*old*) a magic liquid that, alchemists believed, could change any metal into gold, or enable people to live forever.

**elk** /ɛlk/, /elk/ *n* a type of large deer.

**ellipse** /ɪ'lɪps/, /i-lips/ *n* an oval figure.

**elm** /ɛlm/, /elm/ *n* a type of tree with rough, jagged leaves.

**elongate** /i:lɔŋgeɪt/, /i-long-gate/ *vb* 1 to make longer. 2 to stretch out. • *n elongation.*

**elope** /'lo:p/, /i-lope/ *vb* to leave home secretly with one's lover. • *n elopement.*

**eloquent** /'eləkwənt/, /e-lo-kwent/ *adj* 1 able to speak well, especially in public, and express one's ideas and opinions effectively. 2 showing or using such an ability. • *n eloquence.*

**else** /ɛls/, /elss/ *adj* 1 besides, also. 2 other than that already mentioned.

**elsewhere** /'ɛls,wer/, /elss-where/ *adv* in another place.

**elude** /'lu:d/, /i-lood/ *vb* 1 to escape or avoid by quickness, cleverness or trickery. 2 to be difficult, etc, to understand or remember.

**elusive** /'lu:siv/, /i-loo-siv/ *adj* 1 hard to remember, express, identify, etc. 2 hard to catch or track down.

**elves, elvish** see **elf**.

**email, e-mail** /'i:meɪl/, /ee-male/ *n* 1 electronic mail, a system for sending communications from one computer to another. 2 a message sent by email. • *vb* to send an email to; to send by email.

**emanate** /'eməneɪt/, /e-ma-nate/ *vb* (*fml*) to come from. • *n emanation.*

**emancipate** /ɪ'mænsəpeɪt/, /i-man-si-pate/ *vb* to free from control. • *n emancipation.*

**embalm** /'em'bɔm/, /im-**balm**/ *vb* to preserve a dead body with spices or chemicals.

**embankment** /'em'bɔnkmənt/, /im-**bank**-ment/ *n* a mound of stones and earth built to shut in a river or to carry a road, railway, etc, over low ground.

**embargo** /'em'bɑrgo:/, /im-**bar**-go/ *n* (*pl* **embargoes**) an official order forbidding some activity, especially trade, with another country.

**embark** /'em'bark/, /im-**bark**/ *vb* 1 to put or go on board ship. 2 to start. • *n* **embarkation**.

**embarrass** /'em'bærəs/, /im-**ba**-ras/ *vb* 1 to cause to feel shy or uncomfortable. 2 to involve in difficulties. • *n* **embarrassment**.

**embassy** /'embəsi/, /em-**ba**-see/ *n* 1 the duties of an ambassador. 2 the house of an ambassador. 3 a group of people sent by a country to act for it in another country.

**embed** /'em'bɛd/, /im-**bed**/ *vb* to fix firmly and deeply into something.

**embers** /'emberz/, /em-**ber**z/ *npl* 1 live cinders of a dying fire. 2 the fading remains.

**embezzle** /'em'bɛzəl/, /im-**be**-zul/ *vb* to steal money that one has been entrusted with by other people. • *n* **embezzlement**.

**embitter** /'em'bɪtər/, /im-**bi**-ter/ *vb* to make someone feel bitter, to increase anger or hatred.

**emblem** /'embləm/, /em-**blem**/ *n* an object that is regarded as a sign of something. • *adj's emblematic, emblematical*.

**embodiment** /'em'bodiːmənt/, /em-**bod**-ee-ment/ *n* a living example.

**embody** /'em'bodi/, /em-**bod**-ee/ *vb* 1 to give a solid form to, to express in a real or physical form. 2 to include.

**embolden** /'em'bo:lən/, /em-**bole**-den/ *vb* to give courage, to make bold.

**emboss** /'em'bɔs/, /im-**boss**/ *vb* to make a raised pattern on.

**embrace** /'em'breɪs/, /im-**brase**/ *vb* 1 to hold in the arms, to hug. 2 to include. • *n* a holding in the arms, a hug.

**embroider** /'em'broidər/, /im-**broy**-der/ *vb* 1 to decorate with needlework. 2 to add interesting or exaggerated details to a story.

**embroidery** /'em'broidəri/, /im-**broy**-de-ree/ *n* 1 the art of decorating with needlework. 2 the act of adding interesting or exaggerated

detail to. **3** decorative needlework.

**embryo** /'em,brio:/, /em-bree-oe/ *n* **1** the form of any creature before it is born or grows. **2** the beginning stage of anything. • *adj* **embryonic**.

**emerald** /'emərəld/, /em-rald/ *n* a bright green precious stone. • *adj* bright green.

**emerge** /i'mərdʒ/, /i-merge/ *vb* **1** to come out. **2** to become known. • *n* **emergence**. • *adj* **emergent**.

**emergency** /i'mərʒənsi/, /i-mer-jen-see/ *n* a state of affairs requiring immediate action.

**emery** /'eməri/, /em-i-ree/ *n* a very hard mineral, made into powder and used for polishing or sharpening metals.

**emigrant** /'emigrənt/, /e-mi-grant/ *n* a person who emigrates. • *also adj.*

**emigrate** /'emi,greit/, /e-mi-grate/ *vb* to leave one's country and go to live in another. • *n* **emigration**.

**eminence** /'eminəns/, /e-mi-nense/ *n* **1** (*frm*) a high place, a hill. **2** fame. **3** the title given to a cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church.

**minent** /'emɪnənt/, /e-mi-nent/ *adj* distinguished, very well-known.

**emit** /i'mit/, /e-mit/ *vb* (**emitted**, **emitting**) to send or give out. • *n* **emission**.

**emollient** /'moljənt/, /i-mol-yent/ *adj* soothing and softening, usually to the skin.

**emolument** *n* /i'moljumənt/, /i-mol-yew-ment/ **1** salary. **2** remuneration.

**emotion** /'mo:ʃən/, /i-mo-shun/ *n* **1** strong or deep feeling. **2** the moving or upsetting of the mind or feelings.

**emotional** /'mo:ʃənl/, /i-mo-she-nal/ *adj* **1** of the emotions. **2** causing or showing deep feelings. **3** easily moved by emotion.

**empathy** /'empəθi/, /em-path-ee/ *n* the ability to imagine oneself in another's situation. • *vb* **empathize**, *also empathise*.

**emperor** /'empərər/, /em-pe-ror/ *n* the ruler of an empire. • *f* **empress**.

**emphasis** /'emfəsis/, /em-fa-sis/ *n* (*pl* **emphases** /em-fa-seez/) **1** the added force with which certain words or parts of words are

spoken. **2** special meaning, value, importance, etc.

**emphasize** /'emfə'saɪz/, /em-fa-size/ *vb, also emphasise* **1** to say with emphasis. **2** to call attention to specially, to stress.

**emphatic** /'em'fætɪk/, /im-fa-tic/ *adj* forceful, firm and definite.

**empire** /'empaɪr/, /em-pire/ *n* **1** a group of countries under the rule of one of their number. **2** a large industrial organization controlling many firms.

**employ** /'em'plɔɪ/, /im-ploy/ *vb* **1** to give work to. **2** to use.

**employee** /'em,plɔɪ'i/, /im-ploy-ee/ *n* a person paid to work for another person or for a firm.

**employer** /'em'plɔɪər/, /im-ploy-er/ *n* a person who gives work to another.

**employment** /'em'plɔɪmənt/, /im-ploy-ment/ *n* job, occupation.

**emporium** /'em'pɔriəm/, /im-po-ree-um/ *n* (*pl emporia* /im-po-ree-ya/ or **emporiums** /im-po-ree-umz/) a large store in which many different kinds of things are sold.

**empower** /'em'pauər/, /im-pou-wer/ *vb* to give the right or power to.

**empress** /'emprəs/ see **emperor**.

**empty** /'empti/, /emp-tee/ *adj* having nothing inside. • *vb* **1** to take everything out of. **2** to become empty. • *n* **emptiness**.

**emu** /'i:mju:/, /ee-myoo/ *n* a large Australian flightless bird.

**emulate** /'emju,leɪt/, /em-yoo-late/ *vb (frm)* to try to be like, or as good as or better than.

**emulation** /'emju'leɪʃən/, /em-yoo-lay-shun/ *n* act of emulating, rivalry.

**emulsion** /ɪ'mʌlʃən/, /i-mul-shun/ *n* **1** a mixture of two liquids that would normally remain separate (e.g. oil and vinegar). **2** a type of paint, used on walls and ceilings.

**enable** /'neɪbəl/, /i-nay-bl/ *vb* to give the power or means to do something.

**enact** /'nækt/, /i-nact/ *vb* **1** to lay down by law, to pass a law. **2** to act, perform.

**enamel** /'næməl/, /i-na-mel/ *n* **1** a smooth, glossy coating put on metals or wood to preserve or decorate them. **2** the outer covering of the teeth. • *vb* (**enamelled**, **enamelling**) to cover with enamel.

**enamour** /ɪ'naemər/, /i-na-mur/ *vt* to inspire with love.

**encase** /en'keɪs/, /in-case/ *vb* to put in a case or covering.

**enchant** /en'tʃænt/, /in-chant/ *vb* 1 (*old*) to put a magic spell on. 2 to delight. • *n* **enchanter**. • *f* **enchantress**. • *n* **enchantment**.

**encircle** /en'sɜrkəl/, /in-sir-cl/ *vb* to surround; to make a circle around. • *n* **encirclement**.

**enclose** /ɪn'klo:z/, /in-cloaz/ *vb* 1 to shut in, to fence in. 2 to send with a letter.

**enclosure** /ɪn'klo:ʒər/, /in-cloa-zher/ *n* 1 a space shut or fenced in. 2 something sent with a letter.

**encompass** /en'kəmpəs/, /in-cum-pass/ *vb* 1 to surround. 2 to include or comprise.

**encore** /'ɔɪkɔr/, /on-core or ong-core/ *adv* again, once more. • *n* 1 a call to a performer to repeat something or perform something else. 2 the repetition of part of a performance or a further performance by the same person or people given after the main performance. • *also vb*.

**encounter** /ɛn'kaunτər/, /in-coun-ter/ *n* 1 a meeting, especially an unexpected one. 2 a fight or quarrel. • *vb* to meet.

**encourage** /ɪn'kərədʒ/, /in-cu-rage/ *vb* 1 to make bold. 2 to urge on. • *n* **encouragement**.

**encyclopaedia** /ɛn'seɪklə'pi:diə/, /in-sie-clo-pe-dee-a/ *n*, *also* **encyclopedia** a book or set of books containing information about every subject or about every branch of one subject.

**encyclopaedic** /ɛn'seɪklə'pi:dık/, /in-sie-clo-pe-dic/ *adj* very detailed or complete.

**end** /end/, /end/ *n* 1 the last part of anything. 2 death. 3 purpose or aim. • *vb* to bring or come to an end.

**endanger** /ɪn'deɪndʒər/, /in-dane-jer/ *vb* to put someone or something in a dangerous or harmful situation. • **endangered adj** in danger or at risk, especially of ceasing to exist.

**endear** /ɪn'di:xr/, /in-deer/ *n* to make dear.

**endeavour** /ɪn'deɪvər/, /in-dev-ur/ *vb*, *also* **endeavor** (US) to try, to try hard. • *n* attempt, effort.

**endemic** /'en'demɪk/, /in-dem-ic/ *adj* found specially among one people or in one place.

**endless** /'endləs/, /end-less/ *adj* 1 having no end. 2 seemingly having no end.

**endorse** /ɪn'dɔrs/, /in-dorss/ *vb* 1 to sign one's name on the back of a cheque or document. 2 to express approval or support. • *n endorsement*.

**endow** /ɪn'dau/, /in-dow/ *vb* 1 to provide with a permanent income. 2 to give, to grant. • *n endowment*.

**endurance** /ɪn'durəns/, /in-joo-ranse/ *n* the ability to endure or bear patiently.

**endure** /ɪn'dʒʊr/, /in-joor/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to last. 2 to bear patiently. 3 to put up with.

**enemy** /'enəmi/, /e-ne-mee/ *n* 1 a person who is unfriendly, someone who acts against another. 2 those with whom one is at war. • *also adj*.

**energetic** /'enər'dʒetɪk/, /e-ner-je-tic/ *adj* active, powerful, vigorous.

**energize** /'enərdʒaɪz/, /e-ner-jize/ *vb*, *also energise* to give energy to.

**energy** /'enərdʒi/, /e-ner-jee/ *n* active power, force, vigour.

**enforce** /en'fɔrs/, /in-foarss/ *n* to cause to be obeyed or carried out. • *n enforcement*.

**engage** /ɪn'geɪdʒ/, /in-gage/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to bind oneself by a promise, to promise. 2 to begin to employ. 3 to begin fighting. 4 to busy. 5 to attract and keep.

**engaging** /ɪn'geɪdʒɪŋ/, /in-gay-jing/ *adj* pleasing, attractive.

**engagement** /ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/, /in-gage-ment/ *n* 1 (*fml*) a written agreement. 2 a promise to marry. 3 an arrangement to meet someone, an appointment. 4 a battle.

**engine** /'endʒɪn/, /en-jin/ *n* 1 a machine that produces power. 2 a railway locomotive.

**engineer** /'endʒɪ'nɪər/, /en-ji-neer/ *n* 1 a person who looks after engines. 2 a person who makes or designs machinery, roads, bridges, etc. • *vb* to arrange for or cause something to happen, usually by clever, cunning or secret means.

**engineering** /'endʒɪ'nɪ:rɪŋ/, /en-ji-nee-ring/ *n* the science of making and using machines.

**engrave** /ɪn'greɪv/, /in-grave/ *vb* 1 to cut or carve on metal, stone, wood, etc. 2 to cut a picture on a metal plate in order to print copies of it.

**engraving** /ɪn'greɪvɪŋ/, /in-gray-ving/ *n* a print from an engraved plate.

**engross** /ɪn'gro:s/, /in-grose/ *vb* to take up one's whole time or attention.

**engulf** /ɪn'gʌlf/, /in-gulf/ *vb* to swallow up.

**enhance** /ɪn'hæns/, /in-hanse/ *vb* to increase in amount, value, importance, etc; to increase, to improve. • *n enhancement*.

**enigma** /ɪ'nɪgmə/, /en-nig-ma/ *n* a person or thing that is difficult to understand; a mystery.

**enigmatic** /ɛnɪg'mætɪk/, /en-nig-ma-tic/, **enigmatical** /en-nig-ma-tical/ *adj* having to do with an enigma, mysterious.

**enjoy** /ɪn'jɔɪ/, /in-joy/ *vb* 1 to take pleasure in. 2 to possess. • *adj enjoyable*. • *n enjoyment*.

**enlarge** /ɪn'lardʒ/, /in-large/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to make larger. 2 to reproduce.

**enlargement** /ɪn'lardʒmənt/, /in-large-ment/ *n* 1 act of making larger.  
2 a larger copy of a photograph.

**enlighten** /ɪn'laitən/, /in-lite-en/ *vb* (*fml*) to give more and correct information or knowledge about. • *n enlightenment*.

**enlist** /ɪn'list/, /in-list/ *vb* 1 to join the armed forces. 2 to obtain support. 3 to obtain from. • *n enlistment*.

**enliven** /ɪn'laɪvən/, /in-lie-ven/ *vb* to brighten, to cheer.

**enormity** /ɪ'nɔrmɪti/, /i-nawr-mi-tee/ *n* 1 immensity. 2 a great wickedness. 3 a crime, an act of great wickedness.

**enormous** /ɪ'nɔrməs/, /i-nawr-mus/ *adj* huge, very large.

**enough** /ɪ'nəf/, /i-nuf/ *adj* as many or as much as is required. • *n* a sufficient amount.

**enquire** see **inquire**.

**enrage** /ɪn'reidʒ/, /in-rage/ *vb* to make very angry.

**enrapture** /ɪn'ræptʃər/, /in-rap-chur/ *n* (*fml*) to fill with delight.

**enrich** /ɪn'ritʃ/, /ɪn-richt/ *vb* 1 to make rich. 2 to improve greatly in quality. • *n enrichment*.

**enrol** /ɪn'rɔ:l/, /ɪn-role/ *vb*, also **enroll** (US) (**enrolled**, **enrolling**) 1 to write. 2 to join or become a member. • *n enrolment*.

**ensemble** /ən'səmbəl/, /on-som-bul/ *n* 1 a group of musicians regularly performing together. 2 clothing made up of several items, an outfit. 3 all the parts of a thing taken as a whole.

**enslave** /ɪn'sleɪv/, /ɪn-slave/ *vb* (*fml*) to make a slave of.

**ensue** /ɪn'su:/, /ɪn-soo/ *vb* to follow upon, to result from.

**ensure** /ɪn'ʃʊr/, /ɪn-shoor/ *vb* to make sure.

**entail** /ɪn'teɪl/, /ɪn-tale/ *vb* 1 to leave land or property to be passed down through a succession of heirs. 2 to make necessary, to involve. • *n land or property so left*.

**entangle** /ɪn'tæŋgəl/, /ɪn-tang-gul/ *vb* 1 to cause to become twisted, tangled or caught. 2 to get into difficulties or complications.

**entanglement** /ɪn'tæŋgəlmənt/, /ɪn-tang-gul-ment/ *n* a difficult situation, involvement.

**enter** /'entər/, /en-ter/ *vb* 1 to go or come into. 2 to become a member of. 3 to put down in writing.

**enterprise** /'entər\_praɪz/, /en-ter-prize/ *n* 1 an undertaking or project, especially one that is difficult or daring. 2 willingness to take risks or to try out new ideas.

**enterprising** /'entər\_praɪzɪŋ/, /en-ter-prie-zing/ *adj* having or showing enterprise.

**entertain** /,entər'teɪn/, /en-ter-tane/ *vb* 1 to receive as a guest. 2 to please, to amuse. 3 (*fml*) to consider.

**entertainment** /,entər'teɪnmənt/, /en-ter-tane-ment/ *n* 1 the act of entertaining. 2 amusement. 3 something that entertains, such as a public performance.

**enthral** /ɪn'θrɒl/, /in-thrawl/ *vb* (**enthralled**, **enthalling**) to delight, to enchant.

**enthuse** /ɪn'θu:z/, /in-thewz/ *vb* to be, become or cause to be enthusiastic, to show enthusiasm.

**enthusiasm** /ɪnθu:zi,æzəm/, /in-thew-zee-a-zum/ *n* great eagerness, keenness.

**enthusiast** /ɪnθu:zi,æst/, /in-thew-zee-ast/ *n* a person who is very keen.

**enthusiastic** /ɪnθu:zi,æstɪk/, /in-thoo-zee-a-stic/ *adj* full of enthusiasm.

**entice** /ɪn'taɪs/, /in-tice/ *vb* to tempt, to attract by offering something. • *n enticement. • adj enticing.*

**entire** /ɪn'taɪər/, /in-tire/ *adj* whole, complete. • *adv entirely.*

**entirety** /ɪn'taɪrəti/, /in-tie-ri-tee/ *n* completeness.

**entitle** /ɪn'taɪtəl/, /in-tite-ul/ *vb* 1 to give a right to. 2 to give a name to.

**entity** /'entiti/, /en-ti-tee/ *n* 1 existence. 2 anything that exists.

**entrails** /'entreɪlz/, /en-traylz/ *npl* the bowels, the internal organs of the body.

**entrance**<sup>1</sup> /'entrəns/, /in-transe/ *vb* to delight, to fill with wonder.

**entrance**<sup>2</sup> /ɪn'træns/, /en-transe/ *n* 1 coming or going in. 2 a place by which one enters (e.g. a door or gate).

**entrant** /'entrənt/, /en-trant/ *n* a person who puts his or her name in for or joins.

**entrap** /ɪntræp/, /in-trap/ *vb* (**entrapped, entrapping**) to catch in a trap or by a trick.

**entreat** /ɪn'tri:t/, /in-treet/ *vb* (*fm!*) to ask earnestly.

**entreaty** /in-tree-tee/ *n* an earnest request.

**entrée** /'ɒntrɛɪ/, /on-tray/ *n* a main course at dinner.

**entrench** /ɪn'trentʃ/, /in-trench/ *vb* 1 to dig ditches around, thus putting oneself in a strong position. 2 to establish firmly or in a strong position.

**entrust** /ɪn'trust/, /in-trust/ *vb* to give into the care of.

**entry** /'entri/, /en-tree/ *n* 1 act of entering. 2 a way in. 3 something written in a diary, cash book, etc.

**enunciate** /ɪ'nənsi,eɪt/, /i-nun-see-ate/ *vb* to speak or state, to pronounce in a distinct way. • *n enunciation.*

**E-number** /'i;nəmbər/, /ee-number/ *n* a number beginning with the letter E given to food and drink additives and printed on packs and

containers to show what colours, flavours, etc have been added to the food.

**envelop** /ɪn'vɛləp/, /ɪn-ve-lop/ *vb* to cover or surround completely.

**envelope** /'envəlo:p/, /en-ve-lope/ *n* a wrapper or cover, especially one made of paper for a letter.

**enviable** /'enviəbəl/, /en-vee-a-bl/ *adj* causing envy, very desirable.

**envious** /'enviəs/, /en-vee-us/ *adj* full of envy, jealous.

**environment** /ɪn'verəmənt/, /in-vie-ron-ment/ *n* 1 surroundings. 2 all the conditions and surroundings that influence human character. 3 the natural world in which people, animals and plants live. • **environmental adj.**

**envisage** /ɪn'vɪzədʒ/, /in-vi-zage/ *vb* (*frm*) to picture to oneself.

**envoy** /'ɒnvɔɪ/, /en-voy/ *n* a messenger, especially one sent to speak for his or her government in another country.

**envy** /'envi/, /en-vee/ *n* 1 a feeling of discontent caused by someone else's good fortune or success, especially when one would like these for oneself. 2 something that causes envy. • *vb* to feel envy towards or at.

**eon** US variant of **aeon**.

**epaulette** /'ɛpə'lət/, /e-pu-let/ *n* a flap of material, sometimes of another colour, worn on the shoulder of a uniform jacket.

**ephemeral** /ɪ'femərəl/, /i-fem-ral/ *adj* lasting for only a short time.

**epic** /'ɛpɪk/, /e-pic/ *n* 1 a long poem telling of heroic deeds. 2 a story, film, etc, dealing with heroic deeds and exciting adventures. • *adj* of or like an epic, heroic, in the grand style.

**epidemic** /'ɛpi'demɪk/, /e-pi-dem-ic/ *n* a disease or condition that attacks many people at the same time.

**epilepsy** /'ɛpɪ'lɛpsi/, /e-pi-lep-see/ *n* a disease causing fits of unconsciousness and sudden attacks of uncontrolled movements of the body. • *adj, n* **epileptic**.

**epilogue** /'ɛpəlɒg/, /e-pi-log/ *n*, also **epilog** (US) 1 a speech addressed to the audience at the end of a play. 2 a part or section added at the end of a book, programme, etc. See also **prologue**.

**Epiphany** /ɛ'pɪfəni/, /e-pi-fa-nee/ *n* the Christian festival that commemorates the revealing of Jesus Christ to the Magi, or three

wise men from the East.

**episode** /'epɪ'so:d/, /e-pi-soad/ *n* **1** a particular event or a series of events that is separate from but forms part of a larger whole. **2** a part of a radio or television serial that is broadcast at one time.

**episodic** /'epɪ'sadɪk/, /e-pi-sod-ic/ *adj* consisting of events not clearly connected with one another.

**epitaph** /'epɪtæf/, /e-pi-taf/ *n* words referring to a dead person, inscribed on his or her tombstone.

**epitome** /ɪ'pitəmi/, /i-pi-to-mee/ *n* **1** a person or thing that is a perfect example of a quality, type, etc. **2** something that in a small way perfectly represents a larger or wider idea, issue, etc.

**epitomize** /ɪ'pitəmaɪz/, /i-pi-to-mize/ *vb*, also **epitomise** to be an epitome of.

**epoch** /'epɒk/, /'ɛpək/, /e-pok/ *n* **1** a period of time in history, life, etc, especially one in which important events occurred. **2** the start of such a period.

**equal** /'i:kwəl/, /ee-kwal/ *adj* **1** the same in size, number, value, etc. **2** able. • *n* a person the same as another in rank or ability. • *vb* (**equalled**, **equalling**) to be equal to.

**equality** /i:'kwɒlɪti/, /i-kwol-i-tee/ *n* the state of being equal.

**equalize** /'i:kwəlaɪz/, /ee-kwol-ize/ *vb*, also **equalise** to make or become equal.

**equate** /i'kweɪt/, /i-kwate/ *vb* **1** to state that certain things are equal. **2** to think of as equal or the same.

**equation** /i'kweɪʒən/, /i-kway-zhun/ *n* a statement that two things are equal.

**equator** /i'kweɪtər/, /i-kway-tor/ *n* an imaginary line round the earth, halfway between the poles.

**equatorial** /,ɛkwæ'tɔ:rɪəl/, /i-kwa-toe-ree-al/ *adj* **1** having to do with the equator. **2** on or near the equator.

**equi-** /'ekwi/, /e-kwee/ *prefix* equal.

**equilateral** /,ɛkwi'lætərəl/, /ee-kwi-la-te-ral/ *adj* having all sides equal.

**equilibrium** /,i:kwi'lɪbriəm/, /ee-kwi-li-bree-um/ *n* **1** a balance between equal weights. **2** steadiness. **3** balanced state of the

mind, emotions, etc.

**equinox** /'ɛkwɪ'nɔks/, /eh-kwi-noks/ *n* either of the two times in the year at which the sun crosses the equator and day and night are equal. • *adj* **equinoctial**.

**equip** /ɪ'kwɪp/, /i-kwip/ *vb* (**equipped**, **equipping**) to provide things necessary for doing an activity, to fit out.

**equipment** /ɪ'kwɪpmənt/, /i-kwip-ment/ *n* the set of things needed for a particular activity.

**equity** /'ɛkwɪti/, /e-kwi-tee/ *n* fairness, justice.

**equivalent** /ɪ'kwɪvələnt/, /i-kwi-va-lent/ *adj* 1 equal in value, amount, meaning, etc. • *n* an equivalent thing.

**era** /'ɛrə, 'i:rə/, /i-ra, ee-ra/ *n* 1 a long period of time, starting from some important or particular event. 2 a period of time marked by an important event or events.

**eradicate** /ɪ'rædɪkeɪt/, /i-ra-di-cate/ *vb* to root out, to destroy completely. • *n* **eradication**.

**erase** /ɪ'reɪs/, /i-rase, i-razel/ *vb* to rub out, to remove.

**e-reader** /i:ri:dər/, /ee-reeder/ *n* a device on which to store and read electronic books (ebooks).

**ere** /ɛrl/, /eer/ *adv, conj, prep* (*old or lit*) before.

**erect** /ɪ'rekt/, /i-rect/ *adj* standing up straight. • *vb* 1 to build. 2 to set upright. • 3 of a penis, enlarged and stiffened. *n* **erection**.

**ermine** /'ərmɪn/, /er-min/ *n* 1 a type of weasel. 2 its white winter fur.

**erode** /ɪ'ro:d/, /i-rode/ *vb* to destroy or wear away gradually. • *n* **erosion**.

**erotic** /ɪ'rɒtɪk/, /i-rot-ic/ *adj* having to do with love or sexual desire.

**err** /ɛrl/, /er/ *vb* (*fml*) to make a mistake, to do wrong.

**errand** /'ɛrənd/, /e-rand/ *n* 1 a short journey made to give a message, deliver goods, etc, to someone. 2 the purpose of such a journey.

**errant** /'ɛrənt/, /e-rant/ *adj* 1 (*old*) wandering. 2 (*fml*) doing wrong.

**erratic** /ɪ'rætɪk/, /e-ra-tic/ *adj* not steady, irregular, uneven, unpredictable.

**error** /'ɛrər/, /e-ror/ *n* 1 a mistake. 2 the state of being mistaken.

**erupt** /ɪ'rept/, /i-rupt/ *vb* to break or burst out.

**eruption** /'erpjən/, /i-rup-shun/ *n* act of breaking or bursting out (e.g. of a volcano).

**escalate** /'eskə,leɪt/, /e-sca-late/ *vb* **1** to rise or increase. **2** to increase in intensity.

**escalator** /'eskə,leɪtər/, /e-sca-lay-tor/ *n* a moving staircase.

**escapade** /'eskə,peɪd/, /e-sca-pade/ *n* a foolish or risky adventure.

**escape** /'skeɪp/, /i-scape/ *vb* **1** to get out of the way of, to avoid. **2** to free oneself from. **3** to leak. **4** to avoid being noticed, remembered, etc. • *n* **1** act of escaping. **2** a leakage.

**eschew** /es'tʃu:/, /is-choo/ *vb* (*fml*) to keep away from, to avoid.

**escort** /'eskɔrt/, /is-coart/ *vb* to go with as a guard, as a partner, to show the way, or as an honour. • *n* /es-coart/ **1** a guard, a bodyguard. **2** a partner, a companion.

**Eskimo** /'eski,mo:/, /ess-ki-mo/ *n* one of the original inhabitants of Northern Canada, parts of Alaska, Greenland and parts of Siberia, or their descendants. In North America and Greenland especially, **Inuit** is preferred and 'Eskimo' regarded as offensive.

**esophagus** US variant of **oesophagus**.

**especial** /'spɛʃəl/, /i-spe-shal/ *adj* (*fml*) more than ordinary, particular.

**especially** /'spɛʃəli:/, /i-spesh-u-lee/ *adv* specially, particularly, markedly.

**espionage** /'spiə,nɒʒ/, /es-pee-o-nazh/ *n* spying.

**essay** /'esei/, /e-say/ *vb* (*fml* or *old*) to try. • *n* **1** (*fml* or *old*) an attempt. **2** a written composition.

**essence** /'esəns/, /e-sense/ *n* **1** the nature or necessary part of anything. **2** a substance obtained from a plant, etc, in concentrated form.

**essential** /'senʃəl/, /e-sen-shal/ *adj* **1** necessary, very important, that cannot be done without. **2** of the basic or inner nature of something, fundamental. • *n* something that cannot be done without.

**establish** /'stæblɪʃ/, /i-sta-blish/ *vb* **1** to set up. **2** to place or fix in a position, etc, usually permanently. **3** to prove, to show to be true.

**establishment** /'stæblɪʃmənt/, /i-sta-blish-mənt/ *n* **1** act of setting up.

**2** a group of people employed in an organization, the staff of a household. **3** a place of business, the premises of a business organization or large institution. • **the Establishment** the people holding important positions in a country, community, etc, and usually supporting traditional ways, etc.

**estate** /ə'steɪt/, /i-state/ *n* **1** all one's property and money. **2** area of land with one owner. **3** (old) political or social group or class. **4** (fml or old) condition.

**estate agent** /ə'steɪt eɪdʒənt/, /i-state ay-jent/ *n* also **real estate agent** (US) a person who sells property.

**esteem** /'sti:m/, /i-steem/ *vb* to think highly of. • *n* respect, regard.

**esthetics** US variant of **aesthetics**.

**estimate** /'estəmeɪt/, /es-ti-mate/ *vb* **1** to judge size, amount, etc, roughly, to guess. **2** to calculate the probable cost of. • *n* /'Est'm ɪt/, /es-ti-mit/ **1** an opinion. **2** a judgment as to the value or cost of a thing.

**estimation** /'estə'meɪʃən/, /e-sti-may-shun/ *n* **1** judgment. **2** opinion (of someone).

**estuary** /'estju:əri/, /e-styoo-a-ree/ *n* the mouth of a river as far as the tide flows up it.

**etc abbr = et cetera**.

**et cetera, etcetera** /et'setərə/, /et-se-te-re/ *adv* and all the rest.

**etch** /etʃ/, /ech/ *vb* to cut a picture on a metal plate by use of acids in order to print copies of it.

**etching** /'etʃɪŋ/, /eh-ching/ *n* a picture printed by etching.

**eternal** /'tərnəl/, /i-ter-nal/ *adj* **1** everlasting, without beginning or end. **2** seeming never to stop.

**eternity** /'tərniti/, /i-ter-ni-tee/ *n* **1** everlasting existence, with no beginning and no end; unending life after death. **2** (inf) a very long time.

**ether** /'i:θər/, /ee-ther/ *n* **1** the clear upper air. **2** formerly, an invisible substance supposed to fill all space and to pass on electric waves. **3** a colourless liquid, often formerly used as an anaesthetic.

**ethical** /'ɛθɪkəl/, /e-thi-cal/ *adj* **1** having to do with right and wrong. **2** relating to ethics.

**ethics** /'ɛθɪks/, /e-thics/ *n* **1** the study of right and wrong. **2** rules or principles of behaviour.

**ethnic** /'ɛθnɪk/, /eth-nic/ *adj* having to do with human races or their customs, food, dress, etc.

**etiquette** /'etɪkət/, /e-ti-ket/ *n* the rules of polite behaviour, good manners.

**etymology** /,ɛtɪ'mɒlədʒi/, /e-ti-mol-o-jee/ *n* **1** the study of the history of words. **2** derivation, an explanation of the history of a particular word. • *adj* etymological. • *n* etymologist.

**EU** /i:'u:/, /ee-yoo/ *abbr* = **European Union**: a group of European countries that have joined together for economic and political purposes.

**eucalyptus** /ju:kə'lɪptəs/, /yoo-ca-lip-tus/ *n* **1** an Australian gum tree. **2** the oil from its leaves, used in the treatment of colds.

**euphemism** /'ju:fəmɪzəm/, /yoo-fe-mi-zum/ *n* the use of mild words or phrases to say something unpleasant. • *adj* euphemistic.

**euro** /'juro:/, /yoo-ro/ *n* the common unit of currency in the following European countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

**European Union** /'juro:pɪən 'ju:njən/, /yoo-ro-pee-an yoon-yun/ see **EU**.

**evacuate** /ɪ'vækju:t/, /i-va-cyoo-ate/ *vb* **1** to go away from. **2** (*frm*) to make empty. **3** to send to a place of safety in wartime. • *n* evacuation.

**evade** /i'veɪd/, /i-vade/ *vb* **1** to keep oneself away from. **2** to dodge, to find a way of not doing something, especially by using trickery, deception, etc. **3** to refuse to answer directly. • *n* evasion.

**evaluate** /ɪ'velju:t/, /i-val-yoo-ate/ *vb* to work out the value of. • *n* evaluation.

**evangelic** /i:væn'dʒelɪk/, /ee-van-je-lic/, **evangelical** /i:væn'dʒelɪkəl/, /ee-van-je-li-cal/ *adj* **1** having to do with the Christian Gospels. **2** accepting the Bible as the only guide to faith.

**evangelist** /i:'væn'dʒelɪst/, /ee-van-je-list/ *n* **1** one of the four Gospel writers. **2** a preacher of the Gospel.

**evaporate** /i'væpə'reɪt/, /i-va-po-rate/ *vb* **1** to turn into vapour and disappear. **2** to disappear. • *n* **evaporation**.

**evasion** see **evade**.

**evasive** /i:'veɪsɪv/, /i-vay-siv/ *adj* **1** having the purpose of evading. **2** not straightforward, not frank.

**eve** /i:v/, /eev/ *n* **1** (*old*) evening. **2** the day before. **3** the time before an important event.

**even** /i:vən/, /ee-vin/ *adj* **1** level. **2** smooth. **3** equal. **4** divisible by 2. **5** calm. • *adv* (*intensifier*) **1** unexpected (*even the boss*). **2** just (*even as we speak*). **3** comparative (*even better*). • *vb* **1** to make smooth or level. **2** to make equal. • *n* **evenness**. • **get even** to get revenge.

**evening** /'i:vnɪŋ/, /eev-ning/ *n* the close of day.

**event** /i'vent/, /i-vent/ *n* **1** anything that happens, an incident. **2** a single race or contest at sports or races.

**eventful** /i'ventfəl/, /i-vent-ful/ *adj* full of interesting or exciting happenings.

**eventual** /i'ventʃuəl/, /i-ven-sha-wul/ *adj* happening as a result, final.

**eventuality** /i'ventʃuəlɪti/, /i-ven-cha-wa-li-tee/ *n* a possible happening.

**eventually** /i'ventʃuəli:/, /i-ven-cha-wa-lee/ *adv* finally, at length.

**ever** /'ɛvər/, /e-ver/ *adv* always, at all times.

**evergreen** /'ɛvər,grɪ:n/, /e-ver-green/ *n* a tree or plant that has green leaves all the year round. • *adj* always green.

**everlasting** /'ɛvə'læstɪŋ/, /e-ver-la-sting/ *adj* **1** never ending. **2** seemingly without end, frequent.

**evermore** /'ɛvə'mɔ:r/, /e-ver-more/ *adv* forever.

**every** /'evri/, /ev-reel/ *adj* each one.

**everybody** /'evri,bɒdi/, /ev-ree-bu-dee/ *pron* every person.

**everyday** /'evri,deɪ/, /ev-ree-day/ *adj* **1** happening every day. **2** usual, ordinary.

**everyone** /'evri,wən/, /ev-ree-wun/ *pron* every person.

**everything** /'evri θɪŋ/, /ev-ree-thing/ *pron* all things being considered as a group.

**evict** /ɪ'vikt/, /i-vict/ *vb* to put out of a house or off land by order of a court. • *n* **eviction**.

**evidence** /'evidəns/, /e-vi-dense/ *n* **1** information given to show a fact is true. **2** the statement made by a witness in a court of law.

**evident** /'evidənt/, /e-vi-dent/ *adj* clear, easily understood, obvious.

**evil** /'i:vəl/, /ee-vil/ *adj* **1** wicked, bad, sinful. **2** unpleasant, nasty. • *n* **1** wickedness. **2** anything bad or harmful.

**evoke** /ɪ'vo:k/, /i-voke/ *vb* **1** to call up. **2** to give rise to, to cause. • *n* **evocation**.

**evolution** /ˌevə'lu:ʃən/, /e-vu-loo-shun/ *n* **1** the belief that life began in lower forms of creature and that these gradually changed over millions of years into the highest forms, such as humans. **2** development.

**evolve** /ɪ'vɒlv/, /i-volve/ *vb* **1** to work out. **2** to develop gradually.

**ewe** /ju:/, /yoo/ *n* a female sheep.

**exact** /ɪg'zækt/, /ig-zact/ *adj* **1** absolutely correct, accurate in every detail. **2** showing or taking great care. • *vb* **1** to force to make payment. **2** to demand and obtain.

**exacting** /ɪg'zæktɪŋ/, /ig-zac-ting/ *adj* needing a lot of work or attention.

**exaggerate** /ɪg'zædʒə'reɪt/, /ig-za-je-rate/ *vb* **1** to speak or think of something as being better or more (or worse or less) than it really is. **2** to go beyond the truth in describing something. • *n* **exaggeration**.

**exalt** /ɪg'zɔlt/, /ig-zolt/ *vb* **1** (*frm*) to raise in power or rank. **2** to praise highly. • *n* **exaltation**.

**examine** /ɪg'zæmɪn/, /ig-za-min/ *vb* **1** to look at closely and carefully in order to find out something. **2** to question. **3** to test a learner's knowledge by questions. • *n* **examination**. • *n* **examiner**.

**examinee** /ɪg'zæmɪ'nɪ:/, /ig-za-mi-nee/ *n* a person who is being examined.

**example** /ɪg'zæmpəl/, /ig-zam-pl/ *n* **1** one thing chosen to show what others of the same kind are like, a model. **2** a person or thing

deserving to be imitated.

**exasperate** /ɪg'zæspə'reɪt/, /ɪg-**za**-spe-rate/ *vb* to make angry. • *n  
exasperation.*

**excavate** /'ɛkskə'veɪt/, /ek-sca-vate/ *vb* 1 to uncover by digging. 2 to dig up, to hollow out.

**excavation** /'ɛkskə'veɪʃn/, /ek-sca-vay-shun/ *n* 1 act of excavating. 2 a hole or trench made by digging.

**exceed** /ek'si:d/, /ik-**seed**/ *vb* 1 to go beyond. 2 to be greater or more numerous than.

**exceedingly** /ek'si:dɪŋli/, /ik-**see**-ding-lee/ *adv* very, extremely.

**excel** /ɛk'sel/, /ik-**sel**/ *vb* (**excelled**, **excelling**) to do very well at, to get exceptionally good at.

**excellence** /'ɛksələns/, /ek-se-lense/ *n* perfection, great merit.

**excellent** /'ɛksələnt/, /ek-se-lent/ *adj* very good, of a very high standard.

**except<sup>1</sup>** /ɪk'sept/, /ik-**sept**/ *vb* (*fml*) to leave out.

**except<sup>2</sup>** /ɪk'sept/, /ik-**sept**/, **excepting** /ɪk-**sep**-ting/ *prep* leaving out.

**exception** /ɛk'sepʃən/, /ik-**sep**-shun/ *n* a person or thing that does not follow the rule. • **take exception** to object.

**exceptional** /ɛk'sepʃənl/, /ik-**sep**-shu-nal/ *adj* different from others, unusual, remarkable. • *adv* **exceptionally**.

**excerpt** /'ɛksərpt/, /ek-**serpt**/ *n* a short passage taken out of a longer piece of writing or music.

**excess** /'ɛkses/, /ik-**sess**/ *n* 1 too much. 2 the amount by which a thing is too much. 3 bad and uncontrolled behaviour.

**excessive** /ɛk'sesəv/, /ik-**se**-siv/ *adj* more than is right or correct.

**excessively** /ɛk'sesəvli:/, /ik-**se**-siv-lee/ *adv* to excess, very.

**exchange** /ɛks'tʃeɪndʒ/, /iks-**change**/ *vb* to give one thing and receive another in its place. • *n* 1 the act of exchanging. 2 a place where merchants meet to do business. 3 the changing of the money of one country into that of another. 4 a telephone centre where lines are connected to each other.

**excise<sup>1</sup>** /'ɛksaɪz/, /ek-size/ *n* a tax on certain goods made within the country.

**excise**<sup>2</sup> /ɛk'saɪz/, /ɪk-**size**/ *vb* to cut out, to cut away. • *n* **excision**.

**excitable** /ɛk'seɪtəbəl/, /ɪk-**site-a-bl**/ *adj* easily excited.

**excite** /ɛk'seɪt/, /ɪk-**site**/ *vb* 1 to stir up feelings of happiness, expectation, etc. 2 to rouse. • *n* **excitement**. • *adj* **exciting**.

**exclaim** /ɪk'skleɪm/, /ɪk-**sclame**/ *vb* to cry out suddenly. • *adj* **exclamatory**.

**exclamation** /ɛksklə'meɪʃən/, /ɪk-scla-**may-shun**/ *n* a word or words said suddenly or with feeling.

**exclamation mark** /ɛksklə'meɪʃən mærk/, /ɪk-scla-**may-shun mark**/ *n* a mark of punctuation (!).

**exclude** /ɛk'sklu:d/, /ɪk-**sclood**/ *vb* 1 to shut out. 2 to leave out. 3 to leave out, not to include. • *n* **exclusion**.

**exclusive** /ɛk'sklu:sɪv/, /ɪk-**scloo-siv**/ *adj* 1 open to certain people only. 2 sole. 3 not shared. • *adv* **exclusively**.

**excrement** /'ɛkskrəmənt/, /eks-cre-ment/ *n* waste matter put out from the body.

**excrete** /ɪk'skri:t/, /ɪk-**screet**/ *vb* to put out what is useless from the body. • *adj* **excretory**.

**excruciating** /ɪk'skru:sieɪtɪŋ/, /ɪk-**scroo-she-ate-ing**/ *adj* 1 very great, intense. 2 terrible, very bad.

**excursion** /ɪk'skərʃən/, /ɪk-**scur-zhon**/ *n* a trip made for pleasure, an outing.

**excuse** /ɪk'skjuz/, /ɪk-**scyooz**/ *vb* 1 to let off. 2 to forgive, to overlook. 3 to give reasons showing or intended to show that someone or something cannot be blamed. • *n* a reason given for failure or wrongdoing. • *adj* **excusable**.

**execute** /'ɛksɪ,kju:t/, /ek-**si-cyoot**/ *vb* 1 to perform. 2 to carry out. 3 to put to death by law.

**execution** /'ɛksɪ'kju:ʃən/, /ek-**si-cyoo-shun**/ *n* 1 the carrying out, performance, etc, of something. 2 skill in performing music. 3 the act of putting to death by order of the law.

**executioner** /'ɛksɪ'kju:ʃənər/, /ek-**si-cyoo-shu-ner**/ *n* an officer who puts condemned criminals to death.

**executive** /ɪg'zɛkjutɪv/, /ig-**zec-yoo-tiv**/ *adj* 1 concerned with making and carrying out decisions, especially in business. 2 having the

power to carry out government's decisions and laws. • *n* **1** a person involved in the management of a firm. **2** the part of government that puts laws, etc, into effect.

**executor** /ɪg'zɛkjutər/, /ig-zec-yoo-tor/ *n* a person who sees that a dead person's written will is carried out.

**exemplify** /ɪg'zemplifai/, /ig-zem-pli-fy/ *vb* **1** to be an example. **2** to illustrate by example.

**exempt** /ɪg'zempt/, /ig-zempt/ *vb* to free from, to let off. • *adj* free. • *n* **exemption**.

**exercise** /'eksərsaɪz/, /ek-ser-size/ *n* **1** an action performed to strengthen the body or part of the body. **2** a piece of work done for practice. **3** training. **4** use. • *vb* **1** to use, to employ. **2** to perform some kind of physical exercises. **3** to give exercise to, to train.

**exert** /ɪg'zərt/, /ig-zert/ *vb* to apply. • **exert oneself** to try hard.

**exertion** /ɪg'zərfən/, /ig-zer-shun/ *n* effort.

**exhale** /eks'hel/, /eks-hale/ *vb* to breathe out. • *n* **exhalation**.

**exhaust** /eg'zəst/, /ig-zawst/ *vb* **1** to use up completely. **2** to tire out. **3** to say everything possible about. • *n* **1** a passage by which used steam or gases are carried away from an engine. **2** these gases.

**exhausting** /eg'zɔ:stɪŋ/, /ig-zaw-sting/ *adj* very tiring.

**exhaustion** /eg'zəstʃən/, /ig-zaw-schun/ *n* **1** the state of being tired out. **2** lack of any strength.

**exhaustive** /eg'zəstɪv/, /ig-zaw-stiv/ *adj* **1** very thorough, complete. **2** dealing with every possible aspect of a subject.

**exhibit** /eg'zibɪt/, /ig-zi-bit/ *vb* **1** to show in public. **2** (*frm*) to display, to show. • *n* a thing shown in public.

**exhibition** /,egsɪ'bɪʃən/, /ek-si-bi-shun/ *n* **1** act of exhibiting. **2** a collection of many things brought together to be shown to the public.

**exhibitionist** /,egsɪ'bɪʃənist/, /ek-si-bi-shu-nist/ *n* a person who behaves in such a way as to draw attention to himself or herself.

**exhibitor** /eg'zibɪtər/, /ig-zi-bi-tor/ *n* a person who exhibits at a show.

**exhilarate** /eg'zilə,reɪt/, /ig-zi-li-rate/ *vb* to make lively or happy. • *n* **exhilaration**.

**exile** /'eksail/, /eg-zile/ *n* 1 long or unwilling absence from one's home or country. 2 a person living in a country other than his or her own. • *vb* to send someone out of his or her own country as a punishment.

**exist** /eg'zist/, /ig-zist/ *vb* 1 to be. 2 to live. • *n* **existence**. • *adj* **existent**.

**exit** /'eksit/, /eg-zit/ *n* 1 a way out. 2 a going out. • *also vb*.

**exodus** /'eksədəs/, /ek-so-dus/ *n* a going out or away by many people (e.g. the departure of the Jews from Egypt).

**exorcism** /'eksərsisəm/, /ek-sawr-si-zum/ *n* act of exorcising. • *n* **exorcist**.

**exorcize** /'eksɔr,saiz/, /ek-sawr-size/ *vb*, *also exorcise* to drive out evil spirits.

**exotic** /eg'zotik/, /ig-zot-ic/ *adj* 1 foreign, introduced from another country. 2 striking and unusual.

**expand** /ek'spænd/, /ik-spand/ *vb* 1 to make or become larger. 2 to spread out. 3 to become more friendly or talkative.

**expansive** /'ek'spænsiv/, /ik-span-siv/ *adj* 1 wide. 2 ready to talk freely.

**expatriate** /eks'pætriēt/, /ek-spa-tree-ate/ *vb* to send someone out of his own country. • *n* /eks'pætriēt/, /ek-spa-tree-it/ a person living or working in a country other than his or her own.

**expect** /ek'spekt/, /ik-spect/ *vb* 1 to wait for. 2 to think it likely that something will happen. 3 to require as a right or duty.

**expectancy** /'ek'spektənsi:/, /ik-spec-tan-see/ *n* state of being expectant.

**expectant** /ek'spektənt/, /ik-spec-tant/ *adj* hopeful, waiting for something to happen. • **expectant mother** a woman who is pregnant.

**expectation** /'ekspekk'teɪʃən/, /ek-spec-tay-shun/ *n* 1 hope that something will happen. 2 that which is expected.

**expediency** /'ek'spi:dənsi/, /ik-spee-dee-ence/, **expediency** /ik-spee-dee-en-see/ *n* doing things not because they are right or moral but

because they are likely to be successful or to one's advantage.

**expedition** /'ekspə'dɪʃən/, /ek-spe-di-shun/ *n* 1 a journey made for a particular purpose. 2 (*fml*) speed.

**expel** /'ek'spel/, /ik-spel/ *vb* (**expelled**, **expelling**) 1 to drive out. 2 to force to go away. 3 to dismiss officially from a school, club, etc. • *n* **expulsion**.

**expend** /'ek'spend/, /ik-spend/ *vb* to spend, to use up.

**expenditure** /'ek'spendɪtʃər/, /ik-spen-di-cher/ *n* 1 the amount spent. 2 the act of spending.

**expense** /'ek'spens/, /ik-spense/ *n* 1 cost. 2 spending of money, etc.

**expensive** /'ek'spensɪv/, /ik-spen-siv/ *adj* dear, costing a lot.

**experience** /'ek'spi:rɪəns/, /ik-spi-ree-ense/ *n* 1 a happening in one's own life. 2 knowledge gained from one's own life or work. • *vb* 1 to meet with. 2 to feel. 3 to undergo.

**experiment** /'ek'spərmənt/, /ik-spe-ri-ment/ *n* something done so that the results may be studied, a test. • *vb* to do an experiment. • *adj* **experimental**.

**expert** /'ekspərt/, /ek-spert/ *adj* very skilful. • *n* a person having special skill or knowledge. • *n* **expertise** /ek-sper-teez/.

**expire** /'ek'spair/, /ik-spire/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to die. 2 (*fml*) to breathe out. 3 to come to an end.

**expiry** /'ek'spaɪəri/, /ik-spie-ree/ *n* end.

**explain** /'ek'splem/, /ik-splane/ *vb* 1 to make clear. 2 to give reasons for.

**explanation** /'eksplə'neɪʃən/, /ek-spla-nay-shun/ *n* a statement of the meaning of or the reasons for.

**explanatory** /'ek'splænə,tɔri/, /ek-spla-na-toe-ree/ *adj* helping to make clear.

**expletive** /'ik'spli:təv/, /ek-spee-tiv/ *n* a swear word.

**explicable** /'eksplɪkəbəl/, /ek-spli-ca-bl/ *adj* able to be explained.

**explicit** /'ek'splɪsɪt/, /ek-spli-sit/ *adj* 1 stating exactly what is meant. 2 with full details, with nothing hidden.

**explode** /'ek'splɔ:d/, /ik-splod/ *vb* 1 to burst or blow up with a loud noise. 2 to show to be untrue, to destroy.

**exploit** /'ɛksplɔɪt/, /ek-splot/ **1** a brave or outstanding deed. • **vb** /ik-splot/ to make use of for selfish reasons. • **n exploitation.**

**explore** /ɛk'splɔr/, /ik-splor/ **vb** **1** to examine closely. **2** to travel through a country to find out all about it. • **n exploration.** • **n explorer.**

**explosion** /ɛk'splɔ:ʒən/, /ik-splo-zhun/ **n** **1** going off or bursting with a loud noise. **2** an outburst.

**explosive** /ɛk'splɔ:siv/, /ik-splo-siv/ **adj** able to cause an explosion. • **n** any substance that will explode.

**exponent** /ɛk'spo:nənt/, /ik-spo-nent/ **n** **1** a person who explains and supports a theory, belief, etc. **2** a person who is good at.

**export** /'ɛks,po:t/, /ek-sport/ **vb** to send goods to another country. • **n export** /ek-sport/ an article that is exported. • **n exportation.**

**expose** /ɛk'spo:z/, /ek-spoaz/ **vb** **1** to uncover. **2** to make known the truth about. **3** to allow light to fall on.

**exposition** /ɛkspə'ziʃən/, /ek-spo-zi-shun/ **n** **1** (*frm*) a collection of things brought together to be shown to the public. **2** a full explanation.

**exposure** /ɛk'spo:ʒər/, /ek-spo-zher/ **n** **1** act of exposing. **2** the effect on the body of being out in cold weather for a long time.

**expound** /ɛk'spaund/, /ik-spound/ **vb** (*frm*) to explain fully.

**express** /ɛk'spres/, /ik-spress/ **vb** **1** to put into words. **2** to make known by words or actions. • **adj** **1** swift. **2** clearly stated. • **n** a fast train.

**expressly** /ɛk'spresli/, /ik-spress-lee/ **adv** **1** clearly. **2** specially, with a certain definite purpose.

**expression** /ɛk'spreʃən/, /ik-spre-shun/ **n** **1** a word or phrase. **2** the look on one's face. **3** ability to read, play music, etc, with meaning or feeling.

**expressive** /ɛk'spresiv/, /ik-spre-siv/ **adj** with feeling or meaning.

**expulsion** /ɛk'spʌlʃən/, /ik-spul-shun/ see **expel**.

**expunge** /ɛk'spendʒ/, /ik-spunge/ **vb** to rub out, to wipe out.

**expurgate** /'ɛksper,geɪt/, /ek-spur-gate/ **vb** to cut out of a book unsuitable or objectionable passages. • **n expurgation.**

**exquisite** /'ekskwɪzɪt/, /ek-skwi-zit/ *adj* 1 beautiful and delicate, very fine. 2 (*fml*) strongly felt, acute.

**extant** /'ekstənt/, /ek-stant/ *adj* still existing.

**extemporaneous** /ek'stempə'reniəs/, /ek-stem-po-ray-nee-us/ *adj* (*fml*) unprepared.

**extempore** /'ek'stempəri/, /ik-stem-po-ree/ *adv, adj* without preparation.

**extemporize** /'ek'stempəraɪz/, /ik-stem-po-rize/ *vb*, also **extemporise**  
1 to speak without preparation. 2 to make up music as one is playing.

**extend** /'ek'stend/, /ik-stend/ *vb* 1 to stretch out. 2 to reach or stretch.  
3 to offer. 4 to make longer or bigger.

**extension** /'ek'stenʃən/, /ik-sten-shun/ *n* 1 an addition. 2 an additional period of time.

**extensive** /'ek'stensɪv/, /ik-sten-siv/ *adj* 1 large. 2 wide, wide-ranging.

**extent** /'ek'stent/, /ik-stent/ *n* 1 the area or length to which something extends. 2 amount, degree.

**extenuate** /'ek'stenju,eɪt/, /ik-sten-yoo-ate/ *vb* (*fml*) to make excuses for in order to make seem less bad. • *n extenuation*.

**extenuating** /'ek'stenju,eɪtɪŋ/, /ik-sten-yoo-ay-ting/ *adj* making a crime, etc, seem less serious by showing there is some excuse for it.

**exterior** /'ek'sti:rɪər/, /ek-sti-ree-or/ *adj* outer. • *n* the outside.

**exterminate** /'ek'stɜ:mɪneɪt/, /ik-ster-min-ate/ *vb* to kill to the last one, to destroy completely. • *n extermination*.

**external** /'ek'stɜ:nəl/, /ek-ster-nal/ *adj* on the outside.

**extinct** /'ek'stɪŋkt/, /ik-stingkt/ *adj* 1 no longer found in existence. 2 no longer burning.

**extinction** /'ek'stɪŋkʃən/, /ik-stingk-shun/ *n* 1 act of destroying. 2 the state of being no longer living. 3 the putting out of.

**extinguish** /'ek'stɪŋgwɪʃ/, /ik-sting-wish/ *vb* 1 to put out. 2 to put an end to.

**extirpate** /'ek'stərp,eɪt/, /ek-stir-pate/ *vb* (*fml*) to destroy completely, to root out. • *n extirpation*.

**extol, extoll** /ɪk'sto:l/, /ɪk-stoal/ *vb* (**extolled, extolling**) (*fml*) to praise highly.

**extort** /ɪk'stɔ:t/, /ɪk-stawrt/ *vb* to take from by force or threats. • *n* **extortion**.

**extortionate** /ɪk'stɔ:ʃənət/, /ɪk-stawr-shu-nate/ *adj* 1 far too expensive. 2 asking too much.

**extra** /'ekstrə/, /ek-strə/ *adj* additional, more than is usual, expected or necessary. • *adv* more than usually. • *n* something additional.

**extract** /ɪk'strækt/, /ek-stract/ *vb* 1 to draw, take or pull out. 2 to select a passage from a book. • *n* **extract** /ek-stract/ 1 a passage taken from a book. 2 a substance drawn from a material and containing all its qualities.

**extraction** /ɪk'strækʃən/, /ek-strac-shun/ *n* 1 act of drawing out. 2 connection with a certain family or race.

**extradite** /'ekstro,dəit/, /ek-stra-dite/ *vb* to hand over a foreign criminal to the police of his own country. • *n* **extradition**.

**extramural** /'ekstrə'mjurəl/, /ek-stra-myoo-ral/ *adj* 1 organized for those who are not members (e.g. of a university). 2 separate from or outside the area of one's studies.

**extraneous** /ɪk'streiniəs/, /ek-stray-nee-us/ *adj* having nothing to do with the subject.

**extraordinary** /'ek'strɔ:dɪneri/, /ek-strawr-di-na-ree/ *adj* 1 very unusual, remarkable. 2 (*fml*) additional to what is usual or ordinary.

**extraterrestrial** /'ekstrætə'restri:əl/, /ek-stra-te-re-stree-al/ *adj* existing or happening beyond the earth's atmosphere.

**extravagance** /ɪk'strævəgəns/, /ek-stra-vi-gense/ *n* 1 wasteful spending. 2 wastefulness.

**extravagant** /ɪk'strævəgənt/, /ek-stra-vi-gent/ *adj* 1 spending or using a great deal, wasteful. 2 spending foolishly. 3 foolish and improbable.

**extreme** /ɪk'stri:m/, /ek-streem/ *adj* 1 farthest away. 2 greatest possible. 3 far from moderate, going beyond the limits, not sharing the views of the majority. 4 intense, strong, not ordinary or usual. • *n* 1 the end, the farthest point. 2 something as far or as different as

possible from something else. **3** the greatest or highest degree. • *adv extremely.*

**extreme sport** /ɪk'stri:m 'sport/, /ek-streem spoart/ *n* a sport which is associated with a particularly high risk of injury or death.

**extremist** /ɪk'stri:mɪst/, /ek-stree-mist/ *n* a person who holds extreme ideas. • *also adj.*

**extremity** /ɪk'stremiti/, /ek-stre-mi-tee/ *n* **1** the farthest point. **2** (*fml*) a situation of great misfortune, distress or danger. **3** (*fml*) the farther parts of the body, i.e. the hands and feet.

**extricate** /'ɛkstri,kert/, /ek-stri-cate/ *vb* to set free from a difficult position.

**extrovert** /'ɛkstrə,vərt/, /ek-stro-vert/ *n* a person who is extremely outgoing and self-assured. • *also adj.*

**exuberant** /ɪg'zu:bərənt/, /ig-zoo-ber-ant/ *adj* **1** vigorous, strong. **2** in high spirits. • *n exuberance.*

**exude** /ɪg'zju:d/, /ig-zood/ *vb* to ooze out, to give off.

**exult** /ɪg'zəlt/, /ig-zult/ *vb* to rejoice very much, to express joy. • *adj exultant.* • *n exultation.*

**eye** /aɪ/, /ie/ *n* **1** the organ by means of which we see. **2** a small hole in a needle. **3** the seed bud of a potato. • *vb* **1** to watch closely.

**eyebrow** /aɪbraʊ/, /eye-brow/ *n* an arc of hair on the brow bone above the eye.

**eye-opener** /aɪ,o:pənər/, /eye-oa-pe-ner/ *n* something very surprising.

**eyelash** /aɪlæʃ/, /eye-lash/ *n* each of the short hairs extending from the edge of the eyelid.

**eyelid** /aɪlid/, /eye-lid/ *n* the fold of skin that can be lowered to close the eye.

**eyesight** /aɪsət/, /eye-sight/ *n* a person's ability to see.

**eyesore** /aɪsɔ:/, /eye-sore/ *n* something very ugly.

**eyewitness** /aɪwɪtnəs/, /eye-wit-ness/ *n* a person who sees an event happen.

**eyrie** *n* see [aerie](#).

# F

**F, f /ɛf/, /eff/** 1 the sixth letter of the English alphabet. 2 (*mus*) the fourth note of the scale of C major.

**fable** /'feɪbəl/, /fay-bl/ *n* a short story, usually about animals, etc, who talk and behave like humans, meant to teach people to do what is right.

**fabric** /'fæbrik/, /fa-bric/ *n* 1 the framework of a building. 2 manufactured cloth.

**fabricate** /'fæbri,ket/, /fa-bri-cate/ *vb* 1 to make or build, to manufacture. 2 to make up or invent. • *n* **fabrication**.

**fabulous** /'fæbjʊləs/, /fa-byoo-lus/ *adj* 1 (*fm!*) existing only in fable or legend, mythical. 2 (*inf*) wonderful, marvellous, very good.

**façade** /fə'sad/, /fa-sad/ *n* 1 the front of a building. 2 outer appearance.

**face** /feɪs/, /fayss/ *n* 1 the front part of the head, from forehead to chin. 2 the front part of anything. • *vb* 1 to stand looking towards, to turn towards. 2 to meet or encounter boldly. 3 to cover with a surface of different material.

**facet** /'fæsət/, /fa-set/ *n* 1 one of many small sides, as of a diamond. 2 an aspect.

**facial** /'feɪʃəl/, /fay-shal/ *adj* having to do with the face. • *n* a treatment to improve the appearance of the skin on the face.

**facile** /'fæsail/, /fa-sile/ *adj* 1 done with ease, often done too easily. 2 without depth, not sincere.

**facilitate** /'fəsilit,eɪt/, /fa-si-li-tate/ *vb* to make easy. • *n* **facilitation**.

**facility** /'fəsiliti/, /fa-si-li-tee/ *n* 1 (*fm!*) ease, skill. 2 *pl* the means or conditions for doing something easily.

**facsimile** /fæk'simili/, /fac-si-mi-lee/ *n* 1 an exact copy. 2 an image produced by facsimile transmission (*also fax*). • **facsimile transmission** a system of sending written, printed, or pictorial

documents over a telephone line by scanning it and then reproducing the image in a different location.

**fact** /fækt/, /fæk't/ *n* **1** something known to be true or to have happened. **2** truth. **3** a deed, an event.

**factor** /'fæktər/, /fæk-tor/ *n* **1** a person who does business for another, someone who manages another's land. **2** a cause, element. **3** a number that divides exactly into another number.

**factory** /'fæktəri/, /fæk-to-ree/ *n* a building where large quantities of goods are made.

**factual** /'fæktsʃuəl/, /fæk-chu-wul/ *adj* having to do with facts.

**faculty** /'fækəlti/, /fa-cul-tee/ *n* **1** a special ability. **2** the power to do something. **3** all the teachers of a school, college, or university or of a school's departments.

**fad** /fæd/, /fad/ *n* a craze, a short-lived fashion.

**fade** /feɪd/, /fade/ *vb* **1** to wither. **2** to lose colour. **3** to disappear gradually.

**faeces** /'fi:siz/, /fee-seez/ *n* solid bodily waste excreted from the anus.

**Fahrenheit** /'færən,hait/, /fa-ren-hite/ *adj* of a scale of temperature in which the freezing point of water is 32° and the boiling point is 212°, named for a German physicist.

**fail** /feɪl/, /fale/ *vb* **1** not to succeed. **2** to break down. **3** to disappoint. **4** to owe so much money that debts cannot be paid.

**failing** /feɪlinj/, /fay-ling/ *n* a fault, a weakness.

**failure** /feɪljər/, /fale-yer/ *n* **1** lack of success. **2** a person who has not succeeded. **3** a breakdown.

**fain** /feɪn/, /fane/ *adj* (*old, lit*) glad. • *adv* gladly.

**faint** /feɪnt/, /faint/ *vb* to become weak, to fall down unconscious. • *n* act of falling down unconscious. • *adj* **1** weak, dizzy. **2** lacking clearness or brightness. **3** slight.

**fair<sup>1</sup>** /fer/, /fare/ *adj* **1** light in colour, having light-coloured hair or skin. **3** quite good. **3** just. **4** (*of weather*) not rainy. **5** (*old, lit*) attractive.

**fair<sup>2</sup>** /fer/, /fare/ *n* **1** **fun fair** a type of public entertainment in a park with sideshows and rides. **2** an outdoor event with refreshments,

games and small things for sale. **3** an exhibition where businesses show and perhaps sell their products.

**fairly** /'ferli/, /fare-lee/ *adv* somewhat.

**fairway** /'ferwei/, /fare-way/ *n* **1** the deep part of a river where ships usually sail. **2** the part of a golf course where the grass is cut short.

**fairy** /'feri/, /fay-ree/ *n* an imaginary small being, supposed to have magic powers.

**fairy tale** /'feri ,teɪl/, /fay-ree tale/ *n* a story about fairies, giants, magic deeds, etc.

**faith** /feɪθ/, /faith/ *n* **1** belief, especially in God. **2** trust, being sure of something. **3** religion. **4** a person's word of honour, loyalty.

**faithful** /feɪθful/, /faith-ful/ *adj* **1** true to one's friends or one's promises. **2** loyal to one's marriage vows. **3** true to the facts or an original.

**faithless** /feɪθləs/, /faith-less/ *adj* (*frm*) **1** disloyal, dishonest. **2** unreliable.

**fake** /feɪk/, /fake/ *n* someone or something that deceives by looking other than he, she, or it is. • *vb* **1** to change something so that it falsely appears better, more valuable, etc. **2** to copy something so as to deceive. **3** (*inf*) to pretend.

**falcon** /'fælkən/, /fal-con/ *n* a bird of prey trained to hunt smaller birds.

**falconry** /'fælkənri:/, /fal-con-ree/ *n* **1** the art of training falcons to hunt game. **2** the sport of hunting with falcons.

**fall** /fɔ:l/, /fawl/ *vb* (*pt fell, pp fallen*) **1** to drop down. **2** to become less or lower. **3** to hang down. **4** to happen or occur. **5** to enter into a certain state or condition. **6** to be taken by an enemy. **7** to be killed in battle. • *n* **1** a drop or descent. **2** a lessening or lowering. **3** loss of power. **4** a waterfall. **5** (US)autumn. • **fall back** to go back. • **fall on or upon** to attack. • **fall out** (*inf*) to quarrel. • **fall through** to fail.

**fallacy** /'fæləsi/, /fa-la-see/ *n* a wrong idea or belief, usually one that is generally believed to be true; false reasoning. • *adj* **fallacious**.

**fallen** /'fɔ:lən/, /faw-lən/ *pp of fall*.

**fallible** /'fælɪbəl/, /fa-la-bl/ *adj (fml)* able to make mistakes. • *n fallibility.*

**fallout** /'fɒlauət/, /faw-lout/ *n* particles of radioactive dust that are in the air and fall to the ground after an atomic explosion.

**fallow** /'fæləʊ/, /fa-lo/ *adj* ploughed but left unplanted for a season or more to kill weeds, make soil richer, etc. • *also n.*

**false** /fɒls/, /fawlse/ *adj* 1 not true. 2 disloyal. 3 not real, fake. • *n falseness, falsity /fawl-si-tee/.*

**falsehood** /'fɒlshud/, /fawlse-hood/ *n (fml)* a lie.

**falter** /'fæltər/, /fawl-ter/ *vb* 1 to speak or say in an uncertain or hesitant way. 2 to stumble.

**fame** /feɪm/, /fame/ *n* the state of being well-known.

**famed** /feɪm/, /faymd/ *adj (fml)* well-known.

**familiar** /fə'miljər/, /fa-mil-yar/ *adj* 1 well-known because often seen. 2 having good knowledge of. 3 too friendly, disrespectful. • *n* 1 a close friend. 2 in folklore, an evil spirit constantly with someone and usually dwelling within an animal. • *n familiarity.*

**familiarize** /fə'miljəraɪz/, /fa-mil-ya-rize/ *vb, also familiarise* to make used to.

**family** /'fæmili/, /fæmli/, /fam-i-lee, fam-lee/ *n* 1 a household, parents and children. 2 one's children. 3 people descended from the same ancestors. 4 a group of things in some way related to one another (e.g. races, animals, etc.).

**family tree** /'fæmli tri:/, /fam-lee tree/ *n* a chart that shows the members of a family, their ancestors, and their relationship to one another.

**famine** /'fæmin/, /fa-min/ *n* a shortage of food.

**famish** /'fæmɪʃ/, /fa-mish/ *vb* to make or be very hungry. • **to be famished (inf)** to be very hungry.

**famous** /'feiməs/, /fay-mus/ *adj* well-known to all.

**fan<sup>1</sup>** /fæn/, /fan/ *n* an instrument or machine that causes a current of air. • *vb (fanned, fanning)* to move the air with a fan. • **fan out** to spread out over a wider front.

**fan<sup>2</sup>** /fæn/, **fan** /fan/ *n* a follower or supporter.

**fanatic** /'fænətɪk/, /fa-na-tic/ *n* someone who holds a belief, especially a religious or political belief, so strongly that he or she can neither discuss it reasonably nor think well of those who disagree with it. • *n* **fanaticism**.

**fanatical** /fæ'nətɪkəl/, /fa-na-ti-cal/ *adj* having the views of a fanatic.

**fan belt** /'fænbelt/, /fan belt/ *n* a tough, thin belt on most car engines.

**fanciful** /'fænsɪful/, /fan-si-ful/ *adj* 1 imaginative, inclined to have strange, unreal ideas. 2 imaginary, unreal.

**fancy** /'fænsi/, /fan-see/ *n* 1 (*fm!*) the imagination. 2 a false idea or belief, something imagined. 3 a sudden desire. 4 a liking for, often a romantic one. • *adj* not plain, ornamented. • *vb* 1 (*fm!*) to imagine. 2 (*inf*) to like. 3 to be romantically or sexually attracted to.

**fanfare** /'fænfer/, /fan-fare/ *n* the sounding of many trumpets in greeting.

**fang** /fæŋ/, /fang/ *n* 1 a long, pointed tooth. 2 the tooth of a snake that is used to inject venom, or poison, into its prey.

**fantasia** /fæn'teɪʒə/, /fan-tay-zha/ *n* a light or fanciful piece of music.

**fantastic** /fæn'tæstɪk/, /fan-ta-stic/ *adj* 1 strange or weird. 2 created in the mind, fanciful, unrealistic. 3 (*inf*) very large. 4 (*inf*) very good, excellent.

**fantasy** /'fæntəsi/, /fan-ta-see/ *n* 1 an unusual or far-fetched idea, a dream. 2 a story with highly imaginative characters or settings that are not part of the real world.

**fanzine** /'fænzɪ:n/, /fan-zeen/ *n* a magazine for people who are particularly interested in something, such as a football team, a particular type of music, etc.

**far** /far/, /far/ *adj* distant. • *adv* at a distance in time, space, or degree.

**faraway** /'farəwei/, /far-a-way/ *adj* 1 distant in time, space, or degree. 2 dreamy, distracted.

**farce** /fars/, /farse/ *n* 1 a stage play intended only to arouse laughter. 2 a laughable or senseless, unreasonable situation.

**farcical** /fars/, /far-si-cal/ *adj* laughable, senseless, unreasonable.

**fare** /fər/, /fare/ *vb* (*fm!, old*) to be or do. • *n* 1 food. 2 the cost of a travel ticket. 3 a passenger on a bus or in a taxi.

**farewell** /'fer'wɛl/, /far-well/ *interj* goodbye.

**farfel** /far'fɛl/, /for-fel/ *n* noodle dough formed into small grains.

**far-fetched** /farfetʃd/, /far-fecht/ *adj* so unlikely as to be almost impossible.

**farina** /fə'ri:nə/, /fa-ree-na/ *n* a hot cereal made from wheat, potatoes, nuts, etc.

**farm** /farm/, /farm/ *n* an area of land prepared for crops and/or herds by the owner. • *vb* to use land as a farm. • *n* **farmer**. • **farm out** to give out to be done by others.

**farmstead** /'farmsted/, /farm-sted/ *n* the land and buildings of a farm.

**farrow** /'færo:/, /fa-ro/ *n* a litter of baby pigs.

**farseeing** /'fær,si:ɪŋ/, /far-see-ing/ *adj* wise, having shown good judgment.

**farsighted** /'fær,saitəd/, /far-sie-tid/ *adj* 1 having better vision for distant objects than for near ones. 2 farseeing.

**farther** /'farðər/, /far-ther/ *adj* 1 at or to a greater distance. 2 additional.

**fascinate** /'fæsɪ,nate/, /fa-si-nate/ *vb* to attract or interest very strongly, to charm. • *n* **fascination**.

**fascism** /'fæʃɪzəm/, /fa-shi-zum/ *n* a political movement based on one person/group being in charge of the country in a militaristic way, incorporating nationalist and/or racist views. • *n, adj* **fascist**.

**fashion** /'fæʃən/, /fa-shin/ *n* 1 the way in which a thing is done or made. 2 the kinds of things, usually clothes, popular at a certain time. • *vb* to shape, to make.

**fashionable** /'fæʃnəbəl/, /fash-na-bl/ *adj* 1 following a style that is currently popular. 2 used or visited by people following a current fashion.

**fast<sup>1</sup>** /fæst/, /fast/ *vb* to do without food, especially for religious reasons. • *n* act or time of fasting.

**fast<sup>2</sup>** /fæst/, /fast/ *adj* 1 firm, fixed. 2 quick, swift. • *adv* 1 firmly. 2 quickly. 3 (*old*) near.

**fasten** /'fæsən/, /fa-sen/ *vb* 1 to fix firmly. 2 to fix to.

**fastener** /'fæsənər/, /fa-sner/ *n* a device that joins together or fixes one thing to another.

**fastening** see **fasten** sense 1.

**fast-food** /'fæst fud/, /fast-food/ *n* hot food that is prepared and served very quickly, often taken away to be eaten.

**fastidious** /fæ'stiðiəs/, /fa-sti-dee-us/ *adj* hard to please. • *n* **fastidiousness**.

**fast lane** /'fæstlein/, /fast lane/ *n* a lane on a motorway for moving at a higher speed or for overtaking other automobiles.

**fastness** /'fæstnəs/, /fast-ness/ *n* 1 the quality of being fast or quick. 2 a fort, a stronghold.

**fast track** /'fæst, tæk/, /fast track/ *n* a career path offering rapid advancement.

**fat** /fæt/, /fat/ *adj* well fed, fleshy. • *n* 1 an oily substance in animal bodies. 2 this substance, or the oily substance found in some plants, when in solid or almost solid form, used as a food or in cooking.

**fatal** /'feɪtəl/, /fay-tal/ *adj* 1 causing death. 2 bringing danger or ruin, or having unpleasant results.

**fatality** /fə'tæliti/, /fay-ta-li-tee/ *n* 1 death caused by accident, war, etc. 2 (*fml*) deadliness.

**fate** /feɪt/, /fate/ *n* 1 a power that is supposed to decide future events before they happen. 2 what will happen to someone in the future.

**fateful** /'feɪtful/, /fate-ful/ *adj* important for one's future.

**father** /'fɑðər/, /fa-ther/ *n* 1 a male parent. 2 a person who begins, invents, or first makes something. 3 a priest. • *vb* 1 to be the father of. 2 to start an idea or movement.

**fatherhood** /'fɑðərhud/, /fa-ther-hood/ *n* the state of being a father.

**father-in-law** /'fɑðərla:/, /fa-ther-in-law/ *n* the father of someone's spouse.

**fathom** /'fæðəm/, /fa-thom/ *n* a measurement of 6 feet or 1.8 metres, especially of the depth of water. • *vb* to understand fully.

**fatigue** /fə'ti:g/, /fa-teeg/ *n* weariness, great tiredness. • *vb* to tire out.

**fatten** /'fætən/, /fa-ten/ *vb* to make fat.

**fatty** /'fæti/, /fa-tee/ *adj* containing fat.

**fault** /fɔlt/, /fawlt/ *n* **1** a mistake. **2** a weakness in character. **3** an imperfection, something wrong with something. • *adj* **faulty**. **4** a break in the rock of Earth's crust where one side moves against, above, or below the other.

**faun** /fɔn/, /fawn/ *n* in Roman legend, a minor god, half man and half goat.

**fauna** /'fɔnə/, /faw-na/ *n* all the animals found in a country or region.

**favour** /'feɪvər/, /fay-vur/ *n*, also **favor** (US) **1** a feeling of kindness or approval towards. **2** an act done out of kindness. **3** something (e.g. a flower, rosette, etc) worn as a sign of good will or support. • *vb* **1** (*fm!*) to show more kindness to one person than to another. **2** to prefer. **3** to give an advantage.

**favourable** /'feɪvərəbl/, /fay-vu-ra-bl/ *adj*, also **favorable** (US) kindly, helpful.

**favourite** /'feɪvərit/, /fay-vu-rit/ *n*, also **favorite** (US) a person or thing preferred to others. • *also adj*.

**favouritism** /'feɪvərɪtɪzəm/, /fay-vu-ra-ti-zum/ *n*, also **favoritism** (US) showing more liking for one person than for others.

**fawn**<sup>1</sup> /fɔn/, /fawn/ *n* **1** a young deer. **2** a yellowish brown colour. • *adj* yellowish brown.

**fawn**<sup>2</sup> /fɔn/, /fawn/ *vb* to flatter or behave like a servant to gain another's favour. • *adj* **fawning**.

**fax** /fæks/, /faks/ *n* **1** a machine that sends and receives documents electronically along a telephone line and then prints them out, see **facsimile**, also called **fax machine**. **2** a document sent or produced in this way. • *vb* to send by fax machine.

**FBI** /'ef'bi:'ai/, /ef-bee-eye/ abbr = **Federal Bureau of Investigation**: a US governmental organization that investigates crimes.

**fear** /fi:r/, /feer/ *n* dread, terror, anxiety. • *also vb*.

**fearful** /'fi:rful/, /feer-ful/ *adj* **1** afraid. **2** terrible. **3** (*inf*) very bad, very great.

**fearless** /'fi:rлs/, /feer-less/ *adj* unafraid.

**fearsome** /'fi:səm/, /feer-sum/ *adj* (*fm!*) causing fear.

**feasible** /'fi:zəbəl/, /fee-zi-bl/ *adj* possible, able to be done. • *n* **feasibility**.

**feast** /fi:st/, /feest/ *n* 1 a meal with plenty of good things to eat and drink. 2 something extremely pleasing. 3 a day or period of time kept in memory, especially in religion, such as in honour of God or a saint. • *vb* 1 to eat well. 2 to provide a good meal for others.

**feat** /fi:t/, /feet/ *n* a deed notable for courage, skill, etc.

**feather** /'feðər/, /fe-ther/ *n* one of the growths that cover a bird's body. • *vb* to line or cover with feathers. • **feather one's nest** to make a profit for oneself by taking advantage of a situation.

**feature** /'fi:tʃər/, /fee-chur/ *n* 1 an outstanding part of anything. 2 a special long article in a newspaper. 3 *pl* the face. • *vb* to give or have a position, especially an important one.

**February** /fəbruəri, febjvəri/, /feb-ye-wa-ree/ *n* the second month of the year.

**feces** US variant of faeces.

**feckless** /'fekləs/, /fec-less/ *adj* helpless, lacking determination or strength of character.

**fed** /fed/, /fed/ *pt and pp of feed.*

**federal** /'fedorəl/, /fe-de-ral/ *adj* united under one central government, but keeping local control of certain matters.

**federation** /'fedə'reiʃən/, /fe-de-ray-shun/ *n* 1 a group of states that give up certain powers to a common central government. 2 a joining of certain groups of people.

**fee** /fi:/, /fee/ *n* 1 a payment made for special professional services, a charge or payment. 2 money paid for entering or being taught in a school, college, etc.

**feeble** /'fi:bəl/, /fee-bl/ *adj* very weak. • *n* **feebleness**.

**feed** /fi:d/, /feed/ *vb (pt, pp fed)* 1 to give food to. 2 to eat. 3 to provide what is necessary for. 4 to put into. • *n* food.

**feedback** /'fi:dbæk/, /feed-back/ *n* information about how good or bad something or someone has been.

**feel** /fi:l/, /feel/ *vb (pt, pp felt)* 1 to touch. 2 to find out by touching. 3 to experience or be aware of. 4 to believe or consider. 5 to be moved by, to have pity. • *n* the sense of touch, a quality as revealed by touch.

**feeler** /'fi:lər/, /fee-ler/ *n* **1** the threadlike organ of touch on an insect.

**2** something said to try to get others to give their opinions.

**feeling** /'fi:linj/, /fee-ling/ *n* **1** the sense of touch. **2** emotion. **3** kindness for others. **4** an impression or belief. • *adj* able to understand the emotions of others.

**feet** /fi:t/, *pl* *of foot*.

**feign** /fem/, /fane/ *vb* to pretend.

**feint** /feint/, /faynt/ *n* a pretended movement. • *also vb*.

**feisty** /faisti:/, /fie-stee/ *adj* energetic, full of spirit.

**feline** /'fi:lain/, /fee-line/ *adj* **1** catlike. **2** of the cat family.

**fell<sup>1</sup>** /fel/, /fel/ *pt of fall*.

**fell<sup>2</sup>** /fel/, /fel/ *vb* to cut down, to knock down.

**fell<sup>3</sup>** /fel/, /fel/ *adj (old)* cruel, savage, deadly.

**fell<sup>4</sup>** /fel/, /fel/ *n* an animal's hide or skin.

**fell<sup>5</sup>** /fel/, /fel/ *n* a rocky, bare hill; a moor.

**fellow** /'felo:/, /fe-lo/ *n* **1** one of a pair. **2** a companion and an equal. **3** a member of a learned society or a college. **4** (*inf*) a man.

**fellowship** /'felo:ʃip/, /fe-lo-ship/ *n* **1** company. **2** friendship. **3** an association. **4** a grant of money given to someone to enable him or her to do advanced studies.

**felon** /'felən/, /fe-lon/ *n (fml)* a criminal.

**felony** /'feləni/, /fe-lo-nee/ *n (fml)* a serious crime.

**felt<sup>1</sup>** /'felt/, /felt/ *pt and pp of feel*.

**felt<sup>2</sup>** /'felt/, /felt/ *n* a cloth made of wool, hair and/or fur being worked together by pressure, heat, etc. instead of by weaving.

**female** /'fi:meil/, /fee-male/ *adj* **1** consisting of girls or women. **2** of or relating to the sex that produces offspring. • *also n*.

**feminine** /'femɪnɪn/, /fe-mi-nin/ *adj* **1** having the qualities considered suitable for a woman. **2** of a woman.

**feminism** /'femɪ'nɪzəm/, /fe-mi-nis-zum/ *n* the principle that men and women should have equal rights. • *n feminist*.

**femininity** /'femɪ'nɪtɪ:/, /fe-mi-ni-ni-tee/ *n* the state of being female or womanly.

**femur** /'fi:mər/, /fee-mur/ *n* (*frm*) the thighbone. • *adj femoral*.

**fence** /fəns/, /fense/ *n* 1 a wall made of wood or of wooden posts and wire to enclose a field or other land. 2 (*inf*) a receiver of stolen goods. • *vb* 1 to put a fence around. 2 to take part in swordplay. 3 to avoid giving direct answers to questions, especially by quibbling over minor points. • **sit on the fence** to give no decision either way, to be neutral.

**fencing** /'fensɪŋ/, /fen-sing/ *n* 1 the materials for making a fence. 2 swordplay as a sport.

**fend** /fənd/, /fend/ *vb* 1 to keep off, to turn aside. 2 to look after. 3 (*US*) the bumper of a car.

**fender** /fēndər/, /fen-der/ *n* 1 a low guard around a fireplace. 2 a pad made of rope, canvas, or wood to protect the side of a ship when at a pier.

**feng shui** /'fēŋʃu:i/, /fung show-ay/ *n* a Chinese method of interior and exterior design with the aim of bringing good fortune.

**fennel** /'fēnəl/, /fe-nel/ *n* a sweet-smelling plant used as a herb and vegetable.

**ferment** /'fērmənt/, /fer-ment/ *n* 1 that which causes fermentation. 2 excitement. • *vb* /fer-ment/ 1 to cause or undergo fermentation. 2 to excite.

**fermentation** /fērmēnt'teijən/, /fer-men-tay-shun/ *n* a chemical change that causes solids to break up and mix and liquids to froth and bubble.

**fern** /fērn/, /fern/ *n* a plant with no flowers and feathery leaves that reproduces by spores.

**ferocious** /fē'ro:sjəs/, /fe-ro-shus/ *adj* fierce, cruel, savage. • *n ferocity*.

**ferret** /'feret/, /fe-ret/ *n* a small weasel-like animal used in hunting rabbits. • *vb* 1 to search busily and persistently. 2 to find something carefully hidden.

**Ferris wheel** /'fēris/, /fe-ris wheel/ *n* a large, upright wheel that rotates and that has seats on it; used as an amusement-park ride.

**ferry** /'feri/, /fe-ree/ *vb* 1 to carry over water in a boat or aeroplane. 2 to transport. • *n* 1 a boat that ferries. 2 the place where a ferry

crosses.

**fertile** /'fərtail/, /fer-tile/ *adj* 1 able to produce a lot of, fruitful. 2 inventive. • *n* **fertility**.

**fertilize** /'fərtɪlaɪz/, /fer-ti-lize/ *vb*, also **fertilise** to make fertile or fruitful, to enrich.

**fertilizer** /'fərtɪlaɪzər/, /fer-ti-lie-zer/ *n*, also **fertiliser** a material mixed into soil to make it more fertile.

**fervent** /'fərvənt/, /fer-vent/ *adj* eager, devoted, sincere.

**fervid** /'fərvɪd/, /fer-vid/ *adj* (frm) very strong.

**fervour** /'fərvər/, /fer-vor/ *n*, also **fervor** (US) strength of feeling.

**fester** /'festər/, /fess-ter/ *vb* 1 (of a wound) to become full of poisonous matter, to become infected. 2 to give rise to bitter feelings, to become bitter.

**festival** /'festɪvəl/, /fe-sti-val/ *n* 1 a day or number of days spent in joy, celebrating, etc. 2 a season of plays, films, concerts, etc.

**festive** /'festɪv/, /fe-stiv/ *adj* suited to a feast, merry, joyous.

**festivity** /'festɪviti/, /fe-sti-vi-tee/ *n* joyful celebration, merrymaking.

**festoon** /fɛ'stʊn/, /fe-stoon/ *n* a drooping chain of flowers, ribbons, etc, put up as a decoration; a hanging wreath. • *v* to decorate with festoons, etc.

**feta** /'fɛtə/, /fe-ta/ *n* a soft, white cheese first made in Greece.

**fetal** /'fi:təl/, /fee-tal/ US variant of **foetal**.

**fetch** /fetʃ/, /fech/ *vb* 1 to go and bring. 2 to be sold for.

**fetching** /'fetʃɪŋ/, /fe-ching/ *adj* attractive.

**fetish** /'fetiʃ/, /fe-tish/ *n* 1 an object that is worshipped and believed to have magic power. 2 something regarded with too much attention or respect.

**fetus** US variant of **foetus**.

**feud** /fju:d/, /fyood/ *n* a lasting quarrel or strife between persons, families, etc.

**feudal** /fju:dəl/, /fyoo-dal/ *adj* having to do with feudalism.

**feudalism** /'fju:dɪlɪzəm/, /fyoo-da-li-zum/ *n* a system in mediaeval Europe under which people worked and lived on land in exchange for military or other services.

**fever** /'fi:vər/, /fee-ver/ *n* 1 a disease causing great heat in the body.

2 an abnormally high body temperature. 3 excitement.

**fevered** /'fi:vərd/, /fee-verd/, **feverish** /fee-ve-rish/ *adjs* 1 hot with fever. 2 excited.

**few** /fju:/, /fyoo/ *adj* not many, a small number of.

**fez** /fɛz/, /fez/ *n* a brimless red cap with a black tassel.

**fiancé** /fiɑn'seɪ/, /fi'ɒnseɪ/, /fee-on-say/, fee-on-say/ *n* a man engaged to be married. • *f fiancée* a woman engaged to be married.

**fiasco** /fi'æsko:/, /fee-a-sco/ *n* (*pl fiascoes or fiascos*) a complete failure, a laughable failure.

**fib** /fib/, /fib/ *n* a not very serious lie or untruth. • *vb (fibbed, fibbing)* to tell untruths. • *n fibber*.

**fibre** /'faɪbər/, /fie-ber/, also **fiber** (US) *n* 1 a threadlike part of an animal or plant. 2 a material made of fibres.

**fibreglass** /'faɪbəglæs/, /fie-ber glass/ *n* finely spun, cottonlike glass.

**fibrous** /'faɪbrəs/, /fie-bruss/ *adj* like or made of fibres.

**fibula** /'fɪbjʊlə/, /fi-byu-la/ *n* (*fmf*) the outer of the two bones between the knee and the ankle.

**fickle** /'fɪkəl/, /fi-cul/ *adj* quickly changing, not faithful. • *n fickleness*.

**fiction** /'fɪkʃən/, /fic-shun/ *n* 1 a made-up story. 2 the art of writing stories. 3 novels.

**fictitious** /'fɪktɪʃəs/, /fic-ti-shus/ *adj* imaginary, invented.

**fiddle** /'fidəl/, /fi-dl/ *n* a violin. • *vb* 1 to play the violin. 2 to play about with. 3 to prepare or alter dishonestly to one's own advantage. • *n fiddler*.

**fiddlesticks** /'fidəlstɪks/, /fi-dl-sticks/ *interj (old)* nonsense.

**fidelity** /fi'delɪti/, /fi-de-li-tee/ *n* 1 faithfulness, loyalty. 2 exactness.

**fidget** /'fɪdʒɪt/, /fi-jet/ *vb* to move restlessly. • *also n.*

**field** /fi:ld/, /feeld/ *n* 1 open country. 2 an enclosed area of ground. 3 a battlefield. 4 a sports ground. • *vb* 1 to catch and return a ball. 2 to put a team or player in the field for a game. 3 to deal with, or handle.

**fiend** /fi:nd/, /feend/ *n* 1 a devil. 2 a very cruel person. • *adj fiendish*.

**fierce** /'fi:rs/, /feerse/ *adj* wild, angry. • *n* **fierceness**.

**fiery** /'fi:ri/, /fie-ree/ *adj* 1 having to do with fire. 2 easily angered or excited.

**fiesta** /fi'estə/, /fee-ess-ta/ *n* a festival or celebration, especially a religious one.

**fife** /fəif/, /fife/ *n* a small flute with six to eight finger holes.

**fifteen** /fif'ti:n/, /fif-teen/ *n* the sum of ten and five. • *adj* **fifteenth**  
**fifth** /fifθ/, see **five**.

**fifty** /'fifti/, /fif-tee/ *n* the product of five and ten. • *adj* **fiftieth**.

**fig** /fig/, /fig/ *n* 1 a soft fruit with many seeds. 2 the tree bearing such fruit.

**fight** /fəit/, /fite/ *vb* (*pt, pp fought*) 1 to use force against another. 2 to take part in war or battle. 3 to quarrel, to argue. 4 to try hard to succeed. • *n* 1 a struggle in which force is used, a battle. 2 a hard effort.

**figure** /'figər/, /fi-gur/ *n* 1 the shape of the body. 2 a shape of a person or a thing. 3 lines drawn to show a shape. 4 a number. 5 a price. 6 a diagram or illustration. • *vb* 1 to work out the answer to a sum or problem. 2 to appear. 3 (*inf*) to think or consider.

**figurehead** /'figjʊ,hed/ , /fi-gur-hed/ *n* 1 a carved figure fixed on the front of a ship. 2 a person who has a high position but no real power.

**figure of speech** /'figurəv,spi:tʃ/, /fi-gur ov speech/ *n* the use of words in an unusual meaning or order to express ideas with greater understanding or feeling.

**figurine** /,figju'rɪ:n/, /fi-gyu-reen/ *n* a small, moulded sculpture.

**filament** /'filəmənt/, /fi-la-ment/ *n* 1 a very thin thread. 2 the thin wire in a light bulb.

**file<sup>1</sup>** /faɪl/, /file/ *n* 1 a number of papers arranged in order. 2 any device that keeps these papers in order. 3 in a computer, a collection of related information stored under a particular name. 4 a row of persons, one behind the other. • *vb* 1 to put in place in a file. 2 to walk in file.

**file<sup>2</sup>** /faɪl/, /file/ *n* a tool with a rough face for smoothing or cutting. • *vb* to smooth or cut away with a file.

**filings** /'fie-lingz/ *np/* the small pieces rubbed off by a file.

**fill** /fɪl/, /fil/ *vb* **1** to make full. **2** to become full. **3** to stop up. **4** to occupy. • *n* as much as fills or satisfies, often to a great extent.

**fillet** /'filət, fi'leɪ/, /fi-let, fi-lay/ *n* **1** a thin strip or band worn around the head to keep the hair in place. **2** a flat, boneless piece of meat or fish. • *vb* to take the bones out of and slice.

**filling** /'fɪlɪŋ/, /fi-ling/ *n* **1** the act of one that fills. **2** a thing used to fill something else. **3** the metal, plastic, etc. that a dentist puts into a prepared cavity.

**filly** /'fili/, /fi-lee/ *n* a young female horse.

**film** /fɪlm/, /film/ *n* **1** a thin skin or covering. **2** the thin roll of material on which pictures are taken by a camera. **3** a story recorded by a camera and sound equipment and shown in the cinema or on television. • *vb* to take a moving picture.

**filter** /'fɪltər/, /fil-ter/ *n* a strainer; a device through which liquid or air is passed to clean it. • *vb* to clean or separate by passing through a filter.

**filth** /fɪlθ/, /filth/ *n* **1** dirt. **2** anything considered foul, indecent, or offensive.

**filthy** /'fɪlθi/, /filth-ee/ *adj* **1** very dirty. **2** disgusting, foul.

**fin** /fɪn/, /fin/ *n* a small winglike organ by means of which a fish swims.

**final** /'faiməl/, /fie-nal/ *adj* **1** last. **2** putting an end to. • *n* **finality**. • *adv* **finally**.

**finale** /fɪ'næli/, /fi-na-lee/ *n* the last part of a piece of music, a play, etc.

**finalist** /'faiməlist/, /fie-na-list/ *n* a person who takes part in the final round of a contest.

**finance** /'faɪnæns, fɪ'næns/, /fie-nanss, fie-nanss/ *n* **1** having to do with money. **2** *pl* money resources. • *vb* to find or provide the money for. • *adj* **financial**. • *n* **financier**.

**finch** /fɪntʃ/, /finch/ *n* one of many kinds of small singing birds.

**find** /faɪnd/, /finde/ *vb* (*pt, pp found*) **1** to come upon what a person is looking for. **2** to discover. **3** to decide. • *n* a valuable discovery.

**finding** /'faɪndɪŋ/, /fine-ding/ *n* a decision or opinion reached.

**fine**<sup>1</sup> /fain/, /fīn/ *adj* **1** very thin or small. **2** excellent. **3** delicate, beautiful. **4** bright, sunny. **5** healthy. **6** slight.

**fine**<sup>2</sup> /fain/, /fīn/ *n* money paid as a punishment. • *vb* to punish by fine.

**finesse** /fī'nes/, /fi-ness/ *n* great skill and cleverness.

**finger** /'fīngər/, /fīng-ger/ *n* one of the five points that extend from the hand or glove. • *vb* to touch with the fingers.

**fingering** /'fīngərīŋ/, /fīng-ge-ring/ *n* the use of the fingers in playing a musical instrument.

**fingernail** /'fīngər,neil/, /fīng-ger-nale/ *n* the horny substance growing from the end of the finger.

**fingerprint** /'fīngər,print/, /fīng-ger-print/ *n* **1** the mark made by the tips of the fingers. **2** an ink print of the lines on the fingertips for identification purposes.

**fingertips** /'fīngər,tips/, /fīng-ger-tips/ *npl* the tips of the fingers. • **have at one's fingertips** to have ready knowledge of.

**finicky** /'fīniki/, /fi-ni-kee/ *adj* **1** fussy, too particular. **2** needing a lot of attention to detail.

**finish** /'fīnɪʃ/, /fi-nish/ *vb* **1** to bring to an end. **2** to come to an end. • *n* **1** the end. **2** extra touches to make perfect.

**finite** /'fāɪnɪt/, /fīe-nite/ *adj* having an end, limited.

**fiord** /fjɔrd/, see **fjord**.

**fir** /fər/, /fur/ *n* a cone-bearing (coniferous) tree.

**fire** /'fāɪr/, /fire/ *n* **1** the activity of burning, which gives out heat and light. **2** (*fm!*) strong feeling, excitement. • *vb* **1** to start a fire. **2** to bake. **3** to cause to explode. **4** to arouse interest and/or excitement. **5** (*inf*) to dismiss from employment.

**firearm** /'fāɪr,ərm/, /fire-arm/ *n* a gun, rifle, or pistol.

**fire engine** /'fāɪr,əndʒɪn/, /fire en-jin/ *n* a vehicle that carries firefighters and equipment for putting out fires.

**fire escape** /'fāɪr,ɛskēp/, /fire i-scape/ *n* a long ladder or steps by which people can escape from a burning building.

**fire extinguisher** /'fāɪr eks,tīngwɪʃər/, /fire ex-ting-guish-er/ *n* a portable container used to put out fires.

**firefighter** /'faɪr,fætər/, /'fɪre-fie-ter/ *n* a person who is trained to put out fires.

**firefly** /'faɪr,flaɪ/, /'fɪre-flie/ *n* any of the beetles that glow in the dark.

**fireplace** /'faɪr,pleɪs/, /'fɪre-plase/ *n* a framed opening in the wall of a house to hold a fire.

**fireproof** /'faɪr,pru:f/, /'fɪre-proof/ *adj* that cannot be set on fire; ovenproof.

**fire side** /'faɪr,sاید/, /'fɪre-side/ *n* the area next to the fireplace in a home.

**fire station** /'faɪr,steiʃن/, /'fɪre-stay-shun/ *n* the building where fire engines are kept and firefighters stay when on duty.

**firewood** /'faɪrwud/, /'fɪre-wood/ *n* wood, such as sticks or logs, which will be burned as fuel to heat a home.

**fireworks** /'faɪrwerks/, /'fɪre-wurks/ *npl* explosives of different colours and styles set off in the dark for a showy celebration.

**firm<sup>1</sup>** /'fɜːrm/, /'fɪrm/ *adj* 1 steady, not easily moved. 2 determined. • *n firmness*.

**firm<sup>2</sup>** /'fɜːrm/, /'fɪrm/ *n* a business company organized to manufacture or trade in goods.

**first** /'fərst/, /'furst/ *adj* before all others. • *adv* 1 before all others. 2 before doing anything else.

**first aid** /'fərst'eɪd/, /fur stade/ *n* treatment given to an injured person before the doctor arrives; simple medical attention.

**firstborn** /'fərst,bɔːrn/, /'furst-bawrn/ *n* (fm) eldest child.

**first class** /'fərst'klæs/, /furst class/ *adj* of the highest class, rank, excellence, etc.

**first floor** /'fərst'flo:r/, /furst flore/ *n* the floor just above the ground floor.

**first mate** /'fərst'meɪt/, /furst mate/ *n* a ship's officer next in rank below the captain.

**first name** (see 1) /'fərst,neɪm/, /furst name/ *n* a personal name that comes before the family name or surname and is given at birth, also called **forename** and sometimes **Christian name**.

**fish** /fɪʃ/, /fiʃ/ *n* a cold-blooded animal with gills and fins that lives in water. • *vb* **1** to try to catch fish. **2** (*inf*) to search for. **3** (*inf*) to try to get by indirect means.

**fishhook** /'fiʃ,hu:k/, /fish-hook/ *n* a hook, usually barbed, for catching fish.

**fishing rod** /'fiʃɪŋ rɒd/, /fi-shing rod/ *n* a slender pole with an attached line, hook, and reel used in fishing.

**fishmonger** /'fiʃ,mɔŋgər/, /fish-mong-ger/ *n* someone who buys and sells fish.

**fishy** /'fiʃi/, /fi-shee/ *adj* **1** of or like fish. **2** doubtful, arousing suspicion.

**fission** /'fiʃən/, /fi-shun/ *n* the splitting into parts.

**fist** /fɪst/, /fist/ *n* the hand tightly shut.

**fit<sup>1</sup>** /fɪt/, /fit/ *adj* **1** suitable, proper, right. **2** in good health. • *n* the particular way in which something fits. • *vb* (**fitted**, **fitting**) **1** to be of the right size. **2** to suit. **3** to make suitable.

**fit<sup>2</sup>** /fɪt/, /fit/ *n* **1** a sudden attack of illness, fainting, etc. **2** a sudden feeling.

**fitful** /'fitful/, /fit-ful/ *adj* occurring in short periods, not regularly or steadily.

**fitness** /'fitnəs/, /fit-ness/ *n* suitability.

**fitter** /'fɪtər/, /fi-ter/ *n* someone who puts the parts of machinery together.

**fitting** /'fitɪŋ/, /fi-ting/ *adj* suitable, proper. • *n* **1** a thing fixed in position. **2** the trying on of clothes to see if they fit.

**five** /faɪv/, /five/ *n* the sum of three and two. • *adj* **fifth**.

**fix** /fɪks/, /fiks/ *vb* **1** to make firm. **2** to arrange. **3** to fasten. **4** to repair. **5** (*inf*) to arrange the result of dishonestly. • *n* (*inf*) a difficulty.

**fixate** /'fɪkseɪt/, /fik-sate/ *vb* to focus on. • *n* **fixation**.

**fixative** /'fɪksətɪv/, /fik-sa-tiv/ *n* a substance used to make something permanent, prevents fading, etc.

**fixed** /fɪkst/, /fikst/ *adj* firm, not moving or changing. • *adv* **fixedly** /fik-sed-lee/.

**fixture** /'fɪkstʃər/, /fiks-cher/ *n* **1** anything fastened in place. **2** any person or thing that has remained in a situation so long as to seem fixed there. **3** a sports event fixed to take place at a particular time.

**fizz** /fɪz/, /fiz/ *vb* to release or give off many bubbles. • *n* **1** bubbles of gas in a liquid. **2** the sound of fizzing. **1** (*inf*) enthusiasm, liveliness, excitement. • *adj* **fizzy**.

**fizzle** /'fɪzəl/, /fi-zl/ *vb* to fail, to come to nothing.

**fjord** /fi:'ɔrd, fjɔrd/, /fee-awrd/ *n*, also **fiord** a long, narrow bay running inland between steep rocky hills.

**flab** /flæb/, /flab/ *n* sagging flesh.

**flabbergast** /'flæbər,gæst/, /fla-ber-gast/ *vb* to astonish. • *adj* **flabbergasted**.

**flabby** /'flæbi/, /fla-bee/ *adj* **1** soft, hanging loosely. **2** having soft loose flesh. • *n* **flabbiness**.

**flaccid** /'flæsid/, /fla-sid/ *adj* soft and weak, flabby, hanging in loose folds.

**flag<sup>1</sup>** /flæg/, /flag/ *n* **1** a square or oblong piece of material with a pattern on it representing a country, party, association, etc. **2** a coloured cloth or paper used as a sign or signal. • *vb* (**flagged**, **flagging**) **1** to signal with flags. **2** to cause a vehicle to stop by signalling to the driver.

**flag<sup>2</sup>** /flæg/, /flag/ *n* any of the wild irises with flat fans of sword-shaped leaves and white, blue, or yellow flowers.

**flag<sup>3</sup>** /flæg/, /flag/ *n* a flat paving stone.

**flag<sup>4</sup>** /flæg/, /flag/ *vb* (**flagged**, **flagging**) to become tired.

**flagpole** /'flægpəul/, /flag-pole/ *n* a pole on which a flag is raised and flown.

**flair** /fler/, /flare/ *n* **1** a natural ability. **2** style, stylishness, an original and attractive quality.

**flake** /fleɪk/, /flake/ *n* **1** a small thin piece of anything, especially a small loose piece that has broken off something. **2** a very light piece (e.g. of snow). • *vb* to come off in flakes. • *adj* **flaky**.

**flamboyant** /flæm'bɔɪənt/, /flam-boy-ant/ *adj* **1** very brightly coloured or decorated. **2** showy and confident.

**flame** /'fleɪm/, /flæm/ *n* a tongue of fire, a blaze. • *vb* 1 to burn brightly. 2 (*inf*) to become suddenly angry.

**flaming** /'fleɪmɪŋ/, /flæ-mɪŋ/ *adj* 1 burning with flames. 2 excited, violent. 3 very bright.

**flamenco** /flæ'men̩ko:/, /fla-men̩-ko/ *n* a Spanish gypsy style of dance or music featuring stamping, clapping, etc.

**flamingo** /flæ'mɪŋ,go:/, /fla-mɪŋ-go/ *n* (pl **flamingoes**) a brightly coloured water bird with long legs and neck.

**flammable** /'flæməbəl/, /flæ-ma-bl/ *adj* likely to catch fire and burn easily.

**flan** /flæn/, /flan/ *n* 1 a piece of shaped metal ready to be made into a coin by a stamp. 2 an open pastry case with a sweet or savoury filling. 3 a Spanish dessert of custard covered with a burnt-sugar syrup.

**flange** /flændʒ/, /flænge/ *n* a rim that sticks out, as on a wheel that runs on rails.

**flank** /flæŋk/, /flangk/ *n* 1 the fleshy part of an animal's side between the ribs and the hip. 2 the side of anything (e.g. an army, a mountain, etc.). • *vb* to be at the side of, to move to the side of.

**flannel** /'flænəl/, /fla-nel/ *n* 1 a soft, loosely woven woollen cloth. 2 a shirt or other piece of clothing made from this material.

**flap** /flæp/, /flap/ *n* 1 anything fixed at one end and hanging loose at the other. 2 the sound made by such a thing when it moves. 3 (*inf*) panic, agitation. • *vb* (**flapped**, **flapping**) 1 to flutter, to move up and down, to make a sound as of fluttering. 2 (*inf*) to get into a panic, to become confused or excited.

**flapjack** /'flæpdʒæk/, /flap-jack/ *n* 1 a sweet cake made from oats. 2 (US) a pancake.

**flare** /fler/, /flare/ *vb* 1 to blaze up, to burn brightly but unsteadily. 2 to spread out. • *n* 1 a bright, unsteady light. 2 a light used as a signal. 3 a gradual widening, especially of a skirt.

**flare-up** /fler,əp/, /flare-up/ *n* a sudden outburst of flame, anger, trouble, etc.

**flash** /flæʃ/, /flash/ *n* 1 a quick or sudden gleam. 2 (*inf*) a moment. 3 anything lasting for a very short time. 4 a device for producing a

short burst of electric light used to take photographs. • *vb* 1 to shine out suddenly. 2 to move very quickly.

**flashback** /'flæʃbæk/, /flash-back/ *n* 1 a section of a story, play, film, etc, telling of something that happened in the past. 2 a sudden, clear, detailed memory of something in the past.

**flash flood** /'flæʃfləd/, /flash flud/ *n* a sudden, violent flood, as after a heavy rain.

**flashlight** /'flæʃlət/, /flash-lite/ *n* 1 a short burst of electric light used to take photographs in the dark. 2 (US) a torch.

**flashy** /'flæʃi/, /flash-shee/ *adj* gaudy, showy.

**flask** /flæsk/, /flask/ *n* 1 a kind of bottle with a narrow neck, used in laboratories. 2 a pocket bottle. 3 a Thermos bottle.

**flat** /flæt/, /flat/ *adj* 1 level. 2 uninteresting, dull, and lifeless. 3 (of music) below the right note. 4 lying full length. 5 deflated, without enough air in it. 6 clear, strong, firm. 7 no longer fizzy. • *n* 1 a level area. 2 the flat part or side. 3 a set of rooms on one floor or part of a floor for someone to live in, an apartment. 4 a musical sign (♭) showing that a note is to be played a semitone lower. 5 a flat tyre.  
• *n* flatness.

**flatbread** /'flætbred/, /flat-bred/ *n* bread made into thin, circular pieces or sheets, such as pitta or matzo.

**flatfish** /flæt,fiʃ/, /flat-fish/ *n* a kind of fish, such as a flounder or sole, with a flattened body and both eyes and mouth on one side of its body.

**flatten** /'flætən/, /fla-ten/ *vb* to make flat.

**flatter** /'flætər/, /fla-ter/ *vb* 1 to praise excessively or insincerely. 2 to make appear better than is true. • *n* flatterer.

**flattery** /'flætəri/, /fla-te-ree/ *n* insincere or excessive praise.

**flatulence** /'flætjuləns/, /fla-chu-lense/ *n* gas in the stomach or bowels. • *adj* flatulent.

**flaunt** /flɔːnt/, /flawnt/ *vb* to show off, to try to draw attention to.

**flavour** /'fleɪvər/, /flay-vor/ *n*, also flavor (US) 1 a taste. 2 the taste special to a thing. • *vb* to add something to a dish to improve its taste.

**flavouring** /'fleɪvərɪŋ/, /flay-vor-ing/ *n*, also **flavoring** (US)  
something added to improve the taste.

**flaw** /flɔ:/, /flaw/ *n* 1 a crack, a defect, an imperfection. 2 any weakness that makes a person or thing less than perfect, less effective, etc. • *adj* **flawed**.

**flawless** /flələs/, /flaw-less/ *adj* without any imperfections or defects.

**flax** /flæks/, /flaks/ *n* a plant with narrow leaves and blue flowers, the fibres of which are made into linen and the seeds of which are made into linseed oil.

**flaxen** /flæksən/, /flak-sen/ *adj* 1 like or of flax. 2 light yellow in colour.

**flea** /fli:/, /flee/ *n* a small, jumping, bloodsucking insect.

**flea market** /'fli:mærkət/, /flee-mar-ket/ *n* a bazaar, usually outdoors, dealing mainly in cheap, secondhand goods.

**fleck** /flek/, /flek/ *n* a spot. • *vb* to mark with spots.

**fled** /fled/, /fled/ *pt and pp* of **flee**.

**fledgling** /'fledʒlɪŋ/, /fledge-ling/ *n* a young bird learning to fly.

**flee** /fli:/, /flee/ *vb (pt, pp fled)* to run away, to run away from.

**fleece** /fli:s/, /fleese/ *n* the woolly coat of a sheep or similar animal. • *vb* 1 to cut the wool off. 2 (*inf*) to overcharge.

**fleet<sup>1</sup>** /fli:t/, /fleet/ *n* 1 a large number of ships, motorcars, aeroplanes, etc, together. 2 a large group of warships commanded by an admiral.

**fleet<sup>2</sup>** /fli:t/, /fleet/ *adj (fml)* quick-moving. • *vb (fml)* to pass quickly.

**fleeting** /'fli:tɪŋ/, /flee-ting/ *adj (fml)* passing quickly.

**flesh** /flɛʃ/, /flesh/ *n* 1 the soft substance that covers the bones of an animal to form its body. 2 this as food. 3 the edible part of fruit. 4 the body. 5 the desires of the body.

**fleshly** /'flesli/, /flesh-lee/ *adj* having to do with the body and its desires.

**fleshy** /'fleshi/, /flesh-ee/ *adj* fat.

**flew** /flu:/, /floo/ *pt of fly*.

**flex** /fleks/, /fleks/ *vb* to bend. • *n* a cord of rubber-covered wires used to carry electric currents.

**flexible** /'flɛksɪbəl/, /flek-si-bl/ *adj* 1 easily bent. 2 easily changed, adaptable. 3 willing and able to change according to the situation, adaptable. • *n* **flexibility**.

**flick** /flɪk/, /flik/ *vb* to strike lightly and quickly. • *also n.*

**flicker** /'flɪkər/, /fli-ker/ *vb* 1 to shine or burn unsteadily. 2 to flutter, to move quickly and lightly. • *also n.*

**flier** /'flaɪər/, /fli-er/ see **fly**.

**flight** /flɪt/, /flite/ *n* 1 the act of flying. 2 the act of running away. 3 the movement or path of a thing through the air. 4 a journey made by air. 5 a number of birds flying together. 6 a set of stairs or steps.

**flight attendant** /,flɪt æ'tendənt/, /flite a-ten-dant/ *n* a person whose job it is to look after passengers in an aircraft.

**flight control** /'flɪt kən,tro:l/, /fite con-trole/ *n* 1 the control from the ground by radio of aircraft in flight. 2 a station using such control.

**flighty** /'flæti/, /fli-tee/ *adj* 1 changeable, unreliable.

**flimsy** /'flɪmzi/, /flim-zee/ *adj* 1 thin. 2 not strong, easily broken or destroyed. 3 weak.

**flinch** /flɪntʃ/, /flinch/ *vb* to draw back in fear or pain.

**fling** /flɪŋ/, /fling/ *vb* (*pt, pp flung*) 1 to throw. 2 to move suddenly and forcefully. • *n* 1 a throw. 2 a brief love affair. 3 a trial effort.

**flint** /flɪnt/, /flint/ *n* 1 a hard stone. 2 a piece of hard mineral from which sparks can be made when struck. • *also adj.*

**flip** /flɪp/, /flip/ *vb* (**flipped, flipping**) 1 to turn over lightly but sharply. 2 to toss. • *also n.* • *adj* disrespectful, not serious.

**flippant** /'flɪpənt/, /fli-pant/ *adj* not serious, disrespectful. • *n* **flippancy**.

**flipper** /'flɪpər/, /fli-per/ *n* a broad, flat part or limb used by certain sea creatures (e.g. seal, turtle, penguin) when swimming.

**flirt** /flɜ:t/, /flurt/ *vb* 1 to show interest in for a time only. 2 to behave towards another as if attracted by or to attract. • *n* someone who plays at making love. • *n* **flirtation**.

**flirtatious** /flɜ:t'eɪʃəs/, /flur-tay-shus/ *adj* fond of flirting.

**float** /flo:t/, /float/ *vb* 1 to remain on the surface of a liquid. 2 to start.

• *n* 1 anything that floats (e.g. a raft, a buoy, etc.) or helps to make something else float. 2 a low, flat, decorated automobile for

carrying things in a parade. **3** (US) a cold beverage with ice cream floating in it.

**flock**<sup>1</sup> /flɒk/, /flok/ *n* **1** a company of birds or animals. **2** a number of people together. **3** a congregation. • *vb* to come together in a crowd.

**flock**<sup>2</sup> /flɒk/, /flok/ *n* **1** a tuft or flake of wool. **2** waste wool used for stuffing cushions, etc.

**floe** /flo:/, /flo/ *n* a large sheet of floating ice.

**flog** /flɒg/, /flog/ *vb* (**flogged**, **flogging**) to beat, to thrash • *n* **flogging**.

**flood** /fləd/, /flud/ *n* **1** an overflowing of water on to dry land. **2** a rush (of water, people, etc.). **3** the flowing in of the tide. • *vb* **1** to overflow, to cover with water. **2** to arrive in great quantities.

**floodlight** /'flədlایٹ/, /flud-lite/ *n* a very bright lamp directed on to the outside of a building at night to light it up. • *also vb.* • *n* **floodlighting**.

**flood plain** /'flədpleɪn/, /flud-plane/ *n* a plain that borders a river, made up of the soil deposited by the river after it floods.

**floor** /flɔr/, /flore/ *n* **1** the bottom surface of a room on which a person walks. **2** any bottom surface. **3** all the rooms, etc, on the same level in a building. • *vb* **1** to make a floor. **2** to knock down. **3** (*inf*) to astound.

**floorboard** /'flɔrbɔrd/, /flore-board/ *n* the wooden boards that make up the floor to a house or building.

**flooring** /flɔriŋ/, /flore-ing/ *n* a floor, or material for making a floor.

**floor plan** /'flɔrbplæn/, /flore-plan/ *n* a scaled drawing of the layout of the rooms of a house or building.

**flop** /flɒp/, /flop/ *vb* (**flopped**, **flopping**) **1** to sit or fall down heavily or loosely. **2** to hang or swing heavily or loosely. **3** to fail completely, to be unsuccessful. • *n* a complete failure.

**floppy** /'fləpi/, /flop-ee/ *adj* hanging loosely, not stiff.

**flora** /'flɔrə/, /flo-ra/ *n* all the plants in a country or region.

**floral** /'flɔrəl/, /flo-ral/ *adj* having to do with flowers.

**florist** /'flɔrist/, /flo-rist/ *n* someone who grows or sells flowers.

**floss** /flɒs/, /floss/ *n* **1** rough silk. **2** any fluffy substance. **3** waxed thread for cleaning between the teeth. • *vb* to clean teeth with floss.

**flotsam** /'flɒtsəm/, /flot-sam/ *n* floating wreckage.

**flounce<sup>1</sup>** /'flaʊns/, /flounse/ *vb* to move sharply or quickly. • *also n.*

**flounce<sup>2</sup>** /'flaʊns/, /flounse/ *n* a gathered strip of cloth sewn by its upper edge round a skirt or dress and left hanging. • *n* **flouncing**.

**flounder<sup>1</sup>** /'flaʊndər/, /floun-der/ *n* a type of flatfish; a fluke.

**flounder<sup>2</sup>** /'flaʊndər/, /floun-der/ *vb* **1** to struggle helplessly or awkwardly. **2** to be in doubt as to what to say next, to hesitate, to struggle when speaking.

**flour** /flaʊr/, /flour/ *n* grain, especially wheat, ground into powder.

**flourish** /'flərɪʃ/, /flur-ish/ *vb* **1** to get on well, to be very successful, to prosper. **2** to grow well, to bloom. **3** to wave about in a showy manner. • *n* **1** spoken words or handwriting that attract attention by being unusual. **2** a sudden short burst of music. **3** a bold, sweeping movement or gesture.

**floury** /'flaʊri:/, /flou-ree/ *adj* **1** covered with flour. **2** like flour.

**flout** /flaʊt/, /flout/ *vb* to pay no attention to, to disobey openly and scornfully.

**flow** /flo:/, /flo/ *vb* **1** to move steadily and easily, as water. **2** to proceed evenly and continuously. **3** to fall or hang down loosely and freely. **4** to be plentiful. • *n* **1** a flowing movement, a stream. **2** the rise of the tide. **3** a continuous stream or supply.

**flowchart** /'flə:tʃært/, /flo-chart/ *n* a diagram showing the order of stages in a process or system.

**flower** /flaʊr/, /flour/ *n* **1** a blossom, consisting of petals and bearing pollen. **2** the best part of. • *vb* to blossom or bloom.

**flowerpot** /'flaʊr,pɒt/, /flour-pot/ *n* a container in which plants can be grown.

**flowery** /'flaʊri/, /flou-ree/ *adj* **1** full of flowers. **2** patterned with flowers. **3** ornate, overelaborate.

**flown** /flo:n/, /fone/ *pp of fly*.

**flu** /flu:/, /floo/ *n* short for **influenza**, a sickness caused by a virus.

**fluctuate** /'flʌktʃu; eɪt/, /flʌk-choo-wate/ *vb* 1 to rise and fall, as a wave. 2 to vary, to change continually and irregularly. • *n* **fluctuation**.

**flue** /flu:/, /floo/ *n* a passage in a chimney for carrying away air or smoke.

**fluent** /'flu:ənt/, /floo-ent/ *adj* able to speak or write quickly and easily. • *n* **fluency**.

**fluff** /fləf/, /fluf/ *n* any soft or feathery material. *vb* 1 **fluff up** make something fuller by shaking. 2 (*inf*) to fail to do something properly. **fluffy** /'fləfi/, /fluf-ee/ *adj* like fluff, soft and downy.

**fluid** /'flu:ɪd/, /floo-id/ *adj* 1 able to flow, flowing. 2 able to change quickly. 3 smooth and graceful. • *n* any substance that flows, as liquid or gas.

**fluke<sup>1</sup>** /flu:k/, /flook/ *n* a type of flatfish, a flounder.

**fluke<sup>2</sup>** /flu:k/, /flook/ *n* 1 the part of an anchor that hooks into the seabed. 2 one of the pointed parts on a whale's tail.

**fluke<sup>3</sup>** /flu:k/, /flook/ *n* (*inf*) a lucky chance.

**flume** /flu:m/, /floom/ *n* a human-made channel or chute for carrying water, usually down a mountainside.

**flung** /fluŋ/, /flung/ *pt and pp of fling*.

**fluorescence** /flə'resəns/, /floo-re-sense/ *n* a quality in certain substances that enables them to give off very bright light.

**fluorescent** /flə'resənt/, /floo-re-sent/ *adj* having or showing fluorescence.

**fluoride** /'flɔraɪd/, /flaw-ride/ *n* a chemical compound that is sometimes added to toothpaste and water supplies to prevent tooth decay.

**flurry** /'fləri/, /flu-ree/ *n* 1 confused movement. 2 a sudden rush of air, rain, etc. • *vb* to make anxious or confused.

**flush** /fləʃ/, /flush/ *vb* 1 to become suddenly red in the face. 2 to cleanse by a flow of water. • *n* 1 a sudden redness in the face. 2 a rush of water. 3 freshness, vigour. • *adj* 1 (*inf*) having plenty of money. 2 level.

**fluster** /'fləstər/, /flu-ster/ *vb* to make confused, to overexcite. • *also n.*

**flute** /flu:t/, /float/ *n* **1** a wooden musical wind instrument. **2** a shallow hollow carved in a pillar. • *vb 1* to play the flute. **2** to carve hollows or grooves.

**flutter** /'flətər/, /flut-er/ *vb* **1** to move the wings up and down quickly without flying. **2** to move about quickly. • *n 1* quick movement. **2** (*inf*) excitement. **3** (*inf*) a bet, a gamble.

**fly** /flai/, /fli:/ *vb* (*pt* **flew**, *pp* **flown**) **1** to move through the air on wings. **2** to travel by aeroplane. **3** to move quickly. **4** to run away. • *n 1* a common flying insect. **2** a fishing hook covered with feathers to make it look like a fly. **3** a flap, especially one that closes the entrance to a tent. • *n* **flier, flyer.**

**FM** /'efem/, /ef-em/ *abbr* = **frequency modulation**: a system that uses waves to send and receive sound.

**foal** /fo:l/, /foal/ *n* a young horse, mule, donkey, etc. • *vb* to give birth to a foal.

**foam** /fo:m/, /foam/ *n* bubbles on the top of liquid, froth. • *vb* to gather or produce foam.

**focaccia** /fo:katʃæ/, /fo-coch-ee-a/ *n* a round, flat Italian yeast bread that has a crispy crust and contains olive oil, herbs, etc.

**focal** /'fo:kəl/, /fo-cal/ *adj* **1** of a focus. **2** central, main.

**focus** /'fo:kəs/, /fo-cus/ *n* (*pl* **foci** /fo-kie/ or **focuses** /fo-cu-seez/) **1** a point at which rays of light meet. **2** a centre of interest or attention. • *vb 1* to bring to bear on one point. **2** to get a clear image in the lens of a camera before taking a photograph.

**fodder** /'fodər/, /fod-er/ *n* dried food for cattle, horses, sheep, etc.

**foe** /fo:/, /fo/ *n* (*frm*) an enemy.

**foetal** /'fi:təl/, /fee-tal/ *adj*, *also fetal* (*US*) of a foetus.

**foetus** /'fi:təs/, /fee-tus/ *n*, *also fetus* (*US*) the young of a human or animal before it has been born.

**fog** /fɒg/, /fog/ *n* a thick mist.

**fogey, fogy** /'fo:gi/, /fo-gee/ *n* a person whose ideas are out of date.

**foggy** /'fɒgi/, /fog-ee/ *adj* **1** misty. **2** confused, vague.

**foil<sup>1</sup>** /fɔɪl/, /foyl/ *vb* to cause to fail, to defeat.

**foil**<sup>2</sup> /fɔɪl/, /fɔyl/ *n* **1** a very thin sheet of metal. **2** the metal coating on the back of a mirror.

**foil**<sup>3</sup> /fɔɪl/, /fɔyl/ *n* a long, thin sword with a cap or button on the tip to prevent injury, used in fencing.

**fold**<sup>1</sup> /fo:ld/, /foald/ *vb* **1** to bend one part of a thing all the way over to cover another part. **2** to enclose. • *n* **1** a line or crease made by folding. **2** the part doubled over.

**fold**<sup>2</sup> /fo:ld/, /foald/ *n* a place where sheep are kept.

**folder** /'fo:ldər/, /foal-der/ *n* a stiff cover for holding papers, letters, etc.

**foliage** /'fo:liədʒ/, /fo-lee-idge/ *n* (*fml*) the leaves of trees or other plants.

**folio** /'fo:lio:/, /fo-lee-yo/ *n* **1** a sheet of paper folded so that it opens to two equal, opposing pages. **2** a book made with large sheets of paper.

**folk** /fo:k/, /foak/ *n* **1** (*inf*) people. **2** the people of a country or a particular part of a country. (*inf*) *pl* relatives, parents.

**folklore** /'fo:klɔr/, /foak-loar/ *n* all the stories, songs, beliefs, etc, that have been passed on from one generation of people to another (e.g. **folk dance**, **folk song**, **folktale**).

**follow** /'folo:/, /fol-oa/ *vb* **1** to go or come after. **2** to be next in order to. **3** to go along. **4** to accept as a leader or a teacher. **5** to result from. **6** to understand.

**follower** /'folo:wər/, /fol-oa-er/ *n* a supporter.

**following** /'folo:wɪŋ/, /fol-oa-ing/ *n* all one's supporters. • *adj* next in order.

**folly** /'foli/, /fol-ee/ *n* **1** foolishness. **2** a foolish act.

**fond** /fɔnd/, /fond/ *adj* **1** having a love or liking for. **2** loving. **3** foolishly loving, indulging, doting. **4** hoped for but not likely to be realized. • *n* **fondness**.

**fondle** /'fɔndəl/, /fon-dl/ *vb* to stroke, to touch lovingly.

**font** /fɒnt/, /font/ *n* **1** the basin holding the water for baptism. **2** a set of type of the same size and style.

**food** /fu:d/, /food/ *n* that which can be eaten.

**food chain** /'fu:d ,tʃeɪn/, /foʊd-chein/ *n* a series of living things, each of which feeds on the one below it in the series.

**fool** /fu:l/, /fʊl/ *n* 1 a silly or stupid person. 2 (*old*) a jester. • *vb* 1 to deceive. 2 to behave as if someone were a fool.

**foolish** /'fu:lɪʃ/, /fʊl-ɪʃ/ *adj* silly, stupid. • *n* **foolishness**.

**foolproof** /'fu:lpru:f/, /fʊl-pru:f/ *adj* unable to go wrong even when foolishly used.

**foot** /fʊt/, /fʊt/ *n* (*pl* **feet** /feɪt/) 1 the part of the leg below the ankle. 2 the lowest part of anything. 3 an imperial measure of length equal to 12 inches. 4 foot-soldiers. • *vb* (*inf*) to pay.

**football** /'fʊtbɒl/, /fʊt-bol/ *n*, also **soccer** 1 a team game the object of which is to kick a ball into the goal to score points. 2 the ball used to play this game.

**foothills** /'fʊθɪlz/, /fʊt-hilz/ *npl* low hills at the bottom of mountains.

**footing** /'fʊtɪŋ/, /fʊt-ɪng/ *n* 1 a safe place for the feet. 2 balance. 3 foundation, basis. 4 relationship.

**footlights** /'fʊtlights/, /fʊt-lights/ *npl* lights on the floor at the front of the stage in a theatre.

**footnote** /'fʊtno:t/, /fʊt-note/ *n* a note at the bottom of a page.

**footpath** /'fʊtpæθ/, /fʊt-path/ *n* a narrow path used by walkers only.

**footprint** /'fʊtprɪnt/, /fʊt-print/ *n* the mark left by a foot.

**footstep** /'fʊtstɛp/, /fʊt-step/ *n* the sound or mark made by the foot of someone walking.

**footstool** /'fʊtstʊl/, /fʊt-stool/ *n* a low stool to support the feet of a person seated.

**for** /fər, fɔ:r/, /fɔr/ *prep* 1 in place of. 2 in the interest of. 3 with the purpose of doing. 4 in search of. 5 as being. 6 the length of.

**forage** /'fɔrædʒ/, /fawr-ridge/ *n* food for cattle or horses. • *vb* 1 to gather food for cattle or horses. 2 to go out and look for food. 3 to search, to hunt, to rummage.

**forbid** /fɔ:bɪd/, /fawr-bid/ *vb* (*pt* **forbade**, *pp* **forbidden**) to order not to do.

**forbidding** /fɔ:bɪdɪŋ/, /fawr-bi-ding/ *adj* frightening.

**force** /fɔ:rs/, /foarse/ *n* 1 strength, power. 2 violence. 3 an organized body of people. 4 *pl* the army, navy, and air force. 5 a person or

thing that has great power. • *vb* 1 to make. 2 to get something by strength, violence, or effort. 3 to grow plants out of season under artificial conditions.

**forced** /fɔrst/, /foarst/ *adj* 1 brought about by force, 2 unnatural, strained.

**forceful** /'fɔrsful/, /foarse-ful/ *adj* strong, energetic. • *adv* **forcefully**.

**forceps** /'fɔrseps/, /fore-seps/ *n* an instrument like tongs or pincers used by doctors and dentists to hold, lift, or grip things.

**forcible** /'fɔrsəbəl/, /fore-si-bl/ *adj* done by force.

**ford** /fɔrd/, /foard/ *n* a place where a river is shallow enough to be crossed. • *vb* to wade across.

**fore** /fɔr/, /fore/ *adj, adv* in front. • *interj (in golf)* look out!

**forearm<sup>1</sup>** /'fɔrarm/, /fore-arm/ *n* the arm from the elbow to the wrist.

**forearm<sup>2</sup>** /fɔ'arm/, /fore-arm/ *vb* to arm or prepare in advance.

**foreboding** /fɔr'bo:dɪŋ/, /fore-bo-ding/ *n* a feeling that evil is going to happen.

**forecast** /'forkæst/, /fore-cast/ *vb (pt, pp forecast)* to say what will happen in the future. • *also n.*

**forefather** /'fɔr,fɑðər/, /fore-fa-ther/ *n* an ancestor.

**forefinger** /'fɔr,fɪŋgər/, /fore-fing-ger/ *n* the finger next to the thumb; the index finger.

**forefront** /'fɔrfrent/, /fore-frunt/ *n* the front part.

**forego<sup>1</sup>** /fɔr'go:/, /fore-go/ *vb (pt forewent, pp foregone)* to go before.

**forego<sup>2</sup>** /fɔr'go:/, /fore-go/ see **forgo**.

**foregoing** /fɔr'go:iŋ/, /fore-go-ing/ *adj* earlier, previous.

**foregone** /'fɔrgən/, /fore-gon/ *adj* previously determined, predicted. • *vb pp of forego<sup>1</sup>*.

**foreground** /'fɔrgraund/, /fore-ground/ *n* 1 the nearest objects shown in a picture. 2 the nearest part of a view.

**forehead** /'fɔrhed/, /fore-hed/ *n* the part of the face above the eyebrows and below the hairline.

**foreign** /'fɔrən/, /fawr-un/ *adj* 1 belonging to or concerning another country. 2 strange. 3 out of place.

**foreigner** /'fɔːrənər/, /fawr-u-ner/ *n* a person from a different country from where they are.

**foreleg** /'fɔːrlɛg/, /fore-leg/ *n* one of the front legs of an animal.

**foremost** /'fɔːrməʊst/, /fore-most/ *adj* 1 most famous, best. 2 most important.

**forename** /'fɔːməʊst/, /fore-name/ see **first name (see 1)**.

**forensic** /fə'rensɪk/, /fo-ren-zic/ *n* 1 having to do with the law or courts of law. 2 having to do with applying scientific, especially medical, knowledge to legal matters, as in crime investigation.

**forerunner** /'fɔːrənər/, /fore-ru-ner/ *n* 1 (*old*) someone who goes before with a message or announcement. 2 a person or thing that comes before another. • *vb* **forerun**.

**foresee** /fɔː'si:/, /fore-see/ *vb* (*pt* **foresaw**, *pp* **foreseen**) to see what is going to happen.

**foreshadow** /fɔː'ʃædə/, /fore-sha-doe/ *vb* to be a sign of future events.

**foresight** /'fɔːsɜːt/, /fore-sight/ *n* the ability to guess and prepare for future events.

**foreskin** /'fɔːskɪn/, /fore-skin/ *n* the fold of skin that covers the tip of the penis; this is sometimes removed by circumcision for religious or medical reasons.

**forest** /'fɔːrest/, /faw-rest/ *n* a large area covered by trees and undergrowth.

**forestall** /fɔː'stɒl/, /fore-stawl/ *vb* to guess what another is going to do and act before him or her.

**forestation** /fɔː'resteɪʃən/, /fore-stay-shun/ *n* the planting and caring for forests.

**forested** /'fɔːrɛstɪd/, /faw-re-sted/ *adj* covered with trees and undergrowth.

**forester** /'fɔːrɛstər/, /faw-re-ster/ *n* a person in charge of a forest.

**forestry** /'fɔːrɛstri/, /faw-re-stree/ *n* the study of planting and looking after forests.

**foretell** /fɔː'tɛl/, /fore-tell/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **foretold**) to say what will happen in the future.

**forethought** /'fɔrθɔt/, /fore-thot/ *n* care that the results of actions will be good.

**forever** /fər'evər/, /fu-rev-er/ *adv* for always, endlessly, at all times.

**forewarn** /fər'wɔrn/, /fore-wawrn/ *vb* to warn in advance.

**foreword** /'fɔrwərd/, /fore-word/ *n* a piece of writing at the beginning of a book as an introduction.

**forfeit** /'fɔrfət/, /fawr-fit/ *vb* to lose or give up. • *n* that which is so lost or given up, a fine.

**forgave** /fər'geiv/, /fawr-gave/ *pt of forgive*.

**forge** /fɔrdʒ/, /foarge/ *n* 1 a blacksmith's workshop. 2 a furnace for heating metal. • *vb* 1 to beat hot metal into shape. 2 to make by hard effort. 3 to imitate something to deceive.

**forger** /'fɔrdʒər/, /fore-jer/ *n* a person who forges.

**forgery** /'fɔrdʒəri/, /fore-je-ree/ *n* 1 act of imitating something dishonestly, especially another's writing. 2 the imitation so made.

**forget** /fər'get/, /fore-get/ *vb* (*pt forgot, pp forgotten*) to fail to remember.

**forgetful** /fər'getful/, /fore-get-ful/ *adj* bad at remembering. • *n forgetfulness*.

**forget-me-not** /fər'getmi,nɒt/, /for-get-me-not/ *n* a small blue flower.

**forgive** /fər'giv/, /fore-giv/ *vb* (*pt forgave*) 1 to pardon. 2 to stop being angry or bitter towards, to stop blaming or wanting to punish. • *n forgiveness*. • *adj forgivable*.

**forgiving** /'fərgɪvɪŋ/, /fore-gi-ving/ *adj* quick to forgive.

**forgo**, **forego** /fər'go:/, /for-go/ *vb* to give up, to do without.

**forgot** /fər'gɒt/, *pt of forget*. • *pp forgotten*

**fork** /fɔrk/, /fork/ *n* 1 an instrument with two or more pointed prongs used for digging, eating, etc. 2 a place where two roads meet. 3 a place where a tree or branch divides. • *vb* 1 to raise or dig with a fork. 2 to divide into branches.

**forked** /fɔrkt/, /forkt/ *adj* divided into branches or sections.

**forklift** /'forklift/, /fork-lift/ *n* a device on the front of a truck for lifting heavy objects.

**forlorn** /fɔrlɔrn/, /fur-lawrn/ *adj* left alone, miserable.

**form** /fɔrm/, /fawrm/ *n* 1 shape. 2 a paper so printed that a message or information can be written in prepared spaces. 3 kind. 4 arrangement. 5 a fixed way of doing things. 6 a class or year in a school. • *vb* 1 to make, to cause to take shape. 2 to come into existence, to take shape.

**formal** /'fɔrməl/, /fawr-mal/ *adj* 1 following the accepted rules or customs. 2 stiff in manner. • *adv* **formally**.

**formality** /fɔr'mæliti/, /fawr-ma-li-tee/ *n* 1 stiffness of manner. 2 something done only to carry out a rule. 3 care to follow rules and customs.

**format** /'fɔrmæt/, /fawr-mat/ *n* the general shape and size of anything. • *vb* to prepare a computer disk so that data can be recorded and stored on it.

**formation** /fɔr'meɪʃən/, /fawr-may-shun/ *n* 1 act of forming. 2 an orderly arrangement.

**formative** /'fɔrmətɪv/, /fawr-ma-tiv/ *adj* helping to shape or develop.

**former** /'fɔrmər/, /fawr-mer/ *adj* earlier, past. • *pron* the person or thing previously mentioned.

**formerly** /'fɔrmərlɪ/, /fawr-mer-lee/ *adv* in earlier times.

**formidable** /fɔr'midəbəl/, /fawr-mi-da-bl/ *adj* 1 to be feared. 2 difficult.

**formless** /'fɔmləs/, /fawrm-less/ *adj* having no definite shape or regular plan.

**formula** /'fɔrmjulə/, /fawrm-yu-la/ *n* (*pl formulae or formulas*) 1 a fixed arrangement of words or numbers. 2 a rule in arithmetic set down with signs or letters so that it can be used for any sum. 3 in chemistry, the use of signs or letters to show how substances are made up.

**formulate** /'fɔrmju,leɪt/, /fawrm-yu-late/ *vb* (*fml*) to express or set down clearly.

**forsake** /for'seɪk/, /fawr-sake/ *vb* (*pt forsook, pp forsaken*) to give up, to abandon.

**fort** /fɔrt/, /foart/ *n* 1 a place prepared for defence against an enemy. 2 a permanent military post.

**forte<sup>1</sup>** /'fɔrteɪl/, /foart/ *n* one's strong point, the thing at which a person is best.

- forte**<sup>2</sup> /'fɔrteɪ/, /fawr-tay/ *adv (mus)* loud.
- forth** /fɔrθ/, *adv* 1 /foarth/ onward in time, place, or order. 2 out.
- forthcoming** /fɔrθ'kemɪŋ/, /foarth-cu-ming/ *adj* 1 about to happen, coming soon. 2 open, responsive.
- forthright** /'fɔrθrɔɪt/, /foarth-rite/ *adj* saying what one thinks.
- fortify** /'fɔrtɪ,fai/, /fawr-ti-fie/ *vb* 1 to strengthen or enrich. 2 to build defences around.
- fortitude** /'fɔrtɪ,tju:d/, /fawr-ti-tjood/ *n* ability to suffer without complaint; courage, patience.
- fortnight** /'fɔrtnɔɪt/, /fawrt-nite/ *n* a period of two weeks. • *adv* fortnightly.
- fortress** /'fɔrtrɛs/, /fawr-tress/ *n* a place prepared with strong defences against attackers.
- fortunate** /'fɔrtʃənət/, /fawr-chi-net/ *adj* lucky.
- fortune** /'fɔrtʃən/, /fawr-chin/ *n* 1 luck, chance. 2 wealth, a large amount of money. 3 the supposed power that affects one's life.
- forty** /'fɔrti/, /for-tee/ *n* the product of four and ten. • *adj* fortieth.
- forum** /'fɔrəm/, /fo-rum/ *n* (pl forums or fora) 1 (*old*) the market place in a Roman town. 2 any place of public discussion. 3 a meeting involving a public discussion.
- forward** /'fɔrwərd/, /for-wurd/ *adv* (also forwards) towards the front. • *adj* 1 advancing. 2 near the front. 3 in advance. 4 developing more quickly than usual. 5 bold, not shy. • *vb* 1 to help move along. 2 to send on.
- fossil** /'fɔsəl/, /fos-il/ *n* 1 the remains of a plant or animal that have hardened into stone and so been preserved in rock or earth. 2 a person whose ideas are out of date.
- fossil fuel** /'fɔsəl fju:əl/, /fos-il fyool/ *n* a natural substance, such as coal or oil, found underground and formed in an earlier time, used as a source of energy.
- fossilize** /fɔsəlaɪz/, /fos-il-ize/ *vb*, also **fossilise** to change into a fossil.
- foster** /'fɔstər/, /faws-ter/ *vb* 1 to look after for a time, to bring up a child that is not one's own. 2 to encourage.

**foster child** /'fəstər ,tʃaɪld/, /faws-ter child/ *n* (*pl* **foster children**) a child brought up for a time by someone who is not his or her parent. • *also n foster brother, foster sister.*

**foster father** /'fəstər ,fæθər/, /faws-ter fa-ther/, **foster mother** /faws-ter mu-ther/ *n*, **foster parents** /faws-ter pay-rints/ *npl* those who bring up for a time the child(ren) of other parents.

**foster home** /'fəstər ,ho:m/, /faws-ter hoam/ *n* a home in which foster children are cared for for a time by people other than their families.

**fought** *pt and pp of fight.*

**foul** /faʊl/, /foul/ *adj* 1 dirty, disgusting. 2 stormy. 3 against the rules. 4 nasty. 5 bad. • *vb* 1 to make or become dirty. 2 to become entangled. 3 to break the rules of a game. • *n* an act against the rules of a game.

**foul play** /'faʊl pleɪ/, /foul play/ *n* 1 unfair play. 2 violence or murder.

**found<sup>1</sup>** /faʊnd/, /found/ *pt of find.*

**found<sup>2</sup>** /faʊnd/, /found/ *vb* 1 to start from the beginning, to set up. 2 to give money to start a school, hospital, etc. • *n founder.*

**foundation** /faʊn'deɪʃən/, /foun-day-shun/ *n* 1 the lowest part of a building on which the walls stand. 2 the amount of money given to start a school, hospital, etc. 3 the place started with such money.

**founder<sup>1</sup>** /'faʊndər/, /foun-der/ *vb* 1 to fill with water and sink. 2 to come to nothing, to fail.

**founder<sup>2</sup>** /'faʊndər/, /foun-der/ a person who founds or establishes something.

**foundry** /'faʊndri/, /foun-dree/ *n* a workshop where metals are melted and shaped.

**fount** /faʊnt/, /fount/ *n* 1 (*old*) a spring of water. 2 (*frm*) a cause or beginning.

**fountain** /'faʊntən/, /foun-tin/ *n* 1 a spring of water. 2 a jet of water thrown into the air from a pipe. 3 (*frm*) a beginning or source.

**fountain pen** /'faʊntən pen/, /foun-tin pen/ *n* a pen containing a supply of liquid ink.

**four** /fɔ:/, /fore/ *n* the sum of two and two. • *adj fourth.*

**fourteen** /fɔːr'tiːn/, /fore-teen/ *n* the product of two and seven. • *adj*

**fourteenth**

**fourth** /fɔːrθ/, see **four**.

**four-poster** /'fɔːr'poːstər/, /fore-poe-ster/ *n* a bed with four tall corner posts that sometimes hold up a decorative drape.

**fowl** /faʊl/, /foul/ *n* a bird, especially the farmyard chicken or rooster.

**fox** /fɒks/, /foks/ *n* 1 a doglike animal with reddish brown or grey fur and a bushy tail. 2 a cunning or deceitful person. • *f* **vixen** /vɪk-sen/.

**foxhound** /'fɒkshaʊnd/, /foks-hound/ *n* a kind of dog with black, tan, and white fur and trained for hunting.

**foxy** /'fɒksi/, /fok-see/ *adj* 1 cunning. 2 like a fox.

**foyer** /'fɔɪə/, /foy-ay/ *n* an entrance hall.

**fraction** /'frækʃən/, /frac-shun/ *n* 1 a part of a whole. 2 a small part. 3 in arithmetic, part of a whole number, e.g.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , etc.

**fractional** /'frækʃənəl/, /frac-shnal/ *adj* very small.

**fracture** /'fræktʃər/, /frac-cher/ *n* 1 a break. 2 the breaking of a bone. • *vb* to break, to suffer a fracture.

**fragile** /'frædʒail/, /fra-jile/ *adj* 1 easily broken. 2 not strong.

**fragment** /'frægmənt/, /frag-ment/ *n* 1 a part broken off. 2 a small part. • *vb* **fragment** to break into fragments.

**fragrance** /'freɪgrəns/, /fray-granse/ *n* 1 scent, sweet smell. 2 perfume.

**fragrant** /'freɪgrənt/, /fray-grant/ *adj* sweet-smelling.

**frail** /freɪl/, /frale/ *adj* 1 weak, feeble, delicate. 2 (*old*) easily tempted to do wrong.

**frame** /freɪm/, /frame/ *vb* 1 to make, to construct. 2 to put into a frame. 3 (*inf*) to cause someone to seem guilty of a crime. • *n* 1 the supports around which the rest of a thing is built. 2 the border of metal, wood, etc, placed around a picture. 3 the body.

**framer** /'freɪmər/, /fray-mer/ *n* a person or thing that frames.

**framework** /freɪm, wɜːk/, /frame-wurk/ *n* the supports around which the rest of a thing is built.

**franc** /fræŋk/, /frangk/ *n* a money that was formerly used in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, etc.

**franchise** /'fræntʃaɪz/, /fran-chize/ *n* **1** the right to vote. **2** a special right given or sold by a company to one person or group of people to sell the company's goods or services in a particular place.

**frank<sup>1</sup>** /fræŋk/, /frangk/ *adj* **1** saying what one really thinks, honest. **2** open, honest-looking. • *n frankness*.

**frank<sup>2</sup>** /fræŋk/, /frangk/ *vb* to put an official mark on a letter.

**frankfurter** /'fræŋk,fərtər/, /frangk-fur-ter/ *n* a long, thin smoked sausage, a hot dog.

**frankincense** /'fræŋkin,sens/, /frang-kin-sense/ *n* a gum giving a sweet-smelling smoke when burned.

**frantic** /'fræŋtɪk/, /fran-tic/ *adj* **1** very anxious or worried. **2** wildly excited, hurried.

**fraternal** /frə'ternəl/, /fra-ter-nal/ *adj* brotherly.

**fraternity** /frə'terñti/, /fra-ter-ni-tee/ *n* **1** a group of men meeting for a common purpose. **2** (*fm*) the state of being brothers or like brothers.

**fraternize** /'frætərnaiz/, /fra-ter-nize/ *vb*, also **fraternise** to mix with in a friendly or brotherly way.

**fraud** /frød/, /frawd/ *n* **1** dishonesty. **2** a deceiving trick. **3** a person who deceives.

**fraudulent** /'frødjulənt/, /fraw-ju-lent/ *adj* dishonest.

**fray<sup>1</sup>** /freɪ/, /fray/ *n* **1** a fight. **2** a noisy quarrel.

**fray<sup>2</sup>** /freɪ/, /fray/ *vb* **1** to wear away by rubbing. **2** to become worn at the edges. **3** to upset.

**freak** /fri:k/, /freek/ *n* **1** a living creature not physically normal. **2** a strange, unexpected happening. **3** (*inf*) a person with an extremely strong interest in a particular subject • *adj* strange, unusual.

**freakish** /'fri:kɪʃ/, /free-kish/ *adj*, also **freaky** /free-kee/ very unusual, strange.

**freckle** /'frekəl/, /fre-kul/ *n* a brownish yellow spot on the skin. • *adj freckled*.

**free** /fri:/, /fri:/ *adj* 1 at liberty, able to do what a person wants. 2 not forced or persuaded to act, think, speak, etc, in a particular way. 3 not occupied. 4 generous. 5 costing nothing. 6 open, frank. • *n* 1 to set at liberty. 2 to set free from.

**freedom** /'fri:dəm/, /fri:dəm/ *n* 1 the state of being at liberty. 2 the right to act, think, speak, etc, as a person pleases. 3 the state of being without. 4 the unlimited use of something.

**freelance** /'fri:læns/, /fri:læns/ *n* someone who works for himself or herself and not any particular company. • *vb* to work in such a way.  
**free-range** /'fri:reindʒ/, /fri:reindʒ/ *adj* of eggs, laid by hens that are allowed to move around freely.

**freestyle** /'fri:stail/, /fri:stail/ *adj* (*sports*) not limited to one specific style.

**freethinker** /fri:'θɪŋkər/, /fri:θɪŋkər/ *n* someone who tries to work out his or her own ideas about God, religion, politics, morals, etc.

**free trade** /'fri:stail/, /fri:stail/ *n* the exchanging of goods without making a customs charge on imports.

**free verse** /'fri:stail/, /fri:stail/ *n* poetry without rhyme or a standard, regular pattern.

**freeze** /fri:z/, /fri:z/ *vb* (*pt* **froze**, *pp* **frozen**) 1 to harden because of cold. 2 to become or make into ice. 3 to be very cold. 4 to make very cold. 5 to become suddenly still.

**freezer** /'fri:zər/, /fri:zər/ *n* a piece of electrical equipment or the part of a refrigerator that freezes and preserves food or other things at very low temperatures.

**freight** /freit/, /frate/ *n* 1 the cargo of a ship. 2 the load on a train carrying goods. 3 the cost of transporting goods.

**freighter** /'freɪtər/, /fray-ter/ *n* a cargo ship.

**French** /frɛnʃ/, /frenʃ/ *adj* of or relating to France. • *n* the language spoken in France.

**French bread** /frɛnʃ 'bred/, /frenʃ bred/ *n* a long, slender loaf of white bread with a hard, crisp crust.

**French windows** /frɛnʃ 'wɪndo:z/, /frenʃ wɪndo:z/ *npl* two glass doors that are next to each other and hinged at opposite sides so that they open together in the middle.

**French dressing** /'frentʃ 'dresɪŋ/, /frenʃ dresɪŋ/ *n* a salad dressing made from oil, vinegar and seasoning; also known as **vinaigrette**.

**French fries** /'frentʃ ,fraɪz/, /frenʃ frize/ *n* chips, especially thin chips, made from potato.

**French horn** /,frentʃ 'hɔrn/, /frenʃ hɔrn/ *n* a brass musical instrument consisting of a long, spiral tube ending in a flared bell.

**French toast** /,frentʃ 'to:st/, /frenʃ toast/ *n* sliced bread dipped in beaten egg and fried in a pan.

**frenzied** /'frenzi:d/, /fren-zeed/ *adj* wild, uncontrolled.

**frenzy** /'frenzi:/, /fren-zee/ *n* 1 a sudden attack of madness. 2 uncontrollable excitement or feeling.

**frequency** /'fri:kwənsi/, /free-kwen-see/ *n* 1 the number of times something happens. 2 the number of waves, vibrations, etc, per second.

**frequent** /'fri:kwənt/, /free-kwent/ *adj* happening often, common. • *vb* /fra-kwent/ to visit often.

**fresh** /frɛʃ/, /fresh/ *adj* 1 new. 2 not tired. 3 cool. 4 not stale. 5 not frozen or canned. 6 not salted.

**freshen** /'frɛʃən/, /fre-shen/ *vb* 1 to make or become fresh. 2 to cause to become less untidy, etc. • *n* **freshener**.

**freshwater** /'frɛʃ, wɔ:tər/, /fresh-waw-ter/ *n* not saltwater. • *adj* of or relating to those things that live in fresh water.

**fret** /frɛt/, /fret/ *vb* (**fretted**, **fretting**) 1 to wear away by rubbing. 2 to worry, to be anxious.

**fretful** /'frɛtfʊl/, /fret-ful/ *adj* troubled, irritable.

**friar** /'fraɪər/, /frie-er/ *n* a member of a Roman Catholic religious order.

**friary** /'fraɪri/, /frie-e-ree/ *n* a house of friars.

**friction** /'frɪkʃən/, /fric-shun/ *n* 1 rubbing, a rubbing together. 2 the resistance felt when one object is moved against another. 3 disagreement.

**Friday** /'fraɪdeɪ/, /frie-day/ *n, adv* the sixth day of the week, following Thursday.

**fridge** /frɪdʒ/, /fridge/ *n* a refrigerator.

**friend** /frend/, /frend/ *n* a close companion.

**friendly** /'frēndlē/, /frend-lee/ *adj* **1** kind. **2** fond of or liking one another. • *n friendliness.*

**friendship** /'frendʃip/, /frend-ship/ *n* the state of being friends.

**frieze** /fri:z/, /freez/ *n* a decorative border around the top of a wall.

**frigate** /'frigēt/, /fri-git/ *n* a small fast warship.

**fright** /frait/, /frite/ *n* a sudden feeling of fear, a shock.

**frighten** /'fraɪtən/, /frie-ten/ *vb* to make afraid.

**frightful** /'fraɪtfūl/, /friet-fūl/ *adj* **1** dreadful, causing fear. **2** (*inf*) very bad, dreadful.

**frigid** /'frīdʒid/, /fri-jid/ *adj* **1** (*fm!*) cold, frozen. **2** cold and unemotional, unfriendly. **3** not able to enjoy sex. • *n frigidity* /fri-ji-di-tee/.

**frill** /fril/, /fril/ *n* **1** a loose ornamental edging of cloth gathered or pleated at one end and sewn on to a garment. **2** an unnecessary ornament. • *adj frilly.*

**fringe** /frīndʒ/, /fringe/ *n* **1** an ornamental edging of hanging threads. **2** part of someone's hair that hangs over the forehead. **3** the edge. • *vb to border.*

**Frisbee** /'frīzbē/, /friz-bee/ *n* **1** a simple game in which a flat, plastic disc is flung between players. **2** the disc used to play this game.

**frisk** /frisk/, /frisk/ *vb* **1** to jump and dance about, to play about joyfully. **2** to search quickly.

**frisky** /frīski/, /fri-skee/ *adj* playful, active.

**fritter** /'frītər/, /fri-ter/ *n* any sweet or tasty food cut small, fried in batter, and served hot. • *vb to waste.*

**frivolity** /frī'vɒlɪti/, /fri-vol-i-tee/ *n* fun, lack of seriousness.

**frivolous** /'frīvələs/, /fri-vu-lus/ *adj* **1** interested only in amusement. **2** not taking important matters seriously; silly. **3** not serious, playful, light-hearted.

**frizz** /friz/, /friz/ *vb* to form into small, tight curls. • *adj frizzy.*

**fro** /fro:/, /fro/ *adv.* • **to and fro** forward and back again.

**frog** /frōg/, /frawg/ *n* a cold-blooded, four-footed land and water creature that can leap long distances.

**frogman** /'frɒgmən/, /frawg-man/ *n* a person trained and equipped for underwater work.

**frolic** /'frɒlɪk/, /frol-ic/ *vb* (**frolicked**, **frolicking**) to play about, to dance or jump about happily. • *n* a trick played for fun; lively amusement.

**from** /frəm, frɒm/, /from/ *prep* **1** beginning at. **2** starting with. **3** out of. **4** with. **5** out of the whole of. **6** as not being like. **7** because of.

**frond** /frənd/, /frond/ *n* a leaf, especially of a palm or fern.

**front** /frənt/, /frunt/ *n* **1** the forward part of anything. **2** in war, the place where the fighting is going on. • *also adj.* • *vb* to face, to stand before.

**frontier** /'frəntiər/, /frun-teer/ *n* **1** the boundary between one country and another. **2** that part of a settled, civilized country that is still underdeveloped and somewhat wild.

**frost** /frɒst/, /frawst/ *n* frozen dew or moisture freezing. • *vb* **1** to cover with frost. **2** to cover with icing. **3** to treat glass so that it cannot be seen through.

**frostbite** /'frɒstbət/, /frawst-bite/ *n* injury caused to the body by very severe cold. • *adj* **frostbitten**.

**frosty** /'frɒsti/, /fraw-stee/ *adj* **1** covered with frost. **2** cold because of frost. **3** unfriendly.

**froth** /frɒθ/, /frawth/ *n* a mass of tiny bubbles on the surface of liquid; foam. • *vb* to throw up froth. • *adj* **frothy**.

**frown** /fraʊn/, /froun/ *vb* to wrinkle the forehead, to scowl, to look angry. • *also n.* • **frown on** to discourage, to disapprove of.

**froze** /fro:z/, /froze/ *pt of freeze*.

**frozen** /'fro:zən/, /froe-zin/ *pp of freeze*.

**fructose** /'frækto:z/, /fruke-toze/ *n* a sugar found in fruit and honey.

**frugal** /'fru:gəl/, /fru-gal/ *adj* **1** careful, not wasteful, thrifty. **2** very small, not much. • *n* **frugality**.

**fruit** /fru:t/, /froot/ *n* **1** the part of a plant that produces the seed, often eaten as a food. **2** result.

**fruit bat** /'fru:t bæt/, /froot bat/ *n* any fruit-eating bat, such as the flying fox.

**fruitcake** /'fru:t keɪk/, /froot-cake/ *n* **1** a rich cake containing nuts, fruit, spices, etc. **2** (*s/l*) a foolish person.

**fruit cup** /'fru:t kəp/, /froot-cup/ *n* mixed diced fruits served in a small bowl as a dessert or appetizer (*also fruit cocktail*).

**fruit fly** /'fru:t flai/, /froot-flie/ *n* a small fly that feeds on fruit.

**fruitful** /'fru:tfʊl/, /froot-ful/ *adj* **1** (*old*) fertile. **2** having good results.

**fruition** /fru:'ɪʃən/, /froo-wi-shun/ *n* fulfilment, a successful ending.

**fruitless** /'fru:tləs/, /froot-less/ *adj* unsuccessful.

**fruity** /'fru:ti/, /froo-tee/ *adj* like fruit in taste or smell.

**frump** /frʌmp/, /frump/ *n* a badly or unfashionably dressed woman. • *adj frumpy*.

**frustrate** /'frəstreɪt/, /fru-strate/ *vb* **1** to make to fail. **2** to cause to have feelings of disappointment or dissatisfaction. • *n frustration*.

**fry<sup>1</sup>** /fraɪ/, /frie/ *vb* to cook in fat. • *n* anything fried.

**fry<sup>2</sup>** /fraɪ/, /frie/ *n* (*pl* **fry**) young fish.

**fryer** /'fraɪə/, /frie-er/ *n* a person or thing that fries.

**frying pan** /'fraɪɪŋ pæn/, /frie-ing-pan/ *n* a shallow pan with a handle for frying food.

**fuchsia** /'fju:ʃə/, /fyoo-sha/ *n* **1** a shrub with long, hanging, bell-shaped flowers of a pink, red, or purple colour. **2** purplish red.

**fudge** /fədʒ/, /fudge/ *n* a soft sweet. • *vb* to refuse to commit; to fail to give a direct answer.

**fuel** /'fju:əl/, /fyool/ *n* **1** material to keep a fire going. **2** material used for producing heat or power by burning.

**fugitive** /'fju:dʒɪtɪv/, /fyoo-ji-tiv/ *n* someone who is running away. • *adj* **1** (*frm*) passing quickly. **2** escaping. • *n* a person who flees from danger, pursuit, or duty.

**fugue** /'fju:g/, /fyooog/ *n* a piece of music in which different parts or voices carry the same tune at different times.

**fulfil** /'ful'fil/, /fool-fil/ *vb*, *also fulfill* (*US*) (**fulfilled**, **fulfilling**) **1** to carry out successfully, to complete. **2** to satisfy, to meet. • *n fulfilment, also fulfillment* (*US*).

**full<sup>1</sup>** /'fʊl/, /fool/ *adj* **1** holding as much as possible. **2** complete. • *n fullness*.

**full<sup>2</sup>** /fʊl/, /foʊl/ *vb* to clean and thicken cloth. • *n fuller*.

**full-blown** /'fʊlblo:n/, /foʊl-blo:n/ *adj* in full bloom, fully opened.

**full-bodied** /'fʊl'bɔ:di:d/, /foʊl-bod-eed/ *adj* having a rich, strong flavour.

**fully-fledged** /'fʊli:fledʒd/, /foo-li-flejd/ *adj* having a complete set of feathers, completely developed.

**full-grown** /'fʊlgro:n/, /foʊl-gro:n/ *adj* having reached full size.

**full-length** /'fʊl'lɛnθ/, /foʊl-lɛnθ/ *adj* showing or covering the full length of an object or all of a person's figure, said of pictures, mirrors, etc.

**full moon** /'fʊl'mu:n/, /foʊl-mu:n/ *n* the phase of the moon when its entire face can be seen from Earth.

**full stop** /'fʊl'stɒp/, /foʊl-stɒp/ *n* a punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence.

**full-time** /'fʊl'taɪm/, /foʊl-taɪm/ *adj* engaged in work, study, etc. for the full extent of the working hours of the day.

**fulmar** /'fʊlmər/, /foʊl-mar/ *n* a type of sea bird.

**fulminate** /'fʊlmɪneɪt/, /foʊl-mi-nate/ *vb* to speak loudly and threateningly. • *n fulmination*.

**fulsome** /'fʊlsəm/, /foʊl-sum/ *adj* overmuch.

**fumble** /'fʌmbəl/, /fum-bul/ *vb* 1 to feel for something not seen. 2 to handle clumsily.

**fume** /fju:m/, /fyoom/ *n* smoke, vapour. • *vb* 1 to give off fumes. 2 (*inf*) to show anger.

**fumigant** /'fju:mɪgənt/, /fyoo-mi-gant/ *n* the substance used in fumigation.

**fumigate** /'fju:mɪgeɪt/, /fyoo-mi-gate/ *vb* to disinfect by means of fumes. • *n fumigation*.

**fun** /fən/, /fun/ *n* merriment, amusement, enjoyment. • *adj* amusing, enjoyable.

**function** /'fəŋkʃən/, /funk-shun/ *n* 1 the work that a thing is made or planned to perform; its use. 2 duties. 3 (*fm!*) a public ceremony or party. • *vb* 1 to work as intended. 2 to act.

**functional** /'fʌŋkʃənəl/, /funk-shu-nal/ *adj* designed with a view to its use.

**functionary** /'fʌŋkʃəneri/, /funk-shu-ne-ree/ *n (fml)* an official.

**fund** /fʌnd/, /fund/ *n* 1 an amount laid aside till needed. 2 money collected or kept for a purpose.

**fundamental** /'fʌndə'mentəl/, /fun-da-men-tal/ *adj* having to do with the beginning or most necessary parts of something, of great importance. • *also n.*

**fundamentalism** /'fʌndə'mentəlɪzəm/, /fun-da-men-ta-li-zum/ *n* the belief that the whole of the Bible is to be believed and lived by exactly as written.

**fundraiser** /'fʌndreɪzər/, /fund-ray-zer/ *n* an event put together to raise money for an organization, cause, etc.

**funeral** /'fju:nərəl/, /fyoon-ral/ *n* 1 burial of the dead. 2 the ceremonies performed at burial.

**funeral director** /'fju:nərəl dərɪktər/, /fyoon-ral di-rec-tor/ *n* a person who manages funerals.

**funereal** /fju:nɪ:rɪəl/, /fyoo-nee-ree-al/ *adj* gloomy, sad, dark.

**funfair** see **fair**.

**fungal** /'fʌŋgəl/, /fung-gal/ *adj* having to do with or caused by a fungus.

**fungus** /'fʌŋgəs/, /fung-gus/ *n (pl fungi /fung-gie/ or funguses /fung-gu-sez/)* 1 a mushroom, toadstool, or similar plant. 2 an unhealthy growth on an animal or plant.

**funk**<sup>1</sup> /fʌŋk/, /fungk/ *n* a state of fear.

**funk**<sup>2</sup> /fʌŋk/, /fungk/ *n* a style of music with a jerky bassline, popular since the 1970s. • *adj funky*.

**funnel** /'fənəl/, /fu-nel/ *n* 1 a hollow cone used for pouring liquids into bottles etc. 2 a passage by which smoke etc, escapes.

**funnies** /'fəniz/, /fu-neeze/ *npl* comic strips.

**funny** /'fəni/, /fu-nee/ *adj* 1 amusing, humorous. 2 strange, odd.

**funny bone** /'fəni bo:n/, /fu-nee-bone/ *n* a place on the elbow that gives a strange, tingling sensation when it is hit.

**fur** /fər/, /fʊr/ *n* **1** the short soft hair of certain animals. **2** the skin of an animal with the hair still attached, used as a garment. **3** a coating (e.g. on the tongue). • *adj* **furry**.

**furious** /'fjəriəs/, /fyoo-ree-us/ see **fury**.

**furl** /fərl/, /fʊrl/ *vb* to roll up.

**furlong** /'fərlɒŋ/, /fur-lawng/ *n* one-eighth of a mile (220 yards).

**furlough** /'fələʊ/, /fur-lo/ *n* (*frm*) permission to be absent from work for a certain time.

**furnace** /'fərnəs/, /fur-nis/ *n* an enclosed place in which great heat can be produced by fire.

**furnish** /'fərnɪʃ/, /fur-nish/ *vb* **1** to provide what is necessary. **2** to put tables, chairs, beds, and other necessary articles in a house.

**furnishings** /-ɪŋz/, /fur-ni-shingz/ *npl* the fittings in a house.

**furniture** /'fɜːnɪtʃər/, /fur-ni-cher/ *n* the articles (tables, chairs, etc.) needed in a house or office.

**furore** /'fjʊrər/, /fyoo-ror-ri/ *n*, also **furor** /fyoo-roar/ (*US*) great excitement, craze, frenzy.

**furrier** /'fəriər/, /fu-ree-er/ *n* someone who deals in furs.

**furrow** /'fəro:/, /fu-ro/ **1** the trench cut in the earth by a plough. **2** a wrinkle. • *vb* **1** to plough. **2** to wrinkle.

**furry** /'fəri/, /fu-ree/ *adj* covered with fur.

**further** /'fərðər/, /fur-ther/ *adv* **1** besides. **2** farther. • *adj* **1** more distant. **2** more. • *vb* to help forward.

**furthermore** /,fərðər'mɔːr/, /fur-ther-more/ *adv* besides, in addition.

**furthest** /'fərðər'moːst/, /fur-ther-most/ *adj* most distant (also **furthest**).

**furtive** /'fərtɪv/, /fur-tiv/ *adj* careful, done secretly.

**fury** /'fjuri/, /fyoo-ree/ *n* rage, great anger. • *adj* **furious**.

**fuse<sup>1</sup>** /fjuːz/, /fyoooz/ *vb* **1** to melt by heat. **2** to melt together as a result of great heat. **3** (*of an electrical appliance or circuit*) to stop working or cause to stop working because of the melting of a fuse. **4** to join together. • *n* easily melted wire used to complete an electric current.

**fuse**<sup>2</sup> /fju:z/, /fyooz/ *n* a tube of slow-burning substance used to explode shells, bombs, dynamite, etc.

**fuselage** /'fju:zə,læʒ/, /fyoo-su-lazh/ *n* the body of an aeroplane.

**fusible** /'fju:zəbəl/, /fyoo-zi-bul/ *adj* that can be fused or easily melted.

**fusion** /'fju:ʒən/, /fyoo-zhun/ *n* 1 act of melting. 2 a joining to make one.

**fuss** /fəs/, /fuss/ *n* anxiety or excitement over unimportant things.

**fussy** /'fəsi/, /fu-see/ *adj* worrying over details, hard to please.

**futile** /'fju:tɪl/, /fyoo-tile/ *adj* having no useful result. • *n* **futility**.

**futon** /'fu:tən/, /foo-ton/ *n* a thin cushion placed on a frame that can be used as a bed or folded into a chair or couch.

**future** /'fju:tʃər/, /fyoo-cher/ *adj* about to happen, coming. • *n* the time to come.

**futuristic** /'fju:tʃə'rɪstɪk/, /fyoo-che-ri-stic/ *adj* of or having to do with the future; so advanced in design, etc as to seem from the future.

**fuzz** /fez/, /fuzz/ *n* a mass of fine, light hair or similar substance.

**fuzzy** /'fezi/, /fu-zee/ *adj* 1 covered in fuzz. 2 not clear, blurred.

# G

**G, g** /dʒi:/, /jee/ **1** the seventh letter of the English alphabet. **2** (*mus*) the fifth note of the scale of C major.

**gab** /gæb/, /gab/ *vb (gabbed, gabbing)* (*s/l*) to chatter or talk idly. • *n* idle chat. • **gift of the gab** the ability to speak well or at length.

**gable** /'geɪbəl/, /gay-bl/ *n* the pointed top of the end wall of a building with a sloping roof.

**gadget** /'gædʒɪt/, /ga-jet/ *n* a small useful tool or machine.

**gag** /gæg/, /gag/ *vb (gagged, gagging)* **1** to stop someone speaking by forcibly stopping the mouth. **2** to prevent someone from speaking or writing freely about something. • *n* **1** something put in the mouth to prevent speech. **2** a joke.

**gaggle** /'gægl/, /ga-gl/ *n* **1** a flock of geese. **2** a disorderly group of people.

**gaily** /'geɪli/, /gay-lee/ see **gay**.

**gain** /geɪn/, /gane/ *vb* **1** to obtain. **2** to have an increase in. **3** to reduce the distance between oneself and someone or something. **4** (*fml*) to reach. • *n* profit, advantage.

**gainful** /'geɪnfʊl/, /gane-fuł/ *adj (fml)* paid, profitable.

**gait** /geɪt/, /gate/ *n* manner of walking.

**gala** /'gælə/, /ga-la/ *n* a day or time of feasting and rejoicing.

**galaxy** /'gæləksi/, /ga-lak-see/ *n* **1** a belt of stars stretching across the sky (e.g. the Milky Way). **2** a company of well-known, impressive, etc, people.

**gale** /geɪl/, /gale/ *n* a strong wind.

**gallant** /'gælənt/, /ga-lant, ga-lant/ *adj (fml)* brave, noble. • *adv gallantly*.

**galleon** /'gæliən/, /gal-yun/ *n (old)* a large sailing ship with several decks, as used by the Spaniards in the 15th and 16th centuries.

**gallery** /'gæləri/, /ga-le-reel/ *n* **1** a raised floor over part of a church or theatre. **2** a narrow passage in a mine. **3** a room in which pictures, etc. are displayed.

**galley** /'gæli/, /ga-lee/ *n* **1** (*old*) a long low ship with sails and oars. **2** a ship's kitchen.

**gallon** /'gælən/, /ga-lon/ *n* in the imperial system, a measure for liquids or grain (=4 quarts, 3.785 litres, or 231 cubic inches).

**gallop** /'gæləp/, /ga-lop/ *n* a horse's fastest speed. • *vb* **1** to go at a gallop. **2** (*inf*) to move or do very quickly.

**gallows** /'gælo:z/, /ga-loze/ *n* or *npl* a wooden frame for hanging criminals.

**galore** /gə'lɔr/, /ga-lore/ *adj* in plenty.

**galoshes** /gə'lɔʃɪz/, /ga-losh-ez/ *npl* overshoes, usually of rubber, which protect the shoes in wet weather.

**galvanize** /'gælvə,nائز/, /gal-va-nize/ *vb*, also **galvanise** **1** to put on a coat of metal by electricity, to electroplate. **2** to rouse to activity.

**gamble** /'gæmbəl/, /gam-bl/ *vb* **1** to play for money, to bet. **2** to take risks. • *n* a risk. • *n* **gambler**. • *n* **gambling**.

**gambol** /'gæmbəl/, /gam-bl/ *vb* to jump about playfully. • *also n*.

**game**<sup>1</sup> /geɪm/, /game/ *n* **1** a sporting contest. **2** a single part of a set into which a game is divided. **3** an amusement or diversion, a pastime. **4** (*inf*) a scheme, a trick. **5** birds or animals hunted for sport. • *adj* **1** brave, plucky. **2** willing, ready. • *vb* to gamble. • **make game of** (*fml*) to make fun of, mock.

**game**<sup>2</sup> /geɪm/, /game/ *adj* lame, injured.

**gaming** /'geɪmɪŋ/, /gay-ming/ *n* **1** gambling. **2** the playing of computer games.

**gander** /'gændər/, /gan-der/ *n* a male goose.

**gang** /gæŋ/, /gang/ *n* **1** a group of people, especially friends. **2** a group of people working on the same job. **3** a group of criminals working together.

**gangrene** /'gæŋgrɪ:n/, /gang-green/ *n* the rotting away of a part of the body. • *adj* **gangrenous**.

**gangster** /'gæŋstər/, /gang-ster/ *n* a member of an organized gang of criminals.

**gangway** /'gæŋwei/, /gang-way/ *n* 1 a movable footbridge from a ship to the shore. 2 a passage between rows of seats.

**gaol** see **jail**.

**gap** /gæp/, /gap/ *n* 1 an opening. 2 a space between. 3 something missing.

**gape** /geɪp/, /gape/ *vb* 1 to stare open-mouthed. 2 to be wide open.

**gap year** /'gæp,yi:r/, /gap year/ *n* a year's break taken by students, especially between school and university, usually spent travelling, doing voluntary work overseas etc.

**garage** /gæ'ridʒ, gə'ra:ʒ/, /ga-ridge, ga-raj/ *n* 1 a building in which an automobile can be kept. 2 a shop where vehicles are repaired. 3 a petrol station

**garb** /garb/, /garb/ (*old*) *n* dress, clothes. • *vb* to clothe.

**garbage** /'garbɪdʒ/, /gar-bage/ *n* (esp US) rubbish.

**garbled** /'garbəld/, /gar-buld/ *adj* mixed up and muddled.

**garden** /'garden/, /gar-den/ *n* a piece of land on which flowers or vegetables are grown. • *vb* to look after a garden, often as a hobby. • *n* **gardener**. • *n* **gardening**.

**gargle** /'gargəl/, /gar-gl/ *vb* to wash the throat with a mouthful of liquid by blowing it up and down in the back of the mouth. • *n* a liquid prepared for gargling.

**gargoyle** /'gargoɪl/, /gar-goyl/ *n* a grotesquely carved spout in the form of a person's or animal's head, for carrying away water from a roof gutter.

**garish** /'geriʃ/, /gay-rish/ *adj* flashy, unpleasantly bright.

**garland** /'garlənd/, /gar-land/ *n* a wreath of flowers. • *vb* to decorate with a garland.

**garlic** /'garlik/, /gar-lic/ *n* a plant with a strong-smelling bulb used in cookery.

**garment** /'garmənt/, /gar-ment/ *n* (fml) any article of clothing.

**garnet** /'garnət/, /gar-net/ *n* a red mineral, sometimes a precious stone.

**garnish** /'garniʃ/, /gar-nish/ *vb* to decorate.

**garrison** /'gærɪsən/, /ga-ri-son/ *n* the soldiers sent to a place to defend it.

**garter** /'gɑ:tər/, /gar-ter/ *n* a band of elastic to hold up a stocking.

**gas** /gæs/, /gas/ *n* **1** matter in the form of an airlike vapour. **2** any of various gases or mixtures of gases used as fuel. **3** the vapour given off by a substance at a certain heat. **4** a feeling of discomfort caused by gases in the digestive tract. **5** (US) gasoline, petrol. • *adj gaseous*.

**gash** /gæʃ/, /gash/ *n* a wide, deep wound or cut. • *vb* to cut deeply.

**gas mask** /'gæs,mæsk/, /gas-mask/ *n* a mask that enables one to breathe when surrounded by poisonous gas.

**gasoline** /'gæsə,li:n/, /ga-so-leen/ (US) *n* petrol.

**gasp** /gæsp/, /gasp/ *vb* **1** to breathe with difficulty, to pant. **2** to draw in the breath suddenly through the mouth. • *n* the act or sound of gasping.

**gassy** /'gæsi/, /ga-see/ *adj* full of gas, fizzy.

**gastric** /'gæstri:k/, /ga-stric/ *adj* having to do with the stomach.

**gastronomy** /gæ'strɒnəmi/, /ga-stron-o-mee/ *n* the art of good eating. • *adj gastronomic* /ga-stri-nom-ic/, **gastronomical** /ga-stri-nom-i-cal/.

**gate** /geɪt/, /gate/ *n* **1** a movable frame of wood, iron, etc, to close an opening in a wall or fence. **2** an entrance or way out, especially in an airport. **3** the number of people who pay to see a game. **4** the total sum of money paid for entrance to a sports ground.

**gateau, gâteau** /gæ'to:/, /ga-toe/ *n* (pl **gateaux** or **gateaus**) a large cake, often filled and decorated with cream.

**gatecrash** /'geɪtkræʃ/, /gate-crash/ *vb* to attend a party, etc, without an invitation. • *n gatecrasher*.

**gateway** /'geɪtwei/, /gate-way/ *n* **1** the opening closed by a gate. **2** the way or path to.

**gather** /'gæðər/, /ga-ther/ *vb* **1** to bring or come together. **2** to collect, to pick. **3** to draw cloth together in small folds. **4** to come to the conclusion. • *n* a fold in cloth held in position by thread.

**gathering** /'gæðərɪŋ/, /ga-ther-ing/ *n* a meeting.

**gaudy** /'gɔ:di/, /gaw-dee/ *adj* showy, flashy, too bright. • *adv gaudily*. • *n gaudiness*.

**gauge** /geɪdʒ/, /gæʒ/ *vb* **1** to measure. **2** to make an estimate of. **3** to make a judgment about, to judge. • *n* **1** a measuring rod. **2** a measuring instrument. **3** the distance between the two rails of a railway. **4** a help to guessing accurately.

**gaunt** /gɒnt/, /gawnt/ *adj* very thin, haggard.

**gauntlet** /'gɒntlət/, /'gawnt-let/ *n* **1** (*old*) an iron glove worn as part of a suit of armour. **2** a type of glove covering the wrist. • **run the gauntlet** to be criticized or attacked from all sides. • **throw down the gauntlet** to challenge.

**gauze** /gɔz/, /gawz/ *n* a light cloth that one can see through. • *adj* **gauzy**.

**gave** /geɪv/, /gæv/ *pt of give*.

**gawky** /'gɒki/, /gaw-kee/, **gawkish** /gaw-kish/ *adj* clumsy, awkward.

**gay** /geɪ/, /gay/ *adj* **1** (*esp of men*) homosexual. **2** connected with people who are homosexual. **3** (*old*) lively, fond of enjoyment, cheerful. • *adv* **gaily**. • *n* a person who is homosexual, especially a man.

**gaze** /geɪz/, /gaze/ *vb* to look hard at without looking away. • *n* a fixed look.

**gazelle** /gə'zel/, /ga-zel/ *n* a small antelope.

**gazette** /gə'zɛt/, /ga-zet/ *n* a government news sheet containing official notices, appointments, etc.

**gazetteer** /'gæzə'tiər/, /ga-ze-teer/ *n* a book listing places in alphabetical order and telling where they can be found on a map.

**gear** /gi:r/, /geer/ *n* **1** the set of tools, equipment, etc, used for a particular job, sport, expedition, etc. **2** any arrangement of levers, toothed wheels, etc, that passes motion from one part of a machine to another.

**geese** see **goose**.

**gel** /dʒel/, /jel/ *n* a smooth, soft substance resembling jelly, often used in products for the skin or hair.

**gelatine** /'dʒelətɪn/, /je-la-tin/ *n*, also **gelatin** a jellylike substance made from boiled-down bones, etc, used as a thickening agent in jellies, etc.

**gelignite** /'dʒelɪg,næɪt/, /je-lig-nite/ *n* a powerful explosive.

**gem** /dʒem/, /jem/ *n* 1 a precious stone. 2 anything or anyone that is thought to be especially good.

**gender** /'dʒendər/, /jen-der/ *n* 1 (gram) grouping of nouns roughly according to the sex (masculine, feminine or neuter) of the things they name. 2 (*of a person or animal*) the state of being male or female.

**gene** /dʒi:n/, /jeen/ *n* any of the basic elements of heredity passed from parents to their offspring, that cause the offspring to have certain features that the parents have.

**genealogist** /dʒi:ni'ɒlədʒɪst/, /jee-nee-**al-o-jist**/ *n* one who studies genealogy.

**genealogy** /dʒi:ni'ɒlədʒi/, /jee-nee-**al-o-jee**/ *n* 1 the tracing of the history of a family to discover all its ancestors and branches. 2 a diagram showing this. • *adj genealogical*.

**genera** see **genus**.

**general** /'dʒenərəl/, /je-ne-ral/ *adj* 1 including every one of a class or group. 2 not specialized. 3 common, usual, normal. 4 taken as a whole, overall. 5 widespread, public. 6 without details. • *n* 1 a high-ranking army officer. 2 the commander of an army.

**generalize** /'dʒenərəlaɪz/, /je-ne-ra-lize/ *vb*, also **generalise** 1 to work out from a few facts an idea that covers a great number of cases. 2 to talk in general terms without details. • *n* **generalization**.

**generally** /'dʒenərəli/, /je-ne-ra-lee/ *adv* in most cases.

**generate** /'dʒenəreɪt/, /je-ne-rate/ *vb* to bring into life, to produce, to be the cause of.

**generation** /,dʒenə'reɪʃən/, /je-ne-**ray-shun**/ *n* 1 the act of bringing into existence or producing. 2 a single step in family descent. 3 people living at the same time.

**generator** /'dʒenə'reɪtər/, /je-ne-ray-tor/ *n* a machine for producing electricity, steam, etc.

**generic** /dʒe'nərɪk/, /je-ne-ric/ *adj* being a member of a group or class (see **genus** (see 1)). • *n* (*of a drug, etc.*) a product not patented or sold with a brand name.

**generous** /'dʒenərəs/, /je-ne-rus/ *adj* 1 giving or given freely and gladly. 2 ready to see the good in others. • *n* **generosity**. • *adv* **generously**.

**genetic** /dʒə'netɪk/, /je-ne-tic/ *adj* of genes, of genetics.

**genetic fingerprinting** /dʒə'netɪk 'fɪŋgə,rɪntɪŋ/, /je-ne-tic **fing-ger** prin-ting/ *n* see **DNA fingerprinting**.

**genetically modified** see **GM**.

**genetics** /dʒə'netɪks/, /je-ne-tics/ *n* the science of breeding and family characteristics.

**genial** /'dʒi:nɪəl/, /jee-nee-al/ *adj* friendly in manner, cheerful. • *n* **geniality**. • *adv* **genially**.

**genie** /'dʒi:nɪ/, /jee-nee/ *n* (*pl* **genii** /jee-nee-ie/) a good or evil spirit in Eastern tales.

**genital** /'dʒenɪtəl/, /je-ni-tal/ *adj* having to do with reproduction. • *npl* **genitals, genitalia** the genital organs (penis, testicles, vagina).

**genius** /'dʒi:njəs/, /jeen-yus/ *n* 1 extraordinary skill or ability. 2 a person of extraordinary intelligence. 3 (*inf*) a natural ability.

**genome** /'dʒi:no:m/, /jeen-ome/ *n* a full set of chromosomes.

**gent** /dʒent/, /jent/ *n* (*hum, inf*) short for **gentleman**.

**gentile** /'dʒentəl/, /jen-tile/ *adj* non-Jewish. • *also n*.

**gentility** /dʒen'tiliti/, /jen-ti-li-tee/ *n* the state of having good manners or being of good birth.

**gentle** /'dʒentəl/, /jen-tul/ *adj* 1 (*old*) well-born. 2 not rough or violent in manner, unwilling to hurt anyone. • *n* **gentleness**. • *adv* **gently**.

**gentleman** /'dʒentəlmən/, /jen-tul-man/ *n* (*pl* **gentlemen** /jen-tul-men/) 1 (*frm*) a man; sometimes considered more polite than 'man'. 2 (*old*) a man of good birth. 3 a well-mannered and kindly man.

**gentlemanly** /'dʒentəlmən/, /jen-tul-man-lee/ *adj* well-mannered.

**gentry** /'dʒentri/, /jen-tree/ *n* people of good but not noble birth.

**gents** /dʒent/, /jents/ *n* (*inf*) (*short for gentlemen*) a public toilet for men.

**genuflect** /'dʒenju,flekt/, /jen-yu-flect/ *vb* (*frm*) to bend the knee in respect. • *n* **genuflexion**.

**genuine** /'dʒenjuin/, /jen-yoo-in/ *adj* 1 true, real. 2 sincere, without pretence or dishonesty. • *adv* **genuinely**. • *n* **genuineness**.

**genus** (see 1) /'dʒi:nəs, 'dʒenəs/, /jee-nus,,jeh-nus/ *n* (*pl genera /je-ne-ra/*) a kind or class of animals, plants, etc, with certain characteristics in common. • *adj generic*.

**geography** /dʒi:ə'græfi/, /jee-og-ra-fee/ *n* the study of the surface of the earth and its climate, peoples, cities, etc. • *n geographer*. • *adj geographic, geographical*.

**geology** /dʒi'ɒlədʒi/, /jee-o-lo-jee/ *n* the study of the rocks, etc, forming the earth's crust. • *n geologist*. • *adj geological*.

**geometry** /dʒi'ɒmətri/, /jee-om-e-tree/ *n* a branch of mathematics dealing with the measurement of lines, figures, and solids. • *adjs geometric, geometrical*.

**geranium** /dʒə'reniəm/, /je-ray-nee-um/ *n* a strongly scented plant, with red, pink, or white flowers.

**gerbil** /dʒərbil/, /jer-bil/ *n* a small ratlike rodent, often kept as a pet.

**germ** /dʒərm/, /jerm/ *n* 1 a tiny living cell that has the power to grow into a plant or animal. 2 the beginning of anything. 3 a disease-carrying microbe.

**German** /'dʒərmən/, /jerman/ *adj* of or relating to Germany. • *n* a language spoken in Germany and Austria.

**germicide** /'dʒərmī,said/, /jer-mi-side/ *n* a substance that kills germs.

**germinate** /'dʒərmī,nēit/, /jer-mi-nate/ *vb* to begin to grow.

**gesticulate** /dʒe'stɪkju,leɪt/, /je-sti-cyu-late/ *vb* to make meaningful signs with the hands, especially while speaking, usually for emphasis. • *n gesticulation*.

**gesture** /'dʒestʃər/, /jes-chur/ *n* 1 a movement of the hands, head, etc, to express feeling. 2 an action showing one's attitude or intentions. • *vb* to make a gesture.

**get** /get/, /get/ *vb* (*pt got, pp getting, pp got or (US) gotten*) 1 to obtain. 2 to reach. 3 to become.

**geyser** /'gaɪzər/, /gie-zer/ *n* a hot water spring that shoots up into the air.

**ghastly** /'gæstli/, /gast-lee/ *adj* 1 (*fml or lit*) deathly pale. 2 horrible, terrible. 3 (*inf*) very bad, ugly, etc. 4 (*inf*) unwell, upset. • *n ghastliness*.

**gherkin** /'gərkɪn/, /ger-kin/ *n* a small cucumber used for pickling.

**ghetto** /'geto:/, /ge-toe/ *n* (*pl* **ghettos** or **ghettoes**) a part of a city, often poor, in which a certain group of people, often immigrants, lives.

**ghost** /go:st/, /goast/ *n* the spirit of a dead person appearing to one living. • *adjs* **ghostlike**, **ghostly**. • *n* **ghostliness**.

**ghoul** /gu:l/, /goool/ *n* 1 a spirit said to prey on corpses. 2 a person who takes an unusually great interest in death, disaster, and other horrible things. • *adj* **ghoulish**.

**giant** /'dʒaɪənt/, /jie-ant/ *n* 1 in fairy stories, a huge man. 2 a person of unusually great height and size. 3 a person of very great ability or importance. • *f* **giantess**.

**gibber** /'dʒɪbər/, /jib-er/ *vb* to speak nonsensical, meaningless words.

**gibberish** /'dʒɪbərɪʃ/, /ji-be-rish/ *n* nonsense, meaningless words.

**gibbon** /'gɪbən/, /gi-bon/ *n* a type of ape.

**gibe, jibe** /'dʒaɪb/, /jibe/ *vb* to mock, to jeer at. • *also n*.

**giddy** /'gɪdi/, /gi-deel/ *adj* 1 dizzy. 2 changeable, not serious in character, fond of amusement. • *n* **giddiness**.

**gift** /gift/, /gift/ *n* 1 a present. 2 a natural ability to do something. • *vb* to give as a present.

**gifted** /'gɪftəd/, /gif-ted/ *adj* having exceptional natural ability.

**gig** /gɪg/, /gig/ *n* 1 (*inf*) a single booking for a jazz or pop band, etc; a single night's performance. 2 (*old*) a light two-wheeled carriage. • *vb* (**gigs, giggling, gigged**).

**giga-** /'gɪgə/, *prefix* denoting a factor of  $10^9$  or a billion.

**gigabyte** /'gɪgəbaɪt/, /gigga-bite/ *n* (*comput*) 1024 bytes.

**gigantic** /dʒaɪ'gæntɪk/, /jie-gan-tic/ *adj* huge, giantlike.

**giggle** /'gɪgəl/, /gi-gl/ *vb* to laugh quietly, but in a silly way.

**gild** /gɪld/, /gild/ *vb* to cover with gold.

**gill<sup>1</sup>** /gɪl/, /gil/ *n* a quarter of a pint.

**gill<sup>2</sup>** /gɪl/, /gil/ *n* the organ through which a fish breathes.

**gilt** /gɪlt/, /gilt/ *adj* covered with gold or gold paint. • *n* the gold or imitation of gold used in gilding.

**gimmick** /'gɪmɪk/, /gi-mic/ *n* an ingenious gadget or device to attract attention.

**gin<sup>1</sup>** /dʒɪn/, /gɪn/ *n* a strong alcoholic drink flavoured with juniper berries.

**gin<sup>2</sup>** /dʒɪn/, /gɪn/ *n* **1** a trap or snare. **2** a machine for separating cotton from its seeds.

**ginger** /'dʒɪndʒər/, /jin-jer/ *n* **1** a hot-tasting root used as a spice. • *adj* of a reddish yellow colour.

**gingerbread** /'dʒɪndʒə,bred/, /jin-jer-bred/ *n* treacle cake flavoured with ginger.

**gingerly** /'dʒɪndʒərli/, /jin-jer-lee/ *adv* carefully, cautiously.

**gingham** /'gɪŋəm/, /ging-am/ *n* a striped or checked cotton cloth.

**gipsy** /'dʒɪpsi/, /jip-see/ see **gypsy**.

**giraffe** /dʒɪ'ræf/, /ji-raf/ *n* an African animal with a very long neck and long legs.

**girder** /'gɜrdər/, /gir-der/ *n* a heavy beam of iron or steel used to bridge an open space when building.

**girdle** /'gɜrdəl/, /gir-dl/ *n* **1** a kind of belt. **2** (*fml* or *lit*) anything that surrounds. • *vb* to surround as with a belt.

**girl** /gɜrl/, /girl/ *n* **1** a female child. **2** a young woman. **3** a daughter. • *n* **girlhood**.

**girlfriend** /'gɜrlfrend/, /girl-frend/ *n* **1** a female friend. **2** a female romantic partner.

**girlish** /'gɜrlɪʃ/, /gir-lish/ *adj* like or of a girl.

**Girl Guide** /'gɜrl,gaid/, /girl gide/ *n* a member of an international youth organization for girls.

**girth** /gɜrθ/, /girth/ *n* **1** the measurement around the waist. **2** the distance around something cylindrical in shape. **3** a strap that holds the saddle in place on a horse's back.

**gist** /dʒɪst/, /jist/ *n* the meaning, the most important part.

**give** /gɪv/, /giv/ *vb* (*pt* **gave**, *pp* **given**) **1** to make a present of. **2** to hand over to. **3** to allow. **4** to utter. **5** to produce. **6** to organize, to hold. **7** to yield, bend, break, etc. • *n* **giver**. • **give and take** accepting some of another's views as correct. • **give away** **1** to give as a gift. **2** to tell something secret. • **give ground** to go backward. • **give in** to admit defeat. • **give out** to report. • **give up** **1** to leave to be taken by others. **2** to stop. **3** to lose hope. • **give**

**way** **1** to stop in order to allow someone or something to pass. **2** to be replaced by. **3** to break and fall.

**glacial** /'gleɪʃəl/, /glay-shal/ **adj** **1** of ice. **2** icy, very cold. **3** (*fml*) very cold in manner.

**glacier** /'gleɪsiər/, /glay-see-er/ **n** a large slow-moving river of ice.

**glad** /glæd/, /glad/ **adj** pleased, cheerful. • **adv** **gladly**. • **n** **gladness**.

**gladden** /'glædən/, /gla-den/ **vb** to make glad.

**glade** /gleɪd/, /glade/ **n** (*fml*) a clear space in a wood.

**gladiator** /'glædi'teɪtər/, /gla-dee-ay-tor/ **n** in Ancient Rome, a man trained to fight with other men or wild animals for public entertainment. • **adj** **gladiatorial**.

**glamour** /'glæmər/, /gla-mur/ **n**, also **glamor** (US) apparent charm and attractiveness that depends entirely on the outer appearance, dress, etc. • **adj** **glamorous**. • **vb** **glamorize**, also **glamorise**.

**glance** /glæns/, /glanss/ **n** a quick look. • **vb** **1** to look at for a moment. **2** to hit the side of something and fly off in another direction.

**gland** /glænd/, /gland/ **n** an organ in the body that produces certain fluids necessary to the health of the body. • **adj** **glandular**.

**glare** /glær/, /glare/ **n** **1** a dazzling light. **2** an angry or fierce look. • **also** **vb**.

**glaring** /'glərɪŋ/, /glay-ring/ **adj** **1** having a fierce look. **2** very obvious. • **adv** **glaringly**.

**glass** /glæs/, /glass/ **n** **1** hard, easily broken transparent material. **2** a mirror. **3** a glass drinking vessel. • **adj** made of glass.

**glass ceiling** /glæs 'seɛlɪŋ/, /glass see-ling/ **n** a barrier, based on discrimination, which prevents someone, usually a woman, from getting a senior position in an organization.

**glasses** /'glæsɪz/, /gla-siz/ a pair of lenses set in a frame resting on the nose and ears, used to improve the wearer's eyesight or to protect the eyes from strong sunlight.

**glaze** /gleɪz/, /glaze/ **vb** **1** to fit with glass. **2** to cover with a smooth shiny surface. **3** to become fixed or glassy-looking. • **n** a smooth shiny surface.

**glazier** /'gleɪziər/, /glay-zher/ **n** one who fixes glass in windows.

**gleam** /gli:m/, /gleem/ *n* 1 a small ray of light, especially one that disappears quickly. 2 a temporary appearance of some quality. • *vb* 1 to shine softly. 2 to be expressed with a sudden light, to be bright.

**glee** /gli:/, /glee/ *n* pleasure, joy.

**gleeful** /'gli:fʊl/, /glee-ful/ *adj* joyful. • *adv* gleefully.

**glen** /glen/, /glen/ *n* (Scot) a narrow valley.

**glib** /glɪb/, /glib/ *adj* 1 quick to answer, able to find words easily, fluent. 2 spoken fluently and without hesitation. • *n* glibness.

**glide** /glайд/, /glide/ *vb* to move smoothly or without effort.

**glider** /'glaidər/, /glie-der/ *n* an aircraft with no engine.

**glimmer** /'glɪmər/, /gli-mer/ *vb* to burn low and unsteadily, to shine faintly. • *n* 1 a low and unsteady light.

**glimpse** /glɪmps/, /glimss/ *n* a quick or passing view of. • *vb* to see for a moment only.

**glint** /glɪnt/, /glint/ *vb* to flash, to sparkle. • *n* 1 a brief flash of light. 2 a brief indication.

**glisten** /'glɪsən/, /gli-sen/ *vb* to sparkle, to give a bright, steady light. • also *n*.

**glitch** /glɪtʃ/, /gliche/ *n* something that goes unexpectedly wrong, especially with computers.

**glitter** /'glɪtər/, /gli-ter/ *vb* to sparkle, to give a bright flickering light. • also *n*. • *adj* glittery.

**gloat** /glo:t/, /gloat/ *vb* to look at with greedy or evil enjoyment.

**global** /'glo:bəl/, /glo-bal/ *adj* 1 affecting the whole world. 2 relating to or including the whole of something. • *adv* globally.

**globalization** /'glo:bəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/, /glo-ba-li-zay-shun/ *n*, also **globalisation** the process by which a business firm or organization begins to operate on an international basis.

**global warming** /'glo:bəl 'wɔ:rmin/, /glo-bal wawr-ming/ *n* a gradual increase in the world's temperatures believed to be caused, in part at least, by the **greenhouse effect**.

**globe** /glo:b/, /globe/ *n* 1 a ball, a sphere. 2 anything ball-shaped. 3 the earth. 4 a map of the earth printed on to a ball.

**globular** /'gləbjulər/, /glob-yu-lar/ *adj* ball-shaped.

**globule** /'gləbju:l/, /glob-yul/ *n* a drop, a very small ball.

**gloom** /glu:m/, /gloom/ *n* **1** darkness. **2** sadness.

**gloomy** /'glu:mi/, /gloo-mee/ *adj* **1** dark, dim. **2** sad-looking, depressed.

**glorify** /'glɔri,fai/, /glo-ri-fie/ *vb* **1** to praise or worship. **2** to make seem better, more beautiful, more important, etc. • *n* **glorification**.

**glorious** /'gloriəs/, /glo-ree-us/ *adj* **1** splendid, magnificent. **2** famous.

**glory** /'glɔri/, /glo-ree/ *n* **1** honour, fame. **2** brightness, beauty, splendour. **3** worship, adoration. **4** a special cause for pride, respect, honour, etc. • *vb* to take pride in, to rejoice.

**gloss<sup>1</sup>** /glɒs/, /gloss/ *n* a bright or shiny surface. • *vb* to give a shine to. • **gloss over** to try to make appear pleasing or satisfactory.

**gloss<sup>2</sup>** /glos/, /gloss/ *n* **1** a note written in the margin or between lines. **2** an explanation, interpretation. • *vb* to provide with glosses, to annotate.

**glossary** /'glosəri/, /glos-a-ree/ *n* a list of words with their meanings.

**glossy** /'glɒsi/, /gloss-ee/ *adj* smooth and shining.

**glove** /gləv/, /gluv/ *n* a covering of cloth or leather for the hand, each finger being separately covered.

**glow** /glo:/, /glo/ *vb* **1** to give out light and heat but no flame. **2** to look or feel warm or red. • *n* **1** a bright steady light. **2** a warm look or feeling. **3** a good feeling.

**glower** /'glauər/, /glao-er/ *vb* to give an angry look.

**glowing** /glo:ɪŋ/, /glo-ing/ *adj* **1** full of praise. **2** giving out heat.

**glow-worm** /glo-wurm/ *n* an insect that sends out a light in the dark.

**glucose** /'glu:ko:z/, /gloo-cose/ *n* grape sugar, a natural sugar found in fruits and plants.

**glue** /glu:/, /gloo/ *n* a substance used for sticking things together. • *vb* to stick with glue.

**gluey** /glu:i/, /gloo-ee/ *adj* sticky.

**glum** /gləm/, /glum/ *adj* **1** sad, gloomy. **2** downcast.

**glut** /glət/, /glut/ *vb* (**glutted, glutting**) **1** to fill too full, to supply with more than is needed. **2** to stuff, to gorge oneself. • *n* too great an

amount.

**gluten** /'glu:tən/, /gloo-ten/ *n* a sticky protein found in wheat and some other cereal grains.

**glutinous** /'glu:tinəs/, /gloot-nus/ *adj* (*fml*) sticky.

**glutton** /'glətən/, /gluh-ten/ *n* 1 a person who eats too much. 2 (*inf*) a person who is always ready for more.

**gluttonous** /'glətənəs/, /glut-nus/ *adj* greedy, too fond of food.

**gluttony** /'glətəni/, /glut-nee/ *n* a fondness for eating a lot, love of food.

**glycerin** /'glisə,rin/, /glis-rin/ *n* a colourless sweet liquid obtained from fats.

**GM** /g'ei̯m/, /jee-em/ *abbr* = **genetically modified**: food, e.g. from a plant, whose genetic material or structure has been altered by technological means to improve growth or inhibit disease.

**gnarled** /narld/, /narld/ *adj* twisted and having a rough surface.

**gnash** /næʃ/, /nash/ *vb* to strike the teeth together, to grind the teeth, often as a sign of emotion.

**gnat** /næt/, /nat/ *n* a small biting insect.

**gnaw** /nɔ:/, /naw/ *vb* 1 to keep on biting at so as to wear away gradually. 2 to cause continued distress to.

**gnome** /no:m/, /nome/ *n* in fairytales, a mischievous fairy supposed to live underground.

**gnu** /nu:/, /noo/ *n* a large African antelope.

**go** /go:/, /go/ *vb* (*pt went*, *pp gone*) 1 to move. 2 to become. • *n* going. • **go for** to attack. • **go hard with** (*fml*) to turn out badly for. • **go in for** to take interest in. • **go under** to fail.

**go-ahead** /'go:a,hed/, /go-a-hed/ *adj* ready to try out new ideas. • *n* permission to proceed.

**goal** /go:l/, /goal/ *n* 1 an aim, target, object of one's efforts. 2 in some games, the frame through which players try to pass the ball. 3 a score at football, hockey, etc.

**goalkeeper** /'go:l,kipər/, /goal-kee-per/ *n* the player who defends a goal.

**goat** /go:t/, /goat/ *n* an animal with horns, related to the sheep.

**goatee** /go:'ti:/, /go-tee/ *n* a neat pointed beard on a man's chin.

**gobble** /'gəbəl/, /gob-əl/ *vb* **1** to eat quickly. **2** to make a noise like a turkey.

**gobbledygook** /'gəbəldi,guk/, /gob-əl-dee-gook/ *n* language which seems meaningless because of the use of difficult words and complicated sentence structures.

**go-between** /'go:bɪ:tən/, /go-bee-tween/ *n* one who arranges an agreement between two other parties.

**goblet** /'gəblət/, /gob-let/ *n* a drinking cup without a handle.

**goblin** /'gəblɪn/, /gob-lin/ *n* in fairytales, a mischievous fairy.

**god** /gəd/, /god/ *n* **1** any being that is worshipped for having supernatural powers. **2** (*cap*) in various religions, the creator of the world, the supreme being. **3** a man of superior charms or excellence.

**goddess** /'gədəs/, /god-əs/ *n* **1** a female god. **2** a woman of superior charms or excellence.

**godfather** /'gəd,fəðər/, /god-fa-ther/ *n* a man who makes the promises for a child at a Christian baptism. • *f* **godmother**. • *also godchild, goddaughter, god-parent, godson*.

**God-fearing** /'gəd,fəθər/, /god-fee-ring/ *adj* deeply religious.

**godless** /'gədləs/, /god-less/ *adj* (*fm*) not believing in God; wicked.

**godlike** /'gədləɪk/, /god-like/ *adj* **1** like God. **2** like a god.

**godly** /'gədli/, /god-lee/ *adj* religious, following God's laws. • *n godliness*.

**goes** /go:z/, /goze/ *third person singular present form of the verb go* used with 'he', 'she', 'it' and 'one' or with singular nouns.

**goggles** /gəgləz/, /gog-əlz/ *npl* a type of eyeglasses, especially those worn to protect the eyes.

**go-kart** /'go:kært/, /go-kart/ *n* a small racing vehicle made of an open frame on four wheels with an engine.

**gold** /go:ld/, /goald/ *n* **1** a precious metal. **2** wealth, money. **3** the colour of gold.

**golden** /'go:ldən/, /goal-den/ *adj* **1** made of gold. **2** of the colour of gold. **3** valuable.

**goldfinch** /'go:ldfɪntʃ/, /goald-finck/ *n* a beautiful singing bird.

**goldfish** /'go:ldfɪʃ/, /goald-fish/ *n* a small red Chinese carp, often kept in an aquarium or pond.

**goldsmith** /'go:ldsmiθ/, /goald-smith/ *n* a worker in gold.

**golf** /gɔlf/, /golf/ *n* an outdoor game played with clubs and a hard ball. • *also vb.* • *n golfer.*

**gondola** /'gɔndələ/, /gon-du-la/ *n* 1 a long narrow boat used on the canals of Venice. 2 the car of an airship.

**gondolier** /,gɔndə'lɪər/, /gon-du-leer/ *n* a man who rows a gondola.

**gone** /gɒn/, /gon/ *pp of go.*

**gong** /gɔŋ/, /gong/ *n* a flat metal plate that makes a ringing sound when struck.

**good** /gud/, /good/ *adj* 1 right, morally acceptable, virtuous. 2 of a high quality. 3 pleasant, agreeable, welcome. 4 fit, competent. 5 well-behaved. 6 kindly. 7 clever. 8 fit to be eaten. 9 beneficial.

**goodbye, good-bye** /gud,bai/, /good-bie/ *n and interj* a farewell greeting.

**Good Friday** /'gud 'fraɪdeɪ/, /good frie-day/ *n* the Friday before Easter.

**good-looking** /'gud 'lukɪŋ/, /good-loo-king/ *adj* handsome, attractive.

**good-natured** /'gud 'neitjurd/, /good-nay-churd/ *adj* kindly.

**goodness** /'gudnəs/, /good-ness/ *n* the quality of being good.

**goods** /'gudz/, /goodz/ *npl* 1 movable property. 2 things for buying or selling.

**goodwill** /gʊd'wɪl/, /good-will/ *n* 1 kindly feeling. 2 the good name and popularity of a store or business.

**Google, google** /'gʊgəl/, /goo-gl/ *vb (TM)* to use the search engine Google to look for information on the Internet.

**goose** /gu:s/, /gooss/ *n (pl geese /geess/)* 1 a web-footed farmyard fowl. 2 (*fml or old*) a foolish person.

**gooseberry** /'gu:s,bəri/, /gooss-be-ree/ *n* 1 a thorny shrub. 2 its edible berry. 3 an unwanted third person when two people, especially lovers, want to be alone.

**goose pimples** /'gu:s ,pimpəlz/, /gooss pimpels/ *npl* a roughness or bumpiness of the skin due to cold or fear. • *also goose flesh*

**/gooss** flesh/, **goose bumps** /'gu:sbʌmps/, **/gooss** bumps/.

**gore**<sup>1</sup> /gɔr/, **/gore/** vb to wound with a tusk or horn.

**gore**<sup>2</sup> /gore/ n (*fml* or *lit*) blood from a dead or wounded person, especially when formed into solid lumps. • adj **gory**.

**gorge** /gɔrdʒ/, **/gorge/** n 1 (*old*) the throat. 2 a deep narrow pass between hills. • make one's **gorge rise** to sicken, to fill with disgust. • vb to overeat, to eat greedily.

**gorgeous** /'gɔrdʒəs/, **/gawr-jus/** adj 1 (*inf*) very beautiful and glamorous. 2 splendid, magnificent, richly decorated or coloured. 3 (*inf*) giving a lot of pleasure, marvellous.

**gorilla** /gə'rɪlə/, /gaw-ri-la/ n a large African ape.

**gory** see **gore**.

**gosling** /'gɔzlin/, /goz-ling/ n a young goose.

**gospel** /'gɔspəl/, **/gos-pel/** n 1 (*usually cap*) the teaching of Jesus Christ. 2 in the Christian New Testament, the story of the life of Christ. 3 any complete system of beliefs. 4 (*inf*) the truth.

**gossamer** /'gɔsəmər/, **/gos-a-mer/** n 1 cobweblike threads floating in the air or resting on bushes. 2 any very light material. • adj very light.

**gossip** /'gɔsɪp/, **/gos-ip/** n 1 one who likes to hear and spread news about the private affairs of others. 2 idle talk. • vb 1 to spread stories about others. 2 to talk idly or chatter, often about other people.

**got** pt, pp of **get**.

**Gothic** /'gɒθɪk/, **/goth-ic/** adj in the pointed-arch style of architecture common in the Middle Ages.

**Gouda** /'gu:də/, **/gow-da/** n a mild, round Dutch cheese.

**gouge** /gaudʒ/, **/gowj/** n a chisel with a curving blade for cutting grooves. • vb 1 to make a groove or hole in. 2 to scoop out, to force out.

**gourd** /gurd/, **/goard/** n 1 a large fleshy fruit (e.g. cucumber, melon). 2 the hollow skin of a gourd used as a bottle or cup.

**gourmand** /gur'mənd/, **/goor-mawnd/** n 1 (*fml*) a greedy eater, a glutton. 2 a person who likes good food, often to excess.

**gourmet** /'gʊr'meɪ/, /'gɔr-/, /goor-may/ *n* a person who is a good judge of wines and food.

**gout** /gout/, /gout/ *n* a disease causing painful swelling of the joints.

**govern** /'gəvərn/, /gu-vern/ *vb* 1 to control and direct the affairs of. 2 to control, to guide, to influence. 3 to exercise restraint over, to control, to regulate.

**governess** /'gəvərnəs/, /gu-ver-ness/ *n* a woman who looks after and teaches children in their home.

**government** /'gəvərmənt/, /gu-ver-ment/ *n* 1 the act or way of ruling. 2 the group of people who direct the affairs of a country. • *adj governmental*.

**governor** /'gəvərnər/, /gu-ve-nor/ *n* 1 in the United States, a person who is elected as head of a state. 2 a member of the committee of people who govern a school, hospital, etc. 3 (*old*) a person governing a province or colony.

**gown** /gaʊn/, /goun/ *n* 1 a woman's dress, usually formal. 2 a long robe worn by members of clergy, teachers, lawyers, etc.

**grab** /græb/, /grab/ *vb (grabbed, grabbing)* 1 to take hold of with a sudden quick movement. 2 to get or take something quickly and sometimes unfairly. 3 (*inf*) to affect, to influence, to find favour with. • *also n.*

**grace** /greɪs/, /grase/ *n* 1 the mercy or kindness associated with God. 2 a sense of what is right or decent. 3 a delay allowed as a favour. 4 beauty and effortlessness of movement. 5 a short prayer said at meal times. 6 a title of respect used to dukes, archbishops, etc. • *n* 1 to honour. 2 to adorn.

**graceful** /-fʊl/, /grase-fool/ *adj* beautiful in appearance, style, form or movement. • *adv gracefully*.

**gracious** /'greɪʃəs/, /gray-shus/ *adj* kind, pleasant, polite. • *adv graciously*.

**grade** /greɪd/, /grade/ *n* 1 a placing in an order according to one's merit, rank, performance, etc. 2 rank. • *vb* 1 to arrange in grades. 2 to assign a grade to. 3 to pass or change from one thing to another gradually.

**gradient** /'greɪdiənt/, /gray-dee-ent/ *n* **1** a slope. **2** the steepness of a slope.

**gradual** /'grædʒuəl/, /gra-ju-wul/ *adj* slow and steady, little by little. • *adv gradually.*

**graduate** /'grædʒuət/, /gra-ju-wate/ *vb* **1** to receive an academic degree or diploma. **2** (*frm*) to divide into stages or equal spaces. • *n* /gra-ju-wit/ a person who holds an academic degree or diploma. • *adj* relating to people who already hold one academic degree or diploma.

**graduation** /grædʒu'eɪʃən/, /gra-ju-way-shun/ *n* the receiving of an academic degree or diploma.

**graffiti** /græ'fi:tɪ/, /gra-fee-tee/ *npl* (*sing* **graffito** (*rare*)) writing or drawings, often humorous or rude, scribbled or sprayed unofficially or illegally on walls or other surfaces in public places.

**graft<sup>1</sup>** /græft/, /graft/ *vb* **1** to fix a piece cut from one plant onto another so that it grows into it. **2** to put skin cut from one part of the body on to another part. **3** to replace an organ of the body by one belonging to someone else; to transplant. • *n* the cutting or skin so grafted.

**graft<sup>2</sup>** /græft/, /graft/ *n* (*inf*) **1** bribery and corruption. **2** wealth made by illegal use of office. **3** hard work.

**Grail** /greɪl/, /grale/ see **Holy Grail**.

**grain** /greɪn/, /grane/ *n* **1** the small hard seeds of some food plants, such as wheat or rice. **2** one of these seeds. **3** a very small hard particle. **4** a very small amount. **5** in the imperial system the smallest measure of weight (1 pound = 7000 grains). **6** the pattern of markings in wood, leather, etc. • *vb* to imitate the grain of wood when painting doors, etc.

**gram** /græm/, /gram/ *n* the basic unit of weight in the metric system.

**grammar** /'græmər/, /gra-mer/ *n* the science of the correct use of language. • **grammarian**.

**grammatical** /græ'mætɪkəl/, /gra-ma-ti-cal/ *adj* correct in grammar.

**granary** /'grænəri/, /gra-na-ree/ *n* a storehouse for grain.

**grand** /grænd/, /grand/ *adj* **1** noble, magnificent, splendid. **2** important, proud, too proud. **3** pleasant. **4** wonderful, highly

respected. **5** dignified.

**grandeur** /'grændjər/, /gran-jur/ *n* nobility, magnificence, splendidness.

**grandfather** /'græn,fɑðər/, /gran-fa-ther/ *n* the father of one's father or mother. • *f* **grandmother**. • also **grandchild**, **grand-daughter**, **grand-parent**, **grandson**.

**grandiose** /,grændi'o:s/, /gran-dee-oas/ *adj* meant to be splendid, intended to be impressive.

**grand piano** /'grænd,pɪ:æno:/, /grand pee-a-no/ *n* a large piano in which the strings are horizontal.

**grandstand** /'grændstænd/, /grand-stand/ *n* rows of seats built on a rising slope to allow people a good view of a sports contest. • *vb* to show off to the audience or onlookers.

**granite** /'grænit/, /gra-nit/ *n* a hard rock.

**granny** /'græni/, /gra-neel/ *n* (*inf*) a grandmother.

**grant** /grænt/, /grant/ *vb* **1** to give, to agree to, to allow. **2** (*fm!*) to admit as true. • *n* something allowed or given, especially money given for a certain purpose.

**granular** /'grænjʊlər/, /gran-yu-lar/ *adj* **1** of or like grains. **2** rough to the touch, rough in appearance.

**granulate** /'grænju,leɪt/, /gran-yu-late/ *vb* to break into grains or small pieces. • *adj* **granulated**.

**granule** /'grænju:l/, /gran-yool/ *n* a small grain.

**grape** /greɪp/, /grape/ *n* the fruit of the vine.

**grapefruit** /'greɪpfru:t/, /grape-froot/ *n* a large yellowish sharp-tasting citrus fruit.

**graph** /græf/, /graf/ *n* a diagram in which different numbers, quantities, etc, are shown by dots and then joined up by lines so that they can be easily compared.

**graphic** /'græfɪk/, /gra-fic/ *adj* **1** so well told that the events, etc, can be seen in the mind's eye. **2** drawn, concerned with drawing, painting, etc. • **graphics** *npl* information in the form of illustrations or diagrams.

**graphite** /'græfəɪt/, /gra-fite/ *n* a soft black form of carbon used in pencils.

**grapple** /'græpəl/, /gra-pl/ *vb* **1** to fight hand to hand, to take hold of and struggle with. **2** to struggle with.

**grasp** /græsp/, /grasp/ *vb* **1** to take firm hold of. **2** to understand. • *n* **1** firm hold. **2** reach. **3** understanding.

**grasping** /'græspɪŋ/, /gra-spɪng/ *adj* mean, always wanting more money.

**grass** /græs/, /grass/ *n* the common plant covering of the ground, usually green. • *adj* **grassy**.

**grasshopper** /'græs,hɔ:pər/, /grass-hop-er/ *n* a small jumping insect.

**grate<sup>1</sup>** /greɪt/, /grate/ *n* a metal frame in a fireplace for holding the fire.

**grate<sup>2</sup>** /greɪt/, /grate/ *vb* **1** to break down by rubbing on something rough. **2** to make a harsh sound, as of metal rubbing on metal. **3** to annoy, to irritate.

**grateful** /greɪtfʊl/, /grate-ful/ *adj* thankful. • *adv* **gratefully**.

**grater** /'greɪtər/, /gray-ter/ *n* an instrument with a rough surface for breaking down to crumbs or powder.

**gratification** /,grætɪfɪ'keɪʃən/, /gra-ti-fi-cay-shun/ *n* pleasure, satisfaction.

**gratify** /'grætɪ,fai/, /gra-ti-fy/ *vb* **1** to please, to delight. **2** to satisfy.

**grating** /'greɪtɪŋ/, /gray-ting/ *n* a framework of metal bars.

**gratitude** /'grætɪ,tʃu:d/, /gra-ti-chood/ *n* thankfulness.

**gratuitous** /grə'tu:ətəs/, /gra-choo-i-tus/ *adj* **1** unasked-for, unwanted. **2** unnecessary, unjustified.

**grave<sup>1</sup>** /greɪv/, /grave/ *n* the hole dug in the earth for a dead body.

**grave<sup>2</sup>** /greɪv/, /grave/ *adj* serious, important.

**gravel** /'grævəl/, /gra-vəl/ *n* **1** small stones or pebbles. **2** a mixture of small stones and sand used to make the surface of roads and paths.

**gravestone** /'greɪvsto:n/, /grave-stone/ *n* a memorial stone placed over a grave.

**graveyard** /'greɪvjard/, /grave-yard/ *n* a piece of land set aside for graves.

**gravitate** /'grævəteɪt/, /gra-vi-tate/ *vb* **1** to move towards the centre.

**2** to move in a certain direction as if drawn there by some force. • *n* **gravitation**.

**gravity** /'grævɪti/, /gra-vi-tee/ *n* **1** seriousness, importance. **2** (*fml*) weight. **3** the force drawing bodies towards the centre of a larger body, e.g. the earth.

**gravy** /'grævi/, /gray-vee/ *n* the juice got from meat when it is being cooked, often thickened and served as a sauce with the meat.

**gray** /greɪ/, /gray/ *adj* US variant of **grey**.

**graze**<sup>1</sup> /greɪz/, /graze/ *vb* **1** to touch or rub against lightly in passing.

**2** to scrape along the surface. • *n* **1** a passing touch. **2** a scraping of the skin.

**graze**<sup>2</sup> /greɪz/, /graze/ *vb* to eat growing grass, to feed on grass.

**grazing** /'greɪzɪŋ/, /gray-zing/ *n* land with grass suitable for feeding cattle.

**grease** /gri:s/, /greese/ *n* **1** fat in a soft state. **2** fatty or oily matter. • *vb* to smear with grease. • *adj* **greasy**.

**great** /greɪt/, /grate/ *adj* **1** large in amount, number, or size. **2** important. **3** famous. **4** long in time. **5** more than is usual. **6** noble. **7** having possessed and made full use of extraordinary ability. • *adv* **greatly**. • *n* **greatness**.

**great-grandfather** /'greɪt 'grændfæðər/, /grate-gran-fa-ther/ *n* the father of one of one's grandparents. • *f* **great-grandmother**. • *also* **great-grandchild**, **great-grandparent**, etc.

**greed** /gri:d/, /greed/ *n* **1** the desire to have more and more for oneself. **2** love of eating.

**greedy** /'gri:di/, /gree-dee/ *adj* always wanting more than one has. • *adv* **greedily**. • *n* **greediness**.

**green** /gri:n/, /green/ *adj* **1** the colour of grass. **2** fresh, not ripe. **3** inexperienced. **4** concerned with the protection and conservation of the environment. • *n* **1** green colour. **2** a piece of ground covered with grass. **3** a person who is concerned with the protection and conservation of the environment. • *n* **greenness**. • *npl* green vegetables (e.g. cabbage).

**greengrocer** /green grow-ser/ *n* a person selling fruit and vegetables.

**greenery** /'grɪ:nəri/, /green-ree/ *n* green plants, foliage.

**greenhouse** /'grɪ:nhaʊs/, /green-house/ *n* a glasshouse for growing plants.

**greenhouse effect** /'grɪ:nhaʊs ɪfekt/, /green-house eh-fect/ *n* an increase in the earth's atmosphere of the amount of carbon dioxide and other gases that trap the heat of the sun and prevent it from escaping into space, thought to be a major cause of **global warming**.

**greet** /grɪ:t/, /greet/ *vb* **1** to welcome. **2** to speak or send good wishes to someone. **3** to receive.

**greeting** /'grɪ:tɪŋ/, /gree-ting/ *n* **1** welcome. **2** to speak or send good wishes to someone. **3** to receive.

**gregarious** /grɪ'geriəs/, /gre-gay-ree-us/ *adj* **1** fond of company. **2** (*fml*) living in flocks or herds.

**grenade** /grə'nейd/, /gre-nade/ *n* a small bomb thrown by hand.

**grew** /gru:/, /groo/ *pt of grow*.

**grey** /greɪ/, /gray/ *adj*, also **gray** (*US*) **1** black mixed with white in colour. **2** of the colour of hair whitened by age. • also *n*.

**greyhound** /'greɪhaʊnd/, /gray-hound/ *n* a lean fast-running dog, used in dog-racing.

**grid** /grɪd/, /grid/ *n* **1** a framework of metal bars. **2** a gridiron. **3** a large number of electric wires, rail lines, roads, etc, crossing and going in different directions. **4** the division of a map into squares to make map-reading easier.

**griddle** /'grɪdəl/, /gri-dul/ *n* a flat iron plate for baking cakes, etc, on a fire or the top of a stove.

**gridiron** /'grɪdaɪrn/, /grid-ie-urn/ *n* a framework of iron bars used for cooking meat over a fire.

**grief** /grɪ:f/, /greef/ *n* great sorrow. • **come to grief** to fail, to suffer a misfortune.

**grievance** /'grɪ:vəns/, /gree-vанс/ *n* a cause of complaint.

**grieve** /grɪ:v/, /greeve/ *vb* **1** to sorrow, to mourn. **2** (*fml*) to cause sorrow.

**grievous** /'grɪ:vəs/, /gree-vus/ *adj* (*fml*) **1** causing pain or sorrow. **2** severe, serious.

**grill** /grɪl/, /grill/ *n* **1** a framework of metal bars used in cooking that directs heat downward for cooking meat, etc. **2** food cooked on a grill. **3** an informal restaurant or diner. **4** a grille. • *vb* **1** to cook on a grill. **2** (*inf*) to question intensively.

**grille** /grɪl/, /grill/ *n* a framework of metal bars fitted into a counter or door, or outside a window.

**grim** /grɪm/, /grim/ *adj* **1** angry-looking, unsmiling. **2** unpleasant, depressing. **3** severe, harsh. **4** stubborn, determined. • *n* **grimness**.

**grimace** /'grɪməs/, /gri-mas/ *vb* to twist the face to show one's feelings. • *also n.*

**grime** /graɪm/, /grime/ *n* dirt, filth. • *adj* **grimy**.

**grin** /grɪn/, /grin/ *vb* (**grinned**, **grinning**) to smile widely in pleasure. • *also n.*

**grind** /graɪnd/, /grinde/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **ground**) **1** to rub or crush to powder or small pieces. **2** to sharpen by rubbing. **3** to press together noisily. **4** (*inf*) to work hard. • *n* hard and uninteresting work. • *n* a certain grade of coffee.

**grinder** /graɪndər/, /grine-der/ *n* a person or thing that grinds.

**grip** /grɪp/, /grip/ *vb* (**gripped**, **gripping**) **1** to take a firm hold of, to hold very tightly. **2** to seize the attention of. • *n* a firm or tight hold.

**gripe** /grɪp/, /gripe/ *vb* **1** (*fml*) to cause a sharp pain in the stomach. **2** (*inf*) to complain. • *n* **1** a pain in the stomach. **2** (*inf*) a complaint.

**grisly** /'grɪzli/, /griz-lee/ *adj* dreadful, frightening.

**gristle** /'grɪsəl/, /gri-sul/ *n* a tough elastic substance surrounding the joints of the bones. • *adj* **gristly** /griss-lee/.

**grit** /grɪt/, /grit/ *n* **1** grains of sand or dust. **2** courage, determination. • *vb* (**gritted**, **gritting**) **1** to press (the teeth) tightly together. **2** to spread grit on (roads). • *adj* **gritty**.

**grizzled** /'grɪzəld/, /griz-uld/ *adj* streaked with grey, especially hair.

**grizzly** /'grɪzli/, /griz-lee/ *adj* grey and grizzled.

**grizzly bear** /'grɪzli bər/, /griz-lee bare/ *n* a large North American bear.

**groan** /gro:n/, /groan/ *vb* to utter a low, deep sound expressing pain or anxiety. • *also n.*

**grocer** /'gro:sər/, /gro-ser/ *n* a person who sells dry and tinned foods, tea, sugar, household supplies, etc.

**grog** /grɒg/, /grog/ *n* (*old*) a mixture of strong alcoholic drink and cold water.

**groggy** /'grɒgi/, /grog-ee/ *adj* not steady on the feet, weak.

**groin** /grɔɪn/, /groin/ *n* the part of the body where the legs join the trunk.

**groom** /gru:m/, /groom/ *n* 1 a person who cares for horses. 2 *also bridegroom* a man who is being married.

**groomsman** /'gru:mzmən/, /groomz-man/ *n* a male friend or relative who accompanies the bridegroom at a wedding.

**groove** /gru:v/, /groov/ *n* a long, narrow hollow, such as that made by a tool in wood. • *vb* to make a groove in.

**grope** /gro:p/, /grope/ *vb* to feel with one's hands for something unseen.

**gross** /gro:s/, /grawss/ *adj* 1 fat and overfed. 2 coarse, vulgar, impolite. 3 (*inf*) disgusting, repulsive. 4 very noticeable, glaringly obvious. 5 whole, complete, total. • *n* 1 twelve dozen, 144. 2 the whole. • *adv* **grossly**.

**grossness** /'gro:snəs/, /gross-ness/ *n* rudeness, vulgarity.

**grotesque** /gro:'tesk/, /gro-tesk/ *adj* 1 strangely shaped, distorted, fantastic. 2 ridiculously exaggerated, unreasonable, absurd, foolish.

**grotto** /'grætə/, /graw-toe/ *n* (*pl grottoes*) a cave, often an artificial one in a park or shop.

**ground<sup>1</sup>** /'graund/, /ground/ *n* 1 the surface of the earth, land. 2 a piece of land used for a particular purpose. 3 (*often pl*) a reason. • *vb* 1 (*of a ship*) to run ashore. 2 (*of an aeroplane*) to come to or keep on the ground. 3 to base. 4 to teach the basic facts to. • *npl* 1 the tiny pieces of matter that sink to the bottom of a liquid. 2 the land surrounding a large house, castle, etc.

**ground<sup>2</sup>** /'graund/, /ground/ *pt and pp of grind*.

**ground floor** /'graund flɔ:x/, /ground flore/ *n* the storey of a building on the same level as the ground.

**grounding** /'graundɪŋ/, /groun-ding/ *n* knowledge of the elementary part of a subject.

**groundless** /'graundləs/, /ground-less/ *adj* without a reason.

**groundskeeper** /'graundski:pər/, /groundz-kee-per/ *n* the person in charge of maintaining a sports field.

**groundwork** /'graundwɜ:k/, /ground-wurk/ *n* work that must be done well in the beginning if later work on the subject or task is to succeed.

**group** /gru:p/, /groop/ *n* **1** a number of persons or things taken together. **2** a set of people who play music or sing together. • *vb* to put or go into a group.

**grouse<sup>1</sup>** /grəʊs/, /grouse/ *n* (*pl* **grouse**) a small fowl hunted on the moors as game.

**grouse<sup>2</sup>** /grəʊs/, /grouse/ *vb* (*inf*) to grumble, to complain. • *also n.*

**grove** /gro:v/, /grove/ *n* (*fml*) a small wood.

**grovel** /'grəvəl/, /gruov-el/ *vb* **1** to lie face downward in humility or fear. **2** to humble oneself, to behave with humility.

**grow** /gro:/, /gro/ *vb* (*pt* **grew**, *pp* **grown**) **1** to become bigger. **2** (*of plants*) to have life. **3** to become. **4** to plant and rear. **5** to increase the size of. • *n* **growth**.

**growl** /graʊl/, /groul/ *vb* to utter a low harsh sound, as a dog when angry. • *also n.*

**grown pp of grow.**

**grown-up** /gro:n/, /gro-nup/ *n* a fully grown person.

**growth** /gro:θ/ see **grow**.

**grub** /grəb/, /grub/ *vb* (**grubbed**, **grubbing**) **1** to dig, to root out. **2** to search for by digging. **3** (*inf*) to search around for. • *n* **1** the form of an insect when it comes out of the egg. **2** (*inf*) food.

**grubby** /'grəbi/, /gru-bee/ *adj* dirty.

**grudge** /grədʒ/, /grudge/ *vb* **1** to be unwilling to give. **2** to be displeased by another's success, to envy. • *n* a deep feeling of ill-will, dislike, resentment, etc.

**gruel** /'gru:əl/, /grool/ *n* (*old*) a light food made by boiling meal in water.

**gruelling** /'gru:əlɪŋ/, /groo-ling/ *adj, also grueling (US)* very difficult and tiring.

**gruesome** /'gru:səm/, /groo-sum/ *adj* horrible, very unpleasant.

**gruff** /grʌf/, /gruff/ *adj* 1 deep and rough. 2 rough, angry-sounding.

**grumble** /'grʌmbəl/, /grum-bul/ *vb* to complain, to express discontent. • *also n.* • *n grumbler.*

**grumpy** /'grʌmpi/, /grum-peel *adj (inf)* cross, ill-tempered.

**grunt** /grʌnt/, /grunt/ *vb* to make a noise like a pig. • *also n.*

**guarantee** /,gærən'ti:/, /ga-ran-tee/ *n* 1 a promise to pay money on behalf of another person if that person fails to pay money he or she has promised to pay. 2 a person who undertakes to see that another keeps his or her promise, especially to repay money; a guarantor. 3 a promise, usually in the form of a written statement, that if an article bought is unsatisfactory, it will be repaired or replaced. 4 a thing that makes something likely or certain. • *vb* 1 to promise. 2 to undertake to see that a promise is kept.

**guarantor** /'gærən,tɔr/, /ga-ran-tawr/ *n* one who hands over something as a guarantee and loses it if the promise is not kept.

**guard** /gard/, /gard/ *vb* 1 to watch over, to protect. 2 to defend against attack. • *n* 1 something that protects. 2 a person, such as a soldier or prison officer, who watches over a person or place to prevent escape, attack, etc. 3 a group of persons whose duty it is to watch over and defend something or someone. 4 the official in charge of a train. 5 a position in which one can defend or protect oneself, a state of watchfulness.

**guarded** /'gardəd/, /gar-did/ *adj* careful, cautious.

**guardian** /'gardiən/, /gar-dee-an/ *n* 1 a person who has the legal duty to take care of a child. 2 (*frm*) a keeper.

**guava** /'gwəvə/, /gwa-va/ *n* a tropical tree or its fruit.

**guerrilla, guerilla** /gə'rɪlə/, /gu-ri-la/ *n* a member of an unofficial small military group that makes sudden, unexpected attacks.

**guess** /ges/, /ges/ *vb* 1 to put forward an opinion or solution without knowing the facts. 2 (*inf*) to suppose, to consider likely. • *n* an opinion or judgment that may be wrong as it is formed on insufficient knowledge.

**guesswork** /'geswɜːk/, /ges-wɜːk/ *n* a number of connected guesses.

**guest** /gɛst/, /gest/ *n* **1** a visitor to a house. **2** a person staying in a hotel.

**guffaw** /gʌ'fɔː/, /gu-faw/ *vb* to laugh loudly or rudely. • *also n.*

**guidance** /'gaɪdəns/, /gie-dans/ *n* help and advice.

**guide** /gaɪd/, /gide/ *vb* **1** to lead to the place desired. **2** to show the way. **3** to direct, to influence. • *n* **1** a person who shows the way. **2** an adviser, a person who directs or influences one's behaviour. **3** a guidebook. **4** a person who leads people around a place, pointing out things of interest. **5** a thing that helps one to form an opinion or make a calculation.

**guidebook** /gaɪdbʊk/, /gide-book/ *n* a book describing a place and giving information about it.

**guide dog** /'gaɪd,dɒg/, /gide-dog/ *n* a dog trained to lead a blind person.

**guild** /gɪld/, /gild/ *n* a group of people who meet for a particular purpose.

**guilder** /'gɪldər/, /gil-der/ *n* formerly the currency unit of the Netherlands, until the introduction of the euro in 2002.

**guile** /gail/, /gile/ *n* (*frm*) deceit, trickery, cunning skill. • *adj* **guileful**, **guileless**.

**guillotine** /'gɪlə,tɪ:n/, /giə,tɪ:n/, /gi-le-teen, gee-ye-teen/ *n* **1** a machine formerly used in France for beheading people. **2** a machine for cutting paper.

**guilt** /gɪlt/, /gilt/ *n* **1** the fact of having done wrong, the fact of having committed a crime. **2** blame or responsibility for wrongdoing. **3** a sense of shame, uneasiness, etc, caused by the knowledge of having done wrong. • *adj* **guiltless**.

**guilty** /'gɪlti/, /gilt-lee/ *adj* **1** having done wrong, having broken a law. **2** responsible for behaviour that is morally wrong or socially unacceptable. **3** feeling or showing a sense of guilt or shame.

**guinea fowl** /'gɪni:fɔːl/, /gi-nee foul/ *n* a large spotted edible bird.

**guinea pig** /'gɪni:pɪg/, /gi-nee-pig/ *n* **1** a small tailless rodent, often kept as a pet. **2** a person made use of for the purpose of an

experiment.

**guise** /gaɪz/, /gize/ *n* 1 dress. 2 appearance.

**guitar** /gɪ'tar/, /gi-tar/ *n* a six-stringed musical instrument.

**gulf** /gʌlf/, /gulf/ *n* 1 an inlet of the sea, a long bay. 2 a deep hollow.

3 an area of serious difference or separation.

**gull<sup>1</sup>** /gʌl/, /gul/ *n* a long-winged sea bird.

**gull<sup>2</sup>** /gʌl/, /gul/ *vb* (old) to cheat, to deceive. • *n* one who has been cheated, one easily deceived.

**gullet** /'gʌlət/, /gu-let/ *n* the food passage from the mouth to the stomach; the throat.

**gullible** /'gʌləbəl/, /gu-li-bul/ *adj* easily deceived.

**gully** /'gʌli/, /gu-lee/ *n* a deep channel worn by running water.

**gulp** /gʌlp/, /gulp/ *vb* 1 to eat quickly, to swallow in large mouthfuls. 2 to make a swallowing movement. • *also n.*

**gum<sup>1</sup>** /gʌm/, /gum/ *n* the flesh in which the teeth are set.

**gum<sup>2</sup>** /gʌm/, /gum/ *n* 1 the sticky juice of trees. 2 a liquid used for sticking things together. 3 chewing gum • *vb* (**gummed**, **gumming**) to stick with gum.

**gumboil** /'gʌmbɔɪl/, /gum-boil/ *n* a painful swelling on the gum.

**gumboot** /'gʌmbu:t/, /gum-boot/ *n* a rubber boot.

**gummy** /'gʌmi/, /gu-mee/ *adj* sticky.

**gumption** /'gʌmpʃən/, /gum-shun/ *n* common sense, good sense.

**gum tree** /'gʌmtri:/, /gum-tree/ *n* a tree from which gum is obtained.

**gun** /gʌn/, /gun/ *n* any weapon that fires bullets or shells by means of explosive. • *vb* (**gunned**, **gunning**) to shoot or hunt with a gun.

**gunboat** /'gʌnbɔ:t/, /gun-boat/ *n* a small warship.

**gundog** /'gʌndɒg/, /gun-dog/ *n* a dog trained to accompany hunters and to fetch game that has been shot.

**gunfire** /'gʌn,fair/, /gun-fire/ *n* the sound of guns being fired.

**gunmetal** /'gʌnmɛtəl/, /gun-met-al/ *n* 1 a mixture of copper and tin. 2 a dull-grey colour.

**gunner** /'gʌnər/, /gu-ner/ *n* a man trained to fire large guns.

**gunpowder** /'gʌn,paudər/, /gun-pou-der/ *n* a type of explosive.

**gunrunning** /'gʌn,rənɪŋ/, /gun-ru-ning/ *n* taking guns into a country against its laws.

**gunshot** /'gʌnʃɒt/, /gun-shot/ *n* 1 the firing of a gun. 2 the distance a gun can fire.

**gunsmith** /'gʌnsmiθ/, /gun-smith/ *n* a person who makes or repairs guns.

**gurgle** /'gərgəl/, /gur-gul/ *vb* 1 to flow with a bubbling sound. 2 to make a noise resembling this. • *also n.*

**guru** /'guru:, 'guru:/, /goo-roo/ *n* a spiritual leader or guide.

**gush** /gəʃ/, /gush/ *n* a sudden or strong flow. • *vb* 1 to flow out strongly. 2 to talk as if one felt something very deeply; to speak insincerely.

**gusset** /'gʌsət/, /gu-set/ *n* a piece of cloth put into a garment to strengthen part of it.

**gust** /gəst/, /gust/ *n* a sudden violent rush of wind.

**gusto** /'gəsto:/, /gu-sto/ *n* keen enjoyment, eagerness.

**gusty** /'gəsti/, /gu-steel/ *adj* 1 windy. 2 in short violent bursts.

**gut** /gʌt/, /gut/ *n* 1 a tube in the body that takes the waste matter from the stomach. 2 a strong cord used for violin strings, fishing lines, etc. • *vb (gutted, gutting)* 1 to take out the inner parts. 2 to remove or destroy all except the walls of a building. • *npl (inf)* 1 the bowels, intestines. 2 bravery, courage.

**gutter** /'gʌtər/, /gu-ter/ *n* 1 a passage at the edge of a roof or at the side of the road to carry away water. 2 the lowest, poorest level of society. • *vb* to run down in drops, as wax on a candle.

**guttural** /'gʌtərəl/, /gu-te-ral/ *adj* 1 having to do with the throat. 2 made or seeming to be made in the throat, harsh.

**guy<sup>1</sup>** /gai/, /gie/ *n* a rope to steady anything (e.g. a tent).

**guy<sup>2</sup>** /gai/, /gie/ *n* 1 a man or boy. 2 (*inf*) a person. 3 a model representing Guy Fawkes, burned on November 5 in memory of his attempted attack on the Houses of Parliament in 1605.

**guzzle** /'gʌzəl/, /gu-zul/ *vb (inf)* to eat or drink greedily.

**gymkhana** /dʒim'kɒnə/, /jim-ka-na/ *n* a sports meeting for races, horse racing, horse jumping, etc.

**gymnasium** /dʒɪm'neɪziəm/, /jim-nay-zee-um/ *n* (*pl* **gymnasia** or **gymnasiums**) a room or hall with equipment for physical exercise.

**gymnast** /'dʒɪmnæst/, /jim-nast/ *n* a person who is skilled in gymnastics. • *adj* **gymnastic**.

**gymnastics** /dʒɪm'næstɪks/, /jim-nast-iks/ *npl* exercises to develop the muscles of the body.

**gynaecology** /,gaɪnə'kɒlədʒi/, /gie-ne-col-u-jee/, *n*, also **gynecology** (US) the branch of medicine dealing with the female reproductive system.

**gypsy** /'dʒɪpsi/, /jip-see/ *n* a member of a travelling people.

**gyrate** /'dʒaɪreɪt/, /jie-rate/ *vb* 1 to move in circles. 2 to spin round. • *n* **gyration**.

**gyroscope** /'dʒaɪrə,sko:p/, /jie-ro-scope/ *n* an instrument that is sometimes used to keep ships, aircraft, etc steady.

# H

**H, h** /eɪtʃ/, /aɪtʃ/ the eighth letter of the English alphabet.

**ha** /hə/, /ha/ *interj* 1 a sound used to express surprise, wonder, triumph. 2 the sound of a laugh.

**habit** /'hæbɪt/, /ha-bit/ *n* 1 a fixed way of doing something without having to think about it; someone's ordinary way of doing things; something that a person does regularly. 2 dress, especially of a monk or rider.

**habitable** /-əbəl/, /ha-bi-ta-bul/ *adj* that may be lived in.

**habitat** /'hæbɪ,tæt/, /ha-bi-tat/ *n* the place or surroundings in which a plant or animal is usually found.

**habitation** /'hæbɪ'teɪʃən/, /ha-bi-tay-shun/ *n* 1 the act of living in a place. 2 the place where a person lives.

**habitual** /hə'bɪtʃuəl/, /ha-bich-wul/ *adj* 1 usual. 2 having formed a certain habit.

**habituate** /hə'bɪtʃu,eɪt/, /ha-bi-chu-wate/ *vb (fml)* to make used to.

**hack<sup>1</sup>** /hæk/, /hack/ *vb* to cut roughly or unevenly. • *n* 1 a tool for cutting or hacking. 2 a dry, harsh cough.

**hack<sup>2</sup>** /hæk/, /hack/ *n* 1 a hired horse. 2 a person hired to do uninteresting written work.

**hacker** /'hækər/, /ha-ker/ *n* 1 a person who hacks. 2 a highly skilled computer user who tries to access unauthorized files.

**handsaw** /'hæksp/, /hak-saw/ *n* a saw for cutting metal.

**had** /hæd/, /had/ *vb* past tense of have.

**haddock** /'hædək/, /ha-dock/ *n* a sea fish of the cod family, used as food.

**haematology** /hi:mæ'tɒlədʒi:/, /hee-ma-tol-u-jee/ *n*, also **hematology** (US) the study of the blood.

**haemoglobin** /hi:mæ,glo:bən/, /hee-mo-glo-bin/ *n*, also **hemoglobin** (US) the red matter that gives blood its colour.

**haemophilia** /hi:mæ'fi:liə/, /hee-mo-fil-ee-a/ *n*, also **hemophilia** (US) a condition where the blood does not clot properly when a person bleeds.

**haemorrhage** /'hemrɪdʒ/, /hem-ridge/ *n*, also **hemorhage** (US) heavy bleeding.

**haemorrhoid** /'hemæ,rɔɪd/, /hem-a-roid/ *n*, also **hemorrhoid** (US) a painful swelling of a vein near the anus, usually with bleeding.

**haft** /hæft/, /haft/ *n* (fml or lit) a handle.

**hag** /hæg/, /hag/ *n* 1 a female demon or evil spirit. 2 an ugly, often mean, old woman.

**haggard** /'hægərd/, /ha-gard/ *adj* pale, thin-faced, and tired looking.

**haggis** /'hægis/, /ha-gis/ *n* a Scottish dish in which the heart, liver and lungs of a sheep are minced, mixed with oatmeal and seasoning and boiled in a sheep's stomach.

**haggle** /'hægəl/, /ha-gul/ *vb* to try to get a seller to lower his or her price.

**haiku** /'haiku/, /hie-koo/ *n* a Japanese poem of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables, often about nature.

**hail<sup>1</sup>** /heɪl/, /hail/ *n* 1 frozen rain. 2 a shower of anything. • *vb* 1 to rain hail. 2 to pour down.

**hail<sup>2</sup>** /heɪl/, /hail/ *vb* 1 to call to, to greet. 2 to shout to a person to try to catch his or her attention. • *interj* a call of greeting. • **hail from** to come from.

**hailstone** /'heɪlstə:n/, /hail-stone/ *n* a pellet of hail.

**hailstorm** /'heɪlstɔrm/, /hail-storm/ *n* a storm in which hail falls.

**hair** /her/, /hair/ *n* any or all of the threadlike growths covering the skin of humans and animals. • *adj* **hairless**, **hairy** /hay-ree/. • **to split hairs** to point out differences so slight that they could be overlooked.

**hairbrush** /'her,b्रəʃ/, /hair-brush/ *n* a brush for grooming the hair.

**haircut** /'hærkət/, /hair-cut/ *n* a cutting of the hair of the head, or the style in which this is done.

**hairdo** /'hərdū:/, /hair-do/ *n* the style in which hair is arranged.

**hairdresser** /'hərdresər/, /haɪər-dre-ser/ *n* a person who cuts, styles, etc, hair as a job.

**hairnet** /'hərnɛt/, /haɪər-net/ *n* a net cap for keeping the hair in place.

**hairpiece** /'hərpɪ:s/, /haɪər-peess/ *n* a wig.

**hairpin** /'hərpɪn/, /haɪər-pin/ *n* a small, usually U-shaped, piece of wire for keeping the hair in place or a headdress on. • *adj* shaped like a hairpin.

**hair-raising** /'hər'reɪzɪŋ/, /haɪər-ray-zing/ *adj* terrifying, thought of as causing the hair to stand on end.

**hair spray** /'hərspreɪ/, /haɪər spray/ *n* a liquid sprayed on the hair to hold it in place.

**hairstyle** /'herstaɪl/, /haɪər-stile/ *n* a style of hairdressing, often one that is fashionable.

**hairy** /'həri/, /hay-ree/ *adj* covered with hair.

**hajj** /hædʒ/, /hadge/ *n* the religious trip to Mecca that every Muslim is expected to make at least once.

**hake** /heɪk/, /hake/ *n* a fish like the cod, used as food.

**halal** /hæ'læl/, /ha-lal/ *n* meat from an animal that has been killed according to Muslim law. • *also adj.*

**halcyon** /'hælsiən/, /hal-see-yon/ *n* the kingfisher. • *adj* calm, peaceful. • **halcyon days** a time of happiness and peace.

**half** /hæf/, /haf/ *n* (*pl halves* /hævz/, /hahvz/) one of two equal parts. • *also adj.*

**half brother** /'hæf ,brəθər/, /haf bru-ther/ *n* a brother by one parent only.

**halfhearted** /hæf 'hærtəd/, /haf-har-ted/ *adj* lacking interest and energy, not eager.

**half-hour** /hæf 'auər/, /haf-our/ *n* 30 minutes.

**half-moon** /hæf'mun/, /haf-moon/ *n* 1 the moon in its first or last quarter phase. 2 anything shaped like a half-moon or crescent.

**half sister** /hæf'sister/, /haf si-ster/ *n* a sister by one parent only.

**halftime** /hæf 'taɪm/, /haf-time/ *n* the rest period between the halves of a football game, etc.

**halfway** /hæf'wei/, /haf-way/ *adj* equally distant between two places.

**halibut** /'hælibət/, /ha-li-but/ *n* a large flatfish, used as food.

**hall** /hol/, /hol/ *n* 1 a large public room. 2 the room or passage at the entrance to a house or between rooms.

**hallelujah** /hælə'lu:jə/, /ha-le-loo-ya/ *n* an exclamation or song of praise to God. • *also interj.*

**hallmark** /hɔlmark/, /hawl-mark/ *n* 1 an official mark stamped on things made of gold, silver or platinum. 2 a mark or symbol that shows the quality of a person, thing, etc.

**hallow** /'hælo:/, /ha-lo/ *vb* 1 to make holy. 2 to treat as being holy.

**hallowed** /'hælo:d/, /ha-lode/ *adj* sacred or holy.

**Halloween** /hælə'wi:n/, /ha-lo-ween/ *n* the eve of All Saints' Day.

**hallucinate** /hə'lju:sə'neɪt/, /ha-loo-si-nate/ *vb* to see something that is not there.

**hallucination** /hə'lju:sə'neɪʃən/, /ha-loo-si-nay-shun/ *n* 1 the seeing of something that is not there. 2 something imagined as though it is really there. • *adj hallucinatory*.

**hallway** /'hɔlweɪ/, /hawl-way/ *n* a passageway between the entrance and interior of the house or between rooms.

**halo** /'heilo:/, /hay-loe/ *n* 1 a circle of light around the Sun or Moon. 2 a coloured ring or ring of light around the head of a holy person, e.g. in a painting.

**halt<sup>1</sup>** /hɔlt/, /holt/ *vb* to stop. • *n* a stop.

**halt<sup>2</sup>** /hɔlt/, /holt/ *vb* 1 (*old*) to limp. 2 to hesitate. • *adj* lame, limping.

**halter** /'hɔltər/, /hawl-ter/ *n* 1 a rope or strap fitted on to the head of a horse for leading it. 2 a rope for hanging a person. 3 a dress or top held up by a strap that goes round the wearer's neck leaving the shoulders bare.

**halve** /hæv/, /hav/ *vb* to cut or break into halves.

**halves** see **half**.

**ham** /hæm/, /ham/ *n* 1 the back of the thigh. 2 the thigh of a pig salted and dried and used as food. 3 (*inf*) an actor who exaggerates his or her actions and speech.

**hambone** /'hæm'bɔ:n/, /ham-bone/ *n* the bone of a ham.

**hamburger** /'hæm,bɜːgər/, /ham-bur-ger/ *n* a flat round patty made of ground beef, fried or grilled, and usually eaten in a bun, often known as a **burger** /bur-ger/.

**hamlet** /'hæmlət/, /ham-let/ *n* a very small village.

**hammer** /'hæmər/, /ham-er/ *n* 1 a tool for pounding nails, beating metal, etc. 2 part of a machine or device that strikes. • *vb* 1 to drive or beat with a hammer. 2 to strike hard.

**hammered** /'hæmərd/, /ham-erd/ *adj* shaped or marked by hammer blows.

**hammerhead** /'hæmər,hed/, /ham-er-hed/ *n* any of a family of large sharks with large, mallet-shaped heads.

**hammertoe** /'hæmər,to:/, /ham-er-toe/ *n* a condition in which the first joint of a toe is bent downward permanently.

**hammock** /'hæmək/, /ham-ock/ *n* a bed made of a strip of canvas or network hung up at the ends.

**hamper**<sup>1</sup> /'hæmpər/, /ham-per/ *n* a large basket.

**hamper**<sup>2</sup> /'hæmpər/, /ham-per/ *vb* to prevent from moving freely.

**hamster** /'hæmstər/, /ham-ster/ *n* a small rodent with large cheek pouches, often kept as a pet.

**hamstring** /'hæmstrɪŋ/, /ham-string/ *n* the tendon behind the knee. • *vb* (*pt, pp hamstrung*) 1 to make lame by cutting the hamstring. 2 to prevent from acting freely.

**hand** /hænd/, /hand/ *n* 1 the end of the arm below the wrist. 2 a worker. 3 a sailor on a ship. 4 the cards given to one player in a card game. 5 a person's style of writing. 6 the pointer of a clock or watch. 7 a measure of 0.1 metres, used in measuring a horse's height at the shoulder. • *vb* to give with the hand. 8 a share, a part, an influence. • **hand in glove with** in league with. • **hand-to-hand** at close quarters. • **hand-to-mouth** with only just enough money to live on with nothing for the future. • **out of hand** out of control. • **upper hand** control. • **to wash one's hands of** to refuse to have anything more to do with.

**handbag** /'hændbæg/, /hand-bag/ *n* a small bag that contains the owner's possessions, usually carried by women.

**handball** /'hændbɒl/, /hænd-bol/ *n* 1 a game in which a small ball is batted against a wall by hand by opposing players. 2 the ball used in this game.

**handbill** /'hændbɪl/, /hænd-bill/ *n* a small printed notice.

**handbook** /'hændbuk/, /hænd-book/ *n* a small useful book giving information or instructions.

**handcart** /'hændkɑrt/, /hænd-cart/ *n* a small cart, often with two wheels, pulled or pushed by hand.

**handcraft** /'hændkraft/, /hænd-craft/ *vb* to make by hand with craftsmanship.

**handcuff** /'hændkəf/, /hænd-cuff/ *vb* to put handcuffs on. • *npl* **handcuffs** metal rings joined by a chain, locked on the wrists of prisoners.

**handful** /'hændfʊl/, /hænd-fool/ *n* 1 as much as can be held in one hand. 2 a small number or amount.

**hand grenade** /'hænd grɪneɪd/, /hænd gri-nade/ *n* a small, round, handheld bomb that is thrown at its target after pulling out a fuse.

**handgun** /'hændgʌn/, /hænd-gun/ *n* any firearm that is held and fired while being held in only one hand.

**handheld** /'hænd,held/, /hænd-held/ *adj* small enough to be held in the hand while being used.

**handhold** /'hændho:lд/, /hænd-hoald/ *n* a secure grip or hold with the hand.

**handicap** /'hændɪ,kæp/, /han-di-cap/ *vb* (**handicapped**, **handicapping**) 1 in sports or races, to give a certain advantage to weaker competitors so that they have an equal chance of winning. 2 to obstruct, to put at a disadvantage. • *n* 1 in sports or games, an arrangement that allows all competitors to start with an equal chance of winning. 2 an obstruction, a disadvantage. 3 a physical or mental disability.

**handicraft** /'hændɪ,kræft/, /han-di-craft/ *n* skilled work done by hand. • *n handicraftsperson*.

**handily** /'hændɪlɪ/, /han-di-lee/ *adv* with no trouble, easily.

**handiwork** /'hændiwrk/, /han-di-wurk/ *n* 1 work done with a person's hands. 2 something done or caused by someone.

**handkerchief** /'hæŋkərtʃif/, /hang-ker-chif/ *n* a cloth for wiping the nose.

**handle** /'hændəl/, /han-dul/ *vb* 1 to feel, use, or hold with the hand. 2 to deal with. • *n* that part of a thing made to be held in the hand.

**handlebar** /'hændəl,baɾ/, /han-dul-bar/ *n* the bent rod with which a person steers a bicycle.

**handler** /'hændlər/, /hand-ler/ *n* a person or thing that handles, trains, or manages.

**handmade** /hændmeɪd/, /hand-made/ *adj* made by hand, not by machine.

**hand-me-down** /'hændmi:,daʊn/, /hand-mee-down/ *n* something that has been used and then passed along to someone else.

**handout** /'hændaut/, /han-dout/ *n* 1 a gift of food, clothing, etc, as to a poor person. 2 a leaflet or printed notice handed out for information.

**handpick** /hænd'pɪk/, /hand-pick/ *vb* to choose with care for a special purpose.

**hand puppet** /'hænd pəpɪt/, /hand pu-pet/ *n* a puppet that fits over the hand and is moved by the fingers.

**handrail** /'hændreɪl/, /hand-rail/ *n* a rail used as a guard or support, as along a staircase.

**handsaw** /'hænd,sɔ:/, /hand-saw/ *n* a hand-held saw.

**handsel** /'hænsəl/, /hand-sel/ *n* a present for good luck.

**handset** /'hændset/, /hand-set/ *n* a telephone mouthpiece, receiver, and dial buttons in a single unit.

**handshake** /'hændʃeɪk/, /hand-shake/ *n* a gripping and shaking of each other's hand in greeting.

**handsome** /'hænsəm/, /hand-sum/ *adj* 1 good-looking. 2 generous.

**handspring** /'hændsprɪŋ/, /hand-spring/ *n* a tumble in which a person turns over in midair with one or both hands touching the ground.

**handstand** /'hændstænd/, /hand-stand/ *n* the act of standing upside down on the hands.

**handwriting** /'hænd,rəɪtɪŋ/, /hand-rie-ting/ *n* the way a person writes.

**handwritten** /'hænd,rɪtən/, /hand-ri-ten/ *adj* written by hand, with pen, pencil, etc.

**handy** /'hændi/, /han-dee/ *adj* 1 clever in using the hands, skilful. 2 useful and simple. 3 ready, available. 4 near. • *n handiness*.

**hang** /hæŋ/, /hang/ *vb* 1 (*pt, pp hung*) to fix one part to something above and allow the rest to drop. 2 to remain steady in the air, as certain birds. 3 to let fall. 4 (*pt, pp hanged*) to kill a criminal by putting a rope round the neck and then letting him or her drop suddenly so that the neck is broken.

**hangar** /'hæŋər/, /hang-ar/ *n* a large shelter in which aeroplanes are kept.

**hanger** /'hæŋər/, /hang-er/ *n* a thing from which a garment is hung.

**hanger-on** /'hæŋəron/, /hang-er-on/ *n* (*pl hangers-on*) a person who supports another in the hope of gaining some advantage.

**hang gliding** /'hæŋ,glaɪdɪŋ/, /hang glie-ding/ *n* the sport of gliding through the air while hanging from a large kite-like device.

**hangman** /'hæŋmæn/, /hang-man/ *n* a person whose job it is to hang criminals.

**hangnail** /'hæŋneɪl/, /hang-nale/ *n* a bit of torn skin hanging at the side or base of a fingernail.

**hangout** /'hæŋaʊt/, /hang-out/ *n* a place where a group of people go frequently.

**hangover** /'hæŋ,o:vər/, /hang-oa-ver/ *n* the sick feeling a person gets after drinking too much alcohol.

**hang-up** /'hæŋəp/, /hang-up/ *n* a feeling of worry or embarrassment about something, often unjustified.

**hank** /hæŋk/, /hangk/ *n* a coil of thread or wool.

**hanker** /'hæŋkər/, /hang-ker/ *vb* to want greatly, to long for.

**hankie** /'hæŋki/, /hang-kee/ *n* a handkerchief.

**hansom** /'hænsəm/, /han-sum/ *n* (*old*) a two-wheeled carriage pulled by one horse.

**Hanukkah** /'hənukkə/, /hon-i-ca/ *n* an 8-day Jewish festival taking place in November or December.

**haphazard** /hæp'hæzərd/, /hap-ha-zard/ *adj* chance, unplanned. • *adv haphazardly*.

**hapless** /hæpləs/, /hap-less/ *adj* (*fml*) unfortunate, unlucky.

**happen** /'hæpən/, /ha-pen/ *vb* **1** to take place. **2** to come about by chance.

**happening** /'hæpənɪŋ/, /ha-pe-ning/ *n* an event.

**happy** /'hæpi/, /ha-pee/ *adj* **1** lucky. **2** pleased, joyous. **3** pleasant, joyful. **4** suitable. • *n* **happiness**.

**happy-go-lucky** /hæpigō:ləki:/, /ha-pee-go-lu-kee/ *adj* not easily worried, carefree.

**happy hour** /'hæpi aʊər/, /ha-pee our/ *n* a time when a bar sells its drinks at reduced prices.

**harangue** /'həræŋ/, /ha-rang/ *n* a loud speech. • *vb* to speak loudly and forcefully.

**harass** /hə'ræs/, /ha-rass/ *vb* **1** to attack again and again. **2** to worry or disturb constantly or frequently.

**harbour** /'harbər/, /har-bur/ *n*, also **harbor** (US) **1** a place of safety for ships. **2** a place of shelter. • *vb* **1** to give shelter. **2** to keep in the mind.

**hard** /hard/, /hard/ *adj* **1** firm, solid. **2** unfeeling, unkind, cruel. **3** difficult. **4** harsh, severe. • *adv* **1** with force. **2** with great effort. **3** close. **4** with great attention. • **hard of hearing** fairly deaf. • **hard up** (*inf*) having little money.

**hardboard** /'hard,bɔːrd/, /hard-board/ *n* a building material made by pressing and heating wood chips.

**hard-boiled** /'hard,bɔɪld/, /hard-boild/ *adj* cooked in boiling water until it is solid throughout, as with eggs.

**hard copy** /'hard,kɔpi:/, /hard caw-pee/ *n* a computer printout.

**hard disk** /'hard,dɪsk/, /hard disk/ *n* a computer disk on which data and programs are stored.

**hard drive** /'hard,draɪv/, /hard drive/ *n* a computer drive for hard disks.

**harden** /'hɑrdən/, /har-den/ *n* to make hard or harder.

**hardily** /'hɑrdili:/, /har-di-lee/ *adv* in a hardy manner.

**hardiness** /'hɑrdɪnəs/, /har-dee-ness/ *n* toughness, strength.

**hardly** /'hɑrdli/, /hard-lee/ *adv* **1** almost not. **2** only just, not really. **3** with difficulty.

**hardness** /'hɑrdnəs/, /hard-ness/ *n* the state of being hard.

**hardship** /'hɑ:dʃɪp/, /hard-ship/ *n* poor or difficult conditions.

**hardware** /'hɑ:dweər/, /hard-ware/ *n* 1 household articles and tools made of metal. 2 the mechanical and electronic parts of a computer system.

**hard-wired** /'hɑ:dwɪərd/, /hard-wirde/ *adj* directly connected to a computer.

**hardwood** /'hɑ:dwud/, /hard-wood/ *n* any tough, heavy timber with a compact grain.

**hardy** /'hɑ:di/, /har-dee/ *adj* 1 strong, tough. 2 (*old*) bold.

**hare** /her/, /hare/ *n* a fast-running animal with rabbit-like ears and long hind legs.

**harebell** /'herbel/, /hare-bell/ *n* a bluebell-shaped flower.

**harebrained** /'herbreɪnd/, /hare-brained/ *adj* thoughtless, careless, hasty.

**harelip** /'hɛrlip/, /hare-lip/ *n* an upper lip divided in the centre, like that of the hare.

**haricot** /'hɛri,kɔ:/, /ha-ri-co/ *n* a type of French bean.

**harm** /harm/, /harm/ *n* hurt, damage, wrong. • *also vb.* • *adj harmful, harmless* /harm-less/.

**harmonic** /har'monɪk/, /har-mon-ic/ *adj* having to do with harmony.

**harmonica** /har'monɪkə/, /har-mon-i-ca/ *n* a mouth organ played to make music.

**harmonics** /har'monɪks/, /har-mon-ics/ *n* the study of harmony in music.

**harmonious** /har'moniəs/, /har-mo-nee-us/ *adj* 1 pleasant-sounding. 2 friendly. 3 pleasant to the eye.

**harmonium** /har'moniəm/, /har-mo-nee-um/ *n* a musical wind instrument, like a small organ.

**harmonize** /harmə'naɪz/, /har-mo-nize/ *vb, also harmonise* 1 to cause to be in harmony or agreement, to be in harmony or agreement. 2 to play or sing notes that sound pleasantly with the others.

**harmony** /'harməni/, /har-mo-nee/ *n* 1 agreement, friendship. 2 the pleasant effect made by parts combining into a whole. 3 the

playing at one time of musical notes that are pleasant when sounded together. **4** pleasant sound.

**harness** /'harnəs/, /har-ness/ *n* the straps, etc, by which a horse is fastened to its load. • *vb* to put a harness on. • **to die in harness** to die while still doing a job.

**harp** /harp/, /harp/ *n* a stringed musical instrument played by the fingers. • *n* **harpist**. • *vb* **harp on** to keep on talking about one subject.

**harpoon** /har'pu:n/, /har-poon/ *n* a long spear used in hunting whales. • *vb* to strike with a harpoon.

**harpsichord** /'harpsi,kɔrd/, /harp-see-cawrd/ *n* a string instrument played by striking keys.

**harpy** /'harpi/, /har-pee/ *n* **1** in Greek legend, a monster with the head and upper body of a woman and the lower body of a bird. **2** a cruel or nasty woman.

**harrowing** /har'o:ɪŋ/, /ha-ro-wing/ *adj* very distressing.

**harsh** /harʃ/, /harsh/ *adj* **1** rough and unpleasant to hear, see, etc. **2** unkind, severe, cruel.

**hart** /hart/, /hart/ *n* (*old*) a stag or male red deer.

**harvest** /'harvəst/, /har-vest/ *n* **1** the time when the ripe crops are cut and gathered. **2** the crops so gathered. • *vb* to cut and gather. • *n* **harvester**.

**has** /hæz/, /haz/ *vb* form of the verb **have** used with 'he', 'she', 'it', 'one' or any singular noun.

**has-been** /'hæzbi:n/, /haz-bin/ *n* a person or thing that was popular but is no longer so.

**hash** /hæʃ/, /hash/ *n* **1** a dish of finely chopped or shredded meat. **2** (*inf*) something done badly, a mess. • *vb* to finely chop or shred.

**hash browns** /hæʃ 'braunz/, /hash brounz/ *n* potatoes that have been chopped and then fried in a pan.

**hassle** /'hæsəl/, /ha-sul/ (*inf*) *vb* to annoy someone, especially by repeatedly asking them to do something. • *n* a difficult or troublesome situation.

**haste** /heɪst/, /haste/ *n* speed, hurry.

**hasten** /'heɪsən/, /hay-sen/ *vb* (*fm!*) to hurry.

**hasty** /'heɪsti/, /'heɪsti/ , *adj* 1 done in a hurry. 2 done too quickly, rash.

3 quick to lose one's temper.

**hat** /hæt/, /hæt/ *n* a head covering.

**hatch<sup>1</sup>** /hætʃ/, /hach/ *vb* 1 to produce. 2 to break out of the egg. 3 to work out in secret. • *n* the young hatched from eggs.

**hatch<sup>2</sup>** /hætʃ/, /hach/ *n* 1 an open space in a wall or roof or the deck of a ship. 2 the lower half of a split door.

**hatch<sup>3</sup>** /hætʃ/, /hach/ *vb* to decorate (in drawing, stone-carving) with thin lines that cross one another.

**hatchback** /'hætʃbæk/, /hach-back/ *n* a car with a rear door or section that swings up to provide access to a storage area.

**hatchet** /'hætʃət/, /ha-chet/ *n* a small axe. • **bury the hatchet** to end a quarrel.

**hatchling** /'hætʃlɪŋ/, /hach-ling/ *n* a recently hatched bird, fish, turtle, etc.

**hatchway** /'hætʃweɪ/, /hach-way/ *n* 1 an opening in the ship's deck through which cargo is loaded. 2 a similar opening in the floor or roof of a building.

**hate** /heɪt/, /hate/ *vb* to dislike greatly. • *n* great dislike.

**hate crime** /'heɪt kraɪm/, /hate crime/ *n* a crime against a person that has been committed because of race, religion, gender, etc.

**hateful** /'heɪtfʊl/, /hate-fool/ *adj* deserving or causing hate.

**hatred** /'heɪtrəd/, /hate-red/ *n* great dislike.

**hatter** /'hætər/, /ha-ter/ *n* one who makes, sells, or cleans hats.

**hat trick** /'hætrɪk/, /hat-trick/ *n* 1 the scoring of three goals in a game, such as soccer, ice hockey, etc. 2 the act of achieving something three times.

**haughty** /'hɔ:tɪ/, /haw-tee/ *adj* proud, behaving as if better than others. • *n* **haughtiness**.

**haul** /hɔ:l/, /hawl/ *vb* to pull by force, to drag. • *n* 1 a pull. 2 an amount taken or caught (e.g. of fish).

**haulier** /hɔ:li:r/, /hawl-eer/ *n* a company that carries goods in lorries or trains for other companies.

**haunch** /həntʃ/, /hawnch/ *n* the thick part of the body around the hips.

**haunt** /hənt/, /hawnt/ *vb* 1 to visit again and again, to go often to. 2 to visit as a ghost. 3 to be always in the thoughts of someone. • *n* a place often visited. • *n, adj* **haunting**.

**haunted** /həntəd/, /hawn-tid/ *adj* visited by ghosts.

**haunting** /'həntɪŋ/, /hawn-ting/ *adj* often recurring in the mind, not easily forgotten.

**have** /hæv/, /hav/ *vb* (*pt, pp* **had**; *indicative* I **have**, he **has**; we, they **have**) 1 to possess, to own, to hold. 2 to be forced. • **to have to do with** to be concerned in.

**haven** /'heɪvən/, /hay-ven/ *n* 1 (*old*) a harbour. 2 (*frm*) a place of safety, a shelter.

**haversack** /'hævər,sæk/, /ha-ver-sack/ *n* a bag carried on the back, used for carrying food, etc, on a journey.

**havoc** /'hævək/, /ha-voc/ *n* destruction, ruin.

**haw** /hɔ/, /haw/ *n* the berry of the hawthorn.

**hawk<sup>1</sup>** /hɔk/, /hawk/ *n* a bird of prey. • *vb* to hunt with a hawk.

**hawk<sup>2</sup>** /hɔk/, /hawk/ *vb* to sell. • *n* **hawker**.

**hawthorn** /'hɔθɔrn/, /haw-thawrn/ *n* a thorny tree with white, pink, or red flowers and small berries.

**hay** /hei/, /hay/ *n* grass that has been cut and dried.

**hay fever** /'hei,fɪ:vər/, /hay fee-ver/ *n* an illness caused by an allergy to dust or pollen.

**hayfield** /'hei,fi:ld/, /hay-feeld/ *n* a field of grass to be made into hay.

**hayloft** /'hei,loft/, /hay-loft/ *n* a loft or upper storey of a barn for storing hay.

**haystack** /'heɪstæk/, /hay-stack/, **hayrick** /'heɪrɪk/, /hay-rik/, *n* a large pile of hay.

**haywire** /'hei,wair/, /hay-wire/ *adj* (*inf*) tangled up, mixed up, in a state of disorder.

**hazard** /'hæzərd/, /ha-zard/ *n* 1 risk. 2 (*frm*) chance. 3 a piece of rough ground or a bunker on a golf course. • *vb* 1 to risk. 2 to put in danger. 3 to put forward.

**hazardous** /'hæzərdəs/, /ha-zar-dus/ *adj* risky, dangerous.

**haze** /heɪz/, /haze/ *n* 1 a thin mist. 2 vagueness of mind.

**hazel** /'heɪzəl/, /hay-zel/ *n* 1 a tree with edible nuts. 2 a greenish brown colour.

**hazelnut** /'heɪzəl,net/, /hay-zel-nut/ *n* the nut of a hazel tree.

**hazy** /'heɪzi/, /hay-zee/ *adj* 1 misty. 2 not clear. 3 doubtful. • *n* haziness.

**H-bomb** /'eɪtʃbɒm/, /aich-bom/ *n* hydrogen bomb, a very powerful weapon of mass destruction.

**he** /hi:/, /hee/ *pron* the man, boy, or male animal previously mentioned.

**head** /hɛd/, /hed/ *n* 1 the top part of the body. 2 a person's mind. 3 a chief person. 4 the top or front part. 5 the marker of a division in an essay or speech. 6 the beginning of a stream. 7 a piece of high land jutting out into the sea. • *vb* 1 to lead. 2 to be first. 3 to direct. 4 to strike. • *adj* coming from the front.

**headache** /'hedeɪk/, /hed-ake/ *n* pain in the head.

**headband** /'hedbænd/, /hed-band/ *n* a band worn around the head for decoration.

**head cold** /'hɛdcəuld/, /hed-coald/ *n* a common cold resulting in a clogged or blocked nose and head.

**head count** /hed count/ *n* the act of counting people in a certain group.

**headdress** /'hɛd,dres/, /hed-dress/ *n* a covering for the head.

**header** /'hɛdər/, /hed-er/ *n* (inf) 1 a fall or dive forward. 2 the act of hitting a ball with the head.

**headfirst** /hɛd'fɔrst/, /hed-furst/ *adv* with the head in front, headlong.

**headhunter** /'hɛdhʌntər/, /hed-hun-ter/ *n* 1 a member of certain cultures that remove the heads of enemies and keep them as trophies. 2 an agent whose job it is to find highly skilled people for employment. • *vb* **headhunt**.

**heading** /'hɛdɪŋ/, /hed-ing/ *n* the words written at the top of a page or above a piece of writing.

**headland** /'hɛdlænd/, /hed-land/ *n* a piece of high land jutting out into the sea.

**headlight** /'hedlait/, /hed-lite/ *n* a light at the front, especially of a car, truck, etc.

**headline** /'hædlain/, /hed-line/ *n* 1 the line in large print above a piece of news in a newspaper. 2 the line of print at the top of a page of a book. • *v* 1 to give something a headline. 2 to be the leading performer.

**headlock** /'hedlɒk/, /hed-loc/ *n* in wrestling, a hold in which one person's head is held between the arm and the body of another.

**headlong** /'hædlɔŋ/, /hed-long/ *adv* 1 hastily and rashly. 2 with the head first. • *adj* 1 rash. 2 headfirst.

**headmaster** /'hædmæstər/, /hed-ma-ster/ *n* the man who is head of a school. • *f* **headmistress**.

**headmost** /'hedmo:st/, /hed-moast/ *adj* in the lead.

**head-on** /'hedən/, /hed-on/ *adj, adv* with the head or front being first.

**headphone** /'hedfɔ:n/, /hed-foan/ *n* a listening device made of small speakers held to the ears by a band.

**headpiece** /'hedpi:s/, /hed-peess/ *n* a covering for the head.

**headquarters** /'hed,kwɔ:tərz/, /hed-kwawr-terz/ *n* the office of those who are in control or command.

**headrest** /'hedrest/, /hed-rest/ *n* a support for the head, as on a chair.

**headroom** /'hedru:m/, /hed-room/ *n* the space available above a person's head.

**headset** /'hedset/, /hed-set/ *n* a headphone with a small microphone for two-way communication.

**headship** /'hedʃɪp/, /hed-ship/ *n* the position of a leader or person of authority.

**headshrinker** /'hed,ʃrɪŋkər/, /hed-shring-ker/ *n* 1 (*slang*) a derogatory word for a psychiatrist. 2 a hunter who shrinks the heads of his victims.

**headspring** /'hedsprɪŋ/, /hed-spring/ *n* a fountain or source.

**headstand** /'hedstænd/, /hed-stand/ *n* the act of standing upside down on the head, usually helped by the hands.

**headstone** /'hedsto:n/, /hed-stone/ *n* the stone placed over a dead person's grave in his or her memory.

**headstream** /'hedstri:m/, /hed-stream/ *n* a stream forming the source of another, larger stream or river.

**headstrong** /'hedstrɔŋ/, /hed-strong/ *adj* determined to have one's own way.

**head-to-head** /'hedtu'hed/, /hed-to-hed/ *adj, adv* in direct confrontation.

**headwaters** /'hed,wɔ:tərz/, /hed-waw-terz/ *n* the beginnings of a large stream or river.

**headway** /'hedwei/, /hed-way/ *n* advance, improvement.

**head wind** /'hedwind/, /hed-wind/ *n* a wind blowing directly opposite the direction a person is trying to go.

**heady** /'hedi/, /hed-ee/ *adj* 1 excited. 2 strong, having a quick effect on the senses.

**heal** /hi:l/, /heel/ *vb* to make or become well or healthy, to cure.

**healer** /hi:lər/, /hee-ler/ *n* one who heals or cures.

**health** /helθ/, /helth/ *n* 1 the state of being well. 2 the state of being free from illness.

**healthcare** /'helθ,kɛr/, /helth-care/ *n* the treatment of illness.

**health club** /'helθ,klub/, /helth club/ *n* a private club for exercise.

**healthful** /'helθful/, /helth-ful/ *adj (fml)* causing good health.

**health spa** /'helθspa:/, /helth spa/ *n* a place people go to exercise.

**healthy** /'helθi/, /helth-ee/ *adj* 1 having good health. 2 causing good health.

**heap** /hi:p/, /heep/ *n* a number of things lying one on top of another. • *vb* to put one on top of another, to pile.

**hear** /hi:r/, /heer/ *vb (pt, pp heard)* 1 to perceive sounds by the ear. 2 to listen.

**hearer** /hi:rər/, /hee-rer/ *n* a person or animal who listens.

**hearing** /hi:rɪŋ/, /hee-ring/ *n* 1 the power to hear sounds. 2 the distance at which a person can hear something. 3 the examining of evidence by a judge.

**hearing aid** /hi:rɪŋ eɪd/, /hee-ring ade/ *n* a small, battery-powered device that helps a person to hear better.

**hearing-impaired** /'hi:rɪŋ ɪm'peɪəd/, /hee-ring-im-paird/ *adj* unable to hear properly.

**hearsay** /'hi:rsei/, /heer-say/ *n* what people say though not perhaps the truth; gossip.

**hearse** /hərs/, /hurss/ *n* a car or carriage for a coffin at a funeral.

**heart** /hart/, /hart/ *n* 1 the organ that keeps the blood flowing through the body. 2 the central or most important part of anything. 3 the centre of a person's thoughts and emotions. 4 the cause of life in anything. 5 enthusiasm, determination. 6 kindly feelings, especially love. 7 *npl* a suit of playing cards. 8 a thing shaped like a heart. • **learn by heart** to memorize. • **take to heart** to feel deeply about.

**heartache** /'harteɪk/, /har-take/ *n* sorrow.

**heart attack** /'hart ətak/, /hart a-tack/ *n* a sudden, painful, sometimes fatal medical condition in which the heart stops working normally.

**heartbeat** /'hartbi:t/, /hart-beet/ *n* the pulse of the heart pumping blood through the body.

**heartbreak** /'hartbreɪk/, /hart-brake/ *n* sorrow, grief. • *adj* **heartbreaking**.

**heartbreaker** /'hartbreɪkər/, /hart-bray-ker/ *n* someone or something that causes heartbreak.

**heartbroken** /'hart,bro:kən/, /hart-bro-ken/ *adj* overcome by sorrow or grief.

**heartburn** /'hartbərn/, /hart-burn/ *n* a burning feeling in the stomach, caused by indigestion.

**hearten** /'hartən/, /har-ten/ *vb* to encourage, to cheer up.

**heart failure** /hart ,feɪljər/, /hart fale-yur/ *n* the failure of the heart to beat or to pump blood through the body.

**heartfelt** /hartfəlt/, /hart-felt/ *adj* sincere.

**hearth** /harθ/, /harth/ *n* 1 the floor of a fireplace. 2 the fireside.

**heartily** /hartli/, /har-ti-lee/ *adv* sincerely, friendly, with zest.

**heartland** /hartlænd/, /hart-land/ *n* 1 a geographically central area having importance in politics, strategy, etc. 2 an area that is of particular importance for an activity, political party, etc.

**heartless** /hartləs/, /hart-less/ *adj* having no kind feelings.

**heart-rending** /'hart,rɛndɪŋ/, /hart-ren-ding/ *adj* causing great sorrow or grief.

**heartsease** /'hartsi:z/, /harts-eez/ *n* **1** peace of mind. **2** the pansy.

**heartsick** /'hartsɪk/, /hart-sick/ *adj (old)* very sad or sorrowful.

**heartstrings** /'hartstrɪŋz/, /hart-stringz/ *n* deepest feelings.

**heart-to-heart** /'hartu'hart/, /hart-to-hart/ *adj* intimate.

**heartwarming** /'hartwɔ:rmin/, /hart-wawr-ming/ *adj* such as to cause a warm glow of good feelings.

**heartwood** /'hartwud/, /hart-wood/ *n* the hard, nonliving, older wood at the centre of a tree trunk.

**hearty** /'harti/, /har-tee/ *adj* **1** cheerful, sometimes too cheerful. **2** sincere. **3** healthy. **4** large.

**heat** /hi:t/, /heet/ *n* **1** hotness, warmth. **2** anger, excitement. **3** pressure to do something. **4** a division of a race from which the winners go on to the final. • *vb* to make or become warm or hot.

**heated** /'hi:təd/, /hee-ted/ *adj* **1** hot. **2** angry.

**heater** /hi:tər/, /hee-ter/ *n* a device for heating a room, car, water, etc.

**heath** /hi:θ/, /heeth/ *n* **1** a stretch of wasteland, especially in Britain, that is covered in low shrubs. **2** a low-growing evergreen shrub.

**heathen** /hi:ðən/, /hee-then/ *n* **1** a person who is not a member of one of the world's main religions; someone who believes in more than one God. **2** a person who is not religious. • *also adj.*

**heather** /hi:ðər/, /he-ther/ *n* a low-growing shrub with purple or white flowers.

**heat shield** /'hi:t ſi:ld/, /heet ſheeld/ *n* any device protecting against heat, especially those fastened to a spacecraft.

**heatstroke** /'hi:t stro:k/, /heet-stroke/ *n* a serious failure of the body's ability to regulate its heat, resulting in high fever, dry skin, collapse, and sometimes coma.

**heat wave** /'hi:t weiv/, /heet wave/ *n* a long spell of hot weather.

**heave** /hi:v/, /heev/ *vb* **1** to lift, to raise with effort. **2** to move up and down regularly. **3** to pull hard. **4** to utter with effort. • *n* **1** an upward throw. **2** a pull. • **heave to (of a ship)** to stop moving.

**heaven** /'hevən/, /he-ven/ *n* 1 the sky. 2 the everlasting presence of God. 3 the dwelling place of the gods. 4 in some religions, the happiness enjoyed by good people after death.

**heavenly** /'hevənlɪ/, /he-ven-lee/ *adj* 1 having to do with heaven or the sky. 2 (*inf*) delightful.

**heavy** /'hevɪ/, /he-vee/ *adj* 1 having weight, of great weight. 2 of more than the usual size, amount, force, etc. 3 dull, dark, and cloudy. 4 sleepy. 5 sad. 6 difficult to digest. 7 busy, full of activity. • *n* heaviness. • *adv* heavily.

**heavy-duty** /'hevɪ dju:tɪ/, /he-vee-dyoo-tee/ *adj* strong and not easily damaged or worn out.

**heavy-handed** /'hevɪ 'hændəd/, /he-vee-han-did/ *adj* 1 without a light touch. 2 cruel.

**heavy metal** /'hevɪ 'mɛtəl/, /he-vee me-tal/ *n* 1 any metal that has a gravity greater than 5. 2 a form of rock music that features loud rhythms, guitar, and sometimes shouted lyrics.

**heavyweight** /'hevɪ,weɪt/, /he-vee-wate/ *n* 1 a person or animal weighing much more than average. 2 an athlete who is in the heaviest weight division. 3 a person of power and importance.

**Hebrew** /hɪ'bru:/, /hee-broo/ *n* the language of the Jewish people. • also *adj*. • *adj* Hebraic.

**heckle** /'hekəl/, /he-cul/ *vb* to put difficult questions to a public speaker. • *n* heckler.

**hectare** /'hekter/, /hec-tare/ *n* a unit of measurement equal to 10,000 square metres or 2.471 acres.

**hectic** /hɛktɪk/, /hec-tic/ *adj* 1 feverish. 2 busy, very active.

**hedge** /hedʒ/, /hedge/ *n* 1 a fence of bushes, shrubs, etc. 2 means of defence or protection. • *vb* 1 to surround with a hedge. 2 to avoid giving a clear, direct answer.

**hedgehog** /'hedʒhɒg/, /hedge-hog/ *n* a small animal, covered with prickles, that can roll itself into a ball.

**hedgerow** /'hedʒ,ro:/, /hedge-roe/ *n* a line of bushes, shrubs, etc, forming a hedge.

**heed** /hi:d/, /heed/ *vb* to pay attention to, to notice. • *n* care, attention. • *adj* heedful, heedless.

**heel<sup>1</sup>** /hi:l/, /heel/ *n* **1** the back part of the foot. **2** the part of a shoe, etc, under the heel of the foot. • *vb* **1** to strike with the heel. **2** to put a heel on. • **bring to heel** to get control over. • **down at heel** poorly or untidily dressed. • **take to one's heels** to run away.

**heel<sup>2</sup>** /hi:l/, /heel/ *vb* to lean over to one side.

**hefty** /'hefti/, /hef-tee/ *adj* **1** rather heavy, big and strong. **2** large and heavy. **3** powerful. **4** (*inf*) large, substantial. • *n* **heft** weight, heaviness, bulk.

**heifer** /'hefər/, /he-fer/ *n* a young cow.

**height** /hə:t/, /hite/ *n* **1** the distance from top to bottom. **2** the state of being high. **3** a high place. **4** a hill. **5** the highest degree of something.

**heighten** /'hə:tən/, /hie-ten/ *vb* **1** to make higher. **2** to increase.

**Heimlich manoeuvre** /'haɪmlɪk mə:n'u:vər/, /hime-lick ma-noo-ver/ *n* a way of stopping a person from choking by which the user puts sudden, sharp pressure to the stomach area to force wind up through the windpipe so as to clear the blockage.

**heinous** /'hə:nəs/, /hey-nus/ *adj* very bad, wicked.

**heir** /eɪr/, /air/ *n* a person who receives property or a title after the death of the previous owner. • *f heiress*.

**heirloom** /'eɪrlu:m/, /air-loom/ *n* a valuable object that has been the property of a family for many generations.

**heist** /hə:st/, /hiest/ *n* a robbery.

**held** *vb pt, pp of hold*.

**helicopter** /'heli,kɔptər/, /he-li-cop-ter/ *n* a type of aircraft with propellers that enable it to go straight up or down.

**helium** /'hi:liəm/, /hee-lee-um/ *n* a very light gas.

**hell** /hə:l/, /hell/ *n* **1** in some religions, the place where the wicked are punished after death. **2** everlasting banishment from God. **3** a place of great evil or suffering.

**hellish** /'heliʃ/, /he-lish/ *adj* **1** having to do with or like hell. **2** (*inf*) very bad, extremely unpleasant.

**Hello** /hə'lə:/, /he-low/ *interj* used as a greeting or to attract attention.

**helm** /'helm/, /helm/ *n* a steering wheel or handle on a ship. • **at the helm** in control or command.

**helmet** /'helmət/, /hel-met/ *n* **1** (*old*) head armour. **2** a protective covering for the head.

**help** /hɛlp/, /help/ *vb* **1** to aid, to assist. **2** to give what is needed. **3** to serve someone in a shop. **4** to make it easier for something to happen. **5** to avoid. • *n* aid, assistance. • *n* **helper**.

**helpful** /'helpfʊl/, /help-ful/ *adj* **1** willing to help. **2** useful.

**helping** /'hɛlpɪŋ/, /help-ing/ *n* a person's share of a dish of food.

**helpless** /'hɛpləs/, /help-less/ *adj* unable to help oneself.

**helter-skelter** /'heltər'skɛltər/, /hel-ter-skel-ter/ *adj* carelessly hurried.  
• *adv* in a hurry and confusion. • *n* a spiral slide.

**hem** /hɛm/, /hem/ *n* the border of a garment folded back and sewn. • *vb* (**hemmed**, **hemming**) to sew a hem. • **hem in** to surround closely.

**he-man** /'hi:mæn/, /hee-man/ *n* a strong man.

**hematology** /hi:mə'tɒlədʒi:/, /hee-ma-tol-u-jee/ *n* US variant of **haematology**.

**hemisphere** /'hemisfɪər/, /he-mi-sfeer/ *n* **1** half of the world. **2** a map showing half of the world. **3** half of a sphere.

**hemline** /'hemlайн/, /hem-line/ *n* the bottom edge of a skirt, coat, etc, which is usually hemmed.

**hemlock** /'hɛmlɒk/, /hem-lock/ *n* a poisonous plant.

**hemoglobin** *n* US variant of **haemoglobin**.

**hemophilia** *n* US variant of **haemophilia**.

**hemorrhage** *n* US variant of **haemorrhage**.

**hemorrhoid** *n* US variant of **haemorrhoid**.

**hemp** /'hɛmp/, /hemp/ *n* **1** a grasslike plant from whose fibres ropes are made. **2** a drug made from the plant.

**hen** /hɛn/, /hen/ *n* a female bird, especially a farmyard fowl.

**henchman** /'hentʃmən/, /hench-man/ *n* a follower, a trusty supporter.  
• *pl* **henchmen**.

**henna** /'hɛnə/, /he-na/ *n* **1** a plant with white or red flowers. **2** a dye taken from the leaves of this plant. **3** reddish brown.

**hen night** /'hɛn naɪt/, /hen nite/ *n* (*inf*), also **hen party** /'hɛn pærti:/, /hen par-tee/ a party for women held just before one of the women gets married.

**hepatitis** /'hepə'taɪtɪs/, /he-pa-tie-tis/ *n* irritation and swelling of the liver.

**heptagon** /'heptəgɒn/, /hep-ta-gon/ *n* a seven-sided figure.

**heptathlon** /'hep'taθlɔ:n/, /hep-tath-lon/ *n* a contest, usually for women, in which there are seven events, 100-metre hurdles, shot put, high jump, 200-metre dash, long jump, javelin throw, and 800-metre run.

**her** /hər/, /hur/ *objective pron* **1** the female person or animal being referred to. **2** poss of or belonging to her.

**herald** /'hərəld/, /he-rald/ *n* **1** (*old*) a person who makes important announcements to the public. **2** a sign of something to come. • *vb* **1** to announce the approach of someone or something. **2** to be a sign of.

**herb** /hərb/, /herb/ *n* **1** any plant whose stem dies away during the winter. **2** a plant used for medicine or for flavouring food.

**herbaceous** /hər'beɪʃəs/, /her-bay-shus/ *adj* having to do with or full of herbs. • **herbaceous border** a flower bed with plants that flower year after year.

**herbal** /'hərbəl/, /her-bal/ *adj* of herbs.

**herbalist** /'hərbəlist/, /her-ba-list/ *n* a person who studies or sells herbs, often for medical purposes.

**herbivore** /'hərbɪ,vɔ:r/, /her-bi-vore/ *n* an animal that eats plants and grasses. • **herbivorous** *adj* eating grass or herbs.

**herd** /hərd/, /herd/ *n* **1** a flock of animals. **2** a large crowd of people. • *vb* **1** (*inf*) to crowd or collect together. **2** to look after a herd. **3** to drive.

**herdsman** /'hərdsmən/, /herdz-man/ *n* a person who looks after a herd.

**here** /hɪ:r/, /heer/ *adv* at or in this place.

**hereafter** /hɪ:r'æftər/, /hee-raf-ter/ *adv* after this time. • *n* the life after death.

**hereby** /baɪ/, /heer-bie/ *adv* by or through this, by this means.

**hereditary** /hi'rədɪtəri/, /hi-re-di-ta-ree/ *adj* passed on from parents to children.

**heredity** /hi'rediti/, /hi-re-di-tee/ *n* the passing on of qualities from parents to children.

**heresy** /'hərəsi/, /hi-re-di-tee/ *n* an opinion contrary to the orthodox religious opinion.

**heretic** /'hərətik/, /he-re-tic/ *n* a person who teaches a heresy. • *adj* heretical.

**heritable** /'həritəbəl/, /he-ri-ta-bul/ *adj* able to be passed on from parents to children.

**heritage** /'həritidz/, /he-ri-tage/ *n* 1 that which is passed on to a person by his or her parents. 2 things that have been passed on from earlier generations.

**hermit** /'hərmit/, /her-mit/ *n* a person who lives alone or away from other people, originally often for religious reasons.

**hernia** /'hərnɪə/, /her-nee-a/ *n* a break in the wall of muscle in the front of the stomach.

**hero** /hi'ro:/, /hee-ro/ *n* (pl **heroes**) 1 a brave person, someone admired for his brave deeds. 2 the chief character in a play or novel. • *f* **heroine**.

**heroic** /hi'rɔɪk/, /he-ro-ic/ *adj* 1 brave. 2 having to do with heroes. • *adv* heroically. • *n* **heroics**.

**heroin** /'heroɪn/, /he-ro-in/ *n* a habit-forming painkilling drug obtained from opium.

**heroine** see **hero**.

**heroism** /'heroɪzəm/, /he-ro-i-zum/ *n* bravery.

**heron** /'herən/, /he-ron/ *n* a water bird with long legs and neck.

**herpes** /'hərpɪ:z/, /her-peez/ *n* a disease that causes small blisters on the skin.

**herpetology** /hərpɪ'tɒlədʒi/, /her-pe-tol-o-jee/ *n* the study of reptiles.

**herring** /'hərinj/, /he-ring/ *n* a small sea fish used as food.

**herringbone** /'hərinjbo:n/, /he-ring-bone/ *adj* with a pattern like the backbone of a herring.

**herring gull** /'hərinj 'gʌl/, /he-ring gull/ *n* the common sea gull of the Northern Hemisphere with grey and white feathers and black wing tips.

**hers** /hərz/, /herz/ *poss pron* of or belonging to her.

**herself** /hər'self/, /her-self/ **1** reflex form of her. **2** pron her real, true, or actual self.

**hertz** /hərts/, /herts/ *n* a unit of measurement for the number of waves, vibrations, etc per unit of time.

**hesitance** /'hɛzɪtəns/, /he-zí-tan-se/, **hesitancy** /he-zí-tan-see/, **hesitation** /he-zí-tay-shun/ *n* doubt, act of hesitating, indecision.

**hesitant** /'hɛzɪtənt/, /he-zí-tant/ *adj* doubtful, undecided.

**hesitate** /'hɛzɪ'teɪt/, /he-zí-tate/ *vb* **1** to stop for a moment before doing something or speaking. **2** to be undecided.

**hessian** /'hɛʃən/, /he-shan/ a coarse cloth used for sack; burlap (*US, Can*).

**heterosexual** /hɛtəro:'sɛkʃuəl/, /he-te-ro-**sek**-shal/ *adj* of different sexes; being attracted to the opposite sex.

**hew** /hju:/, /hyoo/ *n* (*fml*) to cut by a number of strong blows, to chop as with an axe. • *adj hewn*.

**hex** /heks/, /heks/ *n* a spell believed to bring bad luck, a jinx.

**hexagon** /'heksəgən/, /hek-sa-gon/ *n* a six-sided figure. • *adj hexagonal*.

**hexagram** /heksə,græm/, /hek-sa-gram/ *n* a six-sided star.

**hey** /hei/, /hay/ *interj* used to attract attention or express surprise or delight; sometimes used as a greeting.

**heyday** /'heɪdeɪ/, /hay-day/ *n* full strength, the time of life when a person's abilities, etc, reach their full power.

**hi** /hai/, /hie/ *interj* hello.

**hiatus** /haɪ'eɪtəs/, /hie-**ay**-tus/ *n* **1** a break in a piece of writing or a speech. **2** a gap.

**hibernate** /'haɪbəneɪt/, /hie-ber-nate/ *vb* to pass the winter in sleep, as certain animals do. • *n hibernation*.

**hibiscus** /hɪ'bɪskəs/, /hi-bi-scuss/ *n* a kind of plant or shrub with large, colourful flowers.

**hiccup** /'hɪkəp/, /hi-cup/ *n* **1** a sudden, short stoppage of the breath. **2** the sound caused by this. **3** a small delay or interruption. • *vb (hiccupped, hiccupping)* to have hiccups.

**hickory** /'hɪkəri/, /hic-ree/ *n* an North American tree with very hard wood.

**hide<sup>1</sup>** /haɪd/, /hɪde/ *vb (hid, hidden)* **1** to put or keep out of sight. **2** to keep secret. • *n* a camouflaged place used by bird-watchers, hunters, etc.

**hide<sup>2</sup>** /haɪd/, /hɪde/ *n* the skin of an animal.

**hide-and-seek** /haɪdən'si:k/, /hide-and-seek/ *n* a game in which one player tries to find the other players, who have all hidden.

**hideaway** /'haɪdəwe:/, /hie-da-way/ *n* a place where a person can hide.

**hideous** /'haɪdiəs/, /hi-dee-us/ *adj* **1** frightful. **2** very ugly.

**hide-out** /haɪdaut/, /hie-dout/ *n* a place to hide.

**hiding<sup>1</sup>** /haɪdɪŋ/, /hie-ding/ *n* the condition of being hidden.

**hiding<sup>2</sup>** /haɪdɪŋ/, /hie-ding/ *n* a thrashing, a beating.

**hierarchy** /haɪə'rɑːkɪ/, /hie-rar-kee/ *n* **1** an arrangement in order, putting the most important first. **2** the group of people in an organization who have power or control. • *adj hierarchical*.

**hieroglyph** /haɪr'əglɪf/, /hie-ro-glif/, **hieroglyphic** /haɪr'əglɪfɪk/, /hie-ro-gli-fic/ *n* a picture or sign standing for a word or sound, as in ancient Egyptian writing.

**hieroglyphics** /haɪrəʊ'glɪfɪks/, /hie-ro-gli-fics/ *n* **1** a system of writing that uses hieroglyphs. **2** (*inf*) writing that is difficult to read.

**high** /haɪ/, /hie/ *adj* **1** being a certain distance up. **2** being above normal level. **3** raised above. **4** of important rank. **5** morally good. **6** expensive. • *also adv*. • **on a high horse** wanting to be treated with great respect; haughty.

**higher education** /haɪər edʒu'keɪʃən/, /hie-er e-joo-cay-shun/ *n* college or university education.

**high-five** /haɪ 'faɪv/, /hie-five/ *n* the slapping of another person's upraised, open hand in celebration.

**high jump** /haɪ dʒʌmp/, /hie jump/ *n* a contest to see who can jump the highest over a bar set up between two posts.

**highland** /haɪlənd/, /hie-land/ *n* **1** land well above sea level, land containing many hills or mountains. **2** (**the Highlands**) the northern, mountainous part of Scotland.

**Highlander** /'haɪləndər/, /hie-lan-der/ *n* a person who lives in the Highlands.

**highlight** /'haɪləɪt/, /hie-lite/ *n* 1 a part on which light is brightest. 2 the most important or interesting part of something • *v* 1 to mark with something to make lighter or brighter. 2 to emphasize.

**highlighter** /'haɪləɪtər/, /hie-lie-ter/ *n* a pen that is used to highlight parts of text.

**highly** /'haɪli/, /hie-lee/ *adv* greatly, very.

**highly-strung** /'haɪli 'strʌŋ/, /hie-lee-strung/ *adj* very nervous, easily excited.

**highness** /'haɪnəs/, /hie-ness/ *n* 1 the quality or state of being high. 2 a title of honour given to royalty.

**high-rise** /'haɪraɪz/, /hie-rize/ *adj* of a tall block of flats, office building, etc. • *also n.*

**high school** /'haɪ sku:l/, /hie skool/ *n* a secondary school.

**high seas** /haɪ 'si:z/, /hie seez/ *npl* the open seas.

**high-tech** /haɪ'tek/, /hie-tek/ *adj*, *also hi-tech* using very advanced modern machinery and methods, especially electronic ones.

**high tide** /haɪ'taɪd/, /hie-tide/ *n* the time of day when the water level is highest.

**high-top** /haɪ'tɒp/, /hie-top/ *n* a sneaker or athletic shoe that extends over the ankle.

**high water** /haɪ 'wɔ:tər/, /hie waw-ter/ *n* high tide.

**highway** /'haɪwei/, /hie-way/ *n* a public road, a main road.

**high wire** /'haɪwaɪər/, /hie wire/ *n* a wire stretched high between two supports across which people will walk and perform tricks, as in a circus, fair, etc.

**hijack** /'haɪdʒæk/, /hie-jack/ *vb* to steal or take control of a car, lorry, train, etc. illegally during a journey. • *n hijacker*.

**hike** /haɪk/, /hike/ *vb* to go on a long walk in the country, especially over rough ground. • *n hiker*.

**hilarious** /hɪ'ləriəs/, /hi-lay-ree-us/ *adj* 1 extremely amusing or funny. 2 noisily merry. • *n hilarity*.

**hill** /hil/, /hill/ *n* a low mountain, a raised part of the earth's surface.

**hillside** /'hilsaɪd/, /hɪl-saɪd/ *n* the side of a hill.

**hilltop** /'hɪltɒp/, /hɪll-tɒp/ *n* the top of a hill.

**hilly** /'hɪli/, /hi-lee/ *adj* having many hills.

**hilt** /hɪlt/, /hilt/ *n* the handle of a sword, dagger, or knife.

**him** /hɪm/, /him/ *objective pron* the male person or animal being referred to.

**himself** /hɪm'self/, /him-self/ • *reflex form of him.* • *pron* his real, true, or normal self.

**hind<sup>1</sup>** /haɪnd/, /hɪnde/ *n* a female deer (esp red deer).

**hind<sup>2</sup>** /haɪnd/, /hɪnde/ *adj* at the back.

**hinder<sup>1</sup>** /haɪndər/, /hine-der/ *adj* at the back.

**hinder<sup>2</sup>** /hɪndər/, /hin-der/ *vb* to stop or delay the advance or development of, to put difficulties in the way of.

**Hindi** /'hindi/, /hin-dee/ *n* the main language in India.

**hindrance** /'hɪndrəns/, /hin-drəns/ *n* something or someone that makes action or progress difficult.

**hindsight** /'haɪndseɪt/, /hind-site/ *n* the ability to see, after the event, what should have been done.

**Hindu** /'hɪndu:/, /hin-doo/ *n* a believer in Hinduism.

**Hinduism** /'hɪnduɪzəm/, /hin-doo-i-zum/ *n* a religion practised by many in India, focused on three things: Dharma, the universal law; Karma, the effects of personal actions; and Samsara, the cycle of rebirth.

**hinge** /hɪndʒ/, /hɪndʒe/ *n* a folding joint to which a door or lid is fixed so that it can turn on it. • *vb 1* to fix hinges to. *2* to depend.

**hint** /hɪnt/, /hint/ *vb* to suggest indirectly. • *n 1* an indirect suggestion. *2* a helpful suggestion. *3* a small amount.

**hip<sup>1</sup>** /hɪp/, /hip/ *n* the upper part of the thigh.

**hip<sup>2</sup>** /hɪp/, /hip/ *n* the fruit of the wild rose.

**hip<sup>3</sup>** /hɪp/, /hip/ *adj* aware, fashionable, stylish.

**hip-hop** /'hɪphɒp/, /hip-hop/ *n* a form of music that combines rap, funk, street sounds, and melody.

**hippies** /'hi:pɪ:z/, /hi-peez/ *npl* young people of the 1960s and 1970s who believed in peace, lived together in separate communities, and dressed in a similar, casual way.

**hippo** /'hi:pə/, /hi-po/ *n* short for **hippopotamus**.

**hippopotamus** /'hi:pə,pɒtəməs/, /hi-po-paw-ta-mus/ *n* (*pl* **hippopotamuses** or **hippopotami**) a large, dangerous, plant-eating river animal found in Africa with thick skin, an almost hairless body, and short legs.

**hire** /haɪr/, /hire/ *n* **1** the renting of something. **2** the money paid for the use of a thing or for the work of another. • *vb* **1** to get the use of a thing by paying for it. **2** to lend to another for payment.

**his** /hɪz/, /hiz/ *poss pron* of or belonging to him.

**hiss** /hɪs/, /hiss/ *vb* to make a sound like that of the letter s, often as a sign of disapproval. • *n* the act or sound of hissing.

**historian** /hɪ'stɔ:rɪən/, /hi-sto-ree-an/ *n* a person who writes about and studies history.

**historic** /hɪ'stɔ:rik/, /hi-staw-ric/ *adj* of lasting importance.

**historical** /hɪ'stɔ:rikəl/, /hi-staw-ri-cal/ *adj* having to do with history.

**history** /'hɪstɔ:ri/, /hi-sto-ree/ *n* **1** the study of past events. **2** an account of past events, conditions, ideas, etc.

**hit** /hit/, /hit/ *vb* (**hit**, **hitting**) **1** to strike. **2** to reach, to arrive at. • *n* **1** a blow. **2** a success.

**hit-and-miss** /hɪtən'mɪs/, /hit-an-miss/ *adj* resulting in both successes and failures.

**hit-and-run** /hɪtən'rʌn/, /hit-an-run/ *adj* of an accident in which the driver involved flees from the scene.

**hitch** /hitʃ/, /hich/ *vb* **1** to hook or fasten. **2** to try to get a ride in someone else's car. • *n* **1** a jerk, a pull. **2** a type of knot. **3** a difficulty, a snag.

**hitchhike** /'hitʃhæɪk/, /hich-hike/ *vb* to travel by asking for rides from others along the way.

**hi-tech** see **high-tech**.

**hither** /'hiðər/, /hi-ther/ *adv* (*fml* or *old*) to this place. • **hither and thither** here and there, backwards and forwards.

**hitherto** /'hiðərtu:/, /hi-ther-too/ *adv* (*fml*) until now.

**hit man** /'hitman/, /hit-man/ *n* a man paid to kill someone.

**hit-or-miss** /hɪtər'mɪs/, /hi-tor-miss/ *adj* random.

**HIV** /'eɪtʃ'ai'veɪ/, /aych-ie-vee/ *abbr* = **Human Immunodeficiency Virus**: a virus that affects the body's immune system, or its ability to protect itself from infection, and that can lead to **AIDS**.

**hive** /haɪv/, /hive/ *n* **1** a home made for bees. **2** a place of great activity.

**hives** /haɪvz/, /hivez/ *npl* an allergic reaction that causes itching, burning, stinging, and red patches on the skin.

**ho** /ho:/, /ho/ *interj* used to attract attention.

**hoard** /hɔːd/, /hoard/ *n* a hidden supply. • *vb* **1** to store secretly. **2** to collect.

**hoarse** /hɔːrs/, /hoarse/ *adj* having a rough or husky voice.

**hoarsen** /hɔːrseɪn/, /hoar-sen/ *vb* to make or become hoarse.

**hoax** /ho:ks/, /hoaks/ *n* a trick or joke intended to deceive. • *vb* to deceive, to trick.

**hob** /hɒb/, /hob/ *n* **1** the top part of a cooker, on which pans are used for cooking. **2** the shelf at the side or rear of a fireplace for pots, etc.

**hobble** /'hɒbəl/, /hob-ul/ *vb* **1** to limp. **2** to tie the legs of an animal to one another to stop it running away.

**hobby** /'hɒbi/, /hob-ee/ *n* a favourite subject or interest for a person's spare time, an interesting pastime.

**hock** /'hɒk/, /hock/ *n* the joint in the middle of an animal's back leg.

**hockey** /'hɒki/, /hock-ee/ *n* **1** (*Br*) a team game played with a ball or puck and sticks curved at the end, played indoors, in a field, or on pavement. **2** (*US*) ice hockey: a game in which the players skate on ice and score by hitting a puck into a goal with a long stick.

**hod** /hɒd/, /hod/ *n* a V-shaped wooden container on a pole used for carrying bricks, etc.

**hodgepodge** /'hɒdʒpɒdʒ/, /hodge-podge/ *n* any jumbled mixture or mess.

**hoe** /ho:/, /ho/ *n* a garden tool with a thin, flat blade at the end of a long handle for loosening the earth around plants. • *vb* to dig with a hoe.

**hog** /hɒg/, /hɔg/ *n* 1 a pig, especially a male pig that has been castrated. 2 a greedy person.

**Hogmanay** /hɒgmə'neɪ/, /hog-man-ay/ *n* in Scotland, the last night of the year, New Year's Eve.

**hogwash** /'hɒgwɒʃ/, /hog-wash/ *n* useless talk, writing, etc.

**ho-hum** /'ho:həm/, /ho-hum/ *interj* used to suggest boredom.

**hoist** /hɔɪst/, /hoist/ *vb* to lift, to raise, especially by some device. • *n* a lift for goods.

**hold** /ho:ld/, /hoald/ *vb* (*pt, pp held*) 1 to have or take in the hand(s) or arms. 2 to bear the weight of, to support. 3 to contain or be able to contain. 4 to have. 5 to cause to take place. • *n* 1 grasp. 2 the lowest part of a ship, where the cargo is stored. • **hold forth** (*fml*) to speak in public or at length. • **hold up** 1 to attack and rob. 2 to delay, to hinder. 3 to last. 4 to raise. 5 to support. • **hold with** to agree with. • **hold your own** to keep advantages without gaining any more.

**holdall** /'ho:ldɒl/, /hold-all/ *n* a large bag with handles for carrying clothes, tools, etc.

**holder** /'ho:ldəl/, /hole-der/ *n* one who holds or possesses.

**hole** /ho:l/, /hole/ *n* 1 a hollow or empty space in something solid. 2 an opening. 3 an animal's den. 4 (*inf*) a difficulty. • *vb* to make a hole in.

**holiday** /'hɒlə,deɪ/, /hol-i-day/ *n* 1 a day of freedom from work, a day set aside for rest or amusement. 2 (*often pl*) a period of rest from work, school, etc, often spent away from home. • *vb* to spend a holiday. • *n* **holiday-maker**.

**holiness** /'ho:linəs/, /hoe-lee-ness/ *n* the state of being holy. • **Holiness** a title given to the pope.

**holler** /'hɒlər/, /hol-er/ *vb* to shout or yell.

**hollow** /'hɒlo:/, /hol-o/ *adj* 1 not solid. 2 empty inside. 3 worthless. 4 not sincere. 5 sounding as if coming from a hollow place, echoing. • *n* 1 a sunken place, something hollow. 2 a low place between folds, ridges, etc. 3 a valley. • *vb* 1 to make hollow. 2 to take out the inside leaving the outside untouched.

**holly** /'holi/, /hol-ee/ *n* an evergreen bush with dark green spiky leaves and red berries.

**holocaust** /'ho:lə,kɔst/, /ho-lo-cawst/ *n* killing or destruction on a huge scale, often by fire.

**hologram** /'hɒlə,græm/, /ho-lo-gram/ *n* a 3-dimensional photographic image created by using a laser beam.

**holograph** /-,græf/, /ho-lo-graf/ *n* a document or book in the author's own handwriting.

**holster** /'ho:lstər/, /hole-ster/ *n* a pistol case that can be fixed to a belt.

**holy** /'ho:li/, /ho-lee/ *adj* 1 good, and trying to be perfect in the service of God. 2 set aside for the service of God.

**Holy Communion** /'ho:li kə'mju:njən/, /ho-lee cu-myoon-yun/ *n* in the Christian faith, the receiving of bread and wine to remember Jesus's last meal with his followers before his death.

**holy day** /'ho:li 'deɪ/, /ho-lee day/ *n* any day set aside for a religious purpose.

**Holy Grail** /'ho:li 'greɪl/, /ho-lee grale/ *n* 1 (*myth*) the drinking vessel used by Jesus Christ at the last supper. 2 (*inf*) any fantastical goal.

**homage** /'həʊmidʒ/, /om-idge/ *n* 1 (*old*) the promise to do certain duties for an overlord. 2 respect, things said or done to show great respect.

**home** /ho:m/, /home/ *n* 1 a person's house, the place where a person lives. 2 where a person was born, the place where a person or thing originally comes from. 3 a place where people who need special care, such as children without parents, old people, people who are ill, etc, are looked after. • *adj* 1 having to do with a person's home. 2 made or done at home. • *adv* to or at home.

**homeless** /'ho:mles/, /home-less/ *adj* having no home.

**homely** /'ho:mli/, /home-lee/ *adj* 1 plain, simple. 2 like home, comfortable.

**homemade** /ho:m'meɪd/, /home-made/ *adj* made at home or at the place where it is being offered, sold, etc.

**homeopathy** /,ho:mɪ'ɒpəθi/, /ho-mee-aw-pa-thee/ *n*, also **homoeopathy** a system of medical treatment based on the belief

that certain illnesses can be cured by giving the patient small doses of a drug that would cause a mild form of the illness in a healthy person. • *adj* **homeopathic**, *also homoeopathic*.

**homeowner** /'hoʊmənər/, /ho-moa-ner/ *n* a person who owns the house that he or she lives in.

**home page** /'hōmpeɪdʒ/, /home page/ *n* the first web page, often with links to other pages, found on an Internet site.

**home schooling** /'hōm'sku:lɪŋ/, /home skoo-ling/ *n* the process of teaching children in the home rather than sending them to a school.

**homesick** /'hō:msɪk/, /home-sick/ *adj* having a longing for home. • *n* **home-sickness**.

**homespun** /hō:mspən/, /home-spun/ *adj* plain and simple.

**homestead** /hō:mstɛd/, /home-sted/ *n* a house with grounds and outbuildings around it, especially a farm.

**hometown** /hō:m'taʊn/, /home-town/ *n* the town where a person lives or grew up.

**homewards** /hō:mwərdz/, /home-wards/ *adv (frm)* towards home.

**homework** /hō:mwɜ:k/, /home-wurk/ *n* work to be done or lessons to be studied at home.

**homicide** /'hōmi,said/, /hom-i-side/ *n* 1 the act of killing another human being. 2 a person who kills another human being. • *adj* **homicidal**.

**homogenize** /hə'mɒdʒənaɪz/, /ho-modge-i-nize/ *vb*, *also homogenise* to make the same in texture, mixture, or quality by breaking down and blending the different parts. • *adj* **homogenous**.

**homonym** /'hōmənɪm/, /hom-o-nim/ *n* a word sounding the same as another but having a different meaning (e.g. here, hear).

**homophobia** /hō:mə'fo:bɪə/, /ho-mo-fo-bee-a/ *n* irrational fear or hatred of homosexuals or homosexuality.

**Homo sapiens** /hō:mo:'sepiənz/, /ho-mo sa-pee-enz/ *n* the scientific name for human beings.

**homosexual** /hō:mo:'sɛkʃuəl/, /ho-mo-sek-shwal/ *adj* of or having to do with sexual desire for those of the same sex. • *n*

## **homosexuality.**

**honcho** /'hɒntʃo:/, /hɒn-cho/ *n (inf, sl)* the person in charge, the boss.

• **head honcho**.

**honest** /'ɒnəst/, /on-est/ *adj* 1 free from deceit, upright, truthful; not cheating, stealing, etc. 2 open and frank. 3 typical of an honest person, open. 4 true. • *n honesty*.

**honey** /'həni/, /hu-nee/ *n* a sweet fluid made by bees from flowers.

**honeybee** /'həni,bi:/, /hu-nee-bee/ *n* a bee that makes honey.

**honeycomb** /'həni,kɒm/, /hu-nee-coam/ *n* the waxy cells in which bees store their honey.

**honeymoon** /'həni,mu:n/, /hu-nee-moon/ *n* the holiday taken by a newly married couple immediately after marriage.

**honeysuckle** /'həni,səkəl/, /hu-nee-su-cul/ *n* a sweet-smelling climbing plant.

**honk** /hɒŋk/, /hongk/ *n* the call of a wild goose or any similar sound, like that of a car horn.

**honour** /'ɒnər/, /on-ur/ *n, also honor (US)* 1 good name, reputation. 2 high principles and standards of behaviour. 3 glory. 4 a person or thing that brings pride or glory. 5 a title of respect used when talking to or about certain important people such as judges, mayors, etc. 6 respect. • *vb* 1 to respect. 2 to raise in rank or dignity. 3 to pay (a bill) when due.

**honourable** /'ɒnə,rəbəl/, /on-ur-a-bul/ *adj, also honorable (US)* 1 worthy of respect or honour. 2 honest, of high principles. 3 just.

**honorary** /'ɒnərəri/, /on-ur-ra-ree/ *adj* 1 unpaid. 2 given to a person as a mark of respect for his or her ability.

**hood** /hud/, /hood/ *n* 1 a covering for the head and neck. 2 anything that looks like a hood or can be used as such.

**hoodlum** /'hudləm/, /hood-lum/ *n* a wild, lawless person, often a member of a gang of criminals.

**hoodwink** /'hudwɪŋk/, /hood-wingk/ *vb* to deceive.

**hoof** /hu:f/, /hoof/ *n (pl hooves or hoofs)* the horny part of the foot in certain animals. • *adj* hoofed having hooves.

**hook** /huk/, /hook/ *n* 1 a piece of metal or plastic bent for catching hold or for hanging things on. 2 a short, curved cutting instrument.

• *vb* to catch, hold, or fasten with a hook. • *adj* **hooked, hook-shaped**. • **by hook or by crook** by any means, fair or unfair.

**hooligan** /'hu:lɪgən/, /hoo-li-gan/ *n* a wild, lawless person, often a member of a gang of criminals. • *n* **hooliganism**.

**hoop** /hu:p/, /hoop/ *n* 1 a band of metal around a cask. 2 a large ring of wood, metal, etc.

**hoot** /hu:t/, /hoot/ *vb* 1 to cry as an owl. 2 to make a loud noise of laughter or disapproval. • *n* 1 the cry of an owl. 2 a shout of laughter or disapproval.

**Hoover** /'hu:vər/, /hoo-ver/ *n* (*TM*) a vacuum cleaner. • *also vb.*

**hooves** see **hoof**.

**hop<sup>1</sup>** /hɒp/, /hop/ *vb* (**hopped, hopping**) 1 to jump on one leg. 2 to jump. • *n* a jump, especially on one leg.

**hop<sup>2</sup>** /hɒp/, /hop/ *n* a plant with bitter-tasting cones used in making beer, ale, etc.

**hope** /ho:p/, /hope/ *vb* to wish for and expect good things in the future. • *n* a wish or expectation for the future.

**hopeful** /'ho:pfl/, /hope-ful/ *adj* 1 full of hope. 2 giving cause for hope.

**hopeless** /'ho:ples/, /hope-less/ *adj* 1 without hope. 2 giving no cause for hope. 3 (*inf*) poor, not good.

**hopping** /hɒpiŋ/, /hop-ing/ *adj* very busy or active.

**hopscotch** /'hɒpskɒtʃ/, /hop-scotch/ *n* a game in which a player tosses a stone or other object into a section of a figure drawn on the ground and hops from section to section to pick up the stone after the toss.

**horde** /hɔ:d/, /hoard/ *n* a huge crowd.

**horizon** /hə'raɪzən/, /ho-rie-zun/ *n* 1 the line along which the earth and sky seem to meet. 2 the breadth of a person's understanding and experience.

**horizontal** /hɔ:rɪ'zɒntəl/, /ho-ri-zon-tal/ *adj* parallel to the horizon, flat, level.

**hormone** /'hɔrmə:n/, /hawr-moan/ *n* a substance made in the body that has a specific job or effect.

**horn** /hɔrn/, /hɔrn/ *n* **1** a hard, pointed growth on the heads of some animals. **2** anything shaped like a horn (e.g. snail's feelers). **3** a musical brass instrument. **4** on a car, lorry, etc, an instrument that makes a warning noise. • *adj* made of horn.

**horned** /hɔrnd/, /hornd/ *adj* having horns.

**hornet** /'hɔrnət/, /hor-net/ *n* a large, stinging insect of the wasp family coloured yellow and black.

**hornpipe** /'hɔrnpeɪp/, /horn-pipe/ *n* **1** a lively dance; a sailor's dance. **2** music for such a dance.

**horoscope** /'hɔrə,sko:p/, /haw-ro-scope/ *n* **1** a plan showing the positions of the stars in the sky at a particular time, especially at the hour of a person's birth, made in the belief that from it features and future events can be foretold. **2** a forecast of a person's future based on such a plan.

**horrendous** /hə'rɛndəs/, /haw-ren-dus/ *adj* horrible, frightful.

**horrible** /'hɔrəbəl/, /haw-ri-bul/ *adj* **1** causing horror, dreadful, terrible. **2** (*inf*) unpleasant, nasty. • *adv* **horribly**.

**horrid** /'hɔrid/, /haw-rid/ *adj* **1** (*fml*) horrible, dreadful. **2** (*inf*) horrible, unpleasant, nasty.

**horrify** /'hɔrə,fai/, /haw-ri-fie/ *vb* to fill with horror; to shock unpleasantly. • *adj* **horrific**.

**horror** /'hɔrər/, /haw-ror/ *n* **1** terror, great fear or dislike. **2** (*inf*) a horrible or disagreeable person or thing. • *also adj*.

**horrorstruck** /'hɔrərstræk/, /haw-ror-struck/ *adj* horrified.

**hors d'œuvre** /,ɔr'dərv/, Fr. /ɔ:r'dœvr/, /awr-durv/ *n* an appetizer, a small portion of food served before a meal.

**horse** /hɔrs/, /horss/ *n* **1** an animal that can be used for riding on or pulling loads. **2** a device or frame with legs to support something. **3** a padded block on four legs used by gymnasts in vaulting.

**horseback** /'hɔrsbæk/, /horss-back/ *adv* on the back of a horse.

**horsefly** /'hɔrsflei/, /horss-flie/ *n* a large fly that typically feeds on the blood of horses and cattle.

**horseplay** /'hɔrspleɪ/, /horss-play/ *n* rough play.

**horsepower** /'hɔrs,pauər/, /horss-pow-er/ *n* the pulling power of a horse, taken as an imperial unit of power equal to the power

needed to raise 33,000 pounds by 1 foot in 1 minute.

**horseradish** /'hɔrs,rædɪʃ/, /horss-ra-dish/ *n* a plant with a sharp-tasting edible root used for sauce or relish.

**horseshoe** /'hɔrsʃu:/, /horss-shoo/ *n* 1 a curved iron shoe for horses.

2 anything of this shape.

**horticulture** /'hɔrtɪ,kʌltʃər/, /hor-ti-cul-chur/ *n* the art or science of gardening or growing flowers, vegetables, etc. • *adj* **horticultural**.

**horticulturist** /'hɔrtɪ,kʌltʃərist/, /hor-ti-cul-chu-rist/ *n* a person skilled in gardening.

**hose** /ho:z/, /hoaz/ *n* 1 (*fm!*) stockings, socks, etc. 2 a movable pipe of rubber, plastic, etc, used for carrying water. • *vb* to spray with a hose.

**hosier** /'ho:ziər/, /ho-zee-er/ *n* someone who sells stockings.

**hosiery** /'ho:ziəri:/, /ho-zhe-ree/ *n* the articles sold by a hosier.

**hospice** /'hɒspɪs/, /hos-pis/ *n* 1 (*old*) a place of rest or shelter for travellers. 2 a hospital for sufferers of incurable diseases.

**hospitable** /hɒ'spitəbəl/, /hos-pi-ta-bul/ *adj* kind to guests and visitors.

**hospital** /'hɒspɪtəl/, /hos-pi-tal/ *n* a building for the care of the sick.

**hospitality** /'hɒspɪ'tælɪti/, /hos-pi-ta-li-tee/ *n* kindness to guests and visitors.

**hospitalization** /'hɒspɪtælɪ'zeɪʃn/, /hos-pi-ta-lie-zay-shun/ *n*, also **hospitalisation** the condition of being put into the hospital for a time.

**host**<sup>1</sup> /ho:st/, /hoast/ *n* 1 one who receives guests. 2 (*old*) an innkeeper or hotelkeeper. • *f* **hostess** /'ho:stəs/, /hoas-tess/. • *vb* to act as a host.

**host**<sup>2</sup> /ho:st/, /hoast/ *n* a very large number.

**host**<sup>3</sup> /ho:st/, /hoast/ *n* in some Christian services, the bread taken during Holy Communion.

**hostage** /'hɒstɪdʒ/, /hos-tidge/ *n* a person held prisoner until certain conditions have been carried out.

**hostel** /'hɒstəl/, /hos-tel/ *n* a building in which persons away from home (students, travellers, etc.) can pay to stay if they agree to

keep its rules.

**hostelry** /'hɒstəlri/, /hos-tel-ree/ *n* (old) an inn.

**hostess** see **host**.

**hostile** /'hɒstɪl/, /hos-tile/ *adj* 1 unfriendly. 2 having to do with an enemy.

**hostility** /ho'stiliti/, /hos-ti-li-tee/ *n* 1 unfriendliness. 2 *pl* warfare.

**hot** /hɒt/, /hot/ *adj* 1 very warm. 2 easily excited. 3 having a sharp, burning taste.

**hot air** /hɒt 'eɪr/, /hot air/ *n* writing or speech that claims to be important but really is not.

**hotbed** /'hɒtbɛd/, /hot-bed/ *n* 1 in a garden, a piece of earth kept warm so that plants will grow in it more quickly. 2 a place where things develop quickly.

**hotch-potch** see **hodgepodge**.

**hot dog** /'hɒtdɒg/, /hot dog/ *n* a frankfurter, usually served on a long, soft roll.

**hotel** /ho:'tel/, /ho-teł/ *n* a building where people sleep and eat when away from home; an inn.

**hotheaded** /hɒt'hedəd/, /hot-he-ded/ *adj* easily excited, rash. • *n* **hothead**.

**hot plate** /'hɒtpleɪt/, /hot plate/ *n* a small, portable device for cooking food or for keeping it warm.

**hot seat** /'hɒtsi:t/, /hot seet/ *n* any stressful, difficult position to be in.

**hotshot** /'hɒtʃɒt/, /hot-shot/ *n* a person who is regarded as an expert at an activity or very important, aggressive, or skilful at something.

**hot spring** /hɒt'sprɪŋ/, /hot spring/ *n* a spring with water that is hotter than the temperature of the human body.

**hot-tempered** /hɒ'tempərd/, /hot-tem-perd/ *adj* easily angered.

**hot tub** /'hɒt̬t̬b/, /hot tub/ *n* a large tub in which several people soak in hot water together.

**hot water bottle** /,hɒt'wɔ:tər ,bɒtəl/, /hot water bo-tl/ *n* a rubber container holding hot water which is used to warm a person in bed.

**hound** /haʊnd/, /hound/ *n* 1 a hunting dog. 2 (*inf*) a rascal. • *vb* to hunt. • **hound out** to drive out.

**hour** /'aʊər/, /hʊər/ *n* 1 60 minutes. 2 the time fixed for doing something, the time at which something is usually done.

**hourglass** /'aʊərlæs/, /hʊər-glass/ *n* a sand-filled glass for measuring time.

**houri** /'huri/, /hoo-ree/ *n* in the Muslim faith, any of the beautiful young women in paradise.

**hourly** /'aurli/, /hʊər-lee/ *adj* happening every hour.

**house** /həʊs/, /hʊəs/ *n* 1 a building in which people, often a family, live. 2 a place or building used for a particular purpose. 3 a theatre audience. • *vb* /həʊz/ 1 to provide a house for. 2 to shelter.

**houseboat** /'həʊsbo:t/, /hʊəs-bo:t/ *n* a large, flat-bottomed boat used as a home.

**housebreaking** /'həʊs,breɪkɪŋ/, /hʊəs-bray-king/ *n* the act of illegally gaining entry to a building with the intention of stealing things.

**housefly** /'həʊsflaɪ/, /hʊəs-fly/ *n* a kind of fly that feeds on rubbish, food, etc and found around houses.

**houseguest** /'həʊsgɛst/, /hʊəs-gest/ *n* a person who stays at least one night in a person's home.

**household** /'həʊsho:l:d/, /hʊəs-hoald/ *n* all who live in a house. • *adj* having to do with a house or those who live in it.

**househusband** /'həʊs,həzbənd/, /hʊəs-huz-band/ *n* a married man whose primary job it is to manage the home and family.

**housekeeper** /'həʊs,ki:pər/, /hʊəs-kee-per/ *n* a person in charge of managing a house.

**housekeeping** /'həʊs,ki:pɪŋ/, /hʊəs-kee-ping/ *n* the work of a housekeeper.

**house music** /'həʊs mju:zɪk/, /hʊəs myoo-zic/ *n* a kind of dance music developed in Chicago with a low bass and rap sound.

**House of Commons** /'həʊs əv 'kɒmənz/, /hʊəs of com-ons/ *n* the part of the UK parliament whose members are elected by the people.

**House of Lords** /'həʊs əv 'lɔ:rdz/, /hʊəs of lords/ *n* the part of the UK parliament whose members are not elected by the people and include peers and bishops.

**House of Representatives** /'həʊs əv rɪprə'zentətɪvs/, /house/ of re-pri-zen-ta-tivz/ *n* a part of the US government responsible for creating laws.

**house party** /'həʊs pærti/, /house/ par-tee/ *n* a party of guests that stay overnight or for a few days.

**houseplant** /'həʊs plænt/, /house-plant/ *n* a plant that is grown indoors for decoration.

**house-sit** /'həʊs ,sɪt/, /house-sit/ *vb* to stay in and care for a house while its owners are absent.

**housetrained** /'həʊs,treɪnd/, /house-traned/ *adj* trained to go outside to urinate, etc, said of dogs.

**housewife** /'həʊswife/, /house-wife/ *n* a married woman whose primary job it is to manage the home and family.

**housework** /'həʊswɜːk/, /house-wurk/ *n* the work involved in housekeeping, such as cleaning, cooking, etc.

**housing** /'haʊzɪŋ/, /hou-zing/ *n* shelter or lodging, the act of providing shelter.

**housing estate** /'haʊzɪŋ ɪsteɪt/, /how-zing ih-state/ *n* a large number of houses that have been built together in a planned manner.

**hovel** /'həvəl, 'hɔvəl/, /hu-vel, ho-vel/ *n* a small, dirty house.

**hover** /'həvər/, /hu-ver/ *vb* 1 to stay in the air without moving. 2 to stay near.

**hovercraft** /'həvər,kræft/, /hu-ver-craft/ *n* a type of car or boat that can skim over the surface of smooth land or water on a cushion of air.

**how** /hau/, /how/ *adv* 1 in what manner or way. 2 in what state or condition. 3 for what reason or purpose. 4 at what price.

**however** /hau'evər/, /how-ev-er/ *adv* 1 in whatever way. 2 no matter how. 3 yet.

**howl** /haul/, /howl/ *vb* to give a long, loud cry, as a dog or wolf. 2 to wail, to cry. • *also n.*

**hub** /həb/, /hub/ *n* 1 the central part of a wheel. 2 a centre of interest or activity.

**hubcap** /'həbcæp/, /hub-cap/ *n* a cap over the centre of a wheel on a car, truck, etc.

- huddle** /'hʌdəl/, /hu-dul/ *vb* to crowd together. • *n* a close crowd.
- hue** /hju:/, /hyoo/ *n* (*fml or lit*) **1** colour. **2** shade of a colour.
- hue and cry** /,hju: æn 'krai/, /hyoo an cry/ *n* a noisy expression of anger, a noisy protest.
- huff** /hʌf/, /huff/ *n* a fit of temper.
- huffy** /'hʌfi/, /hu-fee/ *adj* easily angered.
- hug** /hʌg/, /hug/ *vb* (**hugged, hugging**) **1** to hold tightly in the arms; to take lovingly in the arms. **2** to keep close to. • *n* a close grip, an embrace.
- huge** /hju:dʒ/, /hyoodge/ *adj* very big, enormous. • *n* **hugeness**.
- huh** /hə/, /hu/ *interj* used to express surprise or used to ask a question.
- hula-hoop** /hju:/, /hoo-la-hoop/ *n* a light hoop made of plastic that is twirled around the body.
- hulk** /hʌlk/, /hulk/ *n* **1** the body of an old ship. **2** anything difficult to move. **3** a big, clumsy person or thing.
- hulking** /'hʌlkɪŋ/, /hul-king/ *adj* big and awkward.
- hull** /hʌl/, /hull/ *n* **1** the outer covering of a grain or seed. **2** the frame or body of a ship. • *vb* to strip off the husk.
- hullabaloo** /hʌləbə'lū:/, /hu-la-ba-loo/ *n* noise and confusion.
- hum** /hʌm/, /hum/ *vb* (**hummed, humming**) **1** to make a buzzing sound. **2** to sing without words or with the mouth closed. • *n* **1** a buzzing noise. **2** the noise made by a bee when flying.
- human** /hju:mən/, /hyoo-man/ *adj* having to do with people. • *n* person.
- humane** /hju:'meɪn/, /hyoo-mane/ *adj* kindly, merciful.
- humanism** /'hju:mə,nɪzəm/, /hyoo-ma-ni-zum/ *n* **1** love of literature and learning. **2** the belief that humans are the most important subject of study. • *n* **humanist**.
- humanitarian** /hju:mænɪ'terɪən/, /hyoo-ma-ni-tay-ree-an/ *n* a person who works to lessen human suffering. • *also adj.*
- humanity** /hju:'mænɪti/, /hyoo-ma-ni-tee/ *n* **1** all humankind. **2** kindness, feeling for others.

**humanize** /'hju:mənaɪz/, /hyoo-ma-nize/ *vb, also humanise* to make gentler, to make kind.

**humankind** /'hju:mən,kaind/, /hyoo-man-kind/ *n* all people as a race.

**human resources** /'hju:mən rɪ'zo:səz/, /hyoo-man ri-zoar-sis/ *n* the department in a company which deals with the recruitment and management of staff.

**humble** /'hʌmbəl/, /hum-bul/ *adj* thinking oneself unimportant, not proud, seeking no praise. • *vb* 1 to make humble. 2 to lessen the importance or power of. • *adv* humbly.

**humdrum** /'hʌmdrəm/, /hum-drum/ *adj* dull, ordinary, boring.

**humerus** /'hju:mərəs/, /hyoo-me-rus/ *n* the bone that extends from the shoulder to the elbow.

**humid** /'hju:mid/, /hyoo-mid/ *adj* moist, damp.

**humidify** /hju:'midi,fai/, /hyoo-mi-di-fy/ *vb* to make damp, to moisten.

**humidity** /hju:'miditi/, /hyoo-mi-di-tee/ *n* dampness, the amount of moisture in the air.

**humiliate** /hju:'mili,eit/, /hyoo-mi-lee-ate/ *vb* to embarrass, to lessen the importance or power of, to lower the dignity or pride of. • *n* humiliation.

**humility** /hju:'militi/, /hyoo-mi-li-tee/ *n* the state of being humble.

**hummingbird** /'həmɪŋ,bərd/, /hu-ming-burd/ *n* a small, brightly coloured bird whose wings make a humming sound when it is flying.

**hummus** /'həməs/, /hu-mus/ *n* a Middle Eastern dish made of mashed chickpeas and eaten as an appetizer.

**humour** /'hju:mər/, /hyoo-mur/ *n, also humor* (US) 1 any fluid or juice of an animal or plant. 2 a comical or amusing quality. 3 a state of mind, mood.

**humorist** /'hju:mərist/, /hyoo-mu-rist/ *n* a person who writes or talks amusingly.

**humorous** /'hju:mərəs/, /hyoo-mu-rus/ *adj* 1 funny, amusing. 2 having or displaying a sense of humour.

**hump** /hʌmp/, /hump/ *n* a rounded lump, especially on the back. • *adj* humped, humpy.

**humpback** /'hʌmpbæk/, /hump-back/ *n* a person with a lump on his or her back.

**humph** /həmf/, /humf/ *interj* used to express doubt, disgust.

**humus** /'hju:məs/, /hyoo-mus/ *n* rotted leaves, etc, mixed into the earth.

**hunch** /həntʃ/, /hunch/ *n* 1 a rounded hump, especially on the back.  
2 (*inf*) an intuitive feeling, a hint.

**hunchback** /'həntʃbæk/, /hunch-back/ *n* a person with a hunch on his or her back. • *adj* **hunchbacked**.

**hundred** /'həndrəd/, /hun-dred/ *n* 10 times 10, the number after 99. • *adj* **hundredth**.

**hung** *pt and pp of hang*.

**hunger** /'hʌŋgər/, /hung-ger/ *n* 1 a strong desire for food. 2 lack of food. 3 any strong desire. • *vb* 1 (*old*) to feel hunger. 2 to desire greatly.

**hungry** /'hʌŋgri/, /hung-gree/ *adj* 1 needing food, feeling or showing hunger. 2 having a strong need or desire for.

**hunk** /hʌŋk/, /hungk/ *n* (*inf*) a large piece, a chunk.

**hunt** /hənt/, /hunt/ *vb* 1 to chase wild animals to kill or capture them.  
2 to look for. 3 to follow so as to catch. • *n* 1 the act of hunting. 2 a group of people who meet to hunt wild animals.

**hunter** /'həntər/, /hun-ter/ *n* a person who hunts.

**huntsman** /'hənts'mən/, /hunts-man/ *n* a man who hunts.

**hurdle** /'hərdəl/, /hur-dl/ *n* 1 a gatelike movable frame of wood or metal. 2 a wooden frame over which people or horses must jump in certain races. 3 obstruction, obstacle. • *vb* to jump over hurdles in a race.

**hurl** /hərl/, /hurl/ *vb* to throw with force.

**hurrah** /hə'rə/, /hu-ra/, **hurray** /hu-ray/ *interj* a cry of joy.

**hurricane** /'həri,kən/, /hu-ri-cane/ *n* a violent storm, a very strong wind.

**hurried** /'həri:d/, /hu-reed/ *adj* done quickly, often too quickly; hasty.

**hurry** /'həri/, /hu-ree/ *vb* 1 to do or go quickly. 2 to make to go quickly. • *n* haste, speed.

**hurt** /hərt/, /hurt/ *vb (pt, pp hurt)* **1** to cause pain to, to wound, to injure. **2** to upset. • *n (fml)* **1** a wound, an injury. **2** harm.

**hurtful** /hərtfʊl/, /hurt-ful/ *adj* harmful.

**husband** /'həzbənd/, /huz-band/ *n* a married man. • *vb* to use or spend carefully.

**husbandry** /'həzbəndri/, /huz-ban-dree/ *n* **1** (*old*) farming. **2** (*fml*) careful spending.

**hush** /həʃ/, /hush/ *n* silence, stillness. • *vb* **1** to make silent. **2** to become silent. • **hush up** to prevent something becoming generally known. • *interj* quiet! silence!

**husk** /həsk/, /husk/ *n* the dry outer covering of a grain or seed, or of certain fruits.

**husky<sup>1</sup>** /həski/, /huss-kee/ *adj* **1** hoarse, dry, and rough. **2** hefty, strong.

**husky<sup>2</sup>** /həski/, /huss-kee/ *n* an Arctic sled dog.

**hut** /hət/, /hut/ *n* a small, roughly built house; a wooden shed.

**hutch** /hətʃ/, /hutch/ *n* a boxlike cage, e.g. for rabbits.

**hyacinth** /'haɪəsɪnθ/, /hie-a-sinth/ *n* a bulb plant with bell-like flowers and a strong scent.

**hybrid** /'haɪbrɪd/, /hie-brid/ *n* a plant or animal resulting from the mixing of two different kinds or species. • *adj* bred from two different kinds. • *vb hybridize, also hybridise*.

**hydrant** /'haɪdrənt/, /hie-drant/ *n* a pipe from the main water pipe of a street from which water may be drawn directly.

**hydraulic** /haɪ'drɔːlɪk/, /hie-draw-lic/ *adj* worked by the pressure of water or other liquid.

**hydro-** /haɪdro:/, /hie-dro/ *prefix* having to do with water.

**hydroelectric** /haɪdro; ɪl'ektrɪk/, /hie-droe-ee-lec-tric/ *adj* having to do with electricity obtained by water power.

**hydrogen** /haɪdrədʒən/, /hie-dro-jen/ *n* an invisible gas with no colour or smell that with oxygen forms water.

**hydrogen bomb** /haɪdrədʒən ˈbɔːm/, /hie-dro-jen bom/ *n* an extremely destructive nuclear bomb. • **H-bomb**.

**hydroplane** /'haɪdrəpleɪn/, /hie-dro-plane/ *n* 1 an attachment of an aeroplane that enables it to glide along the water. 2 a speedboat that skims the surface of the water. • *also vb.*

**hyena** /haɪ'ɛnə/, /hie-ee-na/ *n* a doglike animal that eats dead flesh.

**hygiene** /'haɪdʒi:n/, /hie-jeen/ *n* 1 the study of clean and healthy living. 2 clean and healthy living.

**hygienic** /haɪ'dʒi:nɪk/, /hie-jee-nic/ *adj* having to do with hygiene, clean.

**hymn** /hɪm/, /him/ *n* a song of praise, especially to God.

**hymnal** /'hɪmnəl/, /him-nal/, **hymnary** /'hɪm-na-ree/ *n* a book of hymns.

**hype** /heɪp/, /hipe/ *vb* to promote in an extravagant way. • *n* such promotion.

**hyperactive** /həɪpər'æktyv/, /hie-per-ac-tiv/ *adj* too active and unable to sit still for very long.

**hyperbole** /haɪ'pərbəli/, /hie-per-bo-lee/ *n* a figure of speech by which a statement is exaggerated in a striking way. • *adj* **hyperbolic**.

**hypertension** /həɪpə'tenʃən/, /hie-per-ten-shun/ *n* high blood pressure.

**hyphen** /'haɪfən/, /hie-fen/ *n* a short dash (-) between syllables or between words joined to express a single idea.

**hypnosis** /hɪp'nō:sɪs/, /hip-no-sis/ *n* an artificially induced trance-like state in which deeper parts of the subject's subconsciousness are reached.

**hypnotic** /hɪp'nɒtɪk/, /hip-not-ic/ *adj* producing the state of hypnosis.

**hypnotism** /'hɪpnə,tɪzəm/, /hip-no-ti-zum/ *n* the art of producing hypnosis.

**hypnotist** /hɪp'nətɪst/, /hip-no-tist/ *n* a person who has the power to hypnotize others.

**hypnotize** /'hɪpnə,tائز/, /hip-no-tize/ *vb*, *also* **hypnotise** to put a person into a sleeplike state and to then control the sleeper's actions.

**hypochondria** /həɪpə'kɔndriə/, /hie-po-con-dree-a/ *n* a condition in which someone is overanxious about his or her health, constantly

believing that he or she is ill when he or she is not. •

**hypochondriac** /n/ a person who suffers from hypochondria.

**hypocrisy** /hi'pɒkrəsi/, /hi-poc-ri-see/ *n* the pretence of being good or of having beliefs or feelings that one does not have.

**hypocrite** /'hipəkrɪt/, /hi-po-crit/ *n* a person who pretends to be good but is not so, a person who says one thing and does another.

**hypocritical** /hipə'krɪtɪkəl/, /hi-po-crit-i-cal/ *adj* not sincere, false.

**hypotenuse** /haɪ'pətənuːz/, /hie-paw-te-nooz/ *n* the side opposite the right angle of a triangle, the longest side of a right triangle.

**hypothermia** /haɪpo'θərmɪə/, /hie-po-ther-mee-a/ *n* a serious medical condition in which the body temperature is much lower than normal because of prolonged exposure to cold.

**hypothesis** /haɪ'pəθɪsɪs/, /hie-poth-e-sis/ *n* an idea accepted as true for the basis of an argument, something supposed true but not proved so. • *adj hypothetical*.

**hysterectomy** /haɪ'stɛrəktəmɪ/, /hi-ste-rec-to-me/ *n* the surgical removal of all or part of the uterus.

**hysteria** /haɪ'stiːriə/, /hi-stee-ree-a/ *n* 1 a disorder of the nerves, causing a person to laugh or cry violently, have imaginary illnesses, etc. 2 lack of control, uncontrolled excitement.

**hysterics** /haɪ'sterɪks/, /hi-ste-rics/ *n* 1 a fit of hysteria. 2 (*inf*) an uncontrollable fit of laughter.

**hysterical** /haɪ'stərɪkəl/, /hi-ste-ri-cal/ *adj* 1 suffering from hysteria. 2 caused by hysteria. 3 (*inf*) very funny.

# I

**I, i /aɪ/, /eye/** the ninth letter of the English alphabet.

**I /aɪ/, /eye/ pron** meaning the person speaking or writing.

**ice /eɪs/, /eyess/** *n* frozen water. • *vb* 1 to cool in ice. 2 to cover with icing.

**Ice Age /'eɪs eɪdʒ/, /eyess age/** *n* a time when large amounts of ice and glaciers cover many areas of the earth.

**icebox /'eɪsbɔks/, /eyess-boks/** *n* a cabinet, box, or room with ice in it for keeping things cold.

**icebreaker /'eɪsbreɪkər/, /eyess-bray-ker/** *n* a ship designed for cutting its way through ice.

**ice cap /'eɪs kæp/, /eyess-cap/** *n* a dome-shaped mass of ice that spreads slowly outward from the centre.

**ice cream /'eɪs eɪdʒ/, /eyess-creem/** *n* 1 cream or a mixture of creamy substances flavoured, sweetened, and frozen. 2 a portion of ice cream.

**ice floe /'eɪs flo:/, /eyess-flo/** *n* a large sheet of floating ice.

**ice hockey /'eɪshækɪ:/, /eyess-hock-ee/** see **hockey**.

**ice pack /'eɪs pæk/, /eyess-pack/** *n* ice collected and put into a bag or container of some kind, used to cool things down.

**ice pick /'eɪs pɪk/, /eyess-pick/** *n* a sharp, pointed metal tool used to chip ice pieces away from a larger block of ice.

**ice skate /'eɪs skeɪt/, /eyess-skate/** *n* footwear with a blade on the bottom, used for skating on the ice.

**ichthyosaur /'ɪkθiə,sɔr/, /ic-thee-o-sawr/** *n* a huge fishlike prehistoric reptile.

**icicle /'eɪsɪkəl/, /eye-si-cul/** *n* a long, hanging, pointed piece of ice formed by the freezing of falling water.

**icy /'eɪsili/, /eye-si-lee/** *adv* in an icy manner, very coldly.

**icing** /'eɪsɪŋ/, /eye-sing/ *n* a mixture of powdered sugar with liquid, used to cover cakes.

**icing sugar** /'eɪsɪŋ ſugər/, /eye-sing ſhoo-gar/ *n* finely powdered sugar used to make icing.

**icon** /'eɪkɒn/, /eye-con/ *n* 1 a religious picture or statue, an image. 2 a famous person or thing that many people admire and regard as a symbol of a way of life or set of beliefs. 3 a small symbol on a computer screen that represents a program or file. • *adj iconic*.

**icy** /'eɪſi/, /eye-see/ *adj* 1 very cold. 2 covered with ice. 3 unfriendly.

**ID** /eɪ'di/, /eye-dee/ *abbr* = **identification** sense 2.

**idea** /aɪ'di:ə/, /eye-dee-ya/ *n* 1 a plan, thought, or suggestion. 2 a picture in the mind. 3 an opinion or belief.

**ideal** /aɪ'di:əl/, /eye-deel/ *n* 1 a perfect example. 2 high principles or perfect standards, a person's standard of behaviour, etc. • *adj* 1 perfect. 2 extremely suitable. 3 expressing possible perfection that is unlikely to exist. • *adv ideally*.

**idealism** /aɪ'diəlɪzəm/, /eye-dee-li-zum/ *n* the desire to achieve perfection, the state of having high principles or perfect standards. • *n idealist*. • *adj idealistic*.

**idealize, idealise** /aɪ'diəlaɪz/, /eye-dee-lize/ *vb* to think of as perfect or better than reality.

**identical** /aɪ'dentɪkəl/, /eye-den-ti-cul/ *adj* 1 the very same. 2 the same, exactly alike.

**identification** /aɪ'dentɪfi'keɪʃən/, /eye-den-ti-fi-cay-shun/ *n* 1 act of recognizing. 2 something that is proof of or a sign of identity, often ID. 3 the feeling that one shares ideas, feelings, etc, with another person.

**identify** /aɪ'dentɪfaɪ/, /eye-den-ti-fie/ *vb* 1 to think of as being the same. 2 to recognize as being a certain person or thing. 3 to discover or recognize.

**identity** /aɪ'dentiti/, /eye-den-ti-tee/ *n* 1 (*frm*) the state of being the same. 2 who a person is.

**ideology** /aɪdi'ɒlədʒi/, /eye-dee-ol-o-jee/ *n* 1 the study of the nature and origin of ideas. 2 a system of ideas.

**idiocy** /'ɪdiəsɪ/, /i-dee-u-see/ *n* **1** the state of being an idiot. **2** a foolish action.

**idiom** /'ɪdiəm/, /i-dee-um/ *n* **1** the language or dialect of a certain group of people. **2** a group of words that together have an unexpected meaning different from the exact sense.

**idiosyncrasy** /,ɪdɪə'sɪŋkrəsɪ/, /i-dee-yo-sing-cra-see/ *n* an odd way of behaving. • *adj idiosyncratic.*

**idiot** /'ɪdiət/, /i-dee-yot/ *n* **1** a foolish or stupid person. • *adj idiotic.* • *adv idiotically.* • see **idiocy**.

**idle** /'aɪdəl/, /eye-dul/ *adj* **1** doing nothing, not working, not in use. **2** lazy. **3** having no effect or results. • *vb* **1** (*fml*) to be idle, to do nothing. **2** (*of a machine*) to run without doing work. • *n idleness.* • *n idler.* • *adv idly.*

**idol** /'aɪdəl/, /eye-dul/ *n* **1** a statue or other object that is worshipped. **2** a person regarded with too great love and respect.

**idolize** /'aɪdəlaɪz/, /eye-dol-ize/ *vb, also idolise* to love or admire very greatly.

**idyll** /'ɪdɪl/, /eye-dil/ *n* **1** a poem about simple, country life. **2** a beautiful scenic area.

**idyllic** /'ɪdɪlɪk/, /eye-di-lic/ *adj* **1** perfectly happy, pleasant. **2** charming, picturesque.

**if** /ɪf/, /if/ *conj* on condition that, in case, supposing.

**igloo** /'ɪglu:/, /i-gloo/ *n* an Eskimo house or hut, usually dome shaped and made of blocks of frozen snow.

**igneous** /'ɪgnɪəs/, /ig-nee-us/ *adj* (*of rocks*) formed from lava from a volcano.

**ignite** /ɪg'næɪt/, /ig-nite/ *vb* **1** to set fire to. **2** to catch fire.

**ignition** /ɪg'nɪʃən/, /ig-ni-shun/ *n* **1** act of setting fire to. **2** the part of a motor engine that sets fire to the fuel that drives the engine.

**ignoble** /ɪg'nɔ:bəl/, /ig-no-bul/ *adj* **1** (*fml*) mean, dishonourable. **2** (*old*) of low birth.

**ignoramus** /,ɪgnə'reɪməs/, /ig-ni-ray-mus/ *n* a person with little or no knowledge.

**ignorance** /'ɪgnərəns/, /ig-ni-rans/ *n* **1** want of knowledge. **2** lack of awareness or knowledge.

**ignorant** /'ɪgnərənt/, /ig-ni-rant/ *adj* 1 having little or no knowledge. 2 unaware of.

**ignore** /ɪg'nɔr/, /ig-nore/ *vb* to take no notice of, to refuse to pay attention to.

**iguana** /ɪg'wɒnə/, /ig-wa-na/ *n* any of a large family of lizards with spines along its back and that eats vegetation or insects.

**ill** /ɪl/, /ɪl/ *adj* 1 sick. 2 bad. 3 evil, harmful. • *n* 1 evil, harm. 2 trouble. • *adv* badly.

**I'll** /aɪl/, /eyel/ *contraction* I will.

**illegal** /ɪ'lɪgəl/, /i-lee-gal/ *adj* against the law. • *n* **illegality**.

**illegible** /ɪ'lɛdʒɪbəl/, /i-le-ji-bul/ *adj* that cannot be read, badly written.

**illegitimate** /ɪlə'dʒɪtəmət/, /i-le-ji-ti-mit/ *adj* born of unmarried parents. • *n* **illegitimacy**.

**illicit** /ɪ'lɪsɪt/, /i-li-sit/ *adj* unlawful, against the law.

**illiterate** /ɪ'lɪtərət/, /i-li-trit/ *adj* 1 unable to read or write. 2 uneducated. • *n* **illiteracy**.

**illness** /'ɪlnəs/, /ill-ness/ *n* sickness, the state of being unwell.

**illogical** /ɪ'lɒdʒɪkəl/, /i-lodge-ic-al/ *adj* 1 not using reasoning, not reasonable. 2 against the rules of reasoning. • *n* **illogic** the state of being illogical.

**illuminate** /ɪ'lʊ:xmɪneɪt/, /i-loo-mi-nate/ *vb* 1 (*old*) to light up. 2 (*of books, etc.*) to decorate with bright colours. 3 to explain, to make clear.

**illumination** /ɪ'lʊ:xmɪ'neɪʃən/, /i-loo-mi-nay-shun/ *n* (*frm*) 1 a lighting up. 2 decorative lights. 3 a picture or decoration painted on a page of a book. 4 explanation, clarification.

**illusion** /ɪ'lʊ:ʒən/, /i-loo-zhun/ *n* 1 a deception, an unreal image or appearance. 2 a wrong belief, a false idea. • *adj* **illusory**.

**illusionist** /ɪ'lʊ:ʒənist/, /i-loo-zhu-nist/ *n* a person who performs tricks that deceive the eye; a magician.

**illusive** /ɪ'lʊ:sɪv/, /i-loo-siv/ *adj* unreal.

**illustrate** /ɪlə'streɪt/, /i-lu-strate/ *vb* 1 to make clear by examples. 2 to provide pictures for a book or magazine.

**illustration** /ɪlə'streɪʃən/, /i-lu-stray-shun/ *n* 1 an example that makes something easier to understand or demonstrates something. 2 a

picture in a book or magazine.

**illustrative** /ɪlə'strætɪv/, /i-lu-strat-tiv/ *adj* helping to explain.

**illustrious** /'lestriəs/, /i-lu-stree-us/ *adj (fml)* famous.

**ill will** /ɪl'wɪl/, /ill will/ *n* unfriendly feeling, hate, dislike.

**I'm** /aɪm/, /eyem/ *contraction I am.*

**image** /'ɪmɪdʒ/, /i-midge/ *n* **1** a likeness, form. **2** a likeness or copy of a person, etc, made of stone, wood, etc. **3** a statue or picture that is worshipped. **4** a picture formed of an object in front of a mirror or lens. **5** a picture in the mind. **6** the impression that a person or organization gives to the public.

**imagery** /'ɪmɪdʒrɪ/, /i-midge-ree/ *n* figures of speech, words chosen because they call up striking pictures in the mind.

**imaginable** /ɪ'mædʒɪnəbəl/, /i-ma-ji-na-bul/ *adj* that can be imagined.

**imaginary** /ɪ'mædʒɪneri/, /i-ma-ji-na-ree/ *adj* existing in the mind only, not real.

**imagination** /ɪ,mædʒɪ'nɛsən/, /i-ma-ji-nay-shun/ *n* **1** the power of inventing stories, persons, etc; creative ability. **2** the power of forming pictures in the mind. **3** the seeing or hearing of things that do not exist.

**imaginative** /ɪ'mædʒɪnətɪv/, /i-ma-ji-na-tiv/ *adj* **1** having a good imagination. **2** demonstrating imagination.

**imagine** /ɪ'mædʒɪn/, /i-ma-jin/ *vb* **1** to form a picture in the mind. **2** to form ideas of things that do not exist or of events that have not happened. **3** to suppose.

**imam** /'ɪmæm/, /i-mam/ *n* the leader of prayer in a Muslim mosque; any of various Muslim leaders.

**imbalance** /ɪm'bæləns/, /im-ba-lanse/ *n* lack of balance.

**imbecile** /'ɪmbəsəl/, /im-bu-sil/ *n* a fool, an idiot. • *n imbecility.*

**imitate** /'ɪmɪteɪt/, /i-mi-tate/ *vb* to copy; to try to be, behave, or look the same as. • *n imitator.*

**imitation** /'ɪmɪ'teɪʃən/, /i-mi-tay-shun/ *n* **1** act of imitating. **2** a copy.

**imitative** /'ɪmɪ'teɪtɪv/, /i-mi-ta-tiv/ *adj* **1** done as a copy. **2** fond of copying.

**immaculate** /'ɪmækjʊlət/, /i-ma-cyu-lit/ *adj* **1** (*old*) pure. **2** spotless, perfectly clean. **3** perfect.

**immaterial** /imə'ti:rɪəl/, /i-ma-tee-ree-al/ *adj* 1 not consisting of matter, spiritual. 2 unimportant.

**immature** /imə'tʃʊr/, /i-ma-choor/ *adj* 1 unripe. 2 not fully grown. 3 lacking experience and wisdom. • *n* **immaturity**.

**immeasurable** /'mɛzərəbəl/, /i-mezh-ra-bul/ *adj* huge, that cannot be measured, vast.

**immediate** /'mi:dɪət/, /i-mee-dee-it/ *adj* 1 happening at once. 2 direct, without anyone or anything coming between. 3 near, close.  
• *n* **immediacy** the quality or condition of being immediate.

**immediately** /-li/, /i-mee-dee-it-lee/ *adv* 1 at once. 2 closely.

**immense** /'mens/, /i-mense/ *adj* huge. • *n* **immensity**.

**immerse** /'mərs/, /i-merse/ *vb* 1 to put into water. 2 to give a person's whole attention to. • *n* **immersion**.

**immigrant** /'imigrənt/, /i-mi-grant/ *n* a person who immigrates, or moves to another country. • *adj* of or relating to immigrants.

**immigrate** /'imɪ,greɪt/, /i-mi-grate/ *vb (fml)* to enter and settle in a new country. • *n* **immigration**.

**imminent** /'ɪmnənt/, /i-mi-nent/ *adj* just about to happen, near in time. • *n* **imminence**.

**immobile** /'mo:bail/, /i-mo-bile/ *adj* not moving, unable to move. • *n* **immobility**. • *vb* **immobilize**, also **immobilise**.

**immoderate** /'mɒdərət/, /i-mod-rit/ *adj* more than is proper, uncontrolled.

**immodest** /'mɒdəst/, /i-mod-est/ *adj (fml)* 1 shameless, indecent. 2 not modest. • *n* **immodesty**.

**immoral** /'mɔrəl/, /i-mawr-ral/ *adj* wrong, evil, wicked. • *n* **immorality**.

**immortal** /'mɔrtəl/, /i-mawr-tul/ *adj* 1 living or lasting forever. 2 famous for all time.

**immortality** /imɔr'tælɪti:/, /i-mawr-ta-li-tee/ *n* 1 everlasting life. 2 undying fame.

**immortalize** /'mɔrtæ,lائز/, /i-mawr-tu-lize/ *vb*, also **immortalise** 1 to make immortal. 2 to make famous for all time.

**immovable** /'mu:vəbəl/, /i-moo-va-bul/ *adj* 1 not able to be moved. 2 not changing easily.

**immune** /ɪ'mju:n/, /i-myoon/ *adj* 1 free from, specially protected from. 2 not to be infected by. • *n* **immunity**.

**immune system** /ɪ'mju:n ,sɪstəm/, /i-myoon sis-tem/ *n* the system that protects the body from disease.

**immunize** /'ɪmju:nائز/, /i-myoo-nize/ *vb*, also **immunise** to inject disease germs into the blood stream to cause a mild attack of an illness and so make the person immune to it.

**immunology** /'ɪmju:nɒlədʒi/, /i-myu-nol-o-jee/ *n* the study of the immune system.

**imp** /ɪmp/, /imp/ *n* 1 in fairy tales, an evil spirit, a devil's child. 2 a mischievous child.

**impact** /'ɪmpækt/, /im-pact/ *n* 1 the force with which one thing strikes another. 2 a collision. 3 a strong effect or impression.

**impair** /ɪm'peɪr/, /im-pair/ *vb* to make worse, to weaken.

**impale** /ɪm'peɪl/, /im-pale/ *vb* to fix upon something sharp, to pierce.

**impart** /ɪm'part/, /im-part/ *vb (fml)* 1 to tell. 2 to give or share.

**impartial** /ɪm'parʃəl/, /im-par-shal/ *adj* fair, just, not taking sides.

**impartiality** /ɪmparʃi:'ælɪti:/, /im-par-shee-a-li-tee/ *n* fairness, treating all parties or persons in the same way.

**impassive** /ɪm'pæsɪv/, /im-pa-siv/ *adj* 1 not showing strong feeling, not feeling pain. 2 calm, unexcited.

**impatient** /ɪm'peɪʃənt/, /im-pay-shent/ *adj* not willing to wait, easily angered by delay. • *n* **impatience**.

**impeach** /ɪm'pi:tʃ/, /im-peech/ *vb* 1 to charge with a crime. 2 to charge an important person with a crime. 3 (*fml*) to raise doubts about. • *n* **impeachment**.

**impeccable** /ɪm'pekkəbəl/, /im-pe-ca-bul/ *adj* faultless.

**imperative** /ɪm'perətɪv/, /im-pe-ra-tiv/ *adj* 1 commanding. 2 necessary, urgent.

**imperfect** /ɪm'pərfikt/, /im-per-fect/ *adj* having faults, not perfect. • *n* **imperfection**.

**imperial** /ɪm'pi:rɪəl/, /im-pe-ree-al/ *adj* 1 having to do with an empire or emperor. 2 of a country that has control over other countries or colonies. 3 a mostly obsolete British system of weights and measures.

**impersonal** /im'pərsənəl/, /im-per-snəl/ *adj* 1 not influenced by personal feelings. 2 (of verbs) occurring only in the third person singular, usually with 'it' as the subject. • *vb impersonalize, also impersonalise.*

**impersonate** /im'pərsə,nēt/, /im-per-su-nate/ *vb* to pretend to be someone else.

**impertinent** /im'pərtinənt/, /im-pert-nent/ *adj* not showing proper manners, purposely disrespectful. • *n impertinence.*

**impetuous** /'impetʃuəs/, /im-pech-wus/ *adj* acting without thinking first; rash, hasty. • *n impetuousness, impetuosity.*

**impish** /'impɪʃ/, /im-pish/ *adj* mischievous.

**implant** /im'plænt/, /im-plant/ *vb* 1 to place in, often to put something into part of the body for a medical purpose. 2 to fix firmly an idea or feeling in someone's mind. • *n /im-plant/something that is implanted.*

**implement** /'impləmənt/, /im-ple-ment/ *n* a tool, an instrument. • *vb implement* to put into practice.

**implicate** /'implɪ,kейt/, /im-pli-cate/ *vb* to show that a person is involved or connected with.

**implication** /,implɪ'keɪʃən/, /im-pli-cay-shun/ *n* something hinted at but not said openly.

**implicit** /im'plɪsɪt/, /im-pli-sit/ *adj* 1 understood but not said. 2 unquestioning, without doubts.

**implode** /im'plo:d/, /im-plode/ *vb* to burst or collapse inward. • *n implosion.*

**implore** /im'plɔ:r/, /im-plore/ *vb* to ask earnestly, to beg.

**imply** /im'plaɪ/, /im-ply/ *vb* to suggest something without saying it openly, to hint.

**impolite** /impo'ləɪt/, /im-pu-lite/ *adj (fm)* rude, ill-mannered.

**import** /im'pɔrt/, /im-poart/ *vb* to bring in goods from abroad. • *n import* /im'pɔrt/, /im-poart/ something brought in from abroad. • *n importer.*

**important** /im'pɔrtənt/, /im-poar-tant/ *adj* 1 deserving great attention. 2 having results that affect many people. 3 having a high position. • *n importance.* • *adv importantly.*

**importation** /im'pɔr'teɪʃən/, /im-poar-tay-shun/ *n* an importing or being imported.

**impose** /im'po:z/, /im-poaz/ *vb* **1** to lay on or place. **2** to force to accept. • **impose on** to take advantage of, to exploit, to make unfair demands on.

**imposing** /im'po:zɪŋ/, /im-poa-zing/ *adj* important-looking, stately.

**imposition** /,impə'zɪʃən/, /im-pu-zi-shun/ *n* **1** the act of laying on or placing. **2** a tax. **3** an unfair demand.

**impossible** /im'pɒsəbəl/, /im-poss-i-bul/ *adj* not able to be done or achieved. • *n* **impossibility**.

**impostor** or **imposter** /im'pɒstər/, /im-poss-tor/ *n* a person who pretends to be someone else; a deceiver.

**imposture** /im'pɒstʃər/, /im-poss-chur/ *n* the act or practice of an impostor; fraud, deception.

**impotent** /'ɪmpətənt/, /im-pu-tent/ *adj* **1** lacking power, helpless, weak. **2** of a man, unable to achieve an erect penis and so unable to have full sex.

**impractical** /im'præktɪkəl/, /im-prac-ti-cal/ *adj* not practical, not workable or useful.

**imprecise** /,imprə'seɪs/, /im-pri-sise/ *adj* not precise, exact, or definite.

**impregnate** /im'preg,nəet/, /im-preg-nate/ *vb* **1** to fill with. **2** to fertilize or make pregnant.

**impress** /im'pres/, /im-press/ *vb* **1** to mark by pressing into, to stamp. **2** to fix in the mind. **3** to stress, to emphasize the importance of. • *adj* **impressible**.

**impression** /im'preʃən/, /im-pre-shun/ *n* **1** the mark left by pressing or stamping. **2** the number of copies of a book printed at one time. **3** an effect on the mind or feelings. **4** a not very clear idea or memory. **5** an attempt to copy, in a humorous way, someone else's voice, behaviour, appearance, etc.

**impressionable** /im'preʃənəbəl/, /im-presh-na-bul/ *adj* easily influenced.

**Impressionism** /im'preʃə,nɪzəm/, /im-pre-shu-ni-zum/ *n* **1** a way of painting; the representation of scenes just as they appear at a

certain moment by using colour and brush strokes in a specific way. **2** similar attempts in writing and music.

**impressionist** /ɪm'preʃənist/, /im-pre-shu-nist/ *n* **1** (*cap*) an artist who practises Impressionism. **2** a person who does impressions of people, especially as a form of entertainment. • *also adj.*

**impressive** /ɪm'presɪv/, /im-pre-siv/ *adj* **1** important-looking. **2** causing deep feeling, such as admiration.

**imprint** /ɪm'print/, /im-print/ *vb* **1** to make a mark by pressing or printing. **2** to fix in the memory. • *n* **imprint** /ɪm-print/ **1** that which is imprinted. **2** a publisher's name, address, etc, on a book.

**imprison** /ɪm'prɪzən/, /im-pri-zon/ *vb* to put into prison, to shut in.

**imprisonment** /ɪm'prɪzənmənt/, /im-pri-zon-mənt/ *n* the act of imprisoning or the state of being imprisoned.

**improbable** /ɪm'probəbəl/, /im-prob-a-bul/ *adj* not likely to happen or to be true. • *n* **improbability**.

**impromptu** /ɪm'promptju:/, /im-prom-tyoo/ *adj* not prepared. • *adv* without preparation.

**improper** /ɪm'prɔpər/, /im-prop-er/ *adj* **1** wrong. **2** not suitable, not polite. **3** indecent.

**improper fraction** /ɪm'prɔpər frækʃən/, /im-prop-er frac-shun/ *n* a fraction greater than 1, in which the denominator is less than the numerator (e.g.  $\frac{5}{2}$ ).

**impropriety** /ɪmprə'praɪəti/, /im-pru-prie-i-tee/ *n* (*frm*) incorrect or impolite behaviour, the quality of being improper.

**improve** /ɪm'pru:v/, /im-proov/ *vb* to make or become better. • *n* **improvement**.

**improvise** /'ɪmprə,vائز/, /im-pru-vize/ *vb* **1** to make something from material that is available. **2** to make something up at the moment required without preparation. • *n* **improvisation**.

**imprudent** /ɪm'pru:dənt/, /im-proo-dent/ *adj* rash, acting without forethought, unwise. • *n* **imprudence**.

**impudent** /'ɪmpjʊdənt/, /im-pyu-dent/ *adj* disrespectful, shameless, saucy. • *n* **impudence**.

**impulse** /'ɪmpəls/, /im-pulse/ *n* **1** a force causing movement. **2** a sudden desire or decision to act at once.

**impulsive** /ɪm'pulsɪv/, /im-pul-siv/ *adj* 1 done without forethought. 2 acting without thinking first. • *n* **impulsiveness**.

**impure** /ɪm'pjʊr/, /im-pyoor/ *adj* 1 dirty, polluted. 2 mixed with something else. 3 sinful. • *n* **impurity**.

**in** /ɪn/, /in/ *prep* 1 contained or enclosed by. 2 wearing, clothed by. 3 during the course of. 4 at or before the end of. 5 being a member of or worker at.

**inability** /ɪnə'biliti/, /i-na-bi-li-tee/ *n* lack of power, state of being unable.

**inaccessible** /ɪnæk'sesibəl/, /i-nac-se-si-bul/ *adj* not able to be reached or approached.

**inaccurate** /ɪn'ækjurət/, /i-na-cyu-rit/ *adj* 1 not correct. 2 not exact. • *n* **inaccuracy**.

**inaction** /ɪn'ækʃən/, /i-nac-shun/ *n* idleness, lack of action.

**inactive** /ɪn'æktrɪv/, /i-nac-tiv/ *adj* 1 not taking much exercise. 2 no longer working or operating. 3 not taking an active part.

**inadequate** /ɪn'ædəkwət/, /i-na-de-kwit/ *adj* 1 not good enough. 2 not sufficient. • *n* **inadequacy**.

**inadmissible** /ɪnəd'misəbəl/, /i-nad-mi-sa-bul/ *adj* not able to be allowed.

**inadvertent** /ɪnəd'vertənt/, /i-nad-ver-tent/ *adj* not on purpose. • *n* **inadvertence**.

**inadvertently** /ɪnəd'vertəntli:/, /i-nad-ver-tent-lee/ *adv* not purposely.

**inadvisable** /ɪnəd'veɪzəbəl/, /i-nad-vie-za-bul/ *adj* not wise, not advisable.

**inane** /'neɪn/, /i-nane/ *adj* foolish, silly, lacking sense. • *n* **inanity**.

**inanimate** /ɪn'ænəmət/, /i-na-ni-mit/ *adj* without life.

**inappropriate** /ɪnə'priɔ:priət/, /i-na-pro-pree-it/ *adj* not suitable, fitting, or proper.

**inapt** /ɪn'æpt/, /i-napt/ *adj* not suitable, not appropriate, not proper.

**inarticulate** /ɪnər'tɪkjuːlət/, /i-nar-ti-cyu-lit/ *adj* 1 not clear. 2 unable to express oneself clearly.

**inattentive** /ɪnə'tentɪv/, /i-na-ten-tiv/ *adj* not attentive, neglectful, absentminded.

**inaudible** /ɪn'ɒdəbəl/, /i-naw-di-bul/ *adj* that cannot be heard.

**inauspicious** /ɪn'ɒspɪʃəs/, /i-naw-spi-shus/ *adj* unlucky, being a sign of bad luck to come.

**inborn** /'ɪnbɔrn/, /in-bawrn/ *adj* existing in a person since birth, natural.

**inbound** /'ɪnbaʊnd/, /in-bound/ *adj* travelling or going inward.

**inbred** /ɪn'bred/, /in-bred/ *adj* 1 having become part of a person's nature as a result of early training. 2 bred from closely related parents, resulting from inbreeding.

**inbreed** /ɪn'bri:d/, /in-breed/ *vb* to breed by mating closely related parents.

**Inca** /ɪn'ke/, /ing-ka/ *n* a member of a group of peoples in ancient Peru who had a highly developed civilization.

**incalculable** /ɪn'kælkjʊləbəl/, /in-cal-cyu-la-bul/ *adj* very great, too many or too much to be counted.

**incandescent** /ɪnkæn'desənt/, /in-can-de-sent/ *adj* white-hot or glowing with heat. • *n incandescence*. • *vb incandesce*.

**incantation** /ɪnkæn'teɪʃən/, /in-can-tay-shun/ *n* words sung or spoken as a spell or charm.

**incapable** /ɪn'keɪpəbəl/, /in-cay-pa-bul/ *adj* 1 not good at a job. 2 not able, helpless. • *n incapability*.

**incapacitate** /ɪnkə'pæsɪteɪt/, /in-ca-pa-si-tate/ *vb* to make unfit or unable.

**incapacity** /ɪnkə'pæsɪti/, /in-ca-pa-si-tee/ *n* 1 unfitness. 2 lack of ability.

**incarcerate** /ɪn'karsə'reɪt/, /in-car-se-rate/ *vb* (*fm*l or *hum*) to imprison. • *n incarceration*.

**incense**<sup>1</sup> /ɪn'sens/, /in-sense/ *n* a mixture of spices burned to give a sweet-smelling smoke.

**incense**<sup>2</sup> /ɪn'sens/, /in-sense/ *vb* to make angry.

**incentive** /ɪn'sentɪv/, /in-sen-tiv/ *n* something for which someone is prepared to work hard, a reason for action.

**incessant** /ɪn'sesənt/, /in-se-sant/ *adj* not stopping, going on all the time.

**incest** /'ɪnsest/, /in-sɛst/ *n* sex between people who are too closely related to marry legally. • *adj* **incestuous**.

**inch** /ɪntʃ/, /inč/ *n* in imperial measurements, one-twelfth of a foot in length. • *vb* to move a little at a time.

**incidence** /'ɪnsɪdəns/, /in-si-dense/ *n* 1 the extent or rate of frequency of something. 2 the act, fact, or manner of falling on or influencing.

**incident** /'ɪnsɪdənt/, /in-si-dent/ *n* 1 a happening, an event. 2 an event involving violence or law-breaking.

**incidental** /ɪn'sɪdəntəl/, /in-si-den-tal/ *adj* 1 happening as a result of something, though not the most important result. 2 accompanying.

**incidentally** /ɪn'sɪdəntəli/, /in-si-den-ta-lee/ *adv* by the way.

**incinerate** /ɪn'sinə'reɪt/, /in-si-ne-rate/ *vb* to burn to ashes.

**incinerator** /-ər/, /in-si-ne-ray-tor/ *n* a furnace for burning anything to ashes.

**incise** /ɪn'saɪz/, /in-size/ *vb* to cut into with a sharp tool. • *adj* **incised**.

**incision** /ɪn'sɪzən/, /in-si-zhun/ *n* 1 act of cutting. 2 a cut, a deep cut.

**incisive** /ɪn'saɪsɪv/, /in-sie-siv/ *adj* clear and sharp, to the point.

**incisor** /ɪn'saɪzər/, /in-sie-zor/ *n* a cutting tooth in the front of the mouth.

**incite** /ɪn'saɪt/, /in-site/ *vb* to stir up, to urge on. • *n* **incitement**.

**inclement** /ɪn'klemənt/, /in-cle-ment/ *adj* (fml) 1 stormy, unpleasant. 2 merciless. • *n* **inclemency**.

**inclination** /ɪnklɪ'nейʃən/, /in-cli-nay-shun/ *n* 1 a slope. 2 a bow. 3 a liking, preference. 4 a tendency.

**incline** /ɪn'klain/, /in-cline/ *vb* 1 to slope. 2 to bend. 3 to move gradually off the straight way. • **be inclined to** 1 to feel a desire or preference. 2 to have a tendency to. • *n* /in-cline/ a slope.

**include** /ɪn'klu:d/, /in-clude/ *vb* to count as a part or member. • *n* **inclusion**.

**inclusive** /ɪn'klu:sɪv/, /in-cloo-siv/ *adj* including everything mentioned or understood.

**incognito** /ɪnko:g'ni:tə/, /in-cog-nee-toe/ *adj* in disguise, under a false name. • *f* **incognita**.

**incoherent** /ɪn'kərənt/, /in-co-hir-ent/ *adj* 1 having no clear connection between the parts, muddled. 2 not speaking or writing clearly, difficult to follow or understand. • *n incoherence*.

**income** /'ɪnkəm/, /in-cum/ *n* the money earned or gained.

**income tax** /'ɪnkəm,tæks/, /in-g-cum-taks/ *n* the tax charged on income.

**incomparable** /ɪn'kɒmpərəbəl/, /in-com-pa-ra-bul/ *adj* 1 that cannot be equalled. 2 having no equal.

**incompatible** /ɪn'kəm'pætibəl/, /in-com-pa-ti-bul/ *adj* 1 unable to get along. 2 not in agreement. • *n incompatibility*.

**incompetent** /ɪn'kɒmpətənt/, /in-com-pe-tent/ *adj* 1 unable to do a job well, unskilful. 2 not good enough. • *n incompetence, incompetency*.

**incomplete** /ɪn'kəm'pli:t/, /in-com-plete/ *adj* unfinished.

**incomprehensible** /ɪn,kɒmprə'hensibəl/, /in-com-pre-hen-si-bul/ *adj* that cannot be understood. • *n incomprehension*.

**inconceivable** /ɪn'keɪvəbl/, /in-con-see-va-bul/ *adj* unable to be imagined.

**inconclusive** /ɪn'kən'klu:siv/, /in-con-cloo-siv/ *adj* not final, not leading to a definite result.

**inconsiderable** /ɪn'kən'sɪdərəbəl/, /in-con-si-der-(a)-bul/ *adj* very small, of no importance.

**inconsiderate** /ɪn'kən'sɪdərət/, /in-con-sid-(e)-rit/ *adj* having no thought for the feeling of others, thoughtless.

**inconsistent** /ɪn'kən'sistənt/, /in-con-sis-tant/ *adj* 1 not agreeing with what was said or done before or elsewhere. 2 changeable, erratic. 3 contradictory. • *n inconsistency*.

**inconsolable** /ɪn'kən'so:ləbəl/, /in-con-soe-la-bul/ *adj* not able to be comforted, broken-hearted.

**inconspicuous** /ɪn'kən'spɪkjʊəs/, /in-con-spic-yu-wus/ *adj* not easily seen.

**inconstant** /ɪn'kɒnstənt/, /in-con-stant/ *adj* 1 often changing. 2 not always behaving in the same way. • *n inconstancy*.

**incontinent** /ɪn'kɒntɪnənt/, /in-con-ti-nent/ *adj* unable to control the bladder and/or bowels. • *n incontinence*.

**inconvenience** /ɪn'kən'veniəns/, /in-con-**veen**-yense/ *n* trouble, annoyance. • *vb (fml)* to cause trouble or difficulty.

**inconvenient** /ɪn'kən'veniənt/, /in-con-**veen**-yent/ *adj* causing trouble, unsuitable.

**incorporate** /ɪn'kɔrpə'reɪt/, /in-**cawr**-po-rit/ *vb* 1 to bring together in one. 2 to make to form a part of, to include. • *n incorporation*.

**incorrect** /ɪn'kɔr'ekt/, /in-caw-rect/ *adj* 1 wrong. 2 not according to accepted standards.

**increase** /ɪn'kri:s/, /in-**creess**/ *vb* to make or become greater in size or number. • *n /in-creess/ a rise in amount, numbers, or degree.*

**incredible** /ɪn'krɛdɪbəl/, /in-**cre**-di-bul/ *adj* 1 unbelievable, hard to believe. 2 amazing, wonderful. • *n incredibility*.

**incredulous** /ɪn'krɛdjuləs/, /in-**cre**-ju-lus/ *adj* not willing to believe, unbelieving. • *n incredulity*.

**increment** /ɪnkrəmənt/, /in-cre-ment/ *n* an increase in money or value, often in salary.

**incriminate** /ɪn'krɪmɪneɪt/, /in-cri-mi-nate/ *vb* to show that a person has taken part in a crime.

**incubate** /ɪŋkjubeɪt/, /ing-cyu-bate/ *vb* 1 to sit on eggs, to keep eggs warm until the young come out of them. 2 (of eggs) to be kept warm until the young birds come out. 3 (of a disease or infection) to develop until signs of disease appear. 4 to be holding in the body an infection that is going to develop into a disease.

**incubation** /ɪŋkjubeɪʃən/, /ing-cyu-bay-shun/ *n* 1 act of incubating. 2 the time between the catching of a disease and the showing of symptoms.

**incubator** /ɪnkju,beɪtər/, /ing-cyu-bay-tor/ *n* 1 an apparatus for hatching eggs. 2 an apparatus for keeping alive premature babies.

**incurable** /ɪn'kjʊrəbəl/, /in-cyoo-ra-bul/ *adj* that cannot be cured.

**indebted** /ɪn'detəd/, /in-det-id/ *adj* owing thanks, owing something to someone or something. • *n indebtedness*.

**indecent** /ɪn'di:sənt/, /in-dee-sent/ *adj* 1 not decent, morally offensive, improper. 2 not suitable, not in good taste. • *n indecency*.

**indecision** /ɪndɪ'sɪzən/, /in-di-si-zhun/ *n* doubt, hesitation, inability to make up the mind.

**indecisive** /ɪn'dɪ'sɪsɪv/, /ɪn-di-sie-siv/ *adj* 1 uncertain, having difficulty in making decisions. 2 settling nothing.

**indeed** /ɪn'di:d/, /ɪn-deed/ *adv* truly.

**indefensible** /ɪn'dɪ'fɛnsəbəl/, /ɪn-de-fen-si-bul/ *adj* that cannot or should not be defended.

**indefinable** /ɪn'dɪ'fæməbəl/, /ɪn-de-fine-a-bul/ *adj* that cannot be clearly described or explained.

**indefinite** /ɪn'defənit/, /ɪn-def-nit/ *adj* 1 not fixed or exact, without clearly marked outlines or limits. 2 not clear, not precise, vague.

**indelicate** /ɪn'delɪkət/, /ɪn-de-li-kit/ *adj* 1 slightly indecent, improper. 2 lacking in tact. • *n* **indelicacy**.

**indent** /ɪn'dent/, /ɪn-dent/ *vb* 1 to make a notch or zigzag in. 2 to begin a line of text inward from the margin. 3 to order goods in writing. • *n* /ɪn-dent/ an order for goods.

**indentation** /ɪnden'teɪʃən/, /ɪn-den-tay-shun/ *n* 1 a notch or piece cut out of a straight edge. 2 the starting of a line of text inward from the margin.

**independence** /ɪn'dɪ'pendəns/, /ɪn-di-pen-dense/ *n* freedom to act or think as one likes; freedom.

**independent** /ɪn'dɪ'pendənt/, /ɪn-di-pen-dent/ *adj* 1 thinking and acting for oneself. 2 free from control by others. 3 having enough money to live without working or being helped by others.

**in-depth** /ɪn'deptθ/, /ɪn-depth/ *adj* carefully worked out, thorough.

**indescribable** /ɪn'dɪ'skrəibəbəl/, /ɪn-di-scrie-ba-bul/ *adj* that cannot be described.

**indestructible** /ɪn'dɪ'strɛktəbəl/, /ɪn-di-struc-ta-bul/ *adj* that cannot be destroyed.

**indeterminable** /ɪn'dɪ'tɜːmɪnəbəl/, /ɪn-di-ter-mi-na-bul/,  
 **indeterminate** /ɪn-di-ter-mi-nit/ *adj* not fixed, uncertain.

**index** /'ɪndeks/, /ɪn-deks/ *n* (*pl* **indexes** or **indices**) 1 the pointer on the dial or scale of an instrument. 2 something that indicates or points to. 3 an alphabetical list of names, subjects, etc, at the end of a book.

**indicate** /'ɪndɪkeɪt/, /ɪn-di-cate/ *vb* 1 to point out, to show. 2 to be a sign of. 3 to show to be necessary or desirable.

**indication** /ɪndɪ'keɪʃən/, /in-di-**cay**-shun/ *n* a sign.

**indicative** /ɪn'dɪkətɪv/, /in-di-**ca-tiv**/ *adj* showing, being a sign of.

**indicator** /'ɪndɪkeɪtər/, /in-di-**cay-tor**/ *n* 1 a needle or pointer on a machine that indicates something or gives information about something. 2 one of the lights on a car, truck, etc. that flashes to show which way the car is turning.

**indifference** /ɪn'dɪfrəns/, /in-di-frense/ *n* lack of interest.

**indifferent** /ɪn'dɪfrənt/, /in-di-frent/ *adj* 1 taking no interest, not caring.

2 neither good nor bad.

**indigenous** /ɪn'dɪdʒənəs/, /in-di-**je-nus**/ *adj* born or growing naturally in a country. • *n* **indigene**.

**indigestible** /ɪndɪ'dʒestəbəl/, /in-di-**je-sti-bul**/ *adj* not easily digested.

**indigestion** /ɪndɪ'dʒestʃən/, /in-di-**jes-chun**/ *n* illness or pain caused by failure to dissolve food properly in the stomach. • *adj* **indigestive**.

**indignant** /ɪn'dɪgnənt/, /in-di-**gnant**/ *adj* angry, annoyed by what is unjust. • *n* **indignation**.

**indignity** /ɪn'dɪgnɪti/, /in-di-**ni-tee**/ *n* treatment that makes a person feel shame or loss of respect.

**indigo** /'ɪndɪgo:/, /in-di-go/ *n* a blue dye obtained from certain plants. • *adj* deep blue.

**indirect** /ɪndɪ'rekt/, /in-di-**rect**/ *adj* 1 not leading straight to the destination, roundabout. 2 not direct, not straightforward, not frank. 3 not intended, not directly aimed at. • *n* **indirection**.

**indiscreet** /ɪndɪ'skrɪ:t/, /in-di-**screet**/ *adj* unwise, thoughtless, not careful of what you say or do.

**indiscretion** /ɪndɪ'skrɛʃən/, /in-di-**scree-shun**/ *n* 1 thoughtless behaviour. 2 an act done without thought of its results. 3 lack of good judgment.

**indiscriminate** /ɪndɪ'skrɪmɪnət/, /in-di-**scrim-nit**/ *adj* taking no notice of differences, choosing without care. • *n* **indiscrimination**.

**indispensable** /ɪndɪ'spensəbəl/, /in-di-**spen-si-bul**/ *adj* that cannot be done without, absolutely necessary.

**indisputable** /ɪndɪ'spjʊtəbəl/, /in-di-**spyoo-ti-bul**/ *adj* that cannot be denied or contradicted.

**indistinct** /ɪndɪ'stɪŋkt/, /in-di-**sting**t/ *adj* not seen or heard clearly, faint.

**indistinguishable** /ɪndɪ'stɪŋgwɪʃəbəl/, /in-di-**sting-gwi-sha-bul/ *adj* that cannot be made out as being different or separate.**

**individual** /ɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəl/, /in-di-**vij-u-wal/ *adj* 1 single. 2 intended for, used by, etc, one person only. 3 special to one person. • *n* 1 a single person. 2 (*inf*) a person.**

**individualism** /ɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəlɪzəm/, /in-di-**vij-wa-li-zum/ *n* 1 the belief that the rights of the single person are more important than those of society. 2 a person's individual character.**

**individualist** /ɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəlɪst/, /in-di-**vij-wa-list/ *n* a person who believes in doing things in his or her own way.**

**individuality** /ɪndɪvɪdʒu'ælɪti/, /in-di-vi-je-**wa-li-tee/ *n* a person's own character and qualities.**

**individualize** /ɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəlaɪz/, /in-di-**vij-wa-lize/ *vb*, also **individualise** to mark as different from other persons or things, to suit the taste, requirements, etc, of a particular individual.**

**individually** /ɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəli/, /in-di-**vij-wa-lee/ *adv* separately, one by one.**

**indivisible** /ɪndɪ'vɪzibəl/, /in-di-**vi-zi-bul/ *adj* that cannot be divided.**

**indoctrinate** /ɪn'dɒktrineɪt/, /in-**doc-tri-nate/ *vb* to bring to accept a system of beliefs unquestioningly.**

**indoors** /ɪn'dɔːz/, /in-**dores/ *adv* within doors, inside a house.**

**inducement** /-mənt/, /in-dyoos-ment/ *n* something that leads a person to try to do something, an attractive reason for doing something.

**indulge** /ɪn'dəldʒ/, /in-**duldge/ *vb* 1 to take pleasure in something, without trying to control oneself. 2 to give in to the wishes of.**

**indulgence** /ɪn'dəldʒəns/, /in-**dul-jense/ *n* 1 act of indulging. 2 in the Roman Catholic Church, a release from the punishment that is due to sinners.**

**indulgent** /ɪn'dəldʒənt/, /in-**dul-jent/ *adj* kindly, easygoing, ready to give in to the wishes of others.**

**industrial** /ɪn'destrɪəl/, /ɪn-du-stree-al/ *adj* having to do with the manufacturing of goods.

**industrialism** /ɪn'destrɪəlɪzəm/, /ɪn-du-stree-a-li-zum/ *n* social and economic organization featuring large industries, machine production, concentration of workers in cities, etc.

**industrious** /ɪn'destrɪəs/, /ɪn-du-stree-us/ *adj* hardworking, busy, skilful, clever.

**industry** /'ɪndəstri/, /ɪn-du-stree/ *n* 1 (*fm!*) the ability to work hard. 2 in trade or commerce, the work that is done to make goods ready for selling, the manufacturing and selling of goods.

**inedible** /ɪn'edɪbəl/, /i-ne-di-bul/ *adj* that should not or cannot be eaten.

**ineffective** /ɪnɪ'fektɪv/, /i-ne-fec-tiv/ *adj* useless, having no effect. • *n* **ineffectiveness**.

**ineffectual** /ɪnɪ'fektʃuəl/, /i-ne-fec-chal/ *adj* 1 not having the desired effect. 2 powerless, not able to get things done.

**inefficient** /ɪnɪ'fɪʃənt/, /i-ni-fi-shent/ *adj* 1 not good at a job, unable to do the job required. 2 not producing results in the best, quickest, and/or cheapest way. • *n* **inefficiency**.

**inept** /ɪn'ɛpt/, /i-nept/ *adj* clumsy, awkward.

**ineptitude** /ɪn'ɛptɪtju:d/, /i-nep-ti-tyood/ *n* clumsiness, awkwardness.

**inequality** /ɪn'kwɒlɪti/, /i-ne-kwol-i-tee/ *n* lack of equality, unevenness.

**inert** /ɪ'nərt/, /i-nert/ *adj* 1 without the power to move. 2 not wanting to take action, not taking action. 3 not acting chemically when combined with other substances.

**inertia** /ɪ'nərʃə/, /i-ner-sha/ *n* 1 unwillingness or inability to move. 2 the inability of matter to set itself in motion or to stop moving.

**inescapable** /ɪn'eskəpəbəl/, /i-ne-scay-pa-bul/ *adj* that cannot be avoided.

**inevitable** /ɪn'evɪtəbəl/, /i-ne-vi-ta-bul/ *adj* certain to happen. • *n* **inevitability**.

**inexact** /ɪnɪg'zækt/, /i-nig-zact/ *adj* not quite correct. • *n* **inexactitude**.

**inexcusable** /ɪn'ɪksjʊ:zəbəl/, /i-nik-**scyoo**-za-bul/ *adj* that cannot be forgiven or pardoned.

**inexpensive** /ɪn'ɪkspensɪv/, /i-nik-**spen**-siv/ *adj* cheap, not expensive.

**inexperience** /ɪn'ɪkspi:rɪəns/, /i-nik-**spee**-ree-ense/ *n* lack of skill or practice. • *adj* **inexperienced**.

**inexplicable** /ɪn'ɪksplɪkəbəl/, /i-nik-**spli**-ca-bul/ *adj* that cannot be explained, understood, or accounted for.

**infallible** /ɪn'fælɪbəl/, /in-**fa**-la-bul/ *adj* 1 unable to make a mistake. 2 that cannot fail. • *n* **infallibility**.

**infamous** /'ɪnfəməs/, /in-fa-mus/ *adj* having a bad reputation, famous for something bad or wicked. • *n* **infamy** the quality of being infamous, an infamous act.

**infancy** /'ɪnfənsi/, /in-fan-see/ *n* 1 babyhood. 2 the early stages of anything.

**infant** /'ɪnfənt/, /in-fant/ *n* a very young child, a baby.

**infantile** /'ɪnfəntɪl/, /in-fan-tile/ *adj* 1 childish. 2 having to do with infants.

**infantry** /'ɪnfəntri/, /in-fan-tree/ *n* foot soldiers.

**infatuate** /ɪn'fætʃu:eɪt/, /in-**fa**-chu-wate/ *vb* 1 to make foolish. 2 to inspire with foolish love or affection.

**infatuated** /ɪn'fætʃu:eɪtəd/, /in-**fa**-chu-way-tid/ *adj* loving foolishly or unreasonably. • *n* **infatuation**.

**infect** /ɪn'fekt/, /in-**fect**/ *vb* 1 to pass on a disease to another. 2 to make impure by spreading disease into it. 3 to pass on or spread.

**infection** /ɪn'fekʃən/, /in-**fec**-shun/ *n* the passing on or spreading of disease, or anything harmful.

**infectious** /ɪn'fekʃəs/, /in-**fec**-shus/ *adj* that can be passed on to others.

**infer** /ɪn'fər/, /in-**fer**/ *vb* (**inferred**, **inferring**) 1 to work out an idea from the facts known. 2 (*inf*) to suggest by hints.

**inference** /ɪnfərəns/, /in-frense/ *n* an idea or conclusion worked out from the known facts.

**inferior** /ɪn'fi:rɪər/, /in-**fee**-ree-ur/ *adj* 1 of lesser value or importance. 2 of bad quality. • *n* a person lower in rank.

**infertile** /ɪn'fərtail/, /in-**fer**-tile/ *adj* not fertile, barren.

**infest** /in'fest/, /in-fest/ *vb* to be present in very large numbers in.

**infiltrate** /'infil,treɪt/, /in-fil-trate/ *vb* **1** to pass through, a few at a time. **2** to enter and secretly, gradually become part of, usually with an unfriendly purpose. • *n* **infiltration**.

**infinite** /'ɪnfɪnit/, /in-fi-nit/ *adj* **1** having neither beginning nor end, limitless. **2** (*inf*) very great.

**infinitive** /m'fɪnɪtɪv/, /in-fi-ni-tiv/ *n* the form of a verb that expresses action without referring to a person, number, or tense (e.g. to go, to live, to see).

**infinity** /m'fɪnɪti/, /in-fi-ni-tee/ *n* **1** space, time, or quantity that is without limit or is immeasurably great or small. **2** an indefinitely large number, quantity, or distance.

**infirm** /in'fərm/, /in-firm/ *adj* weak, sickly.

**infirmary** /m'fərməri/, /in-firm-ree/ *n* a hospital.

**infirmity** /m'fərməti/, /in-fir-mi-tee/ *n* illness, weakness.

**inflammable** /in'flæməbəl/, /in-fla-ma-bul/ *adj* easily set on fire.

**inflammation** /ɪnflə'meɪʃən/, /in-fla-may-shun/ *n* a swelling on part of the body, accompanied by heat and pain.

**inflammatory** /ɪn'flæmətɔri/, /in-fla-ma-to-ree/ *adj* causing excitement or anger.

**inflate** /in'fleɪt/, /in-flate/ *vb* **1** to puff up. **2** to make to swell by filling with air or gas. **3** to increase in price or value. • *adj* **inflatable**.

**inflation** /ɪn'fleɪʃən/, /in-flay-shun/ *n* **1** act of inflating. **2** a situation in a country's economy where prices and wages keep forcing each other to increase. • *adj* **inflationary**.

**inflexible** /ɪn'fleksɪbəl/, /in-flek-si-bul/ *adj* **1** that cannot be bent; stiff and firm. **2** not easily changed. **3** not giving in. • *n* **inflexibility**.

**inflict** /ɪn'flikt/, /in-flict/ *vb* to force something unpleasant or unwanted on someone.

**infliction** /ɪn'fliktʃən/, /in-flic-shun/ *n* **1** the act of inflicting. **2** punishment.

**in-flight** /'ɪnflaɪt/, /in-flite/ *adj* done, occurring, shown, etc. while an aircraft is in flight.

**influence** /'ɪnflu:əns/, /in-floo-ense/ *n* **1** the ability to affect other people or the course of events. **2** the power to make requests to

those in authority. • *vb* to have an effect on.

**influential** /'ɪnflu'ɛnʃəl/, /in-floo-**en**-shal/ *adj* having power, important.

**influenza** /'ɪnflu'ɛnzə/, /in-floo-**en**-za/ *n* a type of infectious illness, usually causing headache, fever, cold symptoms, etc. • *abbr* **flu**.

**inform** /ɪn'fɔrm/, /in-fawrm/ *vb* 1 to tell, to give information. 2 to teach, to give knowledge to. 3 to tell facts to the police or authorities about a criminal, etc.

**informal** /ɪn'fɔrməl/, /in-fawr-mal/ *adj* 1 without ceremony. 2 not bound by rules or accepted ways of behaving. 3 suitable for ordinary everyday situations. • *n* **informality**.

**information** /ɪnfər'meɪʃən/, /in-fur-**may**-shun/ *n* facts told, knowledge in the form of facts, news, etc.

**information technology** /ɪnfər'meɪʃən tek'nɒlədʒi:/, /in-fur-**may**-shun tek-nol-o-jee/ *n* the use of computers and other electronic equipment to produce, store, and communicate information.

**informative** /ɪn'fɔrmətɪv/, /in-fawr-ma-tiv/ *adj* giving news or facts.

**informer** /ɪn'fɔrmər/, /in-fawr-mer/ *n* someone who gives away the plans of others.

**infrequent** /ɪn'fri:kwənt/, /in-free-kwent/ *adj* not happening often. • *n* **infrequency**.

**infuriate** /ɪn'fjʊrɪeɪt/, /in-fyoo-ree-ate/ *vb* to madden, to make very angry.

**infuse** /ɪn'fju:z/, /in-fyooz/ *vb* 1 to put into. 2 to steep in hot liquid.

**infusion** /ɪn'fju:ʒən/, /in-fyoo-zhun/ *n* 1 act of infusing. 2 a liquid given taste or colour by something steeped in it.

**ingenious** /ɪn'dʒi:nɪəs/, /in-jeen-yus/ *adj* 1 having good or new ideas, inventive. 2 cleverly thought out.

**ingenuity** /ɪndʒɪ'nju:iti/, /in-je-**noo**-i-tee/ *n* 1 cleverness, inventiveness. 2 the ability to invent; cleverness.

**ingot** /'ɪngət/, /ing-gut/ *n* a bar or block of metal, especially gold or silver, got from a mould.

**ingrained** /ɪn'greɪnd/, /in-graind/ *adj* fixed firmly in. • *vb* **ingrain**.

**ingredient** /ɪn'grɪ:dɪənt/, /in-gree-dee-ent/ *n* one of the things in a mixture.

**ingrown** /ɪn'gro:n/, /in-groan/ *adj* grown within, inward, or into, especially grown into the flesh. • *n* **ingrowth**.

**inhabit** /ɪn'hæbɪt/, /in-ha-bit/ *vb* to live in.

**inhabitable** /ɪn'hæbɪtəbəl/, /in-ha-bi-ta-bul/ *adj* that can be lived in.

**inhabitant** /ɪn'hæbɪtənt/, /in-ha-bi-tant/ *n* a person who lives in a certain place.

**inhabited** /ɪn'hæbɪtəd/, /in-ha-bi-tid/ *adj* having inhabitants, lived in, occupied.

**inhalation** /ɪnhe'lɪʃən/, /in-ha-lay-shun/ *n* 1 act of breathing in. 2 something that is breathed in.

**inhale** /ɪn'heɪl/, /in-hale/ *vb* to breathe in.

**inhaler** /ɪn'herlər/, /in-hay-ler/ *n* a device for giving medicine in the form of a vapour by inhalation.

**inherit** /ɪn'herit/, /in-he-rit/ *vb* 1 to receive something from another at his or her death. 2 to receive certain qualities through the parents. • *n* **inheritor**.

**inheritance** /ɪn'heritəns/, /in-he-ri-tanse/ *n* that which is inherited.

**inhibit** /ɪn'hɪbit/, /in-hi-bit/ *vb* 1 to prevent or hinder, to hold back from doing. 2 to make someone inhibited. • *n* **inhibitor**.

**inhibited** /ɪn'hɪbitəd/, /in-hi-bi-tid/ *adj* unable to relax and express feelings in an open and natural way.

**inhibition** /ɪnhi'bɪʃən/, /in-hi-bi-shun/ *n* a belief or fear of which a person is not aware but which may prevent him or her from performing certain actions.

**inhospitable** /ɪnhɒ'spitəbəl/, /in-hos-pi-ta-bul/ *adj* not welcoming visitors, not kind to strangers. • *n* **inhospitality**.

**inhuman** /ɪn'hju:mən/, /in-hyoo-man/ *adj* not having the qualities considered normal to, or for, humans; cruel, brutal, unkind.

**inhumane** /ɪnhju:'meɪn/, /in-hyoo-mane/ *adj* unmoved by the suffering of others, cruel, merciless, brutal, unkind.

**inhumanity** /ɪnhju:'mænɪti/, /in-hyoo-ma-ni-tee/ *n* the quality or condition of being inhuman or inhumane.

**inimitable** /'nɪmɪtəbəl/, /i-ni-mi-ta-bul/ *adj* that cannot be copied, too good to be equalled.

**initial** /'ɪnɪʃəl/, /i-ni-shal/ *adj* first, happening at the beginning. • *adv initially*. • *vb (initialled, initialling)* to mark or write initials. • *npl the first letters of each of a person's names.*

**initiate** /ɪ'nɪʃeɪt/, /i-ni-she-ate/ *vb* 1 to begin. 2 to teach the ways of a society to a new member. • *n initiation*.

**initiative** /ɪ'nɪʃətɪv/, /i-ni-sha-tiv/ *n* 1 the ability to make decisions and take action without asking for help and advice. 2 the first movement or action that starts something happening.

**inject** /ɪn'dʒɛkt/, /in-ject/ *vb* 1 to put into the bloodstream through a hollow needle. 2 to put in. • *n injection*.

**injure** /'ɪndʒər/, /in-joor/ *vb* 1 to hurt. 2 to harm, to damage.

**injury** /'ɪndʒəri/, /in-ju-ree/ *n* 1 damage, harm, hurt. 2 a physical hurt or wound.

**injustice** /ɪn'dʒɛstɪs/, /in-ju-stiss/ *n* 1 unfairness. 2 an unfair act.

**ink** /ɪŋk/, /ingk/ *n* a coloured liquid used for writing or printing. • *vb to mark with ink*.

**inkblot** /'ɪŋk blɒt/, /ingk-blot/ *n* any of a group of irregular patterns made by blots of ink and used in certain kinds of tests, as for the way a person thinks.

**inkjet** /'ɪŋk jet/, /ingk-jet/ *adj* of a high-speed printing process in which ink droplets are formed into printed characters on paper.

**inky** /'ɪŋki/, /ing-kee/ *adj* 1 stained with ink. 2 like ink in colour, dark.

**inlaid** see **inlay**.

**inland** /'ɪnlænd/, /in-land/ *n* the part of a country away from the sea coast or border. • *adj* 1 having to do with a country's own affairs. 2 away from the coast or border. • *also adv*.

**in-law** /'ɪnlɔ:/, /in-law/ *n* a relative by marriage.

**inlay** /ɪn'leɪ/, /in-lay/ *vb (pt, pp inlaid)* to decorate by filling carved designs with gold, silver, ivory, etc. • *adj inlaid*. • *n inlay*.

**inlet** /'ɪnlɛt/, /in-let/ *n* 1 a way in. 2 a small bay.

**in-line skate** /'ɪnlɪn skeɪt/, /in-line skate/ *n* a kind of roller skate having wheels arranged in a straight line like a blade from toe to heel.

**inmate** /'ɪnmɛɪt/, /in-mate/ *n* a person living with others in the same house, hospital, prison, etc.

**inmost** /'ɪnməʊst/, /ɪn-moʊst/ *adj* farthest in.

**inn** /ɪn/, /ɪn/ *n* an establishment where travellers may pay to eat, drink, and/or stay for the night.

**innards** /'ɪnərdz/, /ɪ-nərdz/ *n* the inner parts of anything.

**innate** /ɪ'nɛɪt/, /i-nate/ *adj* existing naturally rather than being acquired; that seems to have been in a person since birth.

**inner** /'ɪnər/, /ɪ-ner/ *adj* farther in.

**innkeeper** /ɪn,kɪ:pər/, /ɪn-kee-per/ *n* the person who is in charge of an inn.

**innocence** /'ɪnəsəns/, /i-no-sense/ *n* freedom from blame or wickedness.

**innocent** /'ɪnəsənt/, /i-no-sent/ *adj* 1 not guilty. 2 having no knowledge or experience of evil.

**innocuous** /ɪ'nɒkjʊəs/, /i-no-kjoo-wus/ *adj* harmless.

**innovation** /ɪnə'u'veiʃən/, /i-no-vay-shun/ *n* 1 a new way of doing something, a new thing or idea. 2 the introduction of new things or ideas. • *vb* /ɪnə'u'veiʃən/, /i-no-vay-shun/ **innovate** to renew, to introduce new ways of doing things.

**innuendo** /ɪnju'endo:/, /i-nyoo-wen-doe/ *n* (*pl* **innuendos** or **innuendos**) 1 a way of speaking that makes one understand what is meant without actually saying it. 2 an indirect hint.

**innumerate** /ɪ'nju:mərət/, /i-nyoo-me-ret/ *adj* unable to do math and arithmetical problems.

**inoculate** /ɪ'nɒkjʊleɪt/, /i-no-cjoo-late/ *vb* to infect slightly with the germs of a disease to prevent more serious infection. • *n* **inoculation**.

**inoffensive** /ɪnə'fɛnsɪv/, /i-no-fen-siv/ *adj* not causing harm or trouble.

**inpatient** /ɪn'peɪsənt/, /in-pay-shent/ *n* a patient who is kept in a hospital for more than a day.

**input** /'ɪnpʊt/, /in-poot/ *n* 1 the act of putting in. 2 what is put in, as in the amount of money, material, effort, opinion, etc.

**inquire**, **enquire** /ɪn'kwair/, /in-kwir/ *vb* 1 to ask. 2 to ask for information about. 3 to try to discover the facts of.

**inquiring** /ɪn'kwairɪŋ/, /in-kwir-ing/ *adj* seeking information, curious.

**inquiry, enquiry** /ɪn'kwairi/, /in-kwɪ-ree/ *n* **1** a question. **2** a careful search for information, an investigation.

**inquisition** /ɪnkwə'zɪʃən/, /in-kwi-zɪ-shun/ *n* (*fml*) an inquiry involving a long period of detailed questioning or investigation. • *n inquisitor*.

**inquisitive** /ɪn'kwɪzɪtɪv/, /in-kwi-zi-tiv/ *adj* **1** eager to seek information. **2** asking too many questions, especially about other people; prying.

**inroad** /'ɪnro:d/, /in-road/ *n* a raid, a sudden attack.

**insane** /ɪn'seɪn/, /in-sane/ *adj* **1** mentally ill. **2** (*inf*) very unwise, very foolish.

**insanity** /ɪn'sænɪti/, /in-sa-ni-tee/ *n* the state of being insane; mental illness.

**inscribe** /ɪn'skraɪb/, /in-scribe/ *vb* to write in a book or engrave on stone, etc.

**inscription** /ɪn'skripʃən/, /in-scrip-shun/ *n* words written on something, often as a tribute.

**insect** /'ɪnsekt/, /in-sect/ *n* any of a large group of small creatures that have a body divided into three sections, six legs, and usually wings.

**insecure** /ɪn'sɪkjʊr/, /in-si-cyoor/ *adj* **1** anxious and unsure of oneself, lacking confidence. **2** (*fml*) not safe, likely to be lost. **3** (*fml*) not safe or firmly fixed. • *n insecurity*.

**insensible** /ɪn'sensəbəl/, /in-sen-si-bul/ *adj* **1** unaware. **2** without feeling, indifferent. **3** unconscious.

**insensitive** /ɪn'sensɪtɪv/, /in-sen-si-tiv/ *adj* **1** not noticing the feelings of others. **2** not quick to feel or notice.

**inseparable** /ɪn'seprəbəl/, /in-se-pra-bul/ *adj* that cannot be put apart.

**insert** /ɪn'sərt/, /in-sert/ *vb* to put in or among.

**insertion** /ɪn'sərʃən/, /in-ser-shun/ *n* **1** something inserted. **2** the act of inserting.

**Inset** /'ɪnset/, /in-set/ *n* an extra piece set in (e.g. a small picture in a larger one). • *vb inset*.

**inside** /ɪn'saɪd/, /in-side/ *n* **1** the inner side or part. **2** *pl* (*inf*) the internal organs, stomach, bowels. • *adj /in-side/ 1 internal. 2*

known only to insiders, secret. • *adv* 1 on or in the inside, within, indoors. 2 (*inf*) in prison. • *prep* in or within.

**insider** /ɪn'saɪdər/, /in-sie-der/ *n* 1 a person inside a given place or group. 2 a person having or likely to have secret information.

**insidious** /ɪn'sɪdiəs/, /in-si-dee-us/ *adj* developing gradually, without being noticed, and causing harm.

**insight** /'ɪnsəit/, /in-site/ *n* ability to see the real meaning or importance of something, thorough knowledge. • *adj* **insightful**.

**insignia** /ɪn'siɡniə/, /in-sig-nee-ya/ *npl* badges of rank, membership, or honour.

**insignificant** /ɪn'sɪɡ'nɪfɪkənt/, /in-sig-ni-fi-cant/ *adj* of little importance. • *n* **insignificance**.

**insincere** /ɪn'sɪn'siːr/, /in-sin-seer/ *adj* not meaning what is said, false, not truly meant. • *n* **insincerity**.

**insinuate** /ɪn'sɪnju,eɪt/, /in-sin-yu-wate/ *vb* 1 to make way gradually and cunningly. 2 to hint in an unpleasant way. • *n* **insinuation**.

**insipid** /ɪn'sɪpɪd/, /in-si-pid/ *adj* 1 having no taste or flavour. 2 uninteresting, dull.

**insist** /ɪn'sɪst/, /in-sist/ *vb* 1 to state firmly, to demand or urge strongly. 2 to keep on saying.

**insistent** /ɪn'sɪstənt/, /in-sis-tent/ *adj* 1 firm. 2 wanting immediate attention. • *n* **insistence**.

**insole** /'ɪnso:l/, /in-sole/ *n* the inside sole of a shoe.

**insolent** /'ɪnso'lənt/, /in-so-lent/ *adj* rude, boldly insulting or disrespectful. • *n* **insolence**.

**insoluble** /ɪn'sɒljubəl/, /in-sol-yu-bul/ *adj* 1 impossible to dissolve. 2 that cannot be solved.

**insomnia** /ɪn'sɔmniə/, /in-som-nee-ya/ *n* sleeplessness.

**inspect** /ɪn'spekt/, /in-spect/ *vb* to look at closely, to examine.

**inspection** /ɪn'spekfʃən/, /in-spec-shun/ *n* an examination.

**inspector** /ɪn'spektər/, /in-spec-tor/ *n* 1 someone who inspects. 2 someone who examines the work of others to see that it is done properly. 3 a rank of police officer.

**inspectorate** /ɪn'spektərət/, /in-spec-taw-rit/ *n* a body or group of inspectors.

**inspiration** /ɪnspɪ'reɪʃən/, /in-spi-ray-shun/ *n* 1 (*fm!*) the breathing in of air. 2 a person or thing that encourages a person to use his or her powers, gifts, talent, etc. 3 the encouragement so given. • *adj*  **inspirational.**

**inspire** /ɪn'spaɪr/, /in-spire/ *vb* 1 (*fm!*) to breathe in. 2 to encourage someone with the desire and ability to take action by filling with eagerness, confidence, etc. 3 to be the force that produces something, to be the origin of. 4 to arouse in someone.

**instability** /ɪnstə'biliti/, /in-sta-bi-li-tee/ *n* unsteadiness.

**install** /ɪn'stɒl/, /in-stawl/ *vb* 1 to place in office, especially with ceremony. 2 to put in place. • *n*  **installation.**

**instalment** /ɪn'stɒlmənt/, /in-stawl-mənt/ *n*, also  **installment** (*US*) 1 payment of part of a sum of money owed. 2 part of a serial story published or broadcast at one time.

**instance** /'ɪnstəns/, /in-stanse/ *n* an example. •  **for instance** for example. • *vb* to give or quote as an example.

**instant** /'ɪnstənt/, /in-stant/ *adj* 1 immediate. 2 concentrated or precooked for quick preparation. • *n* 1 a moment. 2 the exact moment. • *adv*  **instantly** at once.

**instantaneous** /ɪnstan'teɪniəs/, /in-stan-tay-nee-us/ *adj* happening or done very quickly.

**instate** /ɪn'steɪt/, /in-state/ *vb* to put in a particular status, position, or rank.

**instead** /ɪn'sted/, /in-sted/ *adv* in place of.

**instep** /'ɪnstep/, /in-step/ *n* the upper part of the foot between the ankle and the toes.

**instil** /ɪn'stɪl/, /in-still/ *vb*, also  **instill** (*US*) (**instilled**, **instilling**) to put in the mind, little by little.

**instinct** /'ɪnstriŋkt/, /in-stingkt/ *n* a natural tendency to behave or react in a particular way without having been taught.

**instinctive** /ɪn'striŋktɪv/, /in-stink-tiv/ *adj* done at once without thinking, natural.

**institute** /'ɪnstri:tju:t/, /in-sti-toot/ *vb* to set up for the first time. • *n* 1 an organization, especially one connected with a particular

profession, working to achieve a certain purpose. **2** the building in which such a society meets or works.

**institution** /ɪn'stru:ʃən/, /in-sti-**too**-shun/ *n* **1** an organization, usually a long-established or well-respected one. **2** the building used by such an organization. **3** an accepted custom or tradition. • *adj* **institutional**.

**institutionalize** /ɪn'stru:ʃənə,laɪz/, /in-sti-**too**-shna-lize/ *vb*, *also institutionalise* **1** to make into an institution. **2** to place in an institution.

**instruct** /ɪn'strɛkt/, /in-**struc**t/ *vb* **1** to teach. **2** to order.

**instruction** /ɪn'strɛkʃən/, /in-**struc**-shun/ *n* **1** teaching. **2** an order. **3** *pl* information on how to use something correctly.

**instructive** /ɪn'strɛktɪv/, /in-**struc**-tiv/ *adj* giving knowledge or information.

**instructor** /-ɔr/, /in-**struc**-tor/ *n* a teacher, a coach, someone who instructs.

**instrument** /'ɪnstrəmənt/, /in-**stru**-ment/ *n* **1** a tool, especially one used for delicate work. **2** a device producing musical sound. **3** a device for measuring, recording, controlling, etc, especially in an aircraft.

**instrumental** /ɪn'strə'mentəl/, /in-**stru**-men-tal/ *adj* **1** being the cause of. **2** played on musical instruments. • *n* **instrumentality** the state of being instrumental.

**instrumentation** /ɪn'strəmen'teɪʃən/, /in-**stru**-men-tay-shun/ *n* **1** the arrangement of music for instruments. **2** the act of using instruments, especially scientific instruments. **3** the instruments used.

**insubstantial** /ɪn'səb'stænʃəl/, /in-sub-**stan**-shal/ *adj* **1** weak or flimsy. **2** not real, imaginary.

**insufferable** /ɪn'səfərəbəl/, /in-**suf**-ra-bul/ *adj* unbearable.

**insufficient** /ɪn'sə'fɪʃənt/, /in-su-fi-shent/ *adj* not enough. • *n* **insufficiency**.

**insular** /'ɪnsʊlər/, /in-syoo-lar/ *adj* **1** (*frm*) having to do with an island. **2** narrow-minded.

**insularity** /ɪn'su'lærɪti:/ /in-su-**la**-ri-tee/ *n* narrow-mindedness.

**insulate** /'ɪnsəleɪt/, /in-su-late/ *vb* 1 to keep apart. 2 to cover with a special material to prevent the loss of electricity or heat. • *n insulation.*

**insulator** /'ɪnsəleɪtər/, /in-su-lay-tor/ *n* a material that does not allow electricity or heat to pass through it.

**insulin** /'ɪnsəlɪn/, /in-su-lin/ *n* a substance that if given as a medicine helps to use up the sugar in the body when there is too much of it.

**insult** /ɪn'salt/, /in-sult/ *vb* to speak rude or hurtful words to or of. • *n /in-sult/.*

**insupportable** /ɪnse'pɔrtəbəl/, /in-su-pore-ta-bul/ *adj* unbearable, not capable of being upheld or supported.

**insure** /ɪn'ʃʊr/, /in-shoor/ *vb* to pay regular sums to a society on condition that the payer receives an agreed amount of money in case of loss, accident, death, etc. • *n insurance.*

**insured** /ɪn'ʃurd/, /in-shoord/ *n* a person whose life, property, etc. is insured against loss or damage.

**insurer** /ɪn'ʃurər/, /in-shoo-rer/ *n* a person or company that insures others against loss or damage.

**insurmountable** /ɪnsər'maʊntəbəl/, /in-sur-moun-ta-bul/ *adj* that cannot be passed over or overcome.

**intact** /ɪn'tækt/, /in-tact/ *adj* untouched, unharmed, with no part missing.

**intake** /'ɪnteɪk/, /in-take/ *n* the act or process of taking in.

**intangible** /ɪn'tændʒəbəl/, /in-tan-ji-bul/ *adj* 1 that cannot be touched.  
2 not able to be clearly defined or understood.

**integer** /'ɪntɪdʒər/, /in-ti-jer/ *n* a whole number.

**integral** /'ɪntəgrəl/, /in-ti-gral/ *adj* necessary to make something complete. • *also n.*

**integrate** /'ɪntəgret/, /in-ti-grade/ *vb* 1 to join in society as a whole, to mix freely with other groups. 2 to fit parts together to form a whole. • *n integration.*

**integrity** /ɪn'teɡrɪti/, /in-te-gri-tee/ *n* 1 the state of being whole and undivided, completeness. 2 honesty, sincerity.

**intellect** /ɪntə'lɛkt/, /in-ti-lect/ *n* 1 the mind, the power to think and understand. 2 someone with great intellect.

**intellectual** /intə'lektʃuəl/, /in-ti-lec-chu-wal/ *adj* 1 having a high intellect. 2 having to do with the intellect. • *also n.*

**intelligence** /in'telɪdʒəns/, /in-te-li-jense/ *n* 1 cleverness, quickness of mind or understanding. 2 (*fml*) news.

**intelligent** /in'telɪdʒənt/, /in-te-li-jent/ *adj* having a quick mind, clever.

**intelligible** /in'telɪdʒəbəl/, /in-te-li-ji-bul/ *adj* clear, that can be understood.

**intemperate** /in'tempərət/, /in-tem-per-it/ *adj* 1 lacking self-control, given to taking too much, especially strong drink. 2 more than is desirable. 3 excessive, unrestrained. 4 extreme. • *n intemperance.*

**intend** /in'tend/, /in-tend/ *vb* 1 to have as a purpose. 2 to mean. • *adj intended* meant, planned for the future.

**intense** /in'tens/, /in-tense/ *adj* 1 very great. 2 very serious.

**intensify** /in'tensə,fai/, /in-ten-si-fie/ *vb* to make greater or more severe. • *n intensifier* a person or thing that makes greater or more severe.

**intensity** /in'tensiti/, /in-ten-si-tee/ *n* 1 strength. 2 seriousness, earnestness. 3 great energy, emotion, thought.

**intensive** /in'tensiv/, /in-ten-siv/ *adj* increasing or degree or amount.

**intent** /in'tent/, /in-tent/ *adj* 1 attending carefully. 2 eager, planning or wanting to do something. • *n (fml) purpose.*

**intention** /in'tenʃən/, /in-ten-shun/ *n* purpose, aim in doing something.

**intentional** /in'tenʃənəl/, /in-ten-shu-nal/ *adj* done on purpose.

**inter** /in'tər/, /in-ter/ *vb* (**interred**, **interring**) (*fml*) to bury.

**inter-** /'intər/, /in-ter/ *prefix* between, among.

**interact** /intə'rækt/, /in-te-ract/ *vb* to act on each other. • *n interaction.*

**intercede** /intər'si:d/, /in-ter-seed/ *vb* 1 to try to settle a dispute or quarrel between others. 2 to speak in defence of another.

**intercept** /intər'sept/, /in-ter-sept/ *vb* to stop or catch on the way from one place to another. • *n interception.*

**interchange** /intər'tseindʒ/, /in-ter-change/ *vb* 1 to change places with each other. 2 to give and receive in return. • *n an exchange.*

**interchangeable** /-əbəl/, /in-ter-chane-ja-bul/ *adj* that which can be exchanged for each other.

**intercourse** /'intərkɔ:s/, /in-ter-coarse/ *n* **1** interaction between people. **2** sexual intercourse.

**interest** /'intrəst/, /in-trest/ *n* **1** something in which a person takes part eagerly. **2** advantage. **3** eager attention. **4** concern. **5** the money paid for the use of a loan of money. • *vb* to gain the attention of.

**interesting** /'intrəstɪŋ/, /in-tres-ting/ *adj* arousing interest.

**interface** /'intərfeɪs/, /in-ter-face/ *n* the point at which two subjects affect each other or are connected.

**interfere** /,intər'fi:r/, /in-ter-fere/ *vb* **1** to get in the way of, to prevent from working or happening. **2** to force oneself into the affairs of others. **3** to touch or move something that is not supposed to be touched or moved.

**interference** /,intər'firəns/, /in-ter-fee-rence/ *n* **1** act of interfering. **2** the interruption of radio broadcasts by atmospherics or other broadcasts.

**intergalactic** /,intərgə'læktɪk/, /in-ter-ga-lac-tic/ *adj* existing or occurring between or among galaxies.

**interim** /'intərɪm/, /in-te-rim/ *n* the meantime, the time between two events. • *adj* acting for a time only.

**interior** /in'ti:ri:ər/, /in-tee-ree-ur/ *adj* **1** inner. **2** inland. • *n* **1** the inner part. **2** the inland part.

**interject** /,intər'dʒeкт/, /in-ter-ject/ *vb* **1** to say something short and sudden. **2** to put in a remark when another is speaking.

**interjection** /,intər'dʒekʃən/, /in-ter-jec-shun/ *n* **1** a short word expressing surprise, interest, disapproval, etc. **2** a remark made when another is speaking.

**interlude** /'intərlu:d/, /in-ter-lood/ *n* **1** an interval between the acts of a play, etc. **2** the music or other entertainment provided during such an interval. **3** a period of time that comes between two events or activities.

**intermediate** /,intər'mi:di:t/, /in-ter-mee-dee-it/ *adj* coming between two other things, in the middle.

**interminable** /ɪn'tɜːmɪnəbəl/, /in-ter-mi-na-bul/ *adj* without, or apparently without, end; seeming to last forever.

**intermission** /ɪntɜː'mɪʃən/, /in-ter-mi-shun/ *n* an interval, a time between two parts.

**intermittent** /ɪntɜː'mɪtənt/, /in-ter-mi-tent/ *adj* stopping for a time, then going on again; happening at intervals.

**intern** /'ɪntərn/, /in-tern/ *n* a person, especially a student, working in a professional field to gain experience in the work place. • *vb* /in-tern/ to detain or confine people, ships, etc. as during a war. • *n* **internment**.

**internal** /ɪn'tɜːnəl/, /in-ter-nal/ *adj* 1 having to do with the inside, especially of the body. 2 of a person's own country.

**international** /ɪntɜː'næʃənəl/, /in-ter-nash-nal/ *adj* having to do with several or many countries. • *n* a person associated with two different countries.

**Internet** /'ɪntərnet/, /in-ter-net/ *n* the worldwide system of linked computer networks.

**interplay** /'ɪntərpleɪ/, /in-ter-play/ *n* the action of one thing on another.

**interpret** /ɪn'tɜːprɛt/, /in-ter-pret/ *vb* 1 to explain the meaning of. 2 to understand the meaning to be. 3 to translate from one language into another. • *adj* **interpretive**.

**interpretation** /ɪn'tɜːprə'teɪʃən/, /in-ter-pre-tay-shun/ *n* 1 act of interpreting. 2 the meaning given to a work of art by a critic or performer.

**interpreter** /ɪn'tɜːprɛtər/, /in-ter-pre-ter/ *n* someone who translates from one speaker's language into another's.

**interracial** /ɪntɜː'reɪʃəl/, /in-ter-ray-shal/ *adj* between, among, or involving members of different races.

**interrogate** /ɪn'terəgeɪt/, /in-te-ro-gate/ *vb* to put questions to.

**interrogation** /ɪn'terəgeɪʃən/, /in-te-ro-gay-shun/ *n* 1 the act of interrogating.

**interrogative** /ɪntə'rɒgətɪv/, /in-te-rog-a-tiv/ *adj* asking a question, having to do with questions.

**interrupt** /ɪn'tə'rɛpt/, /in-te-rupt/ *vb* 1 to break flow of speech or action. 2 to stop a person while he or she is saying or doing something. 3 (*fml*) to cut off. • *n* **interrupter** a person who interrupts.

**interruption** /ɪn'tə'rupʃən/, /in-te-rup-shun/ *n* a remark or action that causes a stoppage.

**intersect** /ɪn'tər'sekt/, /in-ter-sect/ *vb* to cut across each other.

**intersection** /ɪn'tər'sekjən/, /in-ter-sec-shun/ *n* the point at which lines or roads cross each other.

**intersperse** /ɪn'tər'spərs/, /in-ter-sperse/ *vb* to scatter over, to put here and there.

**interstellar** /ɪn'tər'stelər/, /in-ter-ste-lar/ *adj* among or between the stars.

**intertwine** /ɪn'tərtwайн/, /in-ter-twine/ *vb* to twist together.

**interval** /'ɪntərvəl/, /in-ter-val/ *n* 1 the time or distance between. 2 a break, a spell of free time. 3 a short break in a play, concert, etc. 4 the difference of pitch between two musical sounds.

**intervene** /ɪn'tər'vein/, /in-ter-veen/ *vb* 1 to interrupt, to interfere. 2 to be or to happen between (in time). 3 to happen so as to prevent something. • *n* **intervention**.

**interview** /'ɪntər'vju:/, /in-ter-vyoo/ *n* 1 a meeting at which a person applying for a job is questioned. 2 a meeting with a person to get information or to do business. • *also vb*.

**intestinal** /ɪn'testɪnəl/, /in-tes-ti-nal/ *adj* having to do with the intestines.

**intestines** /ɪn'testɪnz/, /in-tes-tinz/ *npl* the inner parts of the body, especially the bowels.

**intifada** /ɪn'təfədə/, /in-ti-fa-da/ *n* an uprising, specifically the uprising of Palestinian Arabs against Israeli military forces in occupied territories of the Gaza Strip and the west bank of the Jordon River, begun in 1987.

**intimacy** /'ɪntɪməsi/, /in-ti-ma-see/ *n* closeness, close relationship.

**intimate** /'ɪntɪmət/, /in-ti-mit/ *adj* 1 having a close relationship. 2 having a close knowledge of. • *n* a close friend. • *vb* (*fml*) /ɪn-ti-mate/ to make known.

**intimation** /'intr'meɪʃən/, /in-ti-may-shun/ *n* 1 (*frm*) a hint. 2 an announcement.

**intimidate** /ɪn'tɪmɪdeɪt/, /in-ti-mi-date/ *vb* to make afraid, e.g. by making threats. • *n* **intimidation**.

**into** /'intu:, 'intə/, /in-too/ *prep* 1 from the outside to the inside. 2 continuing to the midst of. 3 to the form, substance, or condition of. 4 so as to strike, against. 5 to the work or activity of.

**intolerable** /ɪn'tɔlərəbəl/, /in-tol-ra-bul/ *adj* that cannot or should not be put up with.

**intolerant** /ɪn'tɔlərənt/, /in-tol-'r-ant/ *adj* not willing to put up with actions or opinions that are different from one's own; narrow-minded. • *n* **intolerance**.

**intonation** /ɪntə'neɪʃən/, /in-tu-nay-shun/ *n* the rise and fall of the voice while speaking.

**intoxicate** /ɪn'tɒksɪkeɪt/, /in-tok-si-cate/ *vb* 1 to make drunk or stupefied. 2 to excite greatly. • *n* **intoxication**.

**intra-** /'intrə/, /in-tra/ *prefix* within, inside.

**intranet** /'intrənet/, /in-tra-net/ *n* a private computer network using Internet technology but keeping access limited to members of a particular organization.

**intransitive** /ɪn't्रænzɪtɪv/, /in-tran-zi-tiv/ *adj* (*gram*) describing verbs not taking an object.

**intravenous** /ɪntrə'venəs/, /in-tra-vee-nus/ *adj* in or directly into a vein or veins.

**intrepid** /ɪn'trepɪd/, /in-tre-pid/ *adj* fearless, brave.

**intricate** /'intrɪkət/, /in-tri-cit/ *adj* having many small parts, complicated. • *n* **intricacy**.

**intrigue** /ɪn'tri:g/, /in-treeg/ *n* 1 a secret plot. 2 a secret love affair. • *vb* /in-treeg/ 1 to plot secretly. 2 to interest greatly. • *adj* **intriguing**.

**intrinsic** /ɪn't्रɪnzɪk/, /in-trin-zic/ *adj* being part of the nature or character of, belonging to a thing as part of its nature.

**introduce** /'intrə'dju:s/, /in-tru-dyoos/ *vb* 1 to bring in or put forward, especially something new. 2 to make one person known to another.

**introduction** /ɪn't्रə'dækʃən/, /in-tru-duc-shun/ *n* 1 act of introducing. 2 a short section at the beginning of a book to make known its purpose.

**introductory** /ɪn't्रə'dɛktəri/, /in-tru-duc-tu-ree/ *adj* coming at the beginning, giving an introduction.

**introspective** /ɪn't्रə'spektɪv/, /in-tro-spec-tiv/ *adj* thinking a lot about one's own actions and ideas. • *n* **introspection**. • *vb* **introspect** to look into one's own mind.

**introvert** /'intrə'vert/, /in-tro-vert/ *n* someone who is always thinking about his or her own ideas and aims.

**intrude** /ɪn'tru:d/, /in-trood/ *vb* to come or go where not wanted. • *n* **intrusion**.

**intruder** /ɪn'tru:dər/, /in-troo-der/ *n* 1 someone who intrudes. 2 a person who breaks into a house to steal, a burglar.

**intrusive** /ɪn'tru:sɪv/, /in-troo-siv/ *adj* tending to intrude.

**intuition** /ɪntju:tʃən/, /in-tyoo-wi-shun/ *n* 1 immediate knowledge of the truth gained without having to think. 2 the ability to know things in this way. • *adj* **intuitive**. • *vb* **intuit** to know or learn by intuition.

**Inuit** /ɪnju:it/, /in-yoo-wit/ *n* 1 original inhabitants of northern North America or Greenland or their descendants. 2 the language of this people.

**inundate** /ɪn'nʌndeɪt/, /i-nun-date/ *vb* 1 to flow over. 2 to flood, to come in very large amounts.

**invade** /ɪn'veɪd/, /in-vade/ *vb* 1 to enter as an enemy, to attack. 2 to interfere with.

**invalid<sup>1</sup>** /ɪn'velɪd/, /in-va-lid/ *adj* 1 not valid. 2 useless, unreliable.

**invalid<sup>2</sup>** /ɪnvə'lɪd/, /in-va-lid/ *adj* weak, sickly. • *n* a sick person. • *vb* to send away because of illness.

**invalidate** /ɪn'velɪ,dɪteɪt/, /in-va-li-di-date/ *vb* to make to have no value or effect.

**invalidism** /ɪnvælidɪzəm/, /in-va-li-di-zum/ *n* the state of being an invalid, long-term ill health or disability.

**invaluable** /ɪn'velju:bəl/, /in-val-yu-bul/ *adj* of very great value or help.

**invariable** /ɪn'veriəbəl/, /ɪn-vay-ree-ya-bul/ *adj* unchanging, constant.

• *n invariability.*

**invariant** /ɪn'veriənt/, /ɪn-vay-ree-ant/ *adj* constant, unchanging.

**invasion** /ɪn'veizən/, /ɪn-vay-zhun/ *n* 1 entry into a country by enemy forces. 2 interference. • *adj invasive.*

**invent** /ɪn'vent/, /ɪn-vent/ *vb* 1 to think of and plan something new. 2 to make up. • *n inventor.*

**invention** /ɪn'venʃən/, /ɪn-ven-shun/ *n* 1 a thing thought of and made for the first time. 2 the ability to think of new ideas.

**inventive** /ɪn'ventɪv/, /ɪn-ven-tiv/ *adj* good at thinking of new or unusual ideas.

**inventory** /'ɪnvən,tɔri/, /ɪn-ven-toe-ree/ *n* a list of goods or articles.

**inverse** /'ɪnverəs/, /ɪn-verse/ *adj* opposite or reverse.

**inversion** /ɪn'verʒən/, /ɪn-ver-shun/ *n* 1 act of turning upside down. 2 a change in the usual order of words in a sentence.

**invert** /ɪn'vert/, /ɪn-vert/ *vb* to turn upside down, to turn the other way round.

**invertebrate** /ɪn'vertəbreɪt/, /ɪn-ver-te-brate/ *adj* having no backbone.

• *n an animal without a backbone.*

**invest** /ɪn'vest/, /ɪn-vest/ *vb* 1 to mark someone's entry to rank or office by clothing him or her with the robes belonging to it. 2 to surround a fort with an army. 3 to lend money so as to increase it by interest or a share in profits.

**investigate** /ɪn'vesti,geɪt/, /ɪn-ve-sti-gate/ *vb* to examine, to find out everything about. • *n investigator.*

**investigation** /ɪn'vesti'geɪʃən/, /ɪn-ve-sti-gay-shun/ *n* a careful examination, an inquiry.

**investigative** /ɪn'vestri'gatɪv/, /ɪn-ve-sti-ga-tiv/ *adj* inclined to investigate, involved in investigation.

**investment** /ɪn'vestmənt/, /ɪn-vest-mənt/ *n* 1 the act of investing. 2 a sum of money invested. 3 the thing money has been invested in.

**investor** /ɪn'vestər/, /ɪn-ve-stor/ *n* someone who invests money.

**inveterate** /ɪn'vetərət/, /ɪn-ve-trit/ *adj* 1 firmly fixed in a habit. 2 firmly established.

**invincible** /ɪn'vɪnsɪbəl/, /in-vin-si-bul/ *adj* that cannot be defeated. • *n invincibility.*

**invisible** /ɪn'vɪzɪbəl/, /in-vi-zi-bul/ *adj* that cannot be seen. • *n invisibility.*

**invite** /ɪn'veɪt/, /in-vite/ *vb* 1 to ask politely, to ask to come, especially as a guest. 2 to attract. • *n invitation.*

**inviting** /ɪn'veɪtɪŋ/, /in-vie-ting/ *adj* attractive.

**invoice** /'ɪnvɔɪs/, /in-voiss/ *n* 1 a list of goods sent to a buyer, with prices. 2 a list of work done and payment due. • *vb* to send an invoice.

**invoke** /ɪn'vo:k/, /in-voke/ *vb* 1 to bring into use or operation. 2 to call on God or a god in prayer. 3 to request or beg for. 4 to make an urgent request to.

**involuntary** /ɪn'vɒlənterɪ/, /in-vol-un-te-ree/ *adj* unintentional, done without conscious effort or intention.

**involve** /ɪn'vɒlv/, /in-volve/ *vb* 1 to include. 2 to mix up in. 3 to cause as a result.

**involved** /ɪn'vɒlvd/, /in-volvd/ *adj* complicated.

**invulnerable** /ɪn'velnərəbəl/, /in-vuln-ra-bul/ *adj* that cannot be wounded.

**inward** /'ɪnwərd/, /in-ward/ *adj* 1 inner. 2 having to do with the mind. • *adv* (also **inwards**) towards the inside.

**inwardly** /'ɪnwərdli/, /in-ward-lee/ *adv* on the inside, in the mind.

**iodine** /aɪə'di:n/, /eye-o-deen/ *n* a chemical used in medicine to clean wounds, instruments, etc.

**ion** /'aɪən/, /eye-on/ *n* an electrically charged atom. • *adj ionic.*

**ionosphere** /aɪ'ɒnə,sfɪ:r/, /eye-on-oe-sfeer/ *n* the outer part of the earth's atmosphere.

**iota** /aɪ'o:tə/, /eye-oe-ta/ *n* 1 a Greek letter. 2 a tiny amount.

**IQ** /aɪ'kyu:/, /eye-kyoo/ *abbr* = **Intelligence Quotient**: a person's level of intelligence as measured by a special test.

**irate** /aɪ'reɪt/, /eye-rate/ *adj* very angry, furious.

**ire** /aɪr/, /ire/ *n* (*frm*, *lit*) anger.

**iridescent** /ɪrɪ'desənt/, /i-ri-des-ant/ *adj* coloured like the rainbow, brightly coloured, having or showing shifting colours. • *n iridescence.*

**iris** /'aɪrɪs/, /eye-ris/ *n* 1 the coloured circle of the eye. 2 a flowering plant.

**irk** /ərk/, /urk/ *vb* to annoy, to bother.

**irksome** /ir'kutsk/, /irk-sum/ *adj* troublesome, tedious, annoying.

**iron** /'aɪrn/, /eye-urn/ *n* 1 the most common of metals. 2 a tool or instrument made of iron, especially for smoothing clothes. 3 *pl chains.* • *adj* 1 made of iron. 2 strong, hard. • *vb* to smooth. • **to have too many irons in the fire** to be trying to do too many things at once.

**ironic** /aɪ'rɒnik/, /eye-ron-ic/, **ironical** /eye-ron-ic-al/ *adjs* expressing irony.

**irony** /aɪrəni/, /eye-ro-nee/ *n* 1 a remark made in such a way that the meaning is understood to be the opposite of what is said. 2 the result of an action that has the opposite effect to that intended.

**irradiate** /ɪ'reɪdi,eɪt/, /i-ray-dee-ate/ *vb* 1 (*fml or lit*) to make bright by throwing light on. 2 to treat with radiation. • *n irradiation* exposure to radiation, an irradiating of.

**irrational** /ɪ'ræʃənəl/, /i-ra-shnal/ *adj* 1 not rational, not reasonable, not sensible. 2 not able to reason, not using reason. • *n irrationalism* irrational thought.

**irregular** /ɪ'rɛgjʊlər/, /i-reg-yu-lar/ *adj* 1 not in agreement with the rules, not according to accepted standards. 2 not straight or even. 3 not happening, etc, regularly. • *n irregularity.*

**irrelevant** /ɪ'reləvənt/, /i-re-le-vant/ *adj* having nothing to do with the subject, not to the point. • *n irrelevance, irrelevancy.*

**irreplaceable** /ɪrə'pləsəbəl/, /i-re-play-sa-bul/ *adj* not replaceable, that cannot be replaced.

**irrepressible** /ɪrə'prɛsɪbəl/, /i-re-pre-si-bul/ *adj* that cannot be kept down or held back.

**irresistible** /ɪrə'zɪstɪbəl/, /i-re-zí-sta-bul/ *adj* 1 that cannot be resisted. 2 very strong. 3 very attractive, charming.

**irrespective** /ɪrə'spektɪv/, /i-re-spec-tiv/ *adj* with disregard for, not troubling about.

**irresponsible** /ɪrə'sponsɪbəl/, /i-re-spon-si-bul/ *adj* not caring about the consequences of actions.

**irrigate** /ɪrə'geɪt/, /i-ri-gate/ *vb* to supply water to dry land by canals, etc. • *n irrigation*. • *adj irrigable*.

**irritable** /'ɪritəbəl/, /i-ri-ta-bul/ *adj* easily angered or annoyed. • *n irritability*.

**irritant** /'ɪritənt/, /i-ri-tant/ *n* something that irritates, annoys, angers, inflames, makes sore, etc.

**irritate** /'ɪri'teɪt/, /i-ri-tate/ *vb* 1 to annoy, to anger. 2 to cause to itch, become inflamed, red, swollen, etc. • *n irritation*.

**is** /iz/, /i/z/ *vb t* of the verb **be** used with 'he', 'she', 'it', and 'one' or with singular nouns.

**Islam** /'ɪzlæm, ɪz'læm/, /iz-lam, iz-lam/ *n* 1 the Muslim religion founded by Mohammed in which the god is called Allah. 2 all Muslims. 3 all the lands in which Islam is the main religion. • *adj Islamic*.

**island** /'aɪlənd/, /eye-land/ *n* a piece of land surrounded by water.

**islander** /-ərl/, /eye-lan-der/ *n* a native of an island.

**isle** /aɪl/, /ile/ *n (lit)* an island, especially a small island.

**islet** /'aɪlət/, /eye-let/ *n* a very small island.

**isolate** /'eɪsə,leɪt/, /eye-so-late/ *vb* 1 to place apart or alone. 2 to cut off. 3 to separate. • *n isolation*.

**isosceles** /aɪ'sɔ:sɪ,li:z/, /eye-sos-leez/ *adj (of a triangle)* having two sides equal.

**issue** /'isu:/, /i-shoo/ *vb* 1 to go or come out. 2 to send out. 3 to flow out. 4 to give out. 5 to publish. • *n* 1 a flowing out. 2 (*frm*) children. 3 (*frm*) a result. 4 a question under discussion. 5 number of books, papers, etc, published at one time.

**it** /ɪt/, /it/ *pron* the person, animal, or thing previously mentioned, also used as the subject to an impersonal verb (e.g. it is snowing).

**IT** /ai'ti:/, /eye-tee/ *abbr = information technology*: the study or use of computers and telecommunication systems.

**italicize** /ɪ'tæli,saɪz/, /i-ta-li-size/ *vb, also italicise* to print in italics.

**italic(s)** /'ɪtælɪks/, /i-ta-lics/ *n* in printing, letters in sloping type (e.g. *italics*). • *adj.*

**itch** /ɪtʃ/, /itch/ *n* 1 an irritation of the skin that causes a desire to scratch. 2 a longing. • *vb* 1 to feel an itch. 2 to feel a strong desire. • *adj* itchy.

**item** /'ɪtem/, /eye-tem/ *n* 1 a single one out of a list or number of things. 2 a piece of news. • *adv* also, in the same way.

**itemize** /'ɪtemaɪz/, /eye-tem-ize/ *vb*, also **itemise** to specify the items of.

**itinerant** /aɪ'tinərənt/, /eye-ti-ne-rant/ *adj* not settling in any one place, moving from place to place. • *n* one who is always on the move from place to place.

**itinerary** /aɪ'tinərəri/, /eye-ti-ne-ra-ree/ *n* a note of the places visited or to be visited on a journey.

**its** /ɪts/, /its/ *pron* that or those of or belonging to it, the possessive form of 'it'.

**it's** /ɪts/, /its/ *contraction* shortened form of **it is** or **it has**.

**I've** /aɪv/, *contraction* **I have**.

**ivory** /aɪvəri/, /eye-vree/ *n* the hard white substance forming the tusks of elephants, etc. • *adj* of or like ivory, creamy white.

**ivy** /'aivi/, /eye-vee/ *n* a climbing vine with a woody stem and evergreen leaves.

# J

**J, j** /dʒeɪ/, /jay/ the tenth letter of the English alphabet.

**jab** /dʒæb/, /jab/ *vb (jabbed, jabbing)* to prod or poke suddenly. • *n 1* a sudden prod or poke. **2** an injection.

**jabber** /'dʒæbər/, /ja-ber/ *vb* to chatter, to speak quickly and indistinctly.

**jack** /dʒæk/, /jack/ *n 1* a tool for lifting heavy weights. **2** the small white ball aimed at in the game of bowls. **3** the knave in cards. **4** an electronic connection for an electric machine or telephone. • *vb* to raise with a jack. • **every man jack (inf)** every single one.

**jackal** /'dʒækəl/, /ja-cal/ *n* a doglike wild animal.

**jackass** /'dʒækæs/, /ja-cass/ *n 1* a male donkey. **2 (inf)** a fool.

**jacket** /'dʒækət/, /ja-cet/ *n 1* a short coat. **2** a loose paper cover for a book.

**jack-of-all-trades** /dʒæk əv əl 'treɪdz/, /jack-of-awl-traydz/ *n* someone who is able to do any kind of job.

**Jacuzzi** /dʒə'ku:zi/, /ja-coo-zee/ (*TM*) a kind of whirlpool bath with a system of underwater jets which massage the body.

**jade** /dʒeɪd/, /jade/ *n* a green precious stone.

**jaded** /dʒeɪdəd/, /jay-did/ *adj* tired, bored, uninterested.

**jagged** /dʒægəd/, /ja-ged/ *adj* having rough edges or sharp points.

**jaguar** /dʒægwər, -juar/, /jag-you-ar, ja-gwar/ *n* an animal like the leopard, found in South America.

**jail** /dʒeɪl/, /jale/ *n, also gaol* a prison.

**jailer** /dʒeɪlər/, /jay-ler/ *n* a prison guard.

**jam<sup>1</sup>** /dʒæm/, /jam/ *n* fruit boiled with sugar to preserve it; jelly; preserve.

**jam<sup>2</sup>** /dʒæm/, /jam/ *vb (jammed, jamming)* **1** to squeeze in, to fix so tightly that movement is impossible. **2** to crowd full. **3** to prevent

the receiving of radio messages by broadcasting sounds on the same wavelength. • *n* a pile-up of traffic.

**jangle** /'dʒæŋgəl/, /jang-gl/ *n* a harsh ringing noise. • *vb* 1 to make or cause to make a jangle. 2 (*inf*) to irritate.

**janitor** /'dʒænɪtər/, /ja-ni-tor/ *n* in Scotland, someone who takes care of a building; a caretaker.

**January** /'dʒænju:əri/, /jan-yoo-a-ree/ *n* the first month of the year.

**jar** /dʒar/, /jar/ *n* a glass or earthenware vessel with a wide mouth.

**jargon** /'dʒɑrgən/, /jar-gon/ *n* words special to a group or profession.

**jasmine** /'dʒæzmin/, /jaz-min/, **jessamine** /jess-min/ *n* a climbing bush with sweet-smelling flowers.

**jasper** /'dʒæspər/, /ja-sper/ *n* a precious stone, yellow, red or brown in colour.

**jaundice** /'dʒɒndɪs/, /jon-diss/ *n* an illness marked by yellowness of the eyes and skin.

**jaundiced** /'dʒɒndɪst/, /jon-dist/ *adj* 1 suffering from jaundice. 2 full of envy, disappointment, etc, thinking of everything as bad or unlucky.

**jaunt** /dʒɒnt/, /jont/ *n* a short pleasure trip. • *vb* to go from place to place.

**jaunty** /'dʒɒnti/, /jon-tee/ *adj* 1 cheerful-looking, confident. 2 pleased with oneself.

**javelin** /'dʒævəlɪn/, /ja-ve-lin/ *n* a light throwing spear.

**jaw** /dʒɒ/, /jaw/ *n* one of the bones in the mouth that hold the teeth.

**jay** /dʒeɪ/, /jay/ *n* a bird of the crow family with brightly coloured feathers.

**jaywalk** /'dʒeɪwɔk/, /jay-wawk/ *vb* to walk across the street carelessly or without obeying the rules of the road. • *n* **jaywalker**.

**jazz** /dʒæz/, /jazz/ *n* syncopated music and dancing of African-American origin.

**jealous** /dʒeləs/, /je-luss/ *adj* 1 disliking rivals in love, having feelings of dislike for any possible rivals. 2 disliking another because he or she is better off than you in some way; envious. 3 (*frm*) very careful of. • *n* **jealousy**.

**jean** /dʒi:n/, /jeen/ *n* a cotton cloth. • *npl* close-fitting trousers often made of denim.

**Jeep** /dʒi:p/, /jeep/ (*TM*) a light truck, military or otherwise, for going over rough ground.

**jeer** /dʒi:r/, /jeer/ *vb* to laugh or shout at disrespectfully, to mock. • *n* insulting words.

**jihad** see **jihad**.

**Jehovah** /dʒə'ho:və/, /ji-ho-va/ *n* from the Old Testament of the bible, a name for God.

**jelly** /'dʒeli/, /je-lee/ *n* 1 a type of preserved fruit; jam. 2 a food made from fruit juice boiled with sugar, from meat juices, or from gelatine. 3 a material that is in a state between solid and liquid.

**jellyfish** /'dʒelifɪʃ/, /je-lee-fish/ *n* a jellylike sea creature often with stinging tentacles.

**jeopardize** /'dʒepər,daiz/, /je-par-dize/ *vb*, also **jeopardise** to put in danger, to risk.

**jeopardy** /'dʒepərdi/, /je-par-dee/ *n* danger.

**jerk** /dʒərk/, /jerk/ *vb* 1 to give a sudden pull or push. 2 to move suddenly and quickly. • *n* a sudden, quick movement.

**jerkin** /dʒərkɪn/, /jer-kin/ *n* a close-fitting jacket or short coat.

**jerky<sup>1</sup>** /'dʒərki/, /jer-kee/ *adj* moving by jerks.

**jerky<sup>2</sup>** /'dʒərki/, /jer-kee/ *n* a preserved dried meat.

**jersey** /'dʒərzi/, /jer-zee/ *n* 1 a fine wool. 2 a jumper.

**jest** /dʒest/, /jest/ *n* a joke, something done or said in fun. • *vb* to joke.

**jester** /'dʒestər/, /je-ster/ *n* (*old*) one paid to make jokes, as in a king's or nobleman's household.

**Jesuit** /'dʒeʒuit/, /je-zoo-it/ *n* a priest or brother in the Society of Jesus, a Roman Catholic religious order.

**jet<sup>1</sup>** /dʒet/, /jet/ *n* a hard black substance, often used for ornamental purposes.

**jet<sup>2</sup>** /dʒet/, /jet/ *n* 1 a stream of liquid or gas forced through a narrow opening. 2 a spout through which a narrow stream of liquid or gas can be forced. 3 a jet plane.

**jet lag** /'dʒet læg/, /jet lag/ *n* tiredness which results from travelling across several time zones.

**jet plane** /'dʒet pleɪn/, /jet plane/ *n* an aeroplane that is jet-propelled, i.e., driven forward by the force of jets of gas forced out to the rear.

**jetsam** /'dʒɛtsəm/, /jet-sum/ *n* goods thrown overboard to make a ship lighter.

**jettison** /'dʒetɪsən/, /je-ti-son/ *vb* 1 to throw. 2 to get rid of.

**jetty** /'dʒeti/, /je-tee/ *n* 1 a pier. 2 a wall built to protect a harbour from high seas.

**Jew** /dʒu:/, /joo/ *n* a member of the people who are descendants of the ancient Hebrew people of Israel and whose religion is Judaism.

**jewel** /'dʒu:əl/, /joo-ul/ *n* 1 a precious stone. 2 something valued highly.

**jeweller** /'dʒu:ələr/, /joo-u-ler/, **jeweler** (US) *n* someone who buys and sells jewels.

**jewellery** /'dʒu:ləri/, /dʒu:əlri/, /joo-lu-ree, joo-ul-ree/ *n*, also **jewelry** (US), jewels, personal ornaments, as rings, necklaces, etc.

**Jewish** /'dʒu:ɪʃ/, /joo-ish/ *adj* having to do with Jews or Judaism.

**jib** /dʒib/, /jib/ *n* 1 a triangular sail raised in front of a ship's foremast. 2 the arm of a crane. • *vb* to pull a sail round to the other side. • **to like the cut of someone's jib** to like someone.

**jibe** same as **gibe**.

**jiffy** /dʒifi/, /ji-fee/ *n* (inf) a moment, an instant.

**jig** /dʒig/, /jig/ *n* a lively dance tune. • *vb (jigged, jigging)* 1 to dance a jig. 2 to move up and down quickly in a jerky way.

**jigsaw** /'dʒɪgso:/, /jig-saw/ *n* a picture that has been cut into different shapes and the puzzle is to try to fit them together again.

**jihad** /dʒɪ'hæd/, /ji-had/ *n*, also **jehad** a holy war waged by Muslims against nonbelievers.

**jilt** /dʒɪlt/, /jilt/ *vb* to leave someone after promising to love or marry him or her.

**jingle** /'dʒɪŋgəl/, /jing-gul/ *n* a light ringing noise made by metal against metal, as by small bells or coins. • *vb* to ring lightly, to clink.

**jitters** /'dʒɪtərz/, /ji-terz/ *npl (inf)* great nervousness.

**jittery** /'dʒɪtəri/, /ji-te-ree/ *adj (inf)* nervous.

**jive** /dʒaɪv/, /jive/ *n* 1 a type of jazz music. 2 the way of dancing to it.

• *also vb.*

**job** /'dʒɒb/, /job/ *n* 1 a piece of work. 2 someone's employment. 3 (*inf*) a crime.

**jockey** /'dʒɒki/, /jaw-key/ *n* a rider in horse races. • *vb* to struggle to gain an advantage over someone or to achieve something.

**jocular** /'dʒɔkjurəl/, /joc-yu-lar/ *adj* 1 intended to be humorous. 2 fond of joking.

**jodhpurs** /'dʒɒdpərz/, /jod-purz/ *npl* riding breeches reaching to the ankle.

**jog** /dʒɒg/, /jawg/ *vb (jogged, jogging)* 1 to nudge, to prod. 2 to walk or run at a slow, steady pace. • *n* 1 a nudge, a slight shake. 2 a slow walk or trot.

**join** /dʒɔɪn/, /join/ *vb* 1 to put or fasten together. 2 to take part in with others. 3 to become a member of. • *n* a place where things join. • **join battle** to begin fighting.

**joiner** /'dʒɔɪnər/, /joy-ner/ *n* a carpenter, a worker in wood, who makes furniture, etc.

**joint** /dʒɔɪnt/, /joint/ *n* 1 a place at which two things meet or are fastened together. 2 a place where two things are joined, but left the power of moving. 3 a large piece of meat containing a bone. 4 (*inf*) a particular kind of place. 5 (*inf*) a cigarette containing cannabis. • *adj* 1 shared between two or among all. 2 done by several together. • *also vb.*

**jointed** /dʒɔɪntəd/, /join-ted/ *adj* having joints.

**jointly** /dʒɔɪntli/, /joint-lee/ *adv* together.

**joist** /dʒɔɪst/, /joist/ *n* one of the beams of wood supporting the floor or ceiling.

**jojoba** /ho:'ho:bə/, /ho-ho-ba/ *n* an evergreen shrub from which oil is extracted for use in creams and shampoos.

**joke** /dʒo:k/, /joke/ *n* something said or done to cause laughter. • *also vb.*

**jollification** /dʒɒlɪfɪ'keɪʃən/, /jol-i-fi-**cay**-shun/ *n* merrymaking and feasting.

**jollity** /'dʒɒlɪti/, /jol-i-tee/ *n* gaiety, cheerfulness.

**jolly** /'dʒɒli/, /jol-ee/ *adj* merry, cheerful.

**Jolly Roger** /'dʒɒli rə:dʒər/, /jol-ee **raw**-jer/ *n* the black pirate flag with the skull and crossbones.

**jolt** /dʒo:lt/, /joalt/ *vb* 1 to give a sudden jerk to. 2 to move along jerkily. • *n* 1 a sudden jerk. 2 a shock.

**jonquil** /'dʒɒnkwil/, /jon-kwil/ *n* a small daffodil.

**jostle** /dʒɒsəl/, /joss-ul/ *vb* to knock or push against.

**jot** /dʒɒt/, /jot/ *n* a small amount. • *vb* (**jotted**, **jotting**) to write down in short form.

**jotting** /'dʒɒtɪŋ/, /jot-ing/ *n* a short note.

**journal** /'dʒɜːrnəl/, /jur-nal/ *n* 1 (*usually in titles*) a daily newspaper. 2 a weekly or monthly magazine. 3 a record of the events of every day.

**journalism** /'dʒɜːrnəlɪzəm/, /jur-na-li-zum/ *n* the work of preparing or writing for newspapers and magazines.

**journalist** /'dʒɜːrnəlist/, /jur-na-list/ *n* someone whose job is journalism.

**journalistic** /dʒɜːrnə'listik/, /jur-na-li-stic/ *adj* having to do with journalism.

**journey** /'dʒɜːni/, /jur-nee/ *n* a distance travelled, especially over land. • *vb* (*fml* or *old*) to travel.

**journeyman** /'dʒɜːnmɪmən/, /jur-nee-man/ *n* a person who has served an apprenticeship to learn a craft or a trade and is now employed by another.

**joust** /dʒaʊst/, /joust/ *n* (*old*) a contest between two armed knights on horseback at a tournament. • *also vb*.

**joyful** /'dʒɔ:vɪəl/, /jo-vee-al/ *adj* merry, joyful, cheerful. • *n* **joyfulness**.

**jowl** /dʒaʊl/, /jowl/ *n* the jaw, the lower part of the cheek. • **cheek by jowl** very close together.

**joy** /dʒɔɪ/, /joy/ *n* 1 delight, gladness. 2 a cause of great happiness.

**joyful** /'dʒɔɪfʊl/, /joy-ful/, **joyous** /joy-us/ *adjs* full of joy.

**joy ride** /'dʒɔɪraɪd/, /joy-ride/ *n (inf)* a drive for pleasure in a car. • *vb* joy-ride.

**joystick** /'dʒoɪstɪk/, /joy-stick/ *n* 1 the pilot's lever to control an aeroplane. 2 a control lever on a computer.

**JP** /dʒeɪ'pi:/, /jay pee/ *abbr* = **Justice of the Peace**.

**jubilant** /'dʒu:bɪlənt/, /joo-bi-lant/ *adj* rejoicing greatly, triumphant, very glad.

**jubilation** /dʒu:bɪ'leɪʃən/, /joo-bi-lay-shun/ *n* triumphant joy.

**jubilee** /dʒu:bɪ'li:/, /'dʒu:-/, /joo-bi-lee, joo-bi-lee/ *n* 1 a special anniversary of an event. 2 a celebration of this. • **golden jubilee** a 50th anniversary. • **silver jubilee** a 25th anniversary. • **diamond jubilee** a 60th anniversary.

**Judaism** /'dʒu:deɪ,ɪzəm/, /joo-day-iz-um/ *n* the religion of the Jewish people.

**judge** /dʒədʒ/, /judge/ *n* 1 someone who presides in a court of law giving advice on matters of law and deciding on the punishment for guilty persons. 2 someone asked to settle a disagreement. 3 someone able to distinguish what is good from what is bad. • *vb* 1 to act as judge in a court of law. 2 to decide, to give an opinion on. 3 to decide which is the best in a competition. 4 (*fml*) to criticize or blame someone.

**judgement, judgment** /'dʒədʒmənt/, /judge-ment/ *n* 1 act or power of judging. 2 the decision given at the end of a law case. 3 good sense. 4 an opinion. • **Judgement** the Last Judgment of the Old Testament.

**judicature** /'dʒu:dɪkətʃər/, /joo-di-ca-chur/ *n* all the judges or law courts of a country.

**judicial** /dʒu:'dɪʃəl/, /joo-di-shal/ *adj* having to do with a judge or court of law.

**judiciary** /dʒu:'dɪʃəri/, /joo-di-sha-ree/ *adj* having to do with a court of law. • *n* judges as a body.

**judicious** /dʒu:dɪʃəs/, /joo-di-shus/ *adj* wise, showing good sense.

**judo** /'dʒu:do:/, /joo-do/ *n* a Japanese system of unarmed combat adapted as a competitive sport from ju-jitsu.

**jug** /dʒʌg/, /juɡ/ *n* a deep vessel for holding liquids, with a handle. •

*vb (jugged, jugging)* to cook in a jar or jug.

**juggernaut** /'dʒæɡər,not/, /ju-ger-not/ *n* 1 a large destructive force. 2 a very large lorry.

**juggle** /'dʒæɡəl/, /ju-gul/ *vb* 1 to keep on throwing things up, catching them and throwing them up again with great quickness of hand. 2 to try to deal satisfactorily with several activities at the same time. 3 to present facts in a way that makes them seem good or favourable. • *n juggler*.

**jugular** /'dʒæɡjʊlər/, /ju-gyu-lar/ *adj* having to do with the neck or throat.

**jugular vein** /'dʒæɡjʊlər veɪn/, /ju-gyu-lar vane/ *n* the large vein at the side of the neck.

**juice** /dʒu:s/, /joos/ *n* the liquid of a fruit or plant. • *adj juicy*.

**ju-jitsu** /dʒu:'dʒɪtsu:/, /joo-jit-soo/ *n* a form of self-defence first used in Japan.

**jukebox** /'dʒu:kboks/, /jook-boks/ *n* a machine in a café, pub, etc. that automatically plays a selected record or compact disc when a coin is inserted.

**July** /dʒu:'laɪ/, /joo-lie/ *n* the seventh month of the year.

**jumble** /'dʒæmbəl/, /jum-bul/ *vb* to mix in an untidy heap. • *n* a muddle.

**jumble sale** /'dʒæmbəl ,seɪl/, /jum-bul sale/ *n* a sale of second-hand goods, often to make money for a charity.

**jumbo** /'dʒæmbo:/, /jum-bo/ *n* something very large of its kind. • *adj* very large.

**jump** /dʒæmp/, /jump/ *vb* 1 to push off the ground with the feet so that the whole body moves through the air. 2 to make a sudden quick movement or start, as when surprised. • *n* 1 a leap. 2 a sudden, quick movement. 3 an obstacle to be jumped over. • *n jumper* one who jumps. • **jump at** to accept willingly. • **jump to conclusions** to take things as true without waiting for them to be proved so.

**jumper** /'dʒæmpər/, /jum-per/ *n* a close-fitting knitted garment put on over the head; a sweater.

**jmpy** /'dʒəmpi/, /jum-pee/ *adj* (*inf*) nervous, anxious. • *n*  
**jmpiness.**

**junction** /'dʒəŋkʃən/, /jungk-shun/ *n* 1 (*fml*) a joining point. 2 a station where several railway lines meet.

**juncture** /'dʒəŋktʃər/, /jungk-chur/ *n* moment, point, stage.

**June** /dʒu:n/, /joon/ *n* the sixth month of the year.

**jungle** /'dʒəŋgəl/, /jung-gul/ *n* land especially in the tropics, covered with trees and matted undergrowth.

**junior** /'dʒu:njər/, /joon-yer/ *adj* 1 younger. 2 lower in rank. • *also n.*

**juniper** /'dʒu:nipər/, /joo-ni-per/ *n* an evergreen shrub.

**junk<sup>1</sup>** /dʒəŋk/, /jungk/ *n* unwanted things, rubbish.

**junk<sup>2</sup>** /dʒəŋk/, /jungk/ *n* a Chinese sailing vessel.

**junket** /'dʒəŋket/, /jung-ket/ *n* 1 the thickened part of sour milk sweetened with sugar. 2 a feast. • *vb* to feast.

**junk food** /'dʒəŋk ,fud/, /jungk food/ *n* food which is low in nutritional value, often eaten as snacks.

**junk mail** /'dʒəŋk ,meil/, /jungk mail/ *n* mail that you receive without having asked for it, usually containing advertisements.

**junkyard** /'dʒəŋk ,jaerd/, /jungk-yard/ *n* a place used to store and eventually dispose of discarded objects such as old cars.

**Jupiter** /'dʒu:pɪter/, /joo-pi-ter/ *n* the fifth planet from the sun.

**juror** /'dʒurər/, /joo-ror/ *n* a member of a jury.

**jury** /'dʒuri/, /joo-ree/ *n* a number of persons who have sworn to give a fair and honest opinion of the facts related in a law case.

**just** /dʒest/, /just/ *adj* 1 right and fair. 2 honest, fair, moral. 3 reasonable, based on one's rights. 4 deserved. • *adv* 1 exactly. 2 on the point of. 3 quite. 4 merely, only. 5 barely. 6 very lately or recently.

**justice** /'dʒəstəs/, /ju-stiss/ *n* 1 fairness or rightness in the treatment of other people. 2 a judge.

**Justice of the Peace** /dʒəstəs əv ðə 'pis/, /ju-stiss ov the peess/ *n* (*abbr* JP) a person appointed to help administer the law in a certain district.

**justifiable** /'dʒʌstɪ,faiəbəl/, /ju-sti-fie-a-bul/ *adj* that may be shown right, excusable.

**justification** /dʒʌstɪfɪ'keɪʃən/, /ju-sti-fi-cay-shun/ *n* a reason for doing something, a defence.

**justify** /dʒʌstɪ,fai/, /ju-sti-fie/ *vb* to show that something is right, just, reasonable or excusable.

**jut** /dʒæt/, /jut/ *vb (jutted, jutting)* to stick out.

**jute** /dʒu:t/, /joot/ *n* a fibre from the bark of certain plants, from which rope, canvas, etc, are made.

**juvenile** /'dʒu:və,nəil/, /joo-vi-nile/ *adj* 1 having to do with young people. 2 typical of young people, childish. • *n* a young person.

**juxtapose** /dʒækstə'po:z/, /juk-sta-poaz/ *vb* to place side by side or close together, especially to show a contrast.

**juxtaposition** /dʒækstəpə'ziʃən/, /jux-sta-po-zí-shun/ *n* a placing near, or side by side.

# K

**K, k** /keɪ/, /kæɪ/ the 11th letter of the English alphabet.

**kale** /keɪl/, /kælə/ *n* a type of cabbage with dark, crinkled leaves.

**kaleidoscope** /kæ'laidə,sko:p/, /ka-lie-do-scope/ *n* 1 a toy consisting of a tube in which quickly changing colours and shapes are seen through an eyehole. 2 a constantly and quickly changing pattern.

**kaleidoscopic** /kæ,laɪdə'skɒpɪk/, /ka-lie-do-scop-ic/ *adj* 1 with many changing colours. 2 quickly changing.

**kangaroo** /kæŋgə'ru:/, /kang-ga-roo/ *n* an Australian mammal with a pouch for its young and long, strong hind legs by means of which it jumps along.

**kapok** /'keɪpɒk/, /ka-pok/ *n* a light cottonlike fibre used for stuffing cushions, etc.

**karaoke** /kəri:'o:ki:/, /ka-ree-o-kay/ *n* a type of entertainment in which a machine plays music while people take it in turns to sing the lyrics of songs which are shown on a screen.

**karate** /kə'ræt/, /ka-ra-tay/ *n* a Japanese form of unarmed combat using the feet, hands and elbows.

**kayak** /'kaɪæk/, /ka-yak/ *n* an Inuit canoe, made from sealskin.

**kebab** /kə'bæb/, /ke-bab/ *n* small pieces of meat and vegetables cooked on a metal or wooden skewer under a broiler or over flames.

**kedgeree** /'kɛdʒəri, -'ri:/, /kedge-e-ree, kedge-e-reel/ *n* a dish made of rice, fish and eggs.

**keel** /ki:l/, /keel/ *n* the long beam or girder along the bottom of a ship from which the whole frame is built up. • *vb* **keel over** 1 to turn over to one side, to capsize. 2 (*inf*) to fall down, to collapse.

**keen** /ki:n/, /keen/ *adj* 1 sharp. 2 eager, very interested. • *n* **keeness**.

**keep** /ki:p/, /keep/ *vb* (*pt, pp* **kept**) 1 to have something without being required to give it back. 2 not to give or throw away, to

preserve. **3** to remain in a certain state. **4** to have charge of, to look after. **5** to pay for and look after. **6** to hold back. **7** to carry out. **8** to go on doing. **9** (*inf*) to remain in good condition. • *n* **1** care. **2** a strong tower in the centre of a castle. **3** (*inf*) maintenance, food and lodging. • **keep at** to go on trying to do. • **keep body and soul together** to help to keep alive. • **keep one's hand in** to practise enough to remain good at.

**keeper** /'ki:pər/, /kee-per/ *n* someone who keeps or looks after.

**keeping** / 'ki:pɪŋ/, /kee-ping/ *n* care, charge.

**keepsake** /'ki:pseɪk/, /keep-sake/ *n* a gift valued because of the giver.

**keg** /kəg/, /keg/ *n* a small barrel.

**kelp** /kelp/, /kelp/ *n* a type of seaweed.

**ken** /kən/, /ken/ *n*. • **beyond one's ken** outside the extent of one's understanding.

**kennel** /'kənəl/, /ke-nel/ *n* **1** a house for dogs. **2** (*pl*) place where dogs are looked after temporarily.

**kept** *pt and pp of keep*.

**kerb** /kərb/, /kerb/ *n* the stone edging to a pavement.

**kerchief** /'kərtʃif/, /ker-chuf/ *n* a cloth for covering the head.

**kerfuffle** /kər'fəfəl/, /ker-fuf-ul/ *n* unnecessary fuss and activity.

**kernel** /'kərnəl/, /ker-nel/ *n* **1** the edible part in the centre of a nut or fruit stone. **2** the most important part.

**kerosene** /'kərə,si:n/, /ke-ro-seen/ *n* (US) paraffin.

**kestrel** /'kestrəl/, /ke-strel/ *n* a small falcon.

**ketchup** /'ketʃəp/, /ke-chup/ *n* a sauce, usually made of tomatoes, onions, salt and sugar.

**kettle** /'kətəl/, /ke-tul/ *n* a metal vessel, with a spout and handle, used for boiling water. • **a pretty kettle of fish** a great difficulty.

**kettledrum** /'kətəl,d्रəm/, /ke-tul-drum/ *n* a drum made of skin or parchment stretched across the mouth of a rounded metal frame.

**key** /ki:/, /kee/ *n* **1** an instrument for opening locks, winding clocks, etc. **2** one of the levers or buttons struck by the fingers on a piano, computer, etc. **3** the relationship of the notes in which a tune is written. **4** something that when known enables you to work out a

code, problem, etc. **5** a translation. **6** a general mood, tone or style.

**keyboard** /'ki:bɔrd/, /kee-board/ *n* the set of levers or buttons struck by the fingers on a piano, computer, etc. • *vb* to use a keyboard.

**keyhole** /'ki:ho:l/, /kee-hole/ *n* the hole through which a key is put in a lock.

**kg** /'keɪdʒi:/, /kay-jee/ *abbr = kilogram*.

**khaki** /'kæki, 'kəki/, /ka-kee/ *adj* dust-coloured. • *n* yellowish brown cloth originally used in making army uniforms.

**kibbutz** /ki'buts/, /ki-boots/ *n* in Israel, a small community in which the members all live and work together.

**kibbutznik** /ki'butsnik/, /ki-boots-nik/ *n* a member of a kibbutz.

**kick** /kɪk/, /kick/ *vb* **1** to strike with the foot. **2** (*of a gun*) to jerk back when fired. • *n* **1** a blow given with the foot. **2** the recoil of a gun. **3** (*inf*) a thrill, a feeling of pleasure. **4** strength, effectiveness.

**kick-off** /'kɪk ɒf/, /ki-cawff/ *n* the beginning of a game of football.

**kid** /kɪd/, /kid/ *n* **1** (*inf*) a child. **2** a young goat. **3** goatskin leather. • *vb (kidded, kidding)* (*inf*) to deceive in fun.

**kidnap** /'kɪdnæp/, /kid-nap/ *vb (kidnapped, kidnapping)* to carry off a person by force. • *n* **kidnapper**.

**kidney** /'kɪdni/, /kid-nee/ *n* **1** one of two glands that cleanse the blood and pass the waste liquid out of the body. **2** the kidneys of certain animals used as food.

**kill** /kɪl/, /kill/ *vb* **1** to put to death. **2** to put an end to. • *n* the animal(s) killed in a hunt. • **kill time** to make time seem to pass more quickly by occupying or amusing yourself in some way.

**kiln** /kɪln/, /kiln/ *n* a furnace or oven for heating or hardening anything, especially bricks and pottery.

**kilo-** /'ki:lo:/, /kee-lo/ *prefix* one thousand.

**kilogram** /'kɪləgræm/, /kee-lo-gram/ *n* a measure of weight = 1000 grams, *abbr kg*.

**kilometre** /ki'lɒmɪtər, 'kɪlə,mɪ:tər/, /ki-lom-i-ter, ki-lo-mee-ter/ *n*, also **kilometer** (*US*) a measure of length = 1000 metres, *abbr km*.

**kilowatt** /'kɪlə,wɒt/, /ki-lo-wat/ *n* a measure of electric power = 1000 watts.

**kilt** /kilt/, /kilt/ *n* a short pleated skirt worn by Scotsmen as part of Highland dress.

**kimono** /ki'mo:nə/, /ki-mo-no/ *n* a Japanese long loose robe, tied with a sash, worn by women.

**kin** /kɪn/, /kin/ *n* (fml) relatives, by blood or marriage.

**kind** /kaɪnd/, /kined/ *n* 1 sort, type, variety. 2 nature, character. • *adj* thoughtful and friendly, generous. • *n* **kindness**. • **pay in kind** to pay by goods, etc, not money.

**kindergarten** /'kɪndər,gartən/, /kin-der-gar-ten/ *n* a school for children ages four to six.

**kindle** /'kɪndlə/, /kin-dul/ *vb* 1 to set on fire, to light. 2 to stir up.

**kindling** /'kɪndlɪŋ/, /kin-dling/ *n* small pieces of wood used for lighting a fire.

**kindly** /'kaɪndlɪ/, /kine-dlee/ *adj* kind, friendly. • *also adv.* • *n* **kindliness**.

**kindred** /'kɪndrəd/, /kin-dred/ *n* 1 (fml) relatives, especially by blood. 2 relationship. • *adj* 1 related. 2 congenial.

**kinetics** /kɪ'netɪks/, /ki-ne-tics/ *n* the study of the connection between force and motion. • *adj* **kinetic**.

**king** /kɪŋ/, /king/ *n* 1 the male ruler of a state. 2 a playing card with a king's picture. 3 a piece in chess.

**kingdom** /'kɪŋdəm/, /king-dom/ *n* a state ruled by a king.

**kingfisher** /'kɪŋ,fɪʃər/, /king-fi-sher/ *n* a small brightly coloured bird that dives for fish.

**kink** /kɪŋk/, /kingk/ *n* 1 a backward twist in a rope, chain, etc. 2 an unusual or strange way of thinking about things.

**kinship** /'kɪnʃɪp/, /kin-ship/ *n* 1 a family connection. 2 any close connection.

**kinsman** /'kɪnzmən/, /kinz-man/ *n* a male relative. • *f* **kinswoman**.

**kiosk** /'ki:ɒsk/, /kee-osk/ *n* 1 a small hut or stall for the sale of newspapers, sweets, etc. 2 a public telephone booth.

**kipper** /'kɪpər/, /ki-per/ *vb* to preserve by splitting open, salting and drying. • *n* a fish so preserved, especially a herring, and used as food.

**kirk** /kərk/, /kirk/ *n* (Scot) a church.

**kiss** /kɪs/, /kɪs/ *vb* to touch with the lips as a sign of love or respect.

• *also n.*

**kit** /kɪt/, /kit/ *n* all the tools, etc, needed to do a job.

**kitbag** /'kɪt bæg/, /kit-bag/ *n* a bag for necessary tools, clothes, etc, as carried by soldiers, sailors, etc.

**kitchen** /'kɪtʃən/, /kit-chen/ *n* the room in which cooking is done.

**kite** /kɔɪt/, /kite/ *n* 1 a type of hawk. 2 a toy made of paper or cloth stretched on a tight framework, flown in the air at the end of a string.

**kitten** /'kɪtən/, /ki-ten/ *n* a young cat.

**kiwi** /'ki:wi:/, /kee-wee/ *n* 1 a wingless, tailless bird of New Zealand.

2 the fruit of an Asian vine.

**Kleenex** /'kli:nɛks/, /klee-neks/ *n* (*TM*) tissue paper used as a handkerchief.

**kleptomania** /'klepto'menɪə/, /klep-toe-may-nee-a/ *n* an uncontrollable desire to steal things. • *n* **kleptomaniac**.

**km abbr kilometre**.

**knack** /næk/, /nak/ *n* knowledge of the right way to do a thing, skill gained by practice.

**knackered** /'nækərd/, /nak-erd/ (*inf*) *adj* 1 extremely tired. 2 broken, useless.

**knapsack** /'naepsæk/, /nap-sack/ *n* (*old*) a bag strapped to the back, worn by soldiers or travellers.

**knave** /neɪv/, /nave/ *n* 1 a rascal, a dishonest rogue. 2 the third picture in a pack of cards, the jack.

**knead** /ni:d/, /need/ *vb* to press into a dough or paste.

**knee** /ni:/, /nee/ *n* the joint between the upper and lower parts of the leg.

**kneel** /ni:l/, /neel/ *vb* (*pt, pp knelt or kneeled*) to go down or rest on the knees.

**knell** /nɛl/, /nell/ *n* (*fml or lit*) the sound of a bell, especially at a funeral. • *vb* 1 (*of a bell*) to ring a knell. 2 to summon by, or as by, a knell.

**knelt** /nɛlt/, /nelt/ *pt and pp of kneel*.

**knew** /nu:, nju:/, /nyoo/ *pt of know*.

**knickerbockers** /'nɪkər,bɒkərz/, /ni-ker-bok-erz/ *npl* (*old*) loose breeches ending at the knee.

**knickers** /'nɪkərz/, /ni-kerz/ *npl* (*inf*) a woman's undergarment with elastic round the waist; panties.

**knick-knack** /'nɪknaæk/, /nik-nak/ *n* a small or dainty ornament.

**knife** /naɪf/, /nife/ *n* (*pl knives*) a tool with a sharp edge for cutting. • *vb* to stab with a knife.

**knight** /nɔɪt/, /nite/ *n* 1 in olden days, someone of honourable military rank. 2 a rank awarded for service to society, entitling the holder to be called Sir. 3 a piece in chess. • *vb* to make (someone) a knight.

**knight errant** /nɔɪt 'erənt/, /nite er-ant/ *n* (*old*) a knight who travelled in search of adventure.

**knighthood** /nɔɪt,hʊd/, /nite-hood/ *n* the rank of a knight.

**knightly** /nɔɪt,li:/, /nite-lee/ *adj* 1 having the characteristics of a knight. 2 courageous, noble.

**knit** /nit/, /nit/ *vb* (**knitted, knitting**) 1 to make woollen thread into garments by means of needles. 2 to join closely.

**knitting** /'nitɪŋ/, /ni-ting/ *n* the thing knitted.

**knitting needle** /'nitɪŋ ni:dəl/, /ni-ting nee-dul/ *n* a long needle used for knitting.

**knives** /naɪvz/, *pl* of **knife**.

**knob** /nɒb/, /nob/ *n* 1 a rounded part sticking out from a surface. 2 the round handle of something. 3 a round control switch. 4 a small lump of something.

**knobbly** /'nɒbleɪ/, /nob-lee/ *adj* covered with lumps, bumpy.

**knock** /nɒk/, /nok/ *vb* 1 to strike. 2 to rap on a door. 3 (*inf*) to criticize. • *n* 1 a blow. 2 a rap on the door.

**knocker** /nɒkər/, /nok-er/ *n* a hammer attached to a door for knocking.

**knock-kneed** /nɒk ni:d/, /nok-need/ *adj* having knees that touch in walking.

**knoll** /no:l/, /nole/ *n* (*fml or lit*) a little rounded hill.

**knot** /nɒt/, /not/ *n* 1 the twisting of two parts or pieces of string, etc, together so that they will not part until untied. 2 a hard piece of the

wood of a tree, from which a branch grew out. **3** a small group of people. **4** a measure of speed at sea. • *vb* to tie in a knot.

**knotty** /'nɒti/, /not-ee/ *adj* difficult.

**know** /no:/, /no/ *vb* (*pt* **knew**, *pp* **known**) **1** to be aware that. **2** to have information or knowledge about. **3** to have learned and remember. **4** to be aware of the identity of, to be acquainted with. **5** to recognize or identify.

**knowing** /'nɔ:wɪŋ/, /no-wing/ *adj* showing secret understanding.

**knowledge** /'nɒlɪdʒ/, /nol-idge/ *n* **1** that which is known, information. **2** the whole of what can be learned or found out.

**known pp of know.**

**knuckle** /'nʌkəl/, /nu-cul/ *n* a finger joint. • *vb* **knuckle down** to start working hard. • **knuckle under** to be forced to accept the authority of someone, to give in to.

**knuckle-duster** /'nʌkəl,dʌstər/, /nu-cul du-ster/ *n* a blunt metal instrument fixed on to the hand as a weapon.

**koala** /ko:'ɒlə/, /ko-a-la/ *n* a small bearlike animal found in Australia.

**kookaburra** /'kukə,bərə/, /koo-ka-bu-ra/ *n* an Australian bird.

**Koran** or **Qu'ran** /kɔ:ræn, kə-/ , /ku-ran/ *n* the holy book of Islam, the book of the Muslim religion.

**kosher** /'ko:ʃər/, /ko-sher/ *adj* **1** of food that has been prepared according to the rules of Jewish law. **2** (*inf*) genuine, honest, legal.

**kudos** /'ku:dɔ:s, -dəs/, /koo-dos/ *n* glory, fame, credit.

**kung fu** /kəŋ'fu:/, /kung foo/ *n* a Chinese form of unarmed combat using the hands and feet, similar to karate.

# L

**L, l /ɛl/, /eɪl/** the 12th letter of the English alphabet.

**lab** /læb/, /lab/ *n* short for **laboratory**.

**label** /'leɪbəl/, /lay-bel/ *n* a piece of paper or card fixed to something to give information about it. • *vb* (**labelled**, **labelling**) to fix a label to.

**labia** /'leɪbiə/, /lay-bee-a/ *npl* plural of **labium**.

**labial** /'leɪbiəl/, /lay-bee-ul/ *of* or related to the lips or the labia.

**labium** /'leɪbiəm/, /lay-bee-um/ *n*, **labia** /lay-bee-a/ *npl* 1 a lip-shaped structure. 2 a fold of the vulva.

**labour** /'leɪbər/, /lay-bur/ *n*, also **labor** (US) 1 hard work. 2 childbirth. 3 all workers as a body. 4 (cap) the British Labour political party. • *also adj.* • *vb* 1 to work hard. 2 to be employed to do hard and unskilled work. 3 to do something slowly or with difficulty.

**laboratory** /'læbərətɔri/, /la-bor-at-ree/ *n* a workshop used for scientific experiments.

**laboured** /leɪbərd/, /lay-burd/ *adj*, also **labored** (US) showing a lot of effort or hard work.

**labourer** /leɪbərər/, /lay-bu-rer/ *n*, also **laborer** (US) a person who does unskilled work.

**lace** /leɪs/, /lace/ *n* 1 a cord used for tying opposite edges together. 2 an ornamental network of thread. • *vb* to fasten with a lace.

**lacerate** /'læsəreɪt/, /la-se-rate/ *vb* 1 to tear, to wound. 2 to hurt badly. • *n* **laceration**.

**lack** /læk/, /lak/ *vb* to want, to need, to be without. • *n* want, need.

**lackey** /'læki/, /la-kee/ *n* 1 (old) a servant. 2 someone who behaves like a servant.

**lacklustre** /'læk,lʌstər/, /lack-lu-ster/ *adj*, also **lackluster** (US) dull, lacking brightness.

**laconic** /lə'kɒnɪk/, /la-**con**-ic/ *adj* using few words to express a meaning.

**lacquer** /'lækər/, /la-ker/ *n* 1 a varnish. 2 a substance used to keep hair in place. • *vb* to paint with lacquer.

**lacrosse** /lə'krɒs/, /la-**cross**/ *n* a team ball game played with long-handled rackets.

**lactic** /'læktɪk/, /la-**c**tic/ *adj* having to do with milk.

**lacuna** /lə'kjʊnə/, /la-**coo**-na/ *n* (*pl* **lacunae**) (*fml*) a gap, a blank.

**lad** /læd/, /la**d**/ *n* a boy, a young man.

**ladder** /'lædər/, /la-der/ *n* 1 a frame of two poles or planks, joined by short crossbars, used as steps for going up or down. 2 a tear that runs up or down a stocking or tights.

**laden** /'leɪdən/, /la**y**-den/ *adj* loaded.

**ladies** /'leɪdi:z/, /la**y**-diz/ *npl* 1 plural of **lady**. 2(*fml*) a public toilet for women.

**ladle** /'leɪdəl/, /la**y**-del/ *n* a large long-handled spoon for lifting liquids. • *vb* to lift with a ladle.

**lady** /'leɪdi/, /la**y**-dee/ *n* 1 a woman of rank or with good manners. 2 (*fml*) a woman; sometimes considered more polite than 'woman'. 3 (*cap*) the title of the wife of a knight or of a man of higher rank. • *n* **your /her Ladyship** the title used in speaking to or of a lady of high rank.

**ladybird** /leɪdi ,bərd/, /la**y**-dee-burd/ *n* a small beetle, usually red with black spots.

**lag** /læg/, /la**g**/ *vb* (**lagged**, **lagging**) 1 to go too slowly, not to keep pace with, to fall behind. 2 not to keep up with. • *n* (*inf*) an old convict.

**lager** /'lægər/, /la-ger/ *n* a light, clear beer of German origin.

**lagoon** /lə'gu:n/, /la-**goon**/ *n* a shallow saltwater lake cut off from the sea by sandbanks or rocks.

**laid** /'leɪd/, /la**id**/ *pt and pp of lay*<sup>2</sup>.

**laid-back** /'leɪd,bæk/, /la**id**-back/ *adj* relaxed, easygoing.

**lain** *pp of lie*.

**lair** /lær/, /la**ir**/ *n* a wild beast's den.

**lake**<sup>1</sup> /leɪk/, /læk/ *n* a large stretch of water surrounded by land.

**lake**<sup>2</sup> /leɪk/, /læk/ *n* a deep red colour.

**lamb** /læm/, /læm/ *n* a young sheep.

**lame** /leɪm/, /læm/ *adj* 1 unable to walk well because of an injured or badly formed leg. 2 not good, inadequate. • *vb* to make lame. • *n* **lameness**.

**lament** /læ'ment/, /la-mənt/ *vb* 1 to show grief or sorrow for, to mourn for. 2 to express regret for. • *n* 1 the expressing of great grief. 2 a mournful song or tune. • *n* **lamentation**.

**lamentable** /læ'mentəbəl/, /la-men-ta-bul/ *adj* much to be regretted, extremely unsatisfactory.

**laminate** /'læmineɪt/, /la-mi-nate/ *vb* to put a thin layer (e.g. of plastic) over something. • *also n*.

**lamp** /læmp/, /læmp/ *n* a vessel for giving light.

**lampoon** /læm'pu:n/, /lam-poon/ *n* something written specially to make another seem foolish or wicked.

**lance** /læns/, /læns/ *n* a long spear used by horse soldiers. • *vb* 1 to wound or hit with a lance. 2 to cut open with a lancet.

**lance-corporal** /læns 'kɔ:rprəl/, /læns 'kɔ:rprəl/ *n* the lowest appointed rank in the British Army, just below that of a corporal.

**lancet** /'lænsət/, /lan-set/ *n* a surgical knife with two sharp edges.

**land** /lænd/, /lænd/ *n* 1 the solid part of the earth's surface. 2 country. 3 ground, soil. • *vb* to bring, put, or go ashore; to touch down.

**landed** /lændəd/, /lan-did/ *adj* possessing land.

**landfall** /lændfɔ:l/, /land-fawl/ *n* 1 a ship's approach to land at the end of a voyage. 2 the land approached.

**landfill site** /'lænd fil/, /land-fill site/ *n* a place where waste material is buried under layers of earth, often excavated for this purpose.

**landing** /'lændɪŋ/, /lan-ding/ *n* 1 the act of going ashore. 2 a place for going on shore. 3 the corridor opening on to the rooms at the top of a flight of stairs.

**landlady** /'lænd,leidi/, /land-lay-dee/ *n* 1 a woman who keeps an inn or boarding house. 2 a woman who rents out rooms, flats or houses.

**landlord** /lændlɔːrd/, /lənd-lawrd/ *n* **1** a man who keeps an inn or boarding house. **2** a man who rents out rooms, flats or houses.

**landmark** /'lændmark/, /lənd-mark/ *n* **1** an easily recognized object from which travellers can tell where they are. **2** a very important event. • *also adj.*

**landscape** /lændskeɪp/, /lənd-scape/ *n* **1** a view of the country seen from one position. **2** a picture of the countryside.

**landslide** /'lændslɔːd/, /lənd-slide/ *n* the falling of a mass of earth, etc, down the side of a mountain.

**landlip** /lændslip/, /lənd-slip/ *n* a landslide.

**landward** /'lændwərd/, /lənd-ward/ *adj and adv* towards land.

**lane** /lein/, /lænə/ *n* **1** a narrow road. **2** a narrow passage or alley between buildings, often found in place names. **3** any of the parallel parts into which roads are divided for a single line of traffic. **4** the route intended for or regularly used by ships or aircraft. **5** a marked strip of track, water, etc, for a competitor in a race.

**language** /'læŋgwɪdʒ/, /lang-gwidʒ/ *n* **1** meaningful speech. **2** the speech of one people. **3** words.

**languid** /'læŋgwɪd/, /lang-gwid/ *adj* lacking energy, weak; slow-moving, relaxed.

**languish** /'læŋgwɪʃ/, /lang-gwɪʃ/ *vb* to lose strength, to become weak. **2** to experience long suffering.

**lank** /læŋk/, /langk/ *adj* **1** tall and thin, lanky. **2** straight and limp.

**lanky** /'læŋki/, /lang-kee/ *adj* ungracefully tall and thin.

**lanolin(e)** /'lænəlɪn/, /la-no-lin/ *n* a soothing ointment made from fat obtained from sheep's wool.

**lantern** /'læntərn/, /lan-tern/ *n* a case, usually of glass, that encloses and protects a light.

**lap<sup>1</sup>** /læp/, /lap/ *n* **1** the seat formed by the knees and thighs of a person sitting. **2** one round of a course in a race.

**lap<sup>2</sup>** læp/, /lap/ *vb (lapped, lapping)* **1** to lick up. **2** to wash against in little waves. • *n* the sound made by small waves.

**lapdog** /'læpdɒg/, /lap-dog/ *n* a small pet dog.

**lapel** /lə'pɛl/, /la-pɛl/ *n* the folded back part of the breast of a coat or jacket.

**lapis lazuli** /læpis'læzjʊləɪ, -li/, /la-pis la-zu-lye/ *n* a blue precious stone.

**lapse** /læps/, /læpsə/ *n* 1 a mistake, a small error or fault. 2 the passing (of time). • *vb* 1 to fall out of use. 2 to come to an end. 3 to pass gradually into a less active or less desirable state.

**laptop** /'læptɒp/, /lap-top/ *n* a small, light computer that can be operated by battery and can be used on someone's lap.

**larch** /lɑ:tʃ/, /lɑ:tʃ/ *n* a type of deciduous, cone-bearing tree.

**lard** /lɑ:d/, /lɑ:d/ *n* the fat of pigs, prepared for use in cooking.

**larder** /lɑ:dər/, /lar-der/ *n* a room or cupboard for storing food.

**large** /lɑ:dʒ/, /large/ *adj* more than usual in size, number or amount, big. • **at large** free; on the run.

**lariat** /'lærɪət, 'læriət/, /la-ree-at/ *n* 1 a rope. 2 a rope with a running knot for catching animals, like a lasso.

**lark** /lɑ:k/, /lɑ:k/ *n* 1 a songbird. 2 something done for fun. • *vb* to play tricks.

**larva** /'lɑ:rvə/, /lar-va/ *n* (*pl* **larvae**) the form of an insect on coming out of the egg, a grub.

**larynx** /'lærɪŋks/, /la-rɪngks/ *n* the upper part of the windpipe, containing the vocal chords which produce the voice.

**lasagne** /lə'zɔ:njə/, /la-zan-ya/ *n* an Italian dish made from layers of flat, wide pasta, a meat or vegetable sauce and a cheese sauce.

**laser** /'leɪzər/, /lay-zer/ *n* a device that produces a narrow beam of concentrated light.

**lash** /læʃ/, /lash/ *n* 1 the cord of a whip. 2 a blow given with a whip. • *vb* 1 to whip, to strike hard or often. 2 to fasten by tying tightly.

**lass** /læs/, /lass/ *n* a girl.

**lasso** /lə'su:/, /læso:/, /la-soo, la-soe/ *n* (*pl* **lassos** or **lassoes**) a rope with a running knot for catching animals. • *vb* to catch with a lasso.

**last<sup>1</sup>** /læst/, /last/ *adj* 1 coming after all others. 2 latest. 3 final. • *adv* at the last time or place. • **at last** in the end.

**last**<sup>2</sup> /læst/, /last/ *n* a foot-shaped block on which shoes are made or repaired.

**last**<sup>3</sup> /læst/, /last/ *vb* 1 to go on. 2 to continue.

**lasting** /læstɪŋ/, /la-sting/ *adj* 1 going on for a long time. 2 remaining in good condition.

**latch** /lætʃ/, /lach/ *n* a small piece of wood or metal for keeping a door shut. • *vb* to fasten with a latch.

**latchkey** /'lætʃki:/, /lach-kee/ *n* the key for the main door of a house.

**late** /leɪt/, /late/ *adj* 1 arriving after the time fixed. 2 far on in time. 3 now dead. 4 recent. • *adv* after the time fixed. • *n* **lateness**. • *of late (fml)* recently.

**lately** /'leɪtli/, /late-lee/ *adv* in recent times, recently.

**latent** /'leɪtənt/, /lay-tent/ *adj* present but not yet noticeable, not fully developed.

**lateral** /'lætərəl/, /la-te-ral/ *adj* on, at or from the side.

**lathe** /leɪð/, /lathe/ *n* a machine for turning around wood, metal, pottery, etc, while it is being shaped.

**lather** /'læðər/, /la-ther/ *n* 1 froth of soap and water. 2 froth from sweat. • *vb* 1 to cover with lather. 2 to become frothy.

**Latin** /'lætm/, /la-tin/ *n* the language of ancient Rome. • *adj* 1 having to do with the ancient Romans. 2 having to do with the peoples of France, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

**latitude** /'lætɪ,tju:d/, /la-ti-tyood/ *n* 1 distance north or south of the equator. 2 freedom from controls.

**latrine** /læ'tri:n/, /la-treen/ *n* a lavatory, especially in a camp or institution.

**latter** /'lætər/, /la-ter/ *adj* 1 near the end of a period of time. 2 second of two just mentioned.

**latterly** /'lætərli/, /la-ter-lee/ *adv* recently, lately, in the last part of a period of time.

**lattice** /'lætɪs/, /la-tis/ *n* a network of crossed bars or strips as of wood. • *adj* **latticed**.

**laugh** /læf/, /laf/ *vb* to make a sound expressing amusement or pleasure. • *n* the sound of laughing.

**laughable** /'læfəbəl/, /la-fa-bul/ *adj* causing people to laugh, ridiculous.

**laughter** /'læftər/, /laf-ter/ *n* the act or sound of laughing.

**launch** /ləntʃ/, /lawnch/ *vb* **1** to put into motion, to send on its course. **2** to cause. **3** to put into action, to set going. • *n* **1** the act of launching. **2** a large motorboat.

**launder** /'ləndər/, /lawn-der/ *vb* to wash and iron.

**laundry** /'ləndri/, /lawn-dree/ *n* **1** a place where clothes, etc, are washed and ironed. **2** clothes and other items that are in need of washing or are being washed.

**laurel** /'lɔrəl/, /law-rel/ *n* **1** a bay tree whose leaves are used for making wreaths of honour. **2** a special honour.

**lava** /'lævə/, /la-va/ *n* the melted rock emitted by a volcano.

**lavatory** /'lævətɔri/, /la-va-toe-ree/ *n* a toilet; a room with a toilet.

**lavender** /'lævəndər/, /la-ven-der/ *n* **1** a plant with sweet-smelling flowers. **2** a light purple colour.

**lavish** /'lævɪʃ/, /la-vish/ *adj* **1** giving freely, generous. **2** given or spent in great quantities. • *vb* to give or spend lavishly.

**law** /lɔ:/, /law/ *n* **1** a rule or set of rules laid down for a people or a group of people by a person or persons with recognized authority. **2** in science, a statement of the way in which objects regularly behave.

**law-abiding** /'lɔ:æbədɪŋ/, /law-a-bide-ing/ *adj* obeying the law.

**lawful** /lɔ:ful/, /law-ful/ *adj* allowed by law.

**lawless** /'lɔ:ləs/, /law-less/ *adj* not keeping the laws, wild.

**lawn<sup>1</sup>** /lɔ:n/, /lawn/ *n* a stretch of carefully kept grass in a garden.

**lawn<sup>2</sup>** /lɔ:n/, /lawn/ *n* a type of fine linen.

**lawnmower** /'lɔ:nmo:ər/, /lawn-mo-wer/ *n* a machine for cutting grass.

**lawsuit** /'lɔ:su:t/, /law-soot/ *n* claiming before a judge that another has broken the law.

**lawn tennis** /'lɔ:n,tenɪs/, /lawn te-nis/ *n* tennis played on a grass court.

**lawyer** /'lɔ:rər/, /law-yer/ *n* someone skilled in the law.

**lax** /læks/, /laks/ *adj* not sufficiently strict or severe.

**laxative** /'læksətɪv/, /lak-sa-tiv/ *n* a medicine that causes or helps the bowels to empty. • *also adj.*

**lay<sup>1</sup>** /lei/, /lay/ *pt of lie.*

**lay<sup>2</sup>** /lei/, /lay/ *vb (pt, pp laid)* **1** to cause to lie. **2** to place. **3** to make ready. **4** to produce eggs. **5** to bet. **6 (inf)** to have sex with. • **lay by**, **lay up** to store for the future. • **lay oneself open to** to put yourself into the position of receiving.

**lay<sup>3</sup>** /lei/, /lay/ *n (old)* a poem or song.

**lay<sup>4</sup>** /lei/, /lay/ *adj* **1** having to do with people who are not members of the clergy. **2** not expert.

**layer** /'leɪər/, /lay-er/ *n* an even spread of one substance over the surface of another.

**layman** /'leɪmən/, /lay-man/ *n* **1** someone who is not a clergyman. **2** someone who is not an expert or specialist.

**laze** /leɪz/, /laze/ *vb* to be lazy, to do nothing.

**lazy** /'leɪzi/, /lay-zee/ *adj* unwilling to work, liking to do nothing. • *n laziness.*

**Ib** *abbr of pound<sup>1</sup>.*

**lead<sup>1</sup>** /li:d/, /led/ *n* **1** a soft heavy metal. **2** the stick of black lead or graphite in a pencil. **3** a piece of lead attached to a cord for finding the depth of water. **4 pl leads** /leds/ the sheets of lead used for covering roofs.

**lead<sup>2</sup>** /lɛd/, /leed/ *vb (pt, pp led)* **1** to go in front to show the way, to guide. **2** to act as a chief or commander. **3** to influence. **4** to spend. • *n* **1** a guiding suggestion or example. **2** a chief part. **4** a cord, etc, for leading a dog. **5** a long piece of wire, usually covered in plastic, used to convey electricity to an appliance.

**leader** /'li:dər/, /lee-der/ *n* **1** someone who shows the way. **2** someone who gives orders or takes charge. **3** a person or thing that is ahead of others. **4** a newspaper article giving an opinion on a news item of interest (*also leading article*). • *n leadership.*

**leading** /'li:dɪŋ/, /lee-ding/ *adj* chief, most important.

**leading question** /'li:dɪŋ 'kwestjən/, /lee-ding kwes-chun/ *n* a question asked in such a way as to suggest the answer desired.

**leaf** /li:f/, /leef/ *n* (*pl leaves*) **1** one of the thin, flat usually green blades growing out of the stem of a plant or the branch of a tree. **2** a single sheet of paper in a book with pages printed on both sides. **3** the movable part of a table-top or double door. • **turn over a new leaf** to begin to live or act in a better way.

**leaflet** /'li:flet/, /leef-let/ *n* a printed sheet of paper, usually folded and free of charge, containing information.

**leafy** /'li:fi/, /lee-fee/ *adj* full of leaves.

**league<sup>1</sup>** /li:g/, /leeg/ *n* a measure of distance.

**league<sup>2</sup>** /li:g/, /leeg/ *n* **1** a group of people or nations bound by agreement to help one another. **2** a group of sports clubs or players that play matches among themselves. **3** a level of ability, quality, etc. • *vb (fml)* to join together, to unite.

**leak** /li:k/, /leek/ *n* **1** a hole by which water escapes (e.g. from a pipe) or enters a dry place. **2** a small accidental hole or crack through which something flows in or out. **3** the accidental or intentional making public of secret information. • *vb* **1** to let water in or out. **2** to get out through a hole or crack. **3** to make public that which is secret.

**leakage** /'li:kædʒ/, /lee-kage/ *n* act of leaking.

**leaky** /'li:ki/, /lee-kee/ *adj (inf)* having leaks.

**lean<sup>1</sup>** /li:n/, /leen/ *vb (pt, pp leaned or leant)* **1** to slope to one side. **2** to bend. **3** to rest against. **4** to have a preference for.

**lean<sup>2</sup>** /li:n/, /leen/ *adj* **1** not having much fat. **2** thin, healthily thin. • *n* meat without fat. • *n* **leanness**.

**leaning** /'li:nɪŋ/, /lee-ning/ *n* preference, liking.

**leant pt and pp of lean.**

**leap** /li:p/, /leep/ *vb (pt, pp leaped or leapt)* to jump. • *n* **1** a jump. **2** the height or distance jumped.

**leapfrog** /'li:p,frɒg/, /leep-frawg/ *n* a game in which one player leaps over the others while they are bent over.

**leapt pt and pp of leap.**

**leap year** /'li:p yir/, /leep yir/ *n* a year in which there are 366 days, occurring once every 4 years.

**learn** /lərn/, /lern/ *vb (pt, pp learned or learnt)* **1** to gain knowledge or skill, to find out how to do something. **2** to come to understand, to realize. **3** to memorize, to fix in the memory.

**learned** /lərnəd/, /ler-ned/ *adj* having much knowledge, gained by study.

**learner** /lərnər/, /ler-ner/ *n* someone who is learning.

**learning** /lərnɪŋ/, /ler-ning/ *n* knowledge gained by study.

**learning disability** /lərnɪŋ dɪsə'biliti:/, /ler-ning dis-a-bil-i-tee/ *n* a problem that someone has in learning basic skills such as reading, which is caused by a physical condition.

**learnt pt and pp of learn.**

**lease** /li:s/, /leess/ *n* an agreement by which the use of house or land is given to another in return for a fixed annual amount or rent.  
• *vb* to give or take on lease.

**leash** /li:ʃ/, /leesh/ *n* a cord or strap for leading animals. • *vb* to hold on a leash.

**least** /li:st/, /leest/ *adj* smallest. • *also n.* • *adv* in the smallest degree.

**leather** /'leðər/, /le-ther/ *n* material made by preparing animal skins in a certain way. • *also adj.* • *vb (inf)* to beat, to thrash. • *adj* **leathery**.

**leave** /li:v/, /leev/ *n* **1** permission. **2** permitted absence. **3** holiday. **4** farewell. • *vb (pt, pp left)* **1** to give to another at your death. **2** to cause to be or remain in a particular state or condition. **3** to go without taking. **4** to depart. **5** to desert. **6** to entrust to another. **7** to allow to remain unused, untaken, uneaten, etc.

**leaves pl of leaf.**

**lectern** /'lekta:n/, /lec-tern/ *n* a reading desk for standing at.

**lecture** /'lektsər/, /lec-cher/ *n* **1** a talk on a certain subject. **2** a scolding. • *vb* **1** to give a lecture. **2** to scold.

**lecturer** /'lektsərər/, /lec-che-rer/ *n* **1** someone giving a talk. **2** someone who teaches in a college or university.

**led** /led/, /led/ *pt and pp of lead<sup>2</sup>*.

**ledge** /lədʒ/, /ledge/ *n* **1** a narrow shelf. **2** a ridge.

- ledger** /'ledʒər/, /le-jer/ *n* the chief account book of a business.
- leech** /lɪ:tʃ/, /leech/ *n* **1** a blood-sucking worm. **2** (*old*) a doctor.
- leek** /li:k/, /leek/ *n* a vegetable with broad flat leaves.
- leer** /li:r/, /leer/ *vb* to look at sideways in a sly or unpleasant way. • *also n.*
- left<sup>1</sup>** /lɛft/, /left/ *pt and pp of leave.*
- left<sup>2</sup>** left/, /left/ *n* **1** the side opposite to the right. **2** in politics, the Socialist party. • *also adj.* • **the extreme left** the Communist party.
- left-handed** /lɛft'hændəd/, /left-han-did/ *adj* better able to use the left hand than the right.
- leg** /lɛg/, /leg/ *n* **1** one of the limbs on which an animal stands or moves. **2** a support for a table, chair, etc. • **on one's last legs** near the end of your power, life, etc. • **pull a person's leg** to play a joke on someone.
- legacy** /'legəsi/, /le-ga-see/ *n* that which is left to someone by will.
- legal** /'li:gəl/, /lee-gal/ *adj* **1** having to do with the law. **2** allowed by law.
- legality** /lɪ'gælɪti/, /li-ga-li-tee/ *n* lawfulness.
- legalize** /'li:gəlaɪz/, /lee-ga-lize/ *vb, also legalise* to make lawful.
- legend** /'ledʒənd/, /le-jend/ *n* **1** an ancient story passed on by word of mouth. **2** the words written under a picture, etc.
- legendary** /'ledʒənd,əri/, /le-jen-da-ree/ *adj* **1** having to do with ancient legends, famous in story, existing only in story. **2** very famous.
- leggings** /'legɪŋgz/, /le-gingz/ *npl* a thick covering for the lower leg.
- leggy** /'legi/, /le-gee/ *adj (inf)* having very long legs.
- legible** /'ledʒɪbəl/, /le-ji-bul/ *adj* possible to read. • *n legibility.*
- legion** /'li:dʒən/, /lee-jun/ *n* **1** a Roman regiment or division (3000–6000 soldiers). **2** a great number.
- legionary** /'li:dʒənəri/, /lee-ju-ne-ree/ *n* a soldier belonging to a legion.
- legislate** /'ledʒɪslate/, /le-ji-slate/ *vb* to make laws.
- legislation** /'ledʒɪsl'eɪʃən/, /le-ji-slay-shun/ *n* **1** the act of making laws. **2** the laws made.

**legislative** /'ledʒɪslətɪv/, /le-ji-slay-tiv/ *adj* having the power or right to make laws.

**legislator** /'ledʒɪslɪtər/, /le-ji-slay-tor/ *n* someone who makes laws.

**legislature** /'ledʒɪslɪtʃər/, /le-ji-slay-chur/ *n* the part of a government that makes laws.

**legitimate** /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmət/, /li-ji-ti-mat/ *adj* 1 allowed by law, lawful. 2 born of married parents.

**legume** /'legju:m/, /lay-goom/ *n* a plant that bears seeds in pods (e.g. peas, beans, etc.).

**leisure** /'li:ʒər/, /lɛʒər/, /lee-zhur, leh-zhur/ *n* spare time, time free from work.

**leisurely** /'li:ʒərli/, /lee-zhur-lee/ *adj* slow, unhurried. • *also adv.*

**lemming** /'lemɪŋ/, /le-ming/ *n* a small ratlike animal of far northern regions.

**lemon** /'lemən/, /le-mon/ *n* 1 a pale, yellow, sharp-tasting fruit. 2 the tree bearing this fruit. 3 a pale yellow colour.

**lemonade** /'lemə'neid/, /le-mo-nade/, **lemon squash** /le-mon skwash/ *n* a drink made from or tasting of lemon juice.

**lemur** /'li:mər/, /lee-mur/ *n* a nocturnal primate, native to Madagascar.

**lend** /lend/, /lend/ *vb* (*pt, pp lent*) to give something to another on condition that it is returned after use. • *n lender*.

**length** /'lɛŋθ/, /lenth/ *n* measurement from end to end of space or time. • **at length** 1 at last. 2 taking a long time, in detail.

**lengthen** /'lɛŋkθən/, /lenth-en/ *vb* to make or become longer.

**lengthways** /'lɛŋθ weɪz/, /lenth-waze/ *adv, also lengthwise (US)* /'lɛŋθ waɪz/, /lenth-wize/ in the direction of the length.

**lengthy** /'lɛŋθi/, /lenth-ee/ *adj* very long.

**lenient** /'lɛniənt/, /leen-yent/ *adj* 1 merciful. 2 not severe. • *n lenience, leniency*.

**lens** /lenz/, /lenz/ *n* a transparent substance, usually glass, with a surface curved in such a way that objects seen through it appear bigger or smaller.

**Lent** /lənt/, /lɛnt/ *n* the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter during which Christ's fast in the desert is commemorated.

**lentil** /ləntɪl/, /lɛn-tɪl/ *n* the edible seed of a pealike plant.

**leopard** /'lepərd/, /lɛ-pard/ *n* a large, spotted animal of the cat family.

**leper** /'lepər/, /lɛ-per/ *n* a person with leprosy.

**leprechaun** /'leprə,kən/, /lɛ-pre-con/ *n* in fairy tales, an elf, especially in Ireland.

**leprosy** /'leprəsi/, /lɛ-pru-see/ *n* an infectious disease that eats away the skin and parts of the body. • *adj* **leprous**.

**lesion** /'li:ʒən/, /lɛe-zhun/ *n* (*fml*) an injury, a wound.

**less** /'les/, /lɛs/ *adj* smaller, not so much. • *n* a smaller amount. • *adv* not so greatly, not so much.

**lessen** /'lesən/, /lɛ-sən/ *vb* to make or become less.

**lesser** /'lesər/, /lɛ-ser/ *adj* less, smaller.

**lesson** /'lesən/, /lɛ-sən/ *n* 1 something that is learned or taught. 2 a period of teaching. 3 a passage read from the Bible. 4 an example.

**let** /let/, /lɛt/ *vb* (**let, letting**) 1 to allow. 2 to allow the use of for rent or payment. • *n* the act of letting for rent.

**lethal** /'li:θəl/, /lɛe-thal/ *adj* causing death.

**lethargic** /'li'θærdfʒɪk/, /lɛ-thar-jic/ *adj* sleepy, slow-moving, lacking interest.

**lethargy** /'liθərdʒi/, /lɛ-thar-jee/ *n* lack of energy and interest.

**letter** /'lɛtər/, /lɛ-ter/ *n* 1 a sign standing for a sound. 2 a written message. 3 (*fml*) *pl* literature, learning. • **letter of credit** a letter allowing the holder to draw money when away from home. • **to the letter** exactly.

**lettered** /'lɛtərd/, /lɛ-terd/ *adj* (*fml*) well read.

**lettering** /'lɛtərɪŋ/, /lɛ-te-ring/ *n* letters that have been drawn, painted, etc.

**lettuce** /'lɛtəs/, /lɛ-tus/ *n* a plant whose leaves are used in salads.

**leukaemia** /lu:'ki:miə/, /loo-kee-mee-a/, also **leukemia** (US) *n* a cancer of the blood, in which too many white blood cells are produced.

**levee** /'levi:/, /le-vee/ *n* 1 (*old*) a morning party at which guests were introduced to the king or queen. 2 a raised bank at the side of a river.

**level** /'levəl/, /le-vel/ *n* 1 a flat, even surface. 2 a general standard of quality or quantity. 3 a horizontal division or floor in a house, etc. • *adj* 1 flat. 2 even. 3 on the same line or height. • *vb* (**levelled**, **levelling** /le-ve-ling/) 1 to make flat. 2 to make equal. 3 to destroy, to demolish. 4 to aim.

**level crossing** /'levəl 'crasɪŋ/, /le-vel craw-sing/ *n* a place where a railway line crosses the surface of a road.

**level-headed** /'levəl'hedəd/, /le-vel-he-ded/ *adj* sensible.

**lever** /'li:vər/, /lee-ver/ *n* a bar for raising heavy objects.

**leverage** /'levərɪdʒ/, /lee-ve-rige/ *n* power gained by the use of a lever.

**leveret** /'levərət/, /le-ve-ret/ *n* a young hare.

**leviathan** /lə'veɪθən/, /li-vie-a-thin/ *n* 1 a sea monster. 2 anything very large.

**levity** /'leviti/, /le-vi-tee/ *n* (*fml*) lack of seriousness.

**levy** /'levi/, /le-vee/ *vb* 1 to bring together men to form an army. 2 to collect money for a tax. • *n* 1 the soldiers thus assembled. 2 the money thus collected.

**lewd** /lu:d/, /lood/ *adj* indecent, obscene. • *n* **lewdness**.

**lexicographer** /lɛksɪ'kɒgrəfər/, /lek-si-cog-ra-fer/ *n* someone who prepares a dictionary.

**lexicon** /'leksɪkən/, /lek-si-con/ *n* a dictionary.

**liability** /laɪə'biliti/, /lie-a-bi-li-tee/ *n* 1 debt. 2 the state of being liable. 3 something for which someone is responsible.

**liable** /laɪəbəl/, /lie-a-bul/ *adj* 1 likely to have to do or suffer from. 2 legally responsible for. 3 likely to get, be punished with, etc.

**liaison** /li'eɪzən, li:ei'zən/, /lee-ay-zon/ *n* 1 a close connection or working association. 2 (*fml*) an unlawful sexual relationship.

**liar** /laɪər/, /lie-ar/ *n* someone who tells lies.

**libel** /'libəl/, /lie-bel/ *n* something written that damages a person's reputation. • *also vb* (**labelled**, **libelling**).

**libellous** /'libələs/, /lie-bel-us/ *adj* hurtful to someone's reputation.

**liberal** /'lɪbərəl/, /lib-ral/ *adj* 1 generous. 2 ready to accept new ideas.

3 (*of education*) intended solely to develop the powers of the mind.

• *n* someone who believes in greater political freedom.

**liberality** /lɪbə'rælɪti/, /li-ber-a-li-tee/ *n* (*fml*) readiness to give to others.

**liberate** /'lɪbə,reɪt/, /li-ber-ate/ *vb* to set free. • *n* **liberation**.

**libertine** /'lɪbər,tɪ:n/, /lib-er-teen/ *n* (*fml*) someone who openly leads a wicked, immoral life.

**liberty** /'lɪbərti/, /lib-er-tee/ *n* 1 freedom. 2 the right to do as you like.

3 too great freedom of speech or action.

**librarian** /laɪ'brærɪən/, /lie-bray-ree-an/ *n* someone in charge of a library.

**library** /'laɪ,brəri/, /lie-bre-ree/ *n* 1 a collection of books. 2 a room or building in which books are kept.

**libretto** /lɪ'bret:o:/, /li-bre-toe/ *n* (*pl libretti*) the book of words of an opera or musical work.

**lice** /ləɪs/, /licə/ see **louse**.

**licence** /'ləɪsəns/, /lie-sense/ *n*, also **license** (US) 1 a written permission to do or keep something. 2 (*fml*) too great freedom of action.

**license** /'ləɪsəns/, /lie-sense/ *vb* to give a licence to.

**licensee** /ləɪsən'si:/, /lie-sen-see/ *n* someone to whom a licence is given.

**licentious** /ləɪ'senʃəs/, /lie-sen-shus/ *adj* (*fml*) behaving in an immoral or improper way, indecent. • *n* **licentiousness**.

**lichen** /'ləɪkən/, /lie-ken/ *n* a moss that grows on rocks, tree trunks, etc.

**licit** /'lɪsɪt/, /li-sit/ *adj* (*fml*) lawful.

**lick** /lik/, /lick/ *vb* 1 to pass the tongue over. 2 to take. 3 (*inf*) to defeat. 4 (*inf*) to thrash. • *n* 1 act of passing the tongue over. 2 a blow.

**licking** /'lɪkɪŋ/, /li-king/ *n* (*inf*) a thrashing.

**licorice** US variant of **liquorice**.

**lid** /lɪd/, /lid/ *n* the movable cover of a pot, box, etc.

**lie<sup>1</sup>** /laɪ/, /lɪe/ *n* a statement that the maker knows to be untrue. • *vb (lied, lying)* to tell a lie.

**lie<sup>2</sup>** /laɪ/, /lɪe/ *vb (lay, lying)* **1** to put the body full length upon. **2** to be or remain in a certain place. • *n* the way in which something lies.

**liege** /li:dʒ/, /lɪedge/ *n* (*old*) **1** someone owing certain duties to a lord. **2** a lord.

**lieu** /lju:/, /loo/ *n*. • **in lieu of** instead of.

**lieutenant** /'lefənənt, (US) 'lu:-/, /lef-ten-ant, (US) loo-ten-ant/ *n* **1** (*fml*) someone who does the work of another, deputy. **2** a naval or army officer.

**life** /ləɪf/, /lɪfe/ *n* (*pl* **lives**) **1** the state of being alive. **2** the force existing in animals and plants that gives them the ability to change with the passing of time. **3** liveliness, activity. **4** the time someone has been alive. **5** the story of someone's life.

**lifebelt** /'ləɪfbelt/, /life-belt/ *n* a belt of a material that floats easily and so helps to prevent the wearer sinking when in water.

**lifeboat** /'ləɪfbo:t/, /life-boat/ *n* a boat that goes to the help of those in danger at sea.

**lifebuoy** /'ləɪfbɔɪ/, /life-boy/ *n* an object that floats easily and to which shipwrecked people can hold until help arrives.

**life cycle** /ləɪfsaɪkəl/, /life sie-cull/ *n* the series of forms into which a living thing changes during its development.

**lifeless** /'ləɪfləs/, /life-less/ *adj* **1** dead. **2** dull. **3** not lively.

**lifelike** /'ləɪfləɪk/, /life-like/ *adj* seeming to have life.

**lifelong** /'ləɪflɔːŋ/, /life-long/ *adj* lasting through life.

**life-size** /'ləɪflsaɪz/, /life-size/, **life-sized** /life-siezd/ *adj* of the same size as the person or thing represented.

**life span** /'ləɪfspæn/, /life span/ *n* the length of time that someone is likely to live or something is likely to function.

**lifestyle** /'ləɪfstail/, /life-stile/ *n* the way in which someone lives.

**lifetime** /'ləɪftaɪm/, /life-time/ *n* the length of time a person lives.

**lift** /lift/, /lift/ *vb* **1** to raise up higher. **2** to take up. • *n* **1** a machine by which people or goods are carried from floor to floor of a building.

**2** a free ride in a private vehicle.

**ligament** /'lɪgəmənt/, /li-ga-ment/ *n* a band of tough substance joining bones together at joints.

**ligature** /'lɪgətʃər/, /li-ga-chur/ *n* **1** (*fml*) a bandage. **2** a cord for tying up the end of a blood vessel during an operation. **3** two letters joined together in type (e.g. fi, fl).

**light<sup>1</sup>** /læt/, /lite/ *n* **1** that which makes it possible for the eye to see things. **2** anything that gives light, as the sun, a lamp, etc. **3** knowledge, understanding. **4** brightness in the eyes or face. • *adj* **1** clear, not dark. **2** not deep or dark in colour. • *vb* (*pt, pp lit*) to give light to, to set fire to.

**light<sup>2</sup>** /læt/, /lite/ *adj* **1** not heavy. **2** not difficult. **3** not severe. **4** small in amount. **5** not serious, for entertainment. **6** graceful. **7** happy, merry.

**light<sup>3</sup>** /læt/, /lite/ *vb* to come upon by chance.

**light bulb, lightbulb** /'lætbəlb/, /lite-bulb/ a glass bulb containing a wire (filament) or a gas that glows when it is supplied with electricity.

**lighten<sup>1</sup>** /'lætnən/, /lie-ten/ *vb* **1** to make bright. **2** to flash.

**lighten<sup>2</sup>** /'lætnən/, /lie-ten/ *vb* to make less heavy.

**lighter<sup>1</sup>** /'lætər/, /lie-ter/ *n* a device for setting something (e.g. a cigarette) alight.

**lighter<sup>2</sup>** /'lætər/, /lie-ter/ *n* a large boat, usually flat-bottomed, for carrying goods from ship to shore.

**light-fingered** /'læt,fɪŋgərəd/, /lite-fing-gerd/ *adj* (*inf*) thieving.

**light-footed** /'læt,fʊtəd/, /lite-foo-ted/ *adj* nimble, quick on your feet.

**light-headed** /'læt,hedəd/, /lite-he-ded/ *adj* giddy, dizzy.

**light-hearted** /'læt,hærtəd/, /lite-har-ted/ *adj* **1** merry, cheerful. **2** not serious.

**lighthouse** /'lætھəʊs/, /lite-house/ *n* a tower with a light to guide ships.

**lightning** /'lætnɪŋ/, /lite-ning/ *adj* the electric flash seen before thunder is heard.

**lightning conductor** /'ləɪtnɪŋ cəndəktər/, /lite-ning con-duc-tor/, US

**lightning rod** /lite-ning rod/ *n* a metal rod that protects a building from lightning by conducting the flash to the earth.

**lights** /ləɪts/, /lites/ *npl* the lungs of an animal, such as a sheep, used as food.

**lightship** /'ləɪtʃɪp/, /lite-ship/ *n* an anchored ship with a light to guide other ships.

**light year** /lite year/ *n* the distance light travels in a year.

**ignite** /'lɪgnəɪt/, /lig-nite/ *n* a type of brown coal.

**like<sup>1</sup>** /ləɪk/, /like/ *adj* nearly the same, resembling. • *prep* in the same way as. • *n* a person or thing nearly the same as or equal to another.

**like<sup>2</sup>** /ləɪk/, /like/ *vb* 1 to be pleased by. 2 to be fond of.

**likeable, likable** /'ləɪkəbəl/, /like-a-bul/ *adj* attractive, pleasant.

**likelihood** /'ləɪklɪhʊd/, /like-li-hood/ *n* probability.

**likely** /'ləɪkli/, /like-lee/ *adj* 1 probable. 2 suitable. • *adv* probably.

**liken** /'ləɪkən/, /like-en/ *vb* to compare.

**likeness** /'ləɪknəs/, /like-ness/ *n* 1 resemblance. 2 a picture of a person.

**likes** /'ləɪks/, /likes/ *npl* things that are pleasing to someone.

**likewise** /'ləɪkwaɪz/, /like-wize/ *adv* 1 in the same way. 2 also.

**liking** /'ləɪkɪŋ/, /like-ing/ *n* a fondness or preference for.

**lilac** /'laɪlæk/, /lie-lac/ *n* 1 a type of small tree with light purple or white flowers. 2 a light purple colour. • *adj* light purple.

**lilt** /lɪlt/, /lilt/ *vb* to sing cheerfully. • *n* 1 a regular pattern of rising and falling sound. 2 a cheerful song. 3 a tune with a strongly marked rhythm.

**lilting** /'lɪltɪŋ/, /lil-ting/ *adj* having a strongly marked lilt.

**lily** /'lili/, /li-lee/ *n* a flower grown from a bulb, often white in colour.

**lily of the valley** /'lili: əv ðe 'vali/, /li-lee ov the va-lee/ *n* a flower with small white bells and a distinctive sweet smell.

**limb** /lim/, /lim/ *n* 1 an arm, leg or wing. 2 a branch of a tree.

**limber** /'limbər/, /lim-ber/ *adj* moving and bending easily, supple. • *vb* **limber up** to exercise in order to make more supple.

**limbo** /'lɪmbər/, *n* **1** a place where, it is supposed, the souls of those who die in complete ignorance of God spend eternity. **2** a place where someone is forgotten or neglected, a state of uncertainty.

**lime<sup>1</sup>** /laɪm/, /lɪmə/ *n* a white substance got by heating certain kinds of rock.

**lime<sup>2</sup>** /laɪm/, /lɪmə/ *n* **1** a small lemon-like, yellowish-green fruit. **2** the tree bearing this fruit. **3** the linden tree.

**limelight** /'laɪmlaɪt/, /lɪmə-lite/ *n*. • **in the limelight** in a position in which someone's actions are followed with interest by many people.

**limerick** /'lɪmərɪk/, /lɪm-e-rick/ *n* a humorous nonsense poem written in a special five-line stanza.

**limestone** /'laɪmstɔ:n/, /lɪmə-stone/ *n* rock containing a lot of lime.

**limit** /'lɪmɪt/, /li-mit/ *n* **1** a boundary. **2** that which you may not go past. **3** the greatest or smallest amount or number that is fixed as being correct, legal, necessary, desirable, etc. • *vb* to keep within bounds.

**imitation** /'ɪmɪ'teɪʃən/, /li-mi-tay-shun/ *n* **1** that which limits. **2** inability to do something, weakness.

**limited** /'lɪmɪtəd/, /li-mi-ted/ *adj* **1** small in amount. **2** not very great, large, wide-ranging, etc.

**limn** /lm/, /lɪm/ *vb (old)* to draw or paint.

**imp<sup>1</sup>** /lɪmp/, /lɪmp/ *vb* to walk lamely. • *also n.*

**imp<sup>2</sup>** /lɪmp/, /lɪmp/ *adj* **1** not stiff, drooping. **2** without energy or strength.

**limpet** /'lɪmpət/, /lɪm-pet/ *n* a shellfish that clings tightly to rocks.

**limpid** /'lɪmpɪd/, /lɪm-pid/ *adj* clear, transparent.

**linchpin** /'lɪntʃpɪn/, /lɪnch-pin/ *n* **1** the pin passed through the end of an axle to keep the wheel on it. **2** a person who is very important to the running of a form or organization.

**linden** /lɪndən/, /lin-den/ *n* a kind of tree with yellow sweet-smelling flowers, the lime tree.

**line** /laɪn/, /lɪnə/ *n* **1** a small rope or cord. **2** a thin mark made with a pen, pencil, etc. **3** a row of persons or things. **4** a row of words on

a page. **5** a short letter. **6** a railway track. **7** ancestors and descendants. **8** a fleet of steamers, aeroplanes, etc, providing regular services. **9** (*inf*) the equator. **10** a telephone wire. **11** (*inf*) way of behaving or of earning your living. **12** *pl* the positions of an army ready to attack or defend. • *vb* **1** to mark with lines. **2** to arrange in a row or rows. **3** to cover on the inside.

**lineage** /'lɪniɪdʒ/, /li-née-age/ *n* someone's ancestors.

**lineal** /'lɪniəl/, /li-née-al/ *adj* passed down from father to son.

**lineament** /'lɪniəmənt/, /li-née-a-ment/ *n* (*fml*) a noticeable feature of the face.

**linear** /'lɪniər/, /li-née-ar/ *adj* having to do with lines.

**linen** /'lɪnən/, /li-nen/ *n* cloth made of flax.

**liner** /'laɪnər/, /lie-ner/ *n* **1** a large ocean-going passenger ship. **2** something that lines.

**linesman** /'laɪnzmən/, /line-zman/ *n* someone who assists an umpire or referee by signalling when a ball is out of play.

**ling** /'lɪŋ/, /ling/ *n* **1** a fish of the cod family. **2** heather.

**linger** /'lɪŋgər/, /ling-ger/ *vb* **1** to delay before going. **2** to stay about, to last or continue for a long time.

**lingerie** /lɪŋʒə'ri:/, /lon-je-ree/ *n* women's underclothing.

**lingo** /'lɪŋgo:/, /ling-go/ *n* (*inf*) a language.

**lingua franca** /lɪŋgwə'fræŋkə/, /ling-gwa frang-ka/ *n* a mixed language in which people of different languages may speak to one another.

**lingual** /'lɪŋgwəl/, /ling-gwal/ *adj* (*fml*) **1** having to do with the tongue. **2** having to do with language.

**linguist** /'lɪŋgwɪst/, /ling-gwist/ *n* someone skilled in foreign languages.

**linguistic** /'lɪŋgwɪstɪk/, /ling-gwi-stic/ *adj* having to do with the study of languages. • *n* **linguistics**.

**liniment** /'lɪnimənt/, /li-na-ment/ *n* an ointment or oil rubbed into the body to prevent stiffness.

**lining** /'laɪnɪŋ/, /lie-ning/ *n* the covering of the inside of something, such as a garment or box.

**link** /lɪŋk/, /lɪŋk/ *n* **1** one ring of a chain. **2** that which connects one thing with another. **3** in imperial measurements,  $\frac{1}{100}$  part of a chain (= 7.92 inches). • *vb* to connect, to join.

**links** /lɪŋks/, /lɪŋks/ *np* **1** flat sandy, grassy ground by the seashore. **2** a seaside golf course.

**linoleum** /lɪ'no:lɪəm/, /li-no-lee-um/ *n* a floor covering made of cloth coated with linseed oil.

**linseed** /'lɪnsi:d/, /lin-seed/ *n* the seed of flax.

**lint** /lɪnt/, /lint/ *n* linen specially prepared for dressing open wounds.

**lintel** /lɪntəl/, /lin-tel/ *n* the wood or stone across the top of a window or door.

**lion** /'laɪən/, /lion/ *n* **1** a large flesh-eating animal of the cat family. **2** a famous and important person. • *f* **lioness**. • **lion's share** the largest share.

**lion-hearted** /'laɪən hærtəd/, /lion-har-ted/ *adj* very brave.

**lionize** /'laɪənaɪz/, /lion-ize/ *vb, also lionise* to treat a person as if he or she were famous.

**lip** /lɪps/, /lip/ *n* **1** either of the edges of the opening of the mouth. **2** the edge or brim of anything.

**lip-read** /'lɪpri:d/, /lip-reed/ *vb* to understand what a person is saying from the movements of his or her lips.

**lipstick** /'lɪpstɪk/, /lip-stick/ *n* a kind of pencil or crayon used to colour the lips.

**liquefy** /'lɪkwə,fai/, /li-kwi-fie/ *vb* to make or become liquid. • *n* **liquefaction**.

**liqueur** /lɪ'kjʊr/, /li-cyoor/ *n* a sweetly flavoured alcoholic drink.

**liquid** /'lɪkwɪd/, /li-kwid/ *adj* **1** in the form of a liquid. **2** clear. **3** (of sounds) smooth and clear, as the letter *r* or *l*. • *n* a substance that flows and has no fixed shape, a substance that is not a solid or gas.

**liquidate** /'lɪkwɪ,dɪt/, /li-kwi-date/ *vb* **1** to pay debts. **2** to close down a business when it has too many debts. **3** to put an end to, to get rid of, to destroy. • *n* **liquidation**.

**liquor** /'lɪkər/, /li-cur/ *n* **1** strong alcoholic drink, such as spirits. **2** the liquid produced from cooked food.

**liquorice** /'lɪkərɪs/, /li-crish, li-ker-iss/ *n, also licorice (US)* **1** a black sweet-tasting root used in making medicines and sweets. **2** a kind of sweet made from this.

**lisp** /lɪsp/, /lisp/ *vb* **1** to say the sound *th* for *s* when speaking. **2** to speak as a small child does. • *also n.*

**list<sup>1</sup>** /list/, /list/ *n* a series of names, numbers, etc, written down in order one after the other. • *vb* to write down in order.

**list<sup>2</sup>** /list/, /list/ *vb* to lean over to one side. • *also n.*

**listed building** /lɪstəd bɪldɪŋ/, /list-ed bild-ing/ *n* a building officially protected because of its historical or artistic importance.

**listen** /'lɪsən/, /li-sen/ *vb* **1** to try to hear. **2** to pay attention to. • *n listener.*

**listless** /lɪstləs/, /list-less/ *adj* lacking energy, uninterested.

**lit** /lɪt/, *pt and pp of light<sup>1</sup>.*

**litany** /'lɪtəni/, /li-ta-nee/ *n* a form of public prayer with responses given by the worshippers.

**liter** US variant of **litre**.

**literacy** /'lɪtərəsi/, /li-tra-see/ *n* the ability to read and write.

**literal** /'lɪtərəl/, /li-tral/ *adj* **1** with each word given its ordinary meaning, word for word. **2** following the exact meaning without any exaggeration or anything added from the imagination. • *adv literally.*

**literary** /'lɪtərəri/, /li-te-ra-ree/ *adj* having to do with literature or with writing as a career.

**literate** /'lɪtərət/, /li-te-rat/ *adj* **1** able to read and write. **2** having read a great deal.

**literature** /'lɪtərətʃər/, /li-te-ra-chur/ *n* **1** the books, etc, written on a particular subject. **2** written works of lasting interest and of fine quality and artistic value.

**lithe** /laɪð/, /lithe/ *adj* able to bend or twist easily and gracefully.

**litmus** /'lɪtməs/, /lit-mus/ *n* a blue dye turned red by acids.

**litre** /'lɪ:tər/, /lee-ter/ *n, also liter (US)* in the metric system, a measure of liquid volume, *abbr l.*

**litter** /'lɪtər/, /lɪ-ter/ *n* 1 (*old*) a light bed that can be carried about, a stretcher. 2 bedding of straw, etc, for animals. 3 the young of an animal born at one time. 4 trash; scraps of paper and rubbish lying about. • *vb* 1 to throw away untidily. 2 (*of animals*) to give birth to.

**little** /'lɪtl/, /lɪ-tul/ *adj* 1 small. 2 short. 3 young. • *n* 1 a small amount. 2 a short time. • *adv* not much.

**live<sup>1</sup>** /lɪv/, /liv/ *vb* 1 to have life, to exist, to be alive. 2 to continue to be alive. 3 to dwell, to have your home. 4 to behave in a certain way. 5 to keep oneself alive, obtain the food or goods necessary for life. 6 to pass or spend one's life. • **live down** to live in a way that makes others overlook one's past faults.

**live<sup>2</sup>** /laɪv/, /live/ *adj* 1 having life, alive. 2 full of energy, capable of becoming active. 3 heard or seen as the event takes place, not recorded. 4 burning.

**livelihood** /'laɪvlɪ,hud/, /live-lee-hood/ *n* the work by which one earns one's living.

**livelong** /'laɪvlɔŋ/, /liv-long/ *adj* 1 seeming long. 2 (*fml*) whole.

**lively** /'laɪvli/, /live-lee/ *adj* active, energetic, cheerful. • *n* **liveliness**.

**liven** /'laɪvən/, /lie-ven/ *vb* to make more cheerful.

**liver** /'lɪvər/, /li-ver/ *n* 1 an organ inside the body that helps to cleanse the blood. 2 this organ from certain animals used as food.

**livery** /'lɪvəri/, /li-ve-ree/ *n* a special uniform worn by servants in one household.

**livestock** /'laɪvstɒks/, /live-stock/ *n* animals kept on a farm.

**live wire** /laɪv waɪr/, /live wire/ *n* 1 a wire through which an electric current is passing. 2 a person with a lot of energy.

**livid** /'lɪvɪd/, /li-vid/ *adj* 1 discoloured, black and blue. 2 (*old*) pale. 3 (*inf*) very angry.

**living** /'lɪvɪŋ/, /li-ving/ *n* 1 a means of providing oneself with what is necessary for life. 2 employment as a member of clergy in the Church of England.

**lizard** /'lɪzərd/, /li-zard/ *n* a four-footed reptile with a long tail.

**llama** /'læmə/, /la-ma/ *n* a South American animal of the camel family.

**lo** /lo:/, /lo/ *interj* (*old or lit*) look!

**load** /'lo:d/, /ləʊd/ *vb* **1** to put a burden on the back of an animal. **2** to put goods into a vehicle. **3** to put a heavy weight on. **4** to put ammunition into a gun. **5** to put film into a camera. • *n* **1** that which is carried. **2** a weight. **3** a cargo.

**loadstar** /'lo:dstar/ see **lodestar**.

**loadstone** /'lə:dston/ see **lodestone**.

**loaf**<sup>1</sup> /'lo:f/, /ləʊf/ *n* (*pl* **loaves**) bread made into a shape convenient for selling.

**loaf**<sup>2</sup> /'lo:f/, /ləʊf/ *vb* to pass time without doing anything, to laze around. • *n* **loafer**.

**loam** /'lə:m/, /ləʊm/ *n* a sand and clay soil. • *adj* **loamy**.

**loan** /'lə:n/, /ləʊn/ *n* that which is lent.

**loath**, **loth** /'lo:θ/, /ləʊθ/ *adj* unwilling.

**loathe** /'lo:ð/, /ləʊð/ *vb* to hate.

**loathing** /'lo:ðɪŋ/, /ləʊθɪŋ/ *n* hate, disgust.

**loathsome** /'lo:ðsəm/, /ləʊθsəm/ *adj* hateful, disgusting.

**loaves** see **loaf**.

**lob** /ləb/, /lob/ *vb* (**lobbed**, **lobbing**) to hit, kick or throw a ball gently in the air. • *also n.*

**lobby** /'ləbi/, /ləʊb/ *n* **1** an entrance hall. **2** a group of people trying to influence the decisions of the government. • *vb* to try to influence decisions of the government.

**lobe** /lə:b/, /lob/ *n* the fleshy hanging part of the ear.

**lobelia** /lə'bɪ:liə/, /lə-beel-ya/ *n* a kind of garden flower, often blue, white or red in colour.

**lobster** /'ləbstər/, /lob-ster/ *n* a long-tailed jointed shellfish.

**lobster pot** /'ləbstər pɒt/, /lob-ster pot/ *n* a baited basket for trapping lobsters.

**local** /'lo:kəl/, /ləʊkəl/ *adj* having to do with a particular place. • *n* **1** a person who lives in a particular place.

**local colour** /'lo:kəl 'kələr/, /ləʊkəl 'kələr/ *n* in a picture or story, accuracy over details of place to make it more realistic.

**locality** /lo:'kæliti/, /ləʊkæliti/ *n* a district, area, neighbourhood.

**localize** /'lo:kə'lائز/, /lo-ca-lize/ *vb*, also **localise** to keep to one place or district.

**locate** /lo:'keɪt/, /lo-cate/ *vb* **1** to find the place of. **2** to fix or set in a certain place.

**location** /lo:'keɪʃən/, /lo-cay-shun/ *n* **1** place. **2** the place where a story is filmed.

**loch** /lɒx/, /loch/ (*Scottish English*) *n* **1** a lake, especially in Scotland. **2** an arm of the sea.

**lock** /lɒk/, /lok/ *n* **1** a fastening bolt moved by a key. **2** the part of a gun by which it is fired. **3** a section of a canal, enclosed by gates, in which the amount of water can be increased to raise a ship to a higher level, or vice versa. **4** a firm grasp. **5** a curl of hair. • *vb* **1** to fasten with lock and key. **2** to hold firmly. **3** to jam, to become fixed or blocked. • **lock, stock and barrel** altogether, completely.

**locker** /'lɒkər/, /lok-er/ *n* a small cupboard with a lock.

**locket** /'lɒkət/, /lok-et/ *n* a small metal case, often containing a picture, worn on a chain round the neck as an ornament.

**lockjaw** /'lɒkʃəʊ/, /lok-jaw/ *n* a condition in which the muscles of the jaw become so stiff that the mouth cannot be opened, usually a sign of tetanus.

**locksmith** /'lɒksmɪθ/, /lok-smith/ *n* one who makes or repairs locks.

**lock-up** /'lɒk ʌp/, /lok-up/ *n* **1** a cell in a prison. **2** a garage in which a car can be locked away.

**locomotive** /lo:ko:'mo:tiv/, /lo-co-moe-tiv/ *n* a railway engine.

**locust** /'lo:kəst/, /lo-cust/ *n* a large grasshopper that feeds on and destroys crops.

**lode** /lo:d/, /lode/ *n* a vein of metal in a crack in a rock.

**lodestar**, **loadstar** /'lo:dstar/, /lode-star/ *n* **1** the star by which one sets a course, the Pole star. **2** a guide or example to follow.

**lodestone**, **loadstone** /'lo:dsto:n/, /lode-stone/ *n* a stone containing magnetic iron, formerly used as a compass.

**lodge** /lɒdʒ/, /lodge/ *n* **1** a small house originally for a gatekeeper at the entrance to a park, church, etc. **2** the meeting place of a society (e.g. Freemasons) or the members meeting there. **3** a house for a hunting party. **4** a house or cabin used occasionally for

some seasonal activity. • *vb* 1 to put in a certain place. 2 to stay in another's house on payment. 3 to fix in. • **lodge a complaint** to make a complaint before an official.

**lodger** /'lɒdʒər/, /lod-jer/ *n* one who stays in hired rooms in another's house.

**lodging** /'lɒdʒɪŋ/, /lod-jing/ *n* a place where one pays to stay.

**loft** /lɒft/, /loft/ *n* 1 the space or room under the roof of a building. 2 a raised area over a barn. 3 a gallery in a hall or church. • *vb* to strike upward.

**lofty** /'lɒfti/, /lof-tee/ *adj* 1 (*lit*) very high. 2 of high moral quality. 3 proud, haughty. • *n* **loftiness**.

**log** /lɒg/, /log/ *n* 1 a piece sawn from the trunk or one of the large branches of a tree. 2 an instrument for measuring the speed of ships. 3 an official written record of a journey.

**loganberry** /'lɒ:gən,bəri/, /lo-gan-be-ree/ *n* a fruit like a raspberry.

**logarithms** /'lɒgərɪðəmz/, /law-ga-ri-thumz/ *n* numbers arranged in a table to help in calculations.

**logbook** /'lɒgbuk/, /lawg-book/ *n* 1 a book in which the rate of progress of a ship is written daily. 2 an official record of a journey. 3 the registration document of a car.

**loggerheads** /'lɒgər,hedz/, /law-ger-hedz/ *npl*. • at **loggerheads** quarrelling.

**logic** /'lɒdʒɪk/, /law-jic/ *n* 1 the art or science of reasoning. 2 a particular way of thinking or reasoning. 3 (*inf*) reasonable thinking, good sense.

**logical** /'lɒdʒɪkəl/, /law-ji-cal/ *adj* 1 having to do with logic. 2 well-reasoned. 3 able to reason correctly.

**logician** /lə'dʒɪʃən/, /law-ji-shun/ *n* one skilled in logic.

**logo** /'lo:go:/, /lo-go/ *n* a special symbol or design that an organization uses on its products, notepaper, etc.

**loin** /lɔɪn/, /loin/ *n* 1 a piece of meat cut from the back of an animal. 2 *pl* the part of the human back below the ribs. • **gird (up) one's loins** to prepare for action.

**loin-cloth** /lɔɪn kləθ/, /loin-cloth/ *n* a piece of cloth worn round the loins.

**loiter** /'lɔɪtər/, /lɔi-ter/ *vb* 1 to stand about idly. 2 to go slowly, often stopping.

**loll** /lɒl/, /lol/ *vb* 1 to sit back or lie lazily. 2 (*of the tongue*) to hang out.

**lollipop** /'lɒli,pɒp/, /law-lee-pop/ *n* a candy on a stick.

**lollipop man, woman** /'lɒli,pɒp mæn, -wumæn/, /law-lee-pop man, -woo-man/ *n* a man (woman) whose job is to help people, particularly children, cross the road.

**lone** /lən/, /lone/ *adj* alone, single, without others.

**lonely** /'lənli/, /lone-lee/ *adj* sad because alone.

**lonesome** /'lə:nsem/, /lone-sum/ *adj (inf)* lonely.

**long** /lɒŋ/, /long/ *adj* 1 not short, in time or space. 2 having length, covering a certain distance from one end to the other or a certain time. 3 (*of drinks*) containing little or no alcohol and served in a tall glass. • *adv* for a long time. • *vb* to want very much.

**longboat** /'lɒŋbo:t/, /long-boat/ *n* the largest and strongest boat carried on board a ship.

**longbow** /'lɒŋbo:/, /long-bo/ *n* a bow, drawn by hand, for firing arrows. • (*old*) **draw the longbow** to tell untrue and improbable stories.

**longevity** /lɒn'dʒevɪti/, /lon-je-vi-tee/ *n* very long life.

**longing** /'lɒŋgɪŋ/, /long-ing/ *n* an eager desire.

**longish** /'lɒŋiʃ/, /long-ish/ *adj (inf)* quite long.

**longitude** /'lɒŋgrɪ,tju:d/, /lon-gi-tyood/ *n* 1 length. 2 distance in degrees east or west of an imaginary line from pole to pole, running through Greenwich, London.

**longitudinal** /'lɒŋgrɪ,tju:dɪnəl/, /lon-gi-tyood-i-nal/ *adj* having to do with length or longitude.

**long-sighted** /'lɒŋsaɪtəd/, /long-sie-ted/ *adj* able to see distant objects more clearly than near ones.

**long-suffering** /'lɒŋsəfrɪŋ/, /long-su-fring/ *adj* patient, ready to put up with troubles without complaint.

**long-winded** /lɒŋ'windəd/, /long-win-ded/ *adj* speaking or writing in an unnecessarily roundabout way.

**loo** /lu:/, /loo/ *n (inf)* toilet.

**loofa(h)** /'lu:fæ/, /loo-fa/ *n* **1** a marrowlike plant. **2** the fibrous framework of the plant stripped of the fleshy part and used in washing as a sponge.

**look** /luk/, /look/ *vb* **1** to turn the eyes towards so as to see. **2** to have a certain appearance. **3** to face in a certain direction. • *n* **1** act of looking. **2** a glance. **3** the appearance, especially of the face. • **look after** to take care of. • **look a gift-horse in the mouth** to say that one is not pleased with a present or to criticize it. • **look down on** to despise. • **look for** **1** to try to find. **2** to hope for. • **look on** to watch. • **look out** **1** to be careful. **2** to watch out for. • **look over** to examine.

**looker-on** /'lukərən/, /loo-ker-on/ *n* one who watches or spectates.

**looking glass** /'lukɪŋglæs/, /loo-king glass/ *n* a mirror.

**lookout** /'lukəut/, /loo-kout/ *n* **1** watchman. **2** a post from which one watches. **3** a careful watch.

**loom<sup>1</sup>** /lu:m/, /loom/ *n* a machine for weaving cloth.

**loom<sup>2</sup>** /lu:m/, /loom/ *vb* **1** to appear gradually and dimly, as in the dark; to seem larger than natural. **2** to seem threateningly close.

**loon** /lu:n/, /loon/ *n* a northern diving bird.

**loop** /lu:p/, /loop/ *n* **1** a line that curves back and crosses itself. **2** a rope, cord, etc, that so curves. • *vb* **1** to make a loop. **2** to fasten in a loop. • **in the loop** (*inf*) part of a group that is dealing with something or is well-informed about something.

**loophole** /'lu:pho:l/, /loop-hole/ *n* a way of escaping or avoiding something.

**loose** /lu:z/, /lu:z/, /looss/ *adj* **1** untied, not packed together in a box, etc. **2** free, at liberty. **3** not definite. **4** careless. **5** not tight. **6** indecent, immoral. • *vb* **1** to untie. **2** to set free.

**loose cannon** /lus kænən/, /looss ca-non/ *n* a person whose behaviour is unpredictable and often reckless.

**loose-leaf** /lus'lif/, /looss-leef/ *adj* describing a notebook that can hold pages with perforations which can be added or removed.

**loosen** /'lusən/, /loo-sen/ *vb* to make or become loose or less tight.

**loot** /lu:t/, /loot/ *n* that which is stolen or carried off by force. • *also vb.*

**lop<sup>1</sup>** /lɒp/, /lɒp/ **vb (lopped, lopping)** to cut off.

**lop<sup>2</sup>** /lɒp/, /lɒp/ **vb (lopped, lopping)** to hang loosely.

**lop-sided** /lɒp ,saɪdəd/, /lɒp-sie-ded/ **adj** leaning to one side.

**lord** /lɔːrd/, /laʊrd/ **n** 1 a master. 2 a ruler. 3 a nobleman. 4 a title of honour given to noblemen and certain high officials (e.g. judges). 5 an owner. • **n (cap)** God. • **vb** to rule strictly or harshly.

**lordly** /'lɔːrdli/, /laʊrd-lee/ /laʊrd-lee/ **adj** 1 proud, grand. 2 commanding.

**lordship** /lɔːrdʃɪp/, /laʊrd-ship/ **n** 1 the state of being a lord. 2 the power of a lord. 3 the title by which one addresses noblemen, judges, etc.

**lore** /lɔːr/, /lɔːr/ **n** 1 (*old*) learning. 2 all that is known about a subject, usually that which is handed down by word of mouth.

**lorry** /'lɔːri/, /laʊ-ree/ **n** a truck.

**lose** /luːz/, /loo̩z/ **vb (pt, pp lost)** 1 to cease to have. 2 to fail to keep in one's possession. 3 to be defeated in. 4 to fail to use, to waste. 5 to miss. 6 (*of a watch or clock*) to work too slowly. 7 to have less of. • **lose one's head** to become too excited to act sensibly.

**loser** /'luːzər/, /loo-zer/, **n** one who loses.

**loss** /lɒs/, /loss/ **n** 1 act of losing. 2 that which is lost. 3 harm, damage. • **at a loss** not knowing what to do.

**lost pt and pp of lose.**

**lot** /lɒt/, /lɒt/ **n** 1 one of a set of objects, a separate part. 2 a set of objects sold together at an auction. 3 the way of life that one has to follow. 4 a large number or quantity. 5 a piece of land.

**loth** see **loathe**.

**lotion** /'lo:ʃən/, /lo-shun/ **n** a liquid for healing wounds, cleansing the skin, etc.

**lottery** /'lɒtəri/, /lɒt-e-ree/ **n** a game of chance in which prizes are shared out among those whose tickets are picked out in a public draw.

**lotus** /'lo:təs/, /lo-tus/ **n** a type of water-lily whose flower was once said to make those who ate it forget everything.

**loud** /laud/, /loud/ **adj** 1 easily heard. 2 noisy. 3 unpleasantly bright, showy.

**loudspeaker** /'laudspi:kər/, /loud-spee-ker/ *n* a radio apparatus by which sound is transmitted and made louder when necessary.

**lough** /lɒk/, Ir. /lɒx/, /laak/ *n* a lake, especially in Ireland.

**lounge** /laundʒ/, /loundʒe/ *vb* 1 to stand about lazily, to move lazily, to spend time in an idle way. 3 to sit or lie back in a comfortable position. • *n* 1 a sitting room. 2 a public room in a hotel. • *n* **lounger**.

**lounge suit** /'laundʒ sut/, /loundʒe soot/ *n* a man's suit of clothes for everyday wear.

**lour** see **lower<sup>2</sup>**.

**louse** /laʊs/, /louss/ *n* (pl **lice**) a wingless insect that lives on the bodies of animals.

**lousy** /'lauzi/, /lou-zee/ *adj* 1 full of or covered with lice. 2 (*inf*) very bad, poor.

**lout** /ləut/, /lout/ *n* a rude and clumsy fellow.

**lovable** /'levəbəl/, /lu-va-bul/ *adj* worthy of love.

**love** /lev/, /luv/ *n* 1 a strong liking for. 2 a feeling of desire for. 3 the person or thing loved. 4 a term of endearment. 5 (in some games) no score. • *vb* 1 to be fond of, to like. 2 to be strongly attracted to, to be in love with. • *n* **lover**.

**loveless** /'levləs/, /luv-less/ *adj* 1 with no love. 2 unloved.

**lovelorn** /'levlɔrn/, /luv-lawrn/ *adj* (*old*) sad because left by one's lover.

**lovely** /'levli/, /luv-lee/ *adj* 1 beautiful. 2 (*inf*) very pleasing. • *n* **loveliness**.

**loving** /'levɪŋ/, /lu-ving/ *adj* full of love, fond.

**low<sup>1</sup>** /lo:/, /lo/ *vb* 1 to bellow, as an ox. 2 to moo like a cow. • *n* **lowing**.

**low<sup>2</sup>** /lo:/, /lo/ *adj* 1 not far above the ground. 2 not tall, not high. 3 small in degree, amount, etc. 4 not high in rank or position. 5 cheap. 6 vulgar, coarse. 7 dishonourable. 8 soft, not loud. 9 sad, unhappy. • **low spirits** a sad mood.

**lower<sup>1</sup>** /'lo:ər/, /loe-er/ *vb* 1 to make less high. 2 to let or bring down. 3 to make of less value or worth.

- lower<sup>2</sup>**, **lour** /'laʊər/, /laoo-er/ *vb* **1** to frown. **2** to become dark.
- lowland** /'lo:lənd/, /lo-land/ *n* low-lying or level country.
- lowlander** /'lo:lən,dər/, /lo-lan-der/ *n* one born or living in lowlands.
- lowly** /'lo:li/, /lo-lee/ *adj* **1** (*fml* or *hum*) humble, not high in rank. **2** (*old* or *lit*) gentle in manner.
- loyal** /'lɔɪəl/, /loy-al/ *adj* **1** faithful to one's friends, duty, etc. **2** true. • *n loyalty*.
- loyalist** /-ist/, /loy-a-list/ *n* one who supports the lawful government of the country.
- lozenge** /'lɒzɪndʒ/, /loz-endge/ *n* **1** a diamond-shaped figure. **2** a small sweet, or medicine in the form of a sweet.
- lubricant** /'lu:brikənt/, /loo-bri-cant/ *n* oil or grease used to make machinery run smoothly.
- lubricate** /'lu:bri,kate/, /loo-bri-cate/ *vb* to apply oil or grease something to make it run smoothly. • *n lubrication, lubricator*.
- lucid** /'lu:sid/, /loo-sid/ *adj* clear, easily understood. • *n lucidity*.
- Lucifer** /'lu:sifər/, /loo-si-fer/ *n* Satan.
- luck** /læk/, /luck/ *n* **1** the good or bad things that happen by chance, fate, fortune. **2** something good that happens by chance, good fortune.
- luckless** /'lækles/, /luck-less/ *adj* (*fml*) unfortunate.
- lucky** /'ləki/, /lu-kee/ *adj* fortunate, having good luck.
- lucrative** /'lu:kretiv/, /loo-cra-tiv/ *adj* bringing in much money or profit.
- ludicrous** /'lu:dɪkrəs/, /loo-di-crus/ *adj* funny, silly and laughable.
- lug** /læg/, /lug/ *vb* (**lugged, lugging**) to pull, draw or carry with difficulty.
- luggage** /'lægidʒ/, /lu-gidge/ *n* a traveller's baggage.
- lukewarm** /'lu:kwərm/, /luke-wawrm/ *adj* **1** quite warm, neither hot nor cold. **2** not eager.
- lull** /ləl/, /lull/ *vb* **1** to calm. **2** to send to sleep. • *n* an interval of calm.
- lullaby** /'lələ,bai/, /lu-la-by/ *n* a song sung to a baby to make it sleep.
- lumbago** /ləm'bēgo:/, /lum-bay-go/ *n* muscular pain in the lower part of the back.

**lumbar** /'ləmbər/, /lum-bar/ *adj* having to do with the lower part of the back.

**lumber** /'ləmbər/, /lum-ber/ *n* unused or useless articles. • *vb* **1** to move heavily and clumsily. **2** to give someone an unpleasant or unwanted responsibility or task.

**lumberjack** /'ləmbərdʒæk/, /lum-ber-jack/ *n* someone whose job it is to cut down trees.

**luminary** /'lu:minerɪ/, /loo-mi-na-ree/ *n* **1** (*lit*) a body that gives light (e.g. the sun). **2** (*fml*) a person well-known for his or her knowledge, expertise or talent.

**luminous** /'lu:minəs/, /loo-mi-nuss/ *adj* shining, giving light.

**lump** /lʌmp/, /lump/ *n* **1** a shapeless mass. **2** a hard swelling. • *vb* to put together as one, to consider together.

**lump sum** /'lʌmp sʌm/, /lump sum/ *n* a single large amount of money instead of several smaller payments.

**lumpy** /'lʌmpi/, /lum-pee/ *adj* full of lumps.

**lunacy** /'lu:nəsi/, /loo-na-see/ *n* madness, great foolishness.

**lunar** /'lu:nər/, /loo-nar/ *adj* having to do with the moon.

**lunatic** /'lu:nətɪk/, /loo-na-tic/ *n* **1** a person who behaves very foolishly. **2** (*formerly and often offensively*) a person suffering from severe mental illness. • *adj* very foolish.

**lunch** /ləntʃ/, /lunch/ *n* a midday meal. • *vb* to take lunch.

**lung** /lʌŋ/, /lung/ *n* one of the two bodily organs by means of which we breathe.

**lunge** /'lʌndʒ/, /lunge/ *n* a sudden move or thrust forward. • *vb* to make a sudden onward movement.

**lupin** /'lu:pɪn/, /loo-pin/ *n* a kind of garden plant with a tall stem covered in many flowers.

**lurch** /lərtʃ/, /lurch/ *vb* to roll or sway to one side. • *n* a sudden roll. • **leave in the lurch** to leave (someone) in difficulty.

**lure** /lʊr/, /loor/ *n* something that attracts or leads on. • *vb* to attract, to lead on, as by promise or gifts.

**lurid** /'lʊrid/, /loo-rid/ *n* **1** too brightly coloured, too vivid. **2** horrifying, shocking.

**lurk** /lərk/, /lurk/ *vb* 1 to remain out of sight. 2 to lie hidden, to exist unseen.

**luscious** /'luʃəs/, /lu-shus/ *adj* very sweet in taste.

**lush** /luʃ/, /lush/ *adj* 1 growing very plentifully, thick. 2 (*inf*) affluent, luxurious.

**lust** /ləst/, /lust/ *n* a strong or uncontrollable desire, especially for sexual pleasure. • *vb* to desire eagerly. • *adj* **lustful**.

**lustre** /'lestər/, /lu-ster/ *n* 1 brightness. 2 glory. 3 dress material with a shiny surface.

**lustreless** /'lestər,les/, /lu-ster-less/ *adj* dull.

**lustrous** /'lestrəs/, /lu-struss/ *adj* bright, shining.

**lusty** /'lesti/, /lu-stee/ *adj* 1 strong and healthy, full of energy. 2 strong or loud.

**lute** /lu:t/, /loot/ *n* (*old*) a stringed musical instrument, rather like the guitar.

**luxuriant** /ləg'zuriənt/, /lug-zhoo-ree-ant/ *adj* growing in great plenty.

**luxuriate** /ləg'zuri,eɪt/, /lug-zhoo-ree-ate/ *vb* to live in or enjoy great comfort.

**luxurious** /ləg'zuriəs/, /lug-zhoo-ree-uss/ *adj* 1 fond of luxury. 2 splendid and affluent.

**luxury** /'ləgʒə,ri/, /luk-shu-ree/ *n* 1 great ease and comfort. 2 a desirable or pleasing thing that is not a necessity of life.

**Lycra** /ləɪkrə/, /lie-cra/ *n* (*TM*) a stretchy, shiny synthetic fabric used for swimsuits, sportswear, etc.

**lying** /'laɪŋ/, /lie-ing/ *pres p of lie*. • *also adj.*

**lymph** /lɪmf/, /limf/ *n* a colourless liquid in the body.

**lynch** /lɪntʃ/, /linch/ *vb* to seize someone, judge him or her on the spot and put him or her to death without a proper trial.

**lynx** /lɪŋks/, /links/ *n* an animal of the cat family noted for keen sight.

**lyre** /laɪr/, /lire/ *n* (*old*) a U-shaped stringed musical instrument similar to a harp, played by the ancient Greeks.

**lyre-bird** /'laɪrbərd/, /lire-burd/ *n* a bird with a tail shaped like a lyre.

**lyric** /lɪ-rik/, /li-ric/ *n* 1 a short poem expressing the writer's feelings. 2 *pl* the words of a song.

**lyrical** /'lɪrɪkəl/, /li-ri-cal/ *adj* 1 expressing feeling. 2 enthusiastic, effusive.

# M

**M, m** /ɛm/, /ɛm/ the 13th letter of the English alphabet.

**ma'am** /mæm, mə:m/, /mam/ *n* 1 madam. 2 in the UK, used when addressing the Queen or senior female officers in the police or army.

**mac** /mæk/, /mack/ *n* (short for **mackintosh**) a waterproof rain coat.

**macabre** /mə'kæbrə, -'kɒb/, /ma-cab-ra, ma-cab/ *adj* horrible, causing a shudder of horror.

**macaron** /ma'karɔ:/, /mak-a-ron/ (*French*) a cake made of two smooth meringue and ground-almond shells with a flavoured filling.

**macaroni** /mækə'ro:ni/, /ma-ca-roe-nee/ *n* a type of pasta in the shape of long tubes.

**macaroon** /mækə'ru:n/, /ma-ca-roon/ *n* a small, rough cake containing ground almonds or coconut.

**macaw** /mə'kɒ/, /ma-caw/ *n* a large type of parrot.

**mace** /meɪs/, /mase/ *n* 1 (*old*) a spiked club used as a weapon of war. 2 a heavy ornamental stick carried before certain officials as a sign of their office.

**machete** /mə'ʃeti/, /ma-shet-ee/ *n* a large heavy knife sometimes used as a weapon.

**machine** /mə'si:n/, /ma-sheen/ *n* 1 any apparatus for producing power or doing work. 2 a system under which the work of different groups is directed to one end.

**machine gun** /mə'ʃi:n gən/, /ma-sheen gun/ *n* a gun that fires many bullets in a short time before it has to be reloaded.

**machinery** /mə'ʃi:nəri/, /ma-shee-ne-ree/ *n* 1 machines. 2 parts of a machine. 3 organization.

**machinist** /mə'ʃi:nist/, /ma-shee-nist/ *n* a person who makes, looks after or operates machinery.

**mackerel** /mæk'rəl/, /ma-krel/ *n* an edible sea fish.

**mackintosh** /'mækɪntɒʃ/, /ma-kin-tosh/ see **mac**.

**mad** /mæd/, /mad/ **adj** 1 insane, seriously mentally ill. 2 out of your mind with anger, pain, etc. 3 (*inf*) very angry. 4 (*inf*) very unwise, crazy. 5 very enthusiastic about something.

**madam** /'mædəm/, /ma-dam/ **n** the title used in addressing a woman politely.

**Madame** /'mædəm, mə'dæm/, /ma-dam ma-dam/ **n** the French form of **Mrs.**

**madcap** /'mædkæp/, /mad-cap/ **n** a wild or reckless person. • **adj** reckless, very thoughtless.

**madden** /'mædən/, /ma-din/ **vb** to make mad. • **adj** maddening.

**made** /meɪd/, /made/ **pt** an **pp** of make.

**madly** /'mædli/, /mad-lee/ **adv** very much.

**madman** /'mædmæn/, /mad-man/ **n** a man who is insane.

**madness** /'mædnəs/, /mad-ness/ **n** 1 insanity. 2 folly.

**Madonna** /mə'dɒnə/, /ma-don-a/ **n** 1 the Virgin Mary. 2 a picture or statue of the Virgin Mary.

**maelstrom** /'meɪlstrəm/, /mail-strom/ **n** 1 a powerful whirlpool. 2 something resembling the motion of a whirlpool.

**magazine** /'mægə'zi:n/, /ma-ga-zeen/ **n** 1 a store for firearms and explosives. 2 a weekly or monthly paper containing articles, stories, etc.

**magenta** /mə'dʒentə/, /ma-jen-ta/ **n** a crimson dye. • **adj** crimson.

**maggot** /mægət/, /ma-got/ **n** the grub of certain insects, especially the fly or bluebottle.

**Magi** /'meɪdʒai/, /may-jie/ **npl** in Christianity, the wise men from the East who visited the infant Jesus.

**magic** /'mædʒɪk/, /ma-jic/ **n** 1 the art of controlling spirits, and so gaining knowledge of the future or commanding certain things to happen; witchcraft. 2 the art of producing illusions by tricks or sleight of hand. 3 fascination. • **adj** also **magical** 1 having to do with magic. 2 (*inf*) marvellous, very good. • **adv** **magically**.

**magician** /mə'dʒɪʃən/, /ma-ji-shun/ **n** 1 a person who has magic powers. 2 a person who practises the art of producing illusions by tricks or sleight of hand.

**magisterial** /'mædʒɪ'stɪ:rɪəl/, /ma-ji-**stee**-ree-al/ *adj* 1 having the manner of a person who is used to giving commands. 2 having to do with magistrates.

**magistracy** /'mædʒɪstrəsɪ/, /ma-ji-stra-see/ *n* the office of magistrate.

**magistrate** /'mædʒɪstreɪt/, /ma-ji-strate/ *n* a person who has the authority to try and sentence those who break the law; a judge.

**magnanimous** /mæg'næniməs/, /mag-na-ni-mus/ *adj* generous, especially to enemies or dependants; unselfish. • *n magnanimity*.

**magnate** /'mægnət/, /mag-nit/ *n* a person of great wealth or importance.

**magnesia** /mæg'ni:ʒə/, /mag-nee-sha/ *n* a white powder made from magnesium, used as a medicine.

**magnesium** /mæg'ni:ziəm/, /mag-nee-zee-um/ *n* a white metal that burns with a bright white light.

**magnet** /'mægnət/, /mag-net/ *n* 1 a piece of iron that attracts to it other pieces of iron and that when hung up points to the north. 2 a person or thing that attracts.

**magnetic** /mæg'netɪk/, /mag-net-ic/ *adj* 1 acting like a magnet. 2 attractive.

**magnetism** /'mægnətɪzəm/, /mag-ne-ti-zum/ *n* 1 the power of the magnet. 2 the science that deals with the power of the magnet. 3 personal charm or attraction.

**magnificent** /mæg'nifɪsənt/, /mag-ni-fi-sent/ *adj* splendid, grand. • *n magnificence*.

**magnify** /'mægnɪ,fai/, /mag-ni-fie/ *vb* 1 to make appear larger, to exaggerate. 2 to praise.

**magnifying glass** /'mægnɪ,faiɪŋ glæs/, /mag-ni-fie-ing glass/ *n* a glass with a curved surface that makes things appear larger.

**magnitude** /'mægnɪ,tju:d/, /mag-ni-tyood/ *n* 1 greatness of size or extent. 2 importance.

**magnolia** /mæg'no:liə/, /mag-no-le-ya/ *n* a tree with beautiful foliage and large pale-coloured flowers.

**magnum** /'mægnəm/, /mag-num/ *n* a bottle holding twice the usual amount of one bottle.

**magpie** /'mægpai/, /mag-pie/ *n* a black-and-white bird of the crow family.

**maharaja(h)** /,mə'hə'rədʒə/, /ma-ha-ra-ja/ *n* an Indian prince.

**maharanee** /,mə'hə'rəni/, /ma-ha-ra-nee/ *n* an Indian princess.

**mahatma** /mə'hætmə/, /ma-hat-ma/ *n* an Indian title of respect for a very holy person.

**mahogany** /mə'hɔ:gəni/, /ma-hog-a-nee/ *n* a reddish-brown wood often used for furniture.

**maid** /meɪd/, /made/ *n* **1** (*old*) a young girl. **2** a female servant. **3** a woman who is employed to clean other people's houses. **4** (*old*) a virgin.

**maiden** /'meɪdən/, /may-den/ *n* (*old*) a young unmarried woman.

**maidenly** /'meɪdənli/, /may-den-lee/ *adj* modest, gentle.

**maiden name** /'meɪdən ,neɪm/, /may-den name/ *n* the surname of a married woman before marriage.

**maiden voyage** /'meɪdən ,vɔɪjdʒ/, /may-den voy-idge/ *n* the first voyage of a new ship.

**mail<sup>1</sup>** /meɪl/, /male/ *n* **1** (*also post*) the postal service. **2** (*also post*) letters, parcels, etc, sent by mail. **3** email. • *vb* **1** (*esp US*) to send by mail. **2** send by email.

**mail<sup>2</sup>** /meɪl/, /male/ *n* (*old*) armour.

**mail order** /'meɪl ɔ:rdər/, /male awr-der/ *n* a system of buying goods from a catalogue and having them delivered to your home.

**maim** /meɪm/, /mame/ *vb* to disable.

**main** /meɪn/, /mane/ *adj* chief, principal. • *n* **1** the greater part. **2** (*old*) the ocean. **3** a pipe under the street for water, gas, etc. **4** strength.

**mainframe** /'meɪnfreɪm/, /mane-frame/ *n* a large fast computer that serves a lot of terminals.

**mainland** /meɪnlənd/, /mane-land/ *n* land, as distinct from nearby islands.

**mainly** /meɪnli/, /mane-lee/ *adv* chiefly.

**mainstay** /meɪnstei/, /mane-stay/ *n* **1** the rope holding up the mast of a ship. **2** the chief support.

**mainstream** /meɪnstri:m/, /mænə-streem/ *n* the prevailing way of thinking or of doing something.

**maintain** /meɪnten/, /mænə-tain/ *vb* **1** to feed and clothe. **2** to keep up. **3** to keep in good repair. **4** to defend a point of view.

**maintenance** /'meɪntənəns/, /mænə-ti-nans/ *n* upkeep, support.

**maize** /meɪz/, /mæze/ *n*, also **corn** (*US*) a kind of cereal plant with large yellow seeds that are eaten as a vegetable.

**majestic** /mə'dʒestɪk/, /ma-je-stic/ *adj* dignified, stately.

**majesty** /'mædʒəsti/, /ma-je-stee/ *n* **1** grandeur, dignity. **2** the title given to a king or queen.

**major** /'meɪdʒər/, /may-jor/ *adj* **1** the greater in number, size, or quantity. **2** the more important. • *n* an army officer just above a captain in rank.

**majority** /mə'dʒɔriti/, /ma-jaw-ri-tee/ *n* **1** the greater number. **2** in voting, the amount by which the number of votes cast for one candidate exceeds that cast for another. **3** (*frm*) the age at which you have full civil rights.

**make** /meɪk/, /make/ *vb* (*pt, pp made*) **1** to create. **2** to construct by putting parts or substances together. **3** to cause to be. **4** to force. **5** to add up to. **6** to earn. • *n* **1** the way something is made. **2** shape. • **make for** to go towards. • **make good** to succeed, to do well. • **make off** to run away. • **make out** **1** to decipher. **2** (*inf*) to succeed. • **make up** **1** to invent. **2** to put on paint, powder, etc. **3** to bring.

**make-believe** /'meɪkbə'lɪ:v/, /make-bi-leev/ *n* pretence. • *also vb.*

**make-over** /'meɪk ,o:vər/, /make-oe-ver/ *n* the process of trying to improve the appearance of a person or place.

**maker** /'meɪkər/, /make-er/ *n* a person who makes. • **your Maker God.**

**makeshift** /'meɪkʃɪft/, /make-shift/ *adj* used or done because nothing better can be found or thought of. • *also n.*

**make-up** /'meɪkəp/, /make-up/ *n* **1** mascara, lipstick, and other substances used to enhance the appearance of the face. **2** your character.

**malaria** /mə'ləriə/, /ma-ler-ee-ya/ *n* a fever caused by a mosquito bite.

**male** /meil/, /male/ *adj* 1 consisting of boys or men. 2 of or relating to the sex that can become a father. • *also n.*

**malevolent** /mə'levələnt/, /ma-le-vo-lent/ *adj* wishing harm to others, spiteful. • *n malevolence.*

**malformed** /malformd/, /mal-fawrmd/ *adj* out of shape, wrongly shaped. • *n malformation.*

**malfunction** /mæl'fənkjən/, /mal-fung-shun/ *vb* to fail to work correctly.

**malice** /'mælis/, /ma-liss/ *n* pleasure in the misfortunes of others, spite, a desire to harm others.

**malicious** /'mæliʃus/, /ma-li-shus/ *adj* spiteful, full of malice.

**malign** /mə'lain/, /ma-line/ *vb* to speak ill of. • *adj* evil, harmful.

**malignancy** /mə'lignənsi:/, /ma-lig-nan-see/ *n* 1 great hatred. 2 a desire to do harm.

**malignant** /mə'lignənt/, /ma-lig-nant/ *adj* 1 able to cause death. 2 very harmful. 3 feeling great hatred.

**mall** /mɒl/, /mawl/ *n* a large indoor shopping centre.

**mallard** /mælard/, /ma-lard/ *n* a wild duck.

**mallet** /'mælət/, /ma-let/ *n* 1 a wooden hammer. 2 the stick used in croquet.

**malnutrition** /,mælnju:'triʃən/, /mal-noo-tri-shun/ *n* a state caused by eating too little food or food that does not supply the needs of the body.

**malt** /mɒlt/, /mawlt/ *n* 1 barley or other grain prepared for making beer or whisky. 2 malt whisky. • *vb* to make into or become malt. • *adj malty.*

**malted milk** /mɒltəd 'milk/, /mawl-ted milk/ *n* milk, flavoured with malt, sometimes mixed with ice cream.

**maltreat** /mæl'tri:t/, /mal-treet/ *vb* to treat badly, to ill-use. • *n maltreatment.*

**malt whisky** /mɒlt wiski:/, /mawlt whis-kee/ *n* a kind of whisky distilled from malted barley, made at one particular distillery.

**mam(m)a** /'mɒmə/, /ma-ma/ *n* (*inf*) mother.

**mammal** /'mæməl/, /ma-mal/ *n* an animal that suckles its young.

**mammoth** /'mæməθ/, /ma-moth/ *n* a type of large elephant, no longer existing. • *adj* huge.

**man** /mæn/, /man/ *n* (*pl* **men**) **1** the human race. **2** a human being. **3** a male human being. **4** (*inf*) a husband. **5** a male servant. • *vb* (**manned**, **manning**) to provide with people to go to or be in the place where a duty is to be performed.

**manage** /'mænidʒ/, /ma-nidge/ *vb* **1** to control, to be in charge of. **2** to succeed (in doing something).

**manageable** /'mænidʒəbəl/, /ma-ni-ja-bul/ *adj* easily controlled.

**management** /'mænidʒmənt/, /ma-nidge-ment/ *n* **1** control, direction. **2** the group of persons who control or run a business.

**manager** /'mænidʒər/, /ma-na-jer/ *n* a person who controls a business or part of it.

**managerial** /'mæni'dʒi:riəl/, /ma-ni-jee-ree-al/ *adj* having to do with the management of a business.

**mandarin** /'mændərin/, /man-d(a)-rin/ *n* a variety of small orange.

**Mandarin** /'mændərin/, /man-d(a)-rin/ *n* a group of closely related dialects of the Chinese language.

**mandate** /'maendeɪt/, /man-date/ *n* **1** a command. **2** power given to one person, group, or nation to act on behalf of another (e.g. by voters to the governing party).

**mandatory** /'mændətɔri/, /man-da-toe-ree/ *adj* compulsory.

**mandible** /'mændibəl/, /man-di-bul/ *n* the lower jawbone.

**mandolin(e)** /'mændə'lɪn/, /man-do-lin/ *n* a musical stringed instrument, like the guitar but with a rounded back.

**mane** /meɪn/, /mane/ *n* the long hair on the neck of certain animals.

**maneuver** US variant of **manoeuvre**.

**manful** /'mænful/, /man-full/ *adj* brave. • *adv* **manfully**.

**manganese** /'mænjə,ni:z/, /mang-ga-neeze/ *n* a hard, easily broken grey metal.

**mange** /meɪndʒ/, /mainj/ *n* a skin disease of dogs, etc.

**manger** /'meɪndʒər/, /main-jer/ *n* a raised box or trough out of which horses or cattle feed.

**mangle** /'mæŋgəl/, /mang-gul/ *vb* to cut or tear so as to be unrecognizable.

**mango** /'mæŋgo:/, /man-go/ *n* (*pl* **mangoes**) **1** an Indian fruit with a large stone. **2** the tree on which it grows.

**mangrove** /'mæŋgrəv/, /man-grove/ *n* a tropical tree that grows in wet or muddy ground.

**mangy** /'meɪndʒi/, /main-jee/ *adj* **1** affected with mange. **2** shabby or dirty.

**manhandle** /'mæn,hændəl/, /man-han-dul/ *vb* **1** to move by hand. **2** to treat roughly.

**manhole** /'mænho:l/, /man-hole/ *n* a hole in the ground or floor through which a person may enter an underground shaft or tunnel.

**manhood** /'mænhud/, /man-hood/ *n* the state of being a man or of having the qualities of a man.

**mania** /'meiniə/, /may-nee-ya/ *n* **1** madness. **2** a very great interest (in), an obsession.

**maniac** /'meiniæk/, /may-nee-yac/ *n* a madman.

**maniacal** /mə'naiəkəl/, /ma-nie-a-cul/ *adj* completely mad.

**manicure** /'mænlkjur/, /ma-ni-cyoor/ *n* the care of the hands and fingernails. • *also vb*.

**manicurist** /'mænlkjurɪst/, /ma-ni-cyoo-rist/ *n* a person whose job it is to care for hands and fingernails.

**manifest** /'mænlfest/, /ma-ni-fest/ *adj* (*fml*) easily seen or understood, obvious. • *vb* to show clearly.

**manifestation** /,mænlfe'stefən/, /ma-ni-fe-stay-shun/ *n* an open showing, a display.

**manifestly** /'mænlfestli:/, /ma-ni-fest-lee/ *adv* clearly, obviously.

**manifesto** /,mænl'festo:/, /ma-ni-fe-sto/ *n* a public announcement of future plans.

**manipulate** /mə'nipju,leɪt/, /ma-ni-pyu-late/ *vb* **1** to handle skilfully. **2** to manage skilfully. • *n manipulation*.

**mankind** /mæn'kaɪnd/, /man-kinde/ *n* the human race.

**manly** /'mænli/, /man-lee/ *adj* having the qualities of a man.

**mannequin** /'mænəkɪn/, /ma-ni-kin/ *n* 1 a dummy used to display clothes in a clothes shop. 2 (*old*) another word for a fashion model.

**manner** /'mænər/, /ma-ner/ *n* 1 the way in which anything is done or happens. 2 the way a person speaks or behaves to others. 3 **manners** /ma-nerz/ courteous behaviour.

**mannerism** /'mænərɪzəm/, /ma-ne-ri-zum/ *n* a way of behaving, writing, etc, that has become a habit.

**mannish** /'mæniʃ/, /ma-nish/ *adj* like a man.

**manoeuvre** /mə'nju:vər/, /ma-noo-ver/ *n*, also **maneuver** (US) 1 a planned movement of armies or ships. 2 a skilful or cunning plan intended to make another behave as you want him or her to. 3 *npl* practice movements of armies or ships. • *vb* 1 to move armies or ships. 2 to move or act cunningly to gain your ends.

**manor** /'mænər/, /ma-ner/ *n* the land or house belonging to a lord. • *adj manorial*.

**mansion** /'mænʃən/, /man-shun/ *n* a large dwelling house.

**manslaughter** /'mænslɔ:tər/, /man-slaw-ter/ *n* the unlawful but unintentional killing of a person.

**mantelpiece** /'mæntel,pis/, /man-tel-peess/, **mantel** /'mæntəl/, /man-tel/ *n* the shelf above a fireplace.

**mantilla** /mæn'tilə/, /man-tee-ya/ *n* a lace veil used as a head covering.

**mantle** /'mæntəl/, /man-tel/ *n* 1 (*old*) a loose sleeveless cloak. 2 a coating or covering.

**manual** /'mænjuel/, /man-yoo-wul/ *adj* done by hand. • *n* 1 a small book containing all the important facts on a certain subject. 2 the keyboard of an organ. • *adv manually*.

**manufacture** /'mænju'fæktʃər/, /man-yoo-fac-chur/ *n* 1 the making of goods or materials. 2 an article so made. • *vb* to make, especially by machinery, in large quantities. • *n* **manufacturer**.

**manure** /mə'njur/, /ma-nyoor/ *n* dung or some other substance used to make soil more fertile. • *vb* to treat with manure.

**manuscript** /'mænju:skript/, /man-yoo-script/ *n* 1 a paper or book written by hand. 2 the written material sent by an author for publishing.

**many** /'meni/, /men-ee/ *adj* great in number. • *n* a large number.

**Maori** /'mauri/, /maoo-ree/ *n* one of the original inhabitants of New Zealand. • *also adj.*

**map** /mæp/, /map/ *n* a plan of any part of the earth's surface. • *vb (mapped, mapping)* to make a map of. • **map out** to plan.

**maple** /'meipəl/, /may-pul/ *n* a tree from whose sap sugar is made.

**mar** /mər/, /mar/ *vb (marred, marring)* to spoil, to damage.

**marathon** /'merəθɒn/, /ma-ra-thon/ *n* 1 a long race of about 26 miles (42 km) along roads. 2 something that takes a long time and requires a great deal of effort.

**maraud** /ma'rə:d/ /ma-rawd/ *vb (fml, arch)* to wander and rob or raid.

• *adj marauding*. • *n (fml)* **marauder** a robber.

**marble** /'marbəl/, /mar-bul/ *n* 1 a type of hard stone used for buildings, statues, etc. 2 a small ball of stone or glass used in children's games.

**march** /mɑ:tʃ/, /march/ *vb* to walk with a regular step. • *n* 1 movement of a body of soldiers on foot. 2 the distance walked. 3 music suitable for marching to. • *n* **marcher**.

**March** /mɑ:tʃ/, /march/ *n* the third month of the year.

**mare** /mer/, /mare/ *n* a female horse.

**margarine** /'mardʒərin/, /mar-je-reen/ *n* a substance made from vegetable or animal fat, often used instead of butter.

**margin** /'mardʒɪn/, /mar-jin/ *n* 1 (*fml*) edge, border. 2 the part of a page that is not usually printed or written on. 3 an amount more than is necessary, something extra.

**marginal** /'mardʒɪnəl/, /mar-ji-nal/ *adj* 1 on or near the edge, border, or limit. 2 very small or unimportant. 3 (of a parliamentary or council seat) won by a very few votes. • *n* a parliamentary or council seat that was won by a very small number of votes. • *adv marginally*.

**marginalize** /'mardʒɪnəlaɪz/, /ma-ji-na-lize/ *v* to treat someone or something as unimportant or inferior.

**marigold** /'merɪ,go:ld/, /ma-ri-goald/ *n* a bright yellow or orange flower.

**marijuana** /'məri'wɒnə/, /ma-ri-wa-na/ *n* cannabis.

**marina** /mə'ri:nə/, /ma-ree-na/ *n* a harbour for the use of yachts and small boats.

**marine** /mə'rīn/, /ma-reen/ *adj* 1 having to do with the sea. 2 having to do with shipping. • *n* 1 shipping. 2 a soldier serving on board ship.

**mariner** /'mærinər/, /ma-ri-ner/ *n* (*fml*) a seaman.

**marionette** /,məriə'nɛt/, /ma-ree-u-net/ *n* a doll that can be moved by strings; a puppet.

**marital** /'meritəl/, /ma-ri-tal/ *adj* (*fml*) having to do with marriage.

**maritime** /'merɪ,taim/, /ma-ri-time/ *adj* of or near the sea.

**marjoram** /'mardʒərəm/, /mar-ju-ram/ *n* a sweet-smelling herb used in cooking.

**mark<sup>1</sup>** /mark/, /mark/ *n* 1 a sign, spot, or stamp that can be seen. 2 a thing aimed at. 3 a number or letter indicating the standard reached. 4 an acceptable level of quality. 5 a stain or dent. 6 an indication, a sign. • *vb* 1 to make a mark on. 2 to indicate by a mark the standard reached. 3 (*old*) to watch closely, to pay attention to. 4 to show the position of. 5 to be a sign of. • **beside the mark** (*fml*) off the subject. • **mark time** 1 to move the legs up and down as if walking, but without going backward or forward. 2 to fill in time.

**mark<sup>2</sup>** /mark/, /mark/ *n* a former German currency.

**marked** /markt/, /markt/ *adj* noticeable, important.

**markedly** /'markɪdli:/, /mar-kid-lee/ *adv* noticeably.

**marker** /markər/, /mar-ker/ *n* 1 a person who keeps the score. 2 a person or thing used to mark a place.

**market** /markət/, /mar-ket/ *n* 1 a public place for buying and selling, a coming together of people to buy and sell. 2 a demand or need. • *vb* to sell in a market.

**marketable** /'markət,əbəl/, /mar-ke-ta-bul/ *adj* that can be sold.

**marketing** /markətɪŋ/, /mar-ke-ting/ *n* the promoting and selling of a product.

**marketplace** /'markət,pleɪs/, /mar-ket-place/ *n* the open space where a market is held.

**market research** /'markət ,rɪ:sərtʃ/, /mar-ket ree-serch/ *n* the collection and study of data on which products or services people want.

**marksman** /'marksmən/, /marks-man/ *n* a person who shoots well.

**marmalade** /'marmə,leɪd/, /mar-ma-lade/ *n* a jam made from oranges or lemons.

**marmoset** /'marmə,zət/, /mar-mo-set/ *n* a type of small monkey.

**marmot** /'marmət/, /mar-mot/ *n* a small squirrel-like animal.

**maroon<sup>1</sup>** /mə'rū:n/, /ma-roon/ *n* a brownish-crimson colour. • *adj* of this colour.

**maroon<sup>2</sup>** /mə'rū:n/, /ma-roon/ *vb* to abandon.

**marquee** /mar'ki:/, /mar-kee/ *n* a large tent.

**marquetry** /'markɪtri/, /mar-ke-tree/ *n* work in which a design is made by setting differently coloured pieces of wood into another piece of wood.

**marriage** /'mærɪdʒ/, /ma-ridge/ *n* 1 the ceremony of marrying or being married. 2 life together as husband and wife.

**marrow** /'mæro:/, /ma-roe/ *n* 1 a soft fatty substance filling the hollow parts of bones. 2 a large, long dark-green vegetable.

**marry** /'mæri/, /ma-ree/ *vb* 1 to join together as husband and wife. 2 to take as husband or wife.

**Mars** /marz/, /marz/ *n* 1 the fourth planet from the sun. 2 the Roman god of war.

**marsh** /'marʃ/, /marsh/ *n* low watery ground, a swamp. • *adj marshy*.

**marshal** /'marʃəl/, /mar-shal/ *n* 1 an officer of high rank in the army or air force. 2 (US) a law enforcement officer. 3 an official who makes arrangements for public processions, etc, or who controls crowds etc at processions or sport events. • *vb* to arrange in order.

**marshmallow** /marʃ'malo:/, /marsh-ma-loe/ *n* a type of soft sweet confection.

**marsupial** /mar'su:pɪəl/, /mar-soo-pee-al/ *n* an animal that carries its young in a pouch.

**marten** /'martən/, /mar-ten/ *n* a type of weasel valued for its fur.

**martial** /'mɑːrʃəl/, /mar-shal/ *adj* having to do with war.

**martin** /'mɑːtɪn/, /mar-tin/ *n* a bird of the swallow family.

**martyr** /'mɑːtɪr/, /mar-tir/ *n* 1 a person who suffers death for his or her beliefs. 2 a person who suffers continuously from a certain illness. 3 (*hum, irony*) someone who makes a show of their misfortune to gain sympathy. • *vb* to put someone to death for refusing to give up his or her faith. • *n* **martyrdom**.

**marvel** /'mɑːvəl/, /mar-vell/ *n* a wonder. • *vb* to wonder (at), to feel astonishment.

**marvellous** /'mɑːvələs/, /mar-ve-lus/ *adj, also marvelous (US)* 1 wonderful, astonishing, extraordinary. 2 (*inf*) very good, excellent.

**marzipan** /'mɑːzɪpæn/, /mar-si-pan/ *n* a sweet made from ground almonds, sugar, etc.

**mascara** /mæ'skərə/, /ma-sca-ra/ *n* a substance used for darkening eyelashes.

**mascot** /mæskɒt/, /ma-scot/ *n* a person, animal, or thing supposed to bring good luck.

**masculine** /'mæskjulɪn/, /ma-skyu-lin/ *adj* 1 of the male sex. 2 manly. 3 like a man.

**mash** /mæʃ/, /mash/ *vb* to crush food until it is soft. • *n* 1 a mixture of crushed grain, etc, given to animals as food. 2 mashed potato.

**mask** /mæsk/, /mask/ *n* 1 a cover for the face or part of the face. 2 an animal or human face painted on paper, etc, and worn at parties or processions. 3 any means of concealing what is really going on. 4 (*usually called masque*) a poetical play. • *vb* 1 to cover with a mask. 2 to hide.

**mason** /'meɪsən/, /may-son/ *n* 1 a person who is skilled in shaping stone or in building. 2 a Freemason. • *adj* **masonic**.

**masonry** /'meɪsənri/, /may-sun-reel/ *n* 1 stonework. 2 the skill or work of a mason. 3 Freemasonry.

**masquerade** /,mæskə'reɪd/, /ma-ske-rade/ *n* a ball at which masks are worn. • *vb* 1 to go in disguise. 2 to pretend to be another.

**mass** /mæs/, /mass/ *n* 1 a lump or quantity of matter. 2 (*fml*) the quantity of matter in a body. 3 (*often pl*) a crowd. 4 the larger part. • *vb* 1 to gather into a mass. 2 to form a crowd.

**Mass** /mæs/, /mass/ *n* in the Roman Catholic Church, the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

**massacre** /'mæsəkər/, /ma-sa-cur/ *n* the killing of large numbers of men, women, and children. • *vb* to kill in large numbers.

**massage** /mə'sɔʒ/, /ma-sazh/ *n* rubbing and pressing the muscles to strengthen them or make them less stiff. • *also vb.*

**masseur** /mə'sər/, /ma-soor/ *n* a person who gives massages. • *f*  
**masseuse** /mə'su:s/, /ma-sooz/.

**massive** /'mæsɪv/, /ma-siv/ *adj* huge, big and heavy.

**mast** /mæst/, /mast/ *n* on a ship, an upright pole on which sails may be set.

**master** /'mæstər/, /ma-ster/ *n* 1 a person who is in charge or gives orders. 2 a male teacher. 3 an expert. • *vb* 1 to gain complete knowledge of. 2 to overcome.

**masterful** /'mæstər,fʊl/, /ma-ster-ful/ *adj* commanding, used to giving orders.

**masterly** /-li/, /ma-ster-lee/ *adj* showing great skill.

**mastermind** /-,maɪnd/, /ma-ster-mind/ *n* 1 a very intelligent person. 2 a person who plans and organizes a complex scheme, especially a crime. • *vb* to plan and organize a complex scheme.

**masterpiece** /mæstər,pi:s/, /ma-ster-peess/ *n* the best piece of work done by an artist.

**mastery** /'mæstəri/, /ma-ste-ree/ *n* 1 control, command. 2 thorough knowledge.

**mastigate** /'mæsti,keɪt/, /ma-sti-cate/ *vb* (*frm*) to chew. • *n*  
**mastication**.

**mastiff** /'mæstɪf/, /ma-stif/ *n* a large powerful dog.

**masturbate** /'mæstər,beɪt/, /ma-stur-bate/ *vi* to manually stimulate one's sexual organs to achieve orgasm without sexual intercourse.

**mat** /mæt/, /mat/ *n* 1 a small piece of coarse cloth or plaited fibre used as a floor covering or foot-wiper. 2 a piece of cloth or other material placed under a plate or dish. • *adj* matt. • *vb* (**matted**, **matting**) to twist together, to entangle.

**matador** /'mætə,dɔr/, /ma-ta-dor/ *n* in Spain, the man who fights the bull in a bullfight.

**match**<sup>1</sup> /mætʃ/, /mætʃ/ *n* a small stick tipped with a substance that catches fire when rubbed on certain prepared surfaces.

**match**<sup>2</sup> /mætʃ/, /mætʃ/ *n* **1** a person or thing the same or nearly the same as another. **2** an equal. **3** a sporting contest or game. **4** a marriage. • *vb* **1** to be equal to. **2** to be like or to go well with something else.

**matchbox** /'mætʃbɒks/, /mætʃ-boks/ *n* a box for holding matches.

**matchmaker** /'mætʃmeɪkər/, /mætʃ-may-ker/ *n* a person who tries to arrange a marriage between others.

**mate** /meɪt/, /mæt/ *n* **1** a companion, a colleague. **2** (*inf*) a friend. **3** a husband or wife. **3** a ship's officer below the captain in rank. **4** a workman's assistant. **5** an animal with which another is paired for producing offspring. • *vb* to come together for breeding.

**material** /mə'ti:rɪəl/, /ma-tee-ree-al/ *adj* **1** made of matter. **2** worldly, not spiritual. **3** (*fm*) important. • *n* **1** the substance out of which a thing is made. **2** cloth.

**materialism** /mə'ti:rɪəlɪzəm/, /ma-tee-ree-al-iz-um/ *n* **1** the belief that nothing exists but matter. **2** the state of being interested only in worldly things such as wealth.

**materialist** /mə'ti:rɪəlist/, /ma-tee-ree-al-ist/ *n* **1** a person who believes in materialism. **2** a person who is concerned more with wealth and comfort than with ideas. • *adj* **materialistic**.

**materialize**, **materialise** /mə'ti:rɪəlaɪz/, /ma-tee-ree-al-ize/ *vb* **1** to become real, to happen. **2** to appear.

**materially** /mə'ti:rɪəli/, /ma-tee-ree-al-ee/ *adv* to a large extent, considerably.

**maternal** /mə'tərnəl/, /ma-ter-nal/ *adj* of or like a mother.

**maternity** /mə'tərniti/, /ma-ter-ni-tee/ *n* motherhood.

**maths** /mæθs/, /maths/ *n* (*inf*) mathematics.

**mathematical** /,mæθə'mætɪkəl/, /ma-thi-ma-ti-cal/ *adj* having to do with mathematics.

**mathematics** /,mæθə'mætɪks/, /ma-thi-ma-tics/ *n* the science of space and number. • *n* **mathematician**.

**matinee** /'matneɪ/, /mat-nay/ *n* an afternoon performance in a theatre.

**matriculate** /mə'trɪkju'leɪt/, /ma-tri'-cyu-late/ *vb* to enrol or be accepted as a student in a university or college. • *n* **matriculation**.

**matrimony** /'mætri'mo:nɪ/, /ma-tri-moe-nee/ *n* (*frm*) the state of marriage. • *adj* **matrimonial**.

**matrix** /'meɪtrɪks/, /may-triks/ *n* (*pl* **matrices**) **1** in mathematics, the arrangement of a set of quantities in rows and columns. **2** a mould in which hot molten metal is shaped.

**matron** /'meɪtrən/, /may-tron/ *n* **1** (*old*) an older married woman. **2** a woman in a school in charge of medical care, etc.

**matronly** /'meɪtrənli/, /may-tron-lee/ *adj* (*of a woman*) **1** middle-aged and rather plump. **2** dignified, serious.

**matt(e)** /mæt/, /mat/ *adj* dull, without gloss or shine.

**matter** /'mætər/, /ma-ter/ *n* **1** that out of which all things are made. **2** a subject of conversation or writings. **3** affair. **4** the infected liquid contained in a wound or sore. • *vb* to be of importance.

**matter-of-fact** /'mætər əv 'fækt/, /ma-ter-ov-fact/ *adj* without imagination or exaggeration, containing or concerning facts only.

**matting** /'mætɪŋ/, /ma-ting/ *n* material used as mats.

**mattress** /'mætrɪs/, /ma-tress/ *n* a flat bag filled with soft material and sometimes springs, placed under a sleeper for comfort.

**mature** /mə'tʃʊr/, /ma-choor/ *adj* **1** ripe. **2** fully grown. **3** fully developed in body or mind. • *vb* **1** to ripen. **2** to become mature. **3** to be due in full.

**maturity** /mə'tʃʊrəti/, /ma-choo-ri-tee/ *n* **1** ripeness. **2** full growth or development.

**maul** /mɔ:l/, /mawl/ *vb* **1** to injure badly. **2** to handle roughly.

**mausoleum** /mɔ:zə'lɪ:əm/, /maw-zu-lee-um/ *n* a magnificent tomb.

**mauve** /mo:v/, /mawv/ *n* a purple dye or colour. • *adj* light purple.

**maxim** /'mæksɪm/, /mak-sim/ *n* a wise saying, a rule for behaviour.

**maximize** /'mæksɪmaɪz/, /mak-si-mize/ *vb*, also **maximise** to make as large or as important as possible.

**maximum** /'mæksɪməm/, /mak-si-mum/ *n* the greatest possible number or amount. • *also adj*.

**may**<sup>1</sup> /meɪ/, /mæj/ *vb (pt might)* used to express possibility or permission.

**may**<sup>2</sup> /meɪ/, /mæj/ *n* hawthorn blossom.

**May** /meɪ/, /mæj/ *n* the fifth month of the year.

**maybe** /'meɪbi:/, /mæj-be/ *adv* perhaps.

**Mayday** /'meɪdeɪ/, /mæj-day/ *n* the first day of May.

**mayonnaise** /'meɪəneɪz/, /mæj-u-naze/ *n* a salad dressing of eggs, oil, etc.

**mayor** /'meɪər/, /mæj-ur/ *n* the chief magistrate of a city or borough.

**maze** /meɪz/, /mæze/ *n* **1** a confusing system of paths or passages through which it is difficult to find your way. **2** a confusing network of streets, etc.

**ME** /ɛ'mi:/, /em-ee/ *abbr = myalgic encephalomyelitis* /en-kef-a-low-my-ah-lie-tus/: a chronic condition that makes someone feel extremely tired and weak all the time, also **chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)**.

**me** /mi:/, /mee/ *pron* the form of 'I' used when the object of a sentence.

**meadow** /'medo:/, /mæ-doe/ *n* rich grassland.

**meagre** /'mi:gər/, /mee-ger/ *adj, also meager (US)* scanty, not enough.

**meal**<sup>1</sup> /mi:l/, /meel/ *n* food taken at one time.

**meal**<sup>2</sup> /mi:l/, /meel/ *n* grain ground to powder.

**mean**<sup>1</sup> /mi:n/, /meen/ *adj* **1** nasty, unkind over small things. **2** unwilling to spend or give away. **3 (old or lit)** poor. **4 (old or lit)** of low birth or behaviour (*of mean birth*). • *n* **meanness**.

**mean**<sup>2</sup> /mi:n/, /meen/ *vb (pt, pp meant)* **1** to intend. **2** to have a certain purpose. **3** to express a certain idea.

**mean**<sup>3</sup> /mi:n/, /meen/ *adj* **1** middle. **2** halfway between numbers, amounts, extremes, etc; average. • *n* **1** the average. **2** a middle state. **3 (pl)** see **means**.

**meander** /mi:'ændər/, /mee-an-der/ *vb* to follow a winding course, as a river over very flat land.

**meaning** /'mi:nɪŋ/, /mee-ning/ *n* 1 the idea expressed by a word or words. 2 the sense in which something is intended to be understood. • *adjs* **meaningful**, **meaningless**.

**means** /mi:nz/, /meenz/ *npl* 1 that by which something is done or carried out. 2 money or property.

**meantime** /'mi:ntaɪm/, /meen-time/ *n* the time between two events. • *adv* meanwhile.

**meanwhile** /'mi:nwail/, /meen-while/ *n* the time between two events, meantime. • *adv* 1 in or during the intervening time. 2 at the same time.

**measles** /'mi:zəlz/, /mee-zulz/ *n* an infectious disease with a red rash.

**measly** /'mi:zli/, /mee-zleel/ *adj* worthless, mean.

**measure** /'mɛʒər/, /me-zhur/ *n* 1 a unit used to express size, weight, etc. 2 size, weight, etc; so expressed. 3 an instrument used in finding size, weight, etc. 4 a course of action. 5 a law proposed but not passed. • *vb* 1 to find out size, quantity, etc, with an instrument. 2 to judge. 3 to weigh out. • *n* **measurement**.

**measured** /'mɛʒərd/, /me-zhurd/ *adj (fml)* steady, regular.

**meat** /mi:t/, /meet/ *n* the flesh of animals used as food.

**meaty** /'mi:ti/, /mee-tee/ *adj* 1 full of meat. 2 full of information.

**mechanic** /ma'kænɪk/, /me-ca-nic/ *n* a person who looks after a machine.

**mechanical** /mə'kænɪkəl/, /me-ca-ni-cal/ *adj* 1 done or worked by machine. 2 having to do with machinery. 3 done by habit, done without awareness. • *adv* **mechanically**.

**mechanics** /mə'kænɪks/, /me-ca-nics/ *n* the science of motion and force.

**mechanism** /'mækənɪzəm/, /me-ca-ni-zum/ *n* the machinery that makes something work.

**medal** /'medəl/, /me-dal/ *n* a flat piece of metal with a picture or writing stamped on it, made to commemorate a person or event or as a reward of merit. • *vb* (**medalled**, **medalling**) to win a medal, especially at a sporting event.

**medallion** /mə'dæljən/, /me-dal-yun/ *n* a large medal.

**medallist** /'medəlist/, /me-da-list/ *n* the winner of a medal.

**meddle** /'medəl/, /me-dul/ *vb* to interfere. • *n meddler*.

**meddlesome** /'medəlsum/, /me-dul-sum/ *adj* given to interfering.

**media** /'mi:diə/, *n 1 pl* of **medium**. **2** a means of reaching many people, such as through television, newspapers and radio.

**mediaeval** /'medi'i:vəl/, /med-di-ee-val/ *adj*, also **medieval** /'medi:vəl/, /med-dee-val/ having to do with the Middle Ages.

**medial** /'mi:diəl/, /mee-dee-al/, **median** /'mi:diən/, /mee-dee-an/ *adj (fml)* in the middle.

**mediate** /'mi:di'eit/, /mee-dee-ate/ *vb* to try to settle a dispute between others. • *n mediator*.

**mediation** /'mi:di'eʃən/, /mee-dee-ay-shun/ *n* an attempt to settle a dispute between others.

**medical** /'medɪkəl/, /me-di-cal/ *adj 1* having to do with medicine. **2** having to do with the work of a doctor, medicine, or healing. • *adv medically*.

**medicate** /'medɪkeɪt/, /me-di-cate/ *vb (fml)* **1** to give medicine to. **2** to soak in medicine.

**medication** /'medɪ'keɪʃən/, /me-di-cay-shun/ *n (fml)* medicine, treatment by medicine.

**medicine** /'medɪsin/, /me-di-sin/ *n 1* the science of bringing the sick back to health. **2** any substance that cures or heals. **3** the science of curing or treating by means other than surgery. • *adj medicinal*. • *adv medicinally*.

**mediocre** /'mi:di'o:kər/, /mee-dee-oe-car/ *adj* not very good, ordinary. • *n mediocrity*.

**meditate** /'medɪteɪt/, /me-di-tate/ *vb 1* to think deeply about. **2** to spend short regular periods in deep, especially religious, thought.

**meditation** /'medɪ'teɪʃən/, /me-di-tay-shun/ *n* deep thought.

**meditative** /'medɪtətɪv/, /me-di-ta-tiv/ *adj (fml)* thoughtful.

**medium** /'mi:diəm/, /mee-dee-um/ *n 1 (pl media)* the means by which something is done. **2 (pl)** a means by which news is made known. **3 (pl mediums)** a person who is able to receive messages from spirits at a meeting held for that purpose. • *adj* middle or average in size, quality, etc.

**medley** /'medli/, /med-lee/ *n* 1 a mixture. 2 a selection of tunes played as one item.

**meek** /mi:k/, /meek/ *adj* gentle, kind, unresisting. • *adv* **meekly**.

**meet** /mi:t/, /meet/ *vb (pt, pp met)* 1 to come face to face with, often by chance. 2 to come together by arrangement. 3 to pay. 4 to satisfy. 5 to answer. • *n* a coming together of huntsmen on horseback with hounds for a hunt.

**meeting** /'mi:tɪŋ/, /mee-ting/ *n* a coming together for a special purpose.

**megabyte** /'mɛgəbət/, /me-ga-bite/ *n* in computing, a unit of storage capacity equal to approximately 1,000,000 bytes.

**megaphone** /'mɛgə,fo:n/, /me-ga-foan/ *n* a large device for making the voice louder.

**melancholy** /'mɛlənkɒli/, /me-lan-col-ee/ *n* sadness, depression. • *also adj.*

**mellow** /'melo:/, /me-loe/ *adj* 1 soft with ripeness. 2 made kindly by age. • *vb* to make or become mellow. • *n* **mellowness**.

**melodic** /mə'lɒdɪk/, /me-łod-ic/ *adj* relating to melody.

**melodious** /mə'lo:dɪəs/, /me-łoe-dee-us/ *adj* sweet-sounding.

**melodrama** /'mɛlədræmə/, /me-lo-dra-ma/ *n* a thrilling or sensational play, usually with an improbable plot.

**melodramatic** /'mɛlədræ'matɪk/, /me-lo-dra-ma-tic/ *adj* more like a play than real life, theatrical, exaggerated.

**melody** /'mɛlədi/, /me-lo-dee/ *n* 1 a tune. 2 the principal part in a piece of harmonized music.

**melon** /'mɛlən/, /me-lon/ *n* a large juicy fruit that grows on the ground.

**melt** /mɛlt/, /melt/ *vb* 1 to make or become liquid by heat, to soften, to dissolve. 2 to disappear. 3 to make or become gentler.

**member** /'membər/, /mem-ber/ *n* 1 one of a society or group. 2 (*frm or old*) a limb of the body.

**membership** /'membərʃɪp/, /mem-ber-ship/ *n* 1 the state of being a member. 2 all the members of a society.

**membrane** /'membreɪn/, /mem-brane/ *n* a thin layer of skin covering or connecting parts inside the body.

**memento** /mə'mento:/, /mu-men-toe/ *n* an object kept or given to remind you of a person or event.

**memo** /'məmo:/ see **memorandum**.

**memoir** /'mənwər/, /mem-war/ *n* 1 a written account of past events.

2 (*np*) the story of a person's life.

**memorable** /'məmərəbəl/, /mem-ra-bul/ *adj* worth remembering. • *adv memorably*.

**memorandum** /,məmə'rændəm/, /me-mu-ran-dum/ *n* (*pl memoranda*).

**memorial** /mə'mɔriəl/, /me-moe-ree-al/ *n* an object, often a monument, that helps people to remember a person or event.

**memorize** /'məmə,raiz/, /me-mu-rize/ *vb*, also **memorise** to learn by heart.

**memory** /'məməri/, /me-mu-ree/ *n* 1 the power of the mind to recall past events or to learn things by heart. 2 the mind's store of remembered things. 3 something remembered. 4 the part of a computer that stores information.

**men** /mən/, /men/ *n pl of man*.

**menace** /'mənəs/, /me-nis/ *n* 1 a threat, a person or thing likely to cause harm or danger. 2 a threat, a show of hostility. • *vb (fml)* to threaten.

**menacing** /'mənəsɪŋ/, /me-ni-sing/ *adj* 1 threatening to harm. 2 threatening-looking.

**menagerie** /mə'nædʒəri/, /me-nadge-ree/ *n* a collection of wild animals for public show.

**mend** /mənd/, /mend/ *vb* 1 to repair. 2 to improve. 3 (*inf*) to become well or healthy again. • *n* the hole or crack that has been mended.

**menial** /mi:nɪəl/, /mee-nee-al/ *adj* humble, unskilled.

**meningitis** /,mənɪn'dʒaɪtɪs/, /me-nin-jie-tis/ *n* a serious disease affecting the membrane around the brain.

**menstrual cycle** /,mən'strəl saɪkəl/, /men-stroo-al sie-cul/ *n* a series of changes that take place in a woman's body, roughly over a 28-day period, which prepare her body for possible pregnancy.

**menstruation** /,mən'streɪʃən/, /men-stroo-way-shun/ *n*, also **period** a monthly discharge of blood from a woman's womb at the end of

the normal menstrual cycle if pregnancy does not take place. • *vb*  
**menstruate.** • *adj* menstrual.

**mental** /'mentəl/, /men-tal/ *adj* 1 having to do with the mind. 2 done in the mind without anything being written. • *adv* mentally.

**mentality** /men'tælɪti/, /men-ta-li-tee/ *n* 1 mental power. 2 the way of thinking typical of a person, the character of a person's mind.

**menthol** /'mɛnθɒl/, /men-thol/ *n* a substance made from mint and used as a medicine.

**mention** /'mɛnʃən/, /men-shun/ *vb* 1 to speak of, to refer to, to say the name of. 2 to say briefly or indirectly. • *n* a remark about or reference to.

**mentor** /'mentɔːr/, /men-tawr/ *n* (fml) a wise adviser.

**menu** /'mɛnju:/, /men-yoo/ *n* 1 a list of foods that can be ordered for a meal in a restaurant. 2 a list of options on a computer display.

**meow** /mi:au/, /mee-ow/ see [mew](#).

**MEP** /'ɛmi:pɪ/, /em-ee-peel/ *abbr* = Member of the European Parliament.

**mercenary** /'mərsə,nəri/, /merse-(u)-ne-ree/ *adj* 1 working for money. 2 doing things only to obtain money, greedy for money. • *n* a soldier hired to fight for a country not his or her own.

**merchandise** /'mərtʃəndɪs, -daɪz/, /mer-chan-dize/ *n* goods bought and sold.

**merchant** /'mərtʃənt/, /mer-chant/ *n* a person who buys and sells goods in large quantities.

**merciful** /'mərsɪ,ful/, /mer-si-ful/ *adj* showing mercy, forgiving. • *adv* mercifully.

**merciless** /'mərsɪləs/, /mer-si-less/ *adj* pitiless. • *adv* mercilessly.

**mercurial** /mər'kjuriəl/, /mer-cyoo-ree-al/ *adj* quickly changing mood.

**mercury** /'mərkjuri/, /mer-cyu-ree/ *n* a liquid silvery-white metal used in thermometers.

**Mercury** /'mərkjuri/, /mercury/ *n* the closest planet to the sun.

**mercy** /'mərsi/, /mer-see/ *n* kindness and pity, forgiveness, willingness not to punish.

**mere** /mi:r/, /meer/ *adj* no more or less than.

**merely** /'mi:rli/, /meer-lee/ *adv* only.

**merge** /mərdʒ/, /merj/ *vb* 1 to join together to make one. 2 to become part of a larger whole.

**merger** /'mərdʒər/, /mer-jer/ *n* the joining together of two or more businesses.

**meridian** /mə'ridiən/, /me-ri-dee-an/ *n* an imaginary line encircling the earth from pole to pole.

**meringue** /mə'ræŋ/, /mu-rang/ *n* a light sweet or cake made from sugar and white of egg.

**merit** /'merit/, /me-rit/ *n* 1 the quality of deserving praise or reward; worth; excellence. 2 good point. 3 *npl* good qualities. • *vb* to deserve.

**mermaid** /'mərmeɪd/, /mer-maid/ *n* an imaginary sea creature, half woman and half fish. • *also merman*.

**merry** /'məri/, /me-ree/ *adj* joyous, happy, full of fun. • *adv merrily*. • *n merriment*.

**merry-go-round** /'merigo:,raund/, /me-ree-go-round/ *n* a large revolving circular platform with seats in the shape of animals, etc, on which people may ride for amusement at an amusement park.

**mesh** /mɛʃ/, /mesh/ *n* the space between the threads of a net.

**mesmerize** /'mezmə,raɪz/, /mez-me-rize/ *vb*, *also mesmerise* 1 to hold the complete attention of and make seemingly unable to move or speak. 2 (*old*) to hypnotize.

**mess<sup>1</sup>** /mes/, /mess/ *n* 1 a muddle. 2 a dirty or untidy state. • *vb* 1 to make dirty or untidy. 2 to do badly or inefficiently.

**mess<sup>2</sup>** /mes/, /mess/ *n* 1 a company of people who take their meals together as in the armed services. 2 the place where they eat.

**message** /'mesɪdʒ/, /me-sidge/ *n* 1 information or news sent to another by word of mouth or in writing. 2 a piece of instruction, an important idea.

**messenger** /'mesɪndʒər/, /me-sin-jer/ *n* a person who bears a message.

**Messiah** /mə'saɪə/, /me-sie-ya/ *n* 1 the deliverer promised by God to the Jews. 2 Jesus Christ, believed by Christians to be the Messiah.

**Messrs** /'mesərz/, /me-surz/ *npl* plural of **Mr**, short for **Messieurs** /mus-yur/, usually found in addresses on envelopes.

**messy** /'məsi/, /me-see/ *adj* dirty or untidy.

**met** /mət/, /met/ *pt and pp of meet*.

**metabolism** /mə'tæbəlɪzəm/, /me-ta-bo-li-zum/ *n* the system of chemical changes in the cells of the body that provide energy. • *adj metabolic*.

**metal** /'mɛtəl/, /me-tal/ *n* a class of substances, such as gold, copper, iron, tin, etc.

**metallic** /mə'tælik/, /me-tal-ic/ *adj* of or like metal.

**metallurgy** /mə'tælərdʒi/, /me-tal-ur-jee/ *n* the art or study of working with metals. • *n metallurgist*.

**metamorphosis** /,mɛtə'mɔrfəsɪs/, /me-ta-mawr-fu-sis/ *n* (*pl metamorphoses*) 1 a change in form or kind. 2 a complete change.

**metaphor** /'mɛtəfɔr/, /me-ta-fawr/ *n* a way of comparing two things by identifying them and speaking about one as if it were the other. • *adjs metaphoric, metaphorical*. • *adv metaphorically*.

**metaphysics** /,mɛtə'fiziks/, /me-ta-fi-zics/ *n* the study of the nature of existence and of the mind. • *adj metaphysical*.

**mete** /mi:t/, /meet/ *vb (old)* to measure.

**meteor** /'mi:tɪər/, /mee-tee-or/ *n* a shining body that can be seen moving across the sky, a shooting star.

**meteoric** /,mɪti'ɔrik/, /me-tee-awr-ic/ *adj* rapid but often short-lasting.

**meteorite** /'mi:tɪə,rət/, /mee-tee-u-rite/ *n* a meteor that falls to earth as a piece of rock.

**meteorological** /,mɪ:tiə'rəlɒdʒɪkəl/, /mee-tee-u-rol-odʒe-i-cal/ *adj* having to do with meteorology.

**meteorology** /,mɪ:tiə'rɒlədʒi/, /mee-tee-u-rol-o-jee/ *n* the study or science of the earth's weather. • *n meteorologist*.

**meter<sup>1</sup>** /'mi:tər/, /mee-ter/ *n* an instrument for measuring things.

**meter<sup>2</sup>** /'mi:tər/, /mee-ter/ *n* US variant of **metre**.

**methane** /'meθeɪn/, /me-thane/ *n* a flammable gas produced by decaying matter and used as a fuel.

**methinks** /mɪ'θɪŋks/, /mee-thingks/ *vb (old or hum)* it seems to me.

**method** /'mɛθəd/, /me-thod/ *n* 1 a way of doing something. 2 an orderly way of arranging or doing things.

**methodical** /mə'θədɪkəl/, /me-thod-ic-al/ *adj* orderly in following a plan or system. • *adv methodically*.

**Methodist** /'mɛθədɪst/, /me-thod-ist/ *n* a member of a Christian sect founded by John Wesley.

**methyl** /'mɛθəl/, /me-thil/ *n* a substance from which wood-alcohol can be made.

**methylated spirits** /'mɛθəleɪtəd ,spɪrits/, /me-thi-lay-tid spi-rits/ *n* a type of alcohol unfit for drinking but used for burning, cleaning, etc.

**meticulous** /mə'tɪkjʊləs/, /me-ti-cyu-lus/ *adj* extremely careful about details or small matters.

**metre<sup>1</sup>** /'mi:tər/, /mee-ter/ *n*, also **meter** (US) a measure of length (100 cm, 39.37 inches) in the metric system, *abbr m*.

**metre<sup>2</sup>** /'mi:tər/, /mee-ter/ *n*, also **meter** (US) the systematic arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables that give poetic rhythm.

**metrical** /'metrɪkəl/, /me-tri-cal/ *adj* (of poetry) having a regular rhythm or metre.

**metric system** /'mētrɪk ,sistema/, /me-tric sis-tem/ *n* a system of weights and measures in which each unit is divisible into 10 parts.

**metronome** /'mētrə,nō:m/, /me-tro-nome/ *n* an instrument that can be set to mark time correctly for a musician.

**metropolis** /mə'tropəlɪs/, /me-trop-lis/ *n* (fml or hum) a large city, especially the capital.

**metropolitan** /mətrə'pɒlɪtæn/, /me-tro-pol-i-tan/ *adj* belonging to a metropolis.

**mettle** /'metəl/, /me-tul/ *n* spirit, courage.

**mew (see 1)** /mju:/, /myoo/, **miaow, meow** /mee-aoo/ *n* the cry of a cat. • *vb* to make a high-pitched cry like a cat.

**mews** /mju:z/, /myooz/ *n* a row of houses or flats in a small street which have been converted from stables.

**mezzo-soprano** /'metzo: sə'prænə/, /met-so su-pra-noe/ *n* a female voice between soprano and contralto.

**miaow** see **mew** (see 1).

**mice** /maɪs/, *pl* of **mouse**.

**Michaelmas** /'maɪkəlməs/, /mi-cal-mus/ *n* the feast of St Michael, September 29.

**microbe** /'məɪkro:b/, /mie-crobe/ *n* a tiny living creature, especially one causing disease.

**microchip** /'məɪkro:tʃɪp/, /mie-cro-chip/ *n* a very small piece of a material, usually silicon, which acts as a semi-conductor and forms the base on which an electronic circuit is printed.

**microcosm** /'məɪkro:kɒzəm/, /mie-cru-caw-zum/ *n* a little world, a small copy.

**microphone** /'məɪkrə,fo:n/, /mie-cru-fone/ *n* an instrument by which the sound of the voice is changed into electric waves, used to make sounds louder.

**microscope** /'məɪkrə,sko:p/, /mie-cru-scope/ *n* an instrument containing an arrangement of curved lenses by means of which very tiny objects can be seen larger and studied.

**microscopic** /'məɪkrə,skopɪk/, /mie-cru-scop-ic/ *adj* 1 very small, tiny, seen only with the help of a microscope. 2 (*inf*) tiny.

**microwave** /'məɪkro:weɪv/, /mie-cro-wave/ *n* a microwave oven, an oven that cooks or heats up food very quickly using electromagnetic radiation. • *vb* to cook or heat in a microwave.

**mid** /mɪd/, /mid/ *adj* having to do with the middle, in the middle of.

**midday** /'mɪddeɪ/, /mid-day/ *n* noon or the time about noon.

**middle** /'mɪdəl/, /mi-dul/ *adj* equally distant from the ends or limits. • *n* the centre, the middle part or point.

**middle-aged** /'mɪdəl'eɪdʒd/, /mi-dul-ayjd/ *adj* neither old nor young, between youth and old age.

**Middle Ages** /'mɪdəl'eɪdʒəz/, /mi-dul ay-jez/ *npl* the period between AD 500 and AD 1500 in European history.

**middle class** /'mɪdəl'klæs/, /mi-dul class/ *n* those who are well enough off to live in comfort, but are neither wealthy nor of noble birth. • *adj* having to do with the middle class.

**Middle East** /'mɪdəl 'i:st/, /mi-dul eest/ *n* Asian countries west of India and China.

**middleman** /'mɪdəl,mən/, /mi-dul-man/ *n* a trader who buys goods in large quantities from the maker or producer and sells them again at a profit to store owners.

**middleweight** /'mɪdəl,weɪt/, /mi-dul-wate/ *n* a boxer who fights in the class with a maximum weight of 160 lb (72.64 kg).

**middling** /'mɪdəlɪŋ/, /mid-ling/ *adj (inf)* neither very good nor very bad, average.

**midget** /'mɪdʒət/, /mid-jet/ *n* a very small person or thing.

**midland** /'mɪdlənd/, /mid-land/ *adj* far from the coasts or borders of a country.

**midnight** /'mɪdnəit/, /mid-nite/ *n* 12 o'clock at night.

**midriff** /'mɪdrɪf/, /mid-rif/ *n* the part of the body containing the muscles separating the stomach from the lungs.

**midshipman** /'mɪdʃɪpmən/, /mid-ship-man/ *n* a low-ranking officer in the navy.

**midst** /mɪdst/, /midst/ *n* the middle.

**midsummer** /'mɪdsəmər/, /mid-su-mer/ *n* the middle of summer.

**midway** /'mɪdwei/, /mid-way/ *n* halfway. • *also adv.*

**midwife** /'mɪdwəif/, /mid-wife/ *n* (*pl midwives*) a person who assists a mother at the birth of a baby.

**midwifery** /mɪd'wɪfəri:/, /mid-wi-free/ *n* the knowledge or study of the work of a midwife.

**midwinter** /mɪd'wɪntər, /mid-win-ter/ *n* the middle of winter.

**might<sup>1</sup>** /maɪt/, /mite/ *pt of may<sup>1</sup>.*

**might<sup>2</sup>** /maɪt/, /mite/ *n* power, strength.

**mighty** /maɪti/, /mie-tee/ *adj* 1 powerful, strong. 2 huge. • *adv* very.

**migraine** /'maɪgræɪn/, /mie-grane, mee-grane/ *n* a severe headache, often accompanied by visual disturbances and a feeling of sickness.

**migrant** /'maɪgrənt/, /mie-grant/ *n* a person or a bird that migrates. • *also adj.*

**migrate** /'maɪgrēt/, /mīe-grate/ *vb* **1** to move your home from one land to another, to go from one place to another. **2** (of birds) to move to another place at the season when its climate is suitable. • *n migration*. • *adj migratory*.

**mike** /mēk/, /mīk/ *n (inf)* a microphone.

**mild** /maɪld/, /mīlde/ *adj* **1** gentle, merciful, not severe. **2** calm. **3** (of weather) not cold. • *adv mildly*. • *n mildness*.

**mildew** /'mīldzū/, 'mīldu:/, /mil-joo, mil-doo/ *n* a tiny but destructive growth that appears and spreads on leaves or on damp paper, leather, etc.

**mile** /maɪl/, /mīl/ *n* a measure of length (= 1760 yards).

**mileage, milage** /'maɪlɪdʒ/, /mile-idge/ *n* distance in miles.

**milestone** /'maɪlstō:n/, /mile-stone/ *n* **1** a stone by the roadside telling the distance in miles to places in the neighbourhood. **2** an important stage in the development or progress of something.

**militant** /'mīlɪtənt/, /mi-li-tant/ *adj* **1** fighting, warlike. **2** active in a campaign. • *n militancy*.

**militarism** /'mīlɪtərɪzəm/, /mi-li-ta-ri-zum/ *n* belief in the use of armies or war in politics. • *n militarist*. • *adj militaristic*.

**military** /'mīlɪtri/, /mi-li-ta-ree/ *adj* having to do with the armed forces. • *n the armed forces*.

**militate** /'mīlɪtēt/, /mi-li-tate/ *vb* **1** to act or stand. **2** to act as a reason against.

**militia** /mīl'sjə/, /mi-li-sha/ *n* a reserve army, consisting of people trained in the use of arms, and called out in an emergency. • *n militiaman*.

**milk** /mīlk/, /milk/ *n* **1** the liquid produced by female mammals to feed their babies. **2** such milk produced by cows or goats and drunk by humans or made into butter and cheese. • *vb* to draw milk from (e.g. a cow).

**milkmaid** /'mīlkmeɪd/, /milk-maid/ *n* a woman who milks cows.

**milkman** /'mīlkmæn/, /milk-man/ *n* a man who sells or delivers milk.

**milk shake** /'mīlkʃeɪk/, /milk-shake/ *n* a cold frothy drink made from milk shaken up with flavouring and ice cream.

**milk tooth** /'mīlk,tu:θ/, /milk tooth/ *n* one of a child's first set of teeth.

**milky** /'mɪlkɪ/, /mil-kee/ *adj* 1 like milk. 2 containing a lot of milk.

**Milky Way** /'mɪlkɪ: weɪ/, /mil-kee way/ *n* a bright band across the night sky, made up of countless stars.

**mill** /mɪl/, /mill/ *n* 1 a machine for grinding corn, coffee, etc. 2 the building in which corn is ground into flour. 3 a factory. • *vb* 1 to grind. 2 to stamp a coin and cut grooves around its edge.

**millennium** /mɪ'lɛniəm/, /mi-len-ee-um/ *n* (*pl* **millennia** or **millenniums**) 1 a period of 1000 years. 2 according to the Bible, the 1000 years for which Christ will reign on the Earth.

**miller** /'mɪlər/, /mi-ler/ *n* a person who keeps a corn mill.

**millet** /'mɪlət/, /mi-let/ *n* a grass bearing edible grain.

**milligram** /'mɪlɪgræm/, /mi-li-gram/ *n* the thousandth part of a gram.

**millimetre** /'mɪlɪmɪ:tər/, /mi-li-mee-ter/ *n*, also **millimeter** (US) the thousandth part of a metre.

**milliner** /'mɪlmər/, /mi-li-ner/ *n* a person who makes or sells ladies' hats.

**millinery** /'mɪlməri/, /mi-li-ne-ree/ *n* hats made or sold by a milliner.

**million** /'mɪljən/, /mil-yun/ *n* 1 a thousand thousand (1,000,000). 2 (*inf*) a very great many.

**millionaire** /'mɪljə,nɛɪr/, /mil-yu-nare/ *n* a person who possesses a million or more pounds.

**millipede** /'mɪlɪpi:d/, /mi-li-peed/ *n* an insect with many feet.

**millstone** /'mɪlsto:n/, /mil-stone/ *n* 1 a heavy round stone used for grinding corn into flour. 2 a very heavy load or handicap.

**millwheel** /'mɪlwi:l/, /mil-wheel/ *n* the large wheel, turned by water power, that drives the machinery inside a mill.

**mime** /maɪm/, /mime/ *n* 1 a play without words which is carried on by facial expressions, gestures and actions. 2 using actions without language. • *vb* 1 to mouth the words to a recorded song. 2 to act without speaking.

**mimic** /'mɪmɪk/, /mi-mic/ *vb* (**mimicked**, **mimicking**) to imitate, especially in order to make fun of. • *n* a person who imitates.

**mimicry** /'mɪmɪkri/, /mi-mi-cree/ *n* imitation.

**mimosa** /mɪ'mo:zə/, /mi-mo-sa/ *n* a tree with sweet-smelling flowers.

**minaret** /'mɪnə'ret/, /mi-na-ret/ *n* the tower of a Muslim mosque.

**mince** /mɪns/, /mɪnss/ *n* meat, often beef, that has been cut up into extremely small pieces. *vb* to cut into very small pieces. • **not to mince words** to speak the plain truth.

**mincemeat** /'mɪnsmeɪt/, /mince-meet/ *n* dried fruits, such as currants, etc, chopped up small and mixed with spices.

**mind** /maɪnd/, /mɪnde/ *n* 1 the power by which human beings understand, think, feel, will, etc. 2 a person of great mental ability. 3 memory. • *vb* 1 to take care of. 2 to take heed, to be careful. 3 watch out for, be careful of 4 to object to. • **mind your p's and q's** to be careful what you say or do. • **mind your own business** not to interfere in another's affairs.

**minded** /'maɪndəd/, /mine-did/ *adj* desirous, inclined.

**mindful** /'maɪndfʊl/, /minde-ful/ *adj* not forgetful, paying attention to.

**mindless** /'maɪndləs/, /minde-less/ *adj* unthinking, stupid.

**mine<sup>1</sup>** /maɪn/, /mine/ *poss pron* belonging to me.

**mine<sup>2</sup>** /maɪn/, /mine/ *n* 1 a deep hole made in the earth so that minerals can be taken from beneath its surface. 2 a container filled with an explosive charge to blow something up. 3 a person or place from which much may be obtained. • *vb* 1 to make tunnels into and under the earth. 2 to dig for in a mine. 3 to place explosive mines in position. 4 to blow up with mines.

**minefield** /'maɪnfɪld/, /mine-feeld/ *n* 1 an area in which there are many mineral mines. 2 an area in which many explosive mines are placed. 3 something full of hidden dangers.

**miner** /'maɪnər/, /mine-er/ *n* a person who works in a mine.

**mineral** /'mɪnərəl/, /min-ral/ *n* an inorganic substance found naturally in the earth. • *adj* having to do with minerals.

**mineralogy** /'mɪnə'rɒlədʒi/, /mi-ne-rol-o-jee/ *n* the study of minerals. • *n* **mineralogist**.

**mineral water** /'mɪnərəl wætər/, /min-ral waw-ter/ *n* water that comes from a natural spring and contains minerals, sometimes still and sometimes carbonated.

**mine-sweeper** /'main swi:pər/, /mine-swee-per/ *n* a ship that clears an area of mines.

- mingle** /'mɪŋgəl/, /ming-gul/ *vb* **1** to mix together. **2** to mix with.
- mini** /'mɪni/, /mi-nee/ *adj* very small of its kind. • *n* a very short skirt.
- mini-** /'mɪni/, /mi-nee/ *prefix* very small of its kind.
- miniature** /'mɪnɪtʃər/, /mi-ni-chur/ *n* a very small painting. • *adj* very small, tiny.
- minibus** /'mɪnɪbəs/, /mi-nee-bus/ *n* a small bus for a few passengers, often around ten or twelve
- minim** /'mɪmɪm/, /mi-nim/ *n*, also **half note** (*US*) in music, a note having one-half the duration of a semibreve.
- minimize** /'mɪmɪzaɪz/, /mi-ni-mize/ *vb*, also **minimise** **1** smaller or less. **2** to make seem less important.
- minimum** /'mɪmɪməm/, /mi-ni-mum/ *n* the smallest amount possible. • also *adj*. • *adj* **minimal**.
- minion** /'mɪniən/, /min-yun/ *n* a slavelike follower or employee; a person who always does as his or her employer orders.
- minister** /'mɪnɪstər/, /mi-ni-ster/ *n* **1** a member of the clergy. **2** a person in charge of a government department. **3** the principal representative of a government in another country. • *vb* to give help, to serve.
- ministerial** /'mɪnɪ'stɪriəl/, /mi-ni-stee-ree-al/ *adj* having to do with a minister.
- ministry** /'mɪnɪstri/, /mi-ni-stree/ *n* **1** the clergy. **2** a department of government in charge of a minister.
- mink** /'mɪŋk/, /mingk/ *n* (*pl* **mink**) a small stoatlike animal valued for its fur.
- minnow** /'mino:/, /mi-no/ *n* a very small freshwater fish.
- minor** /'maɪnər/, /mie-nor/ *adj* **1** smaller, of less importance. **2** (*mus*) with certain intervals altered. • *n* **1** a person below the age when you have full civil rights. **2** (*mus*) a minor key, interval, or scale.
- minority** /maɪ'nɔːriti/, /mi-naw-ri-tee/ *n* **1** the state of being below the age when you have full civil rights. **2** the smaller number in a group or assembly, less than half.
- minstrel** /'mɪnstrəl/, /min-strel/ *n* **1** in olden times, a wandering singer and poet. **2** (*old*) a singer.

**mint<sup>1</sup>** /mɪnt/, /mint/ *n* **1** a place where coins are made, especially by the government. **2** (*inf*) a large amount. • *vb* to make coins.

**mint<sup>2</sup>** mint/, /mint/ *n* a sweet-smelling herb whose leaves are used as flavouring in cooking.

**minuet** /'minju'et/, /min-yu-et/ *n* (*old*) **1** a slow, graceful dance. **2** music for this dance.

**minus** /'maɪnəs/, /mie-nus/ *prep* **1** less. **2** (*inf*) not having. • *adj* less than zero. • *n* the sign of subtraction (-).

**minuscule** /'mɪnəskju:l/, /mi-ni-scyool/ *adj* extremely small.

**minute<sup>1</sup>** /mɪnit/, /mi-nit/ *n* **1** the 60th part of an hour. **2** the 60th part of a degree. **3** a short time. **4** a written note or comment. **5** *pl* a short account of what was discussed and decided at a meeting. • *vb* to make a written note of.

**minute<sup>2</sup>** /maɪ'nju:t/, /mie-nyoot/ *adj* **1** very small. **2** exact.

**minutiae** /mi'nju:ʃeɪə, mai-/ , /mie-noo-shee-eye/ *npl* small details.

**minx** /mɪŋks/, /mingks/ *n* a forward or impudent girl.

**miracle** /'mɪrəkəl/, /mi-ra-cul/ *n* **1** an extraordinary event believed by some to be brought about by the interference of God with the natural course of events. **2** any extraordinary event for which there is no known explanation.

**miraculous** /mi'rækjʊləs/, /mi-ra-cue-lus/ *adj* **1** caused by a miracle, marvellous. **2** amazing, extraordinary. • *adv* **miraculously**.

**mirage** /mɪ'rædʒ/, /mi-rash/ *n* imaginary objects.

**mire** /maɪr/, /mire/ *n* (*fml* or *lit*) wet, muddy ground, mud.

**mirror** /'mɪrər/, /mi-rur/ *n* a looking glass. • *vb* to reflect as in a mirror.

**mirth** /mərθ/, /mirth/ *n* laughter, merriment. • *adj* **mirthful**, **mirthless**.

**misadventure** /,mɪsəd'ventʃər/, /mi-sad-ven-chur/ *n* (*fml* or *old*) an unlucky happening.

**misanthrope** /,mɪsən'θro:p/, /mi-san-thrope/, **misanthropist** /mi-san-thru-pist/ *n* (*fml*) a person who hates humankind. • *adj* **misanthropic**. • *n* **misanthropy**.

**misapprehend** /,mɪsəpri'hend/, /mi-sa-pri-hend/ *vb* (*fml*) to misunderstand. • *n* **misapprehension**.

**misappropriate** /mɪsə'pri,eɪt/, /mi-sa-pro-pree-ate/ *vb (fml)* to put to a wrong use, to use dishonestly for yourself.

**misbehave** /mɪsbi'heɪv/, /mis-bee-**have**/ *vb* to behave badly. • *n misbehaviour, also misbehavior (US).*

**miscalculate** /mɪs'kælkjʊ,leɪt/, /mis-cal-cyu-late/ *vb* to work out an answer or likely result wrongly. • *n miscalculation.*

**miscarriage** /'mɪs,kərɪdʒ/, /mis-**ca**-ridge/ *n* the loss of a baby from the womb before it is able to survive. • **miscarriage of justice** a mistaken finding by a court that an innocent person is guilty of a crime.

**miscarry** /'mɪs,kəri/, /mis-**ca**-ree/ *vb* to have a miscarriage.

**miscellaneous** /mɪsə'leɪniəs/, /mi-se-**lay**-nee-us/ *adj* mixed, of different kinds.

**miscellany** /'mɪsələni/, /mi-**se**-la-nee/ *n (fml)* a mixture, a collection of things of different kinds.

**mischance** /'mɪstʃæns/, /mis-**chanse**/ *n (fml)* an unlucky happening.

**mischief** /'mɪstʃɪf/, /mis-chif/ *n 1 (fml)* harm done on purpose. **2** children's naughtiness.

**mischiefous** /'mɪstʃɪvəs/, /mis-chi-vus/ *adj 1* harmful, intended to cause trouble. **2** naughty. • *adv mischievously.*

**misconception** /mɪskən'sepʃən/, /mis-con-**sep**-shun/ *n* a mistaken idea, misunderstanding.

**misconduct** /mɪs'kɒndɛkt/, /mis-**con**-duct/ *n* bad or wrong behaviour.

**misconstrue** /mɪskən'stru:/, /mis-con-**stroo**/ *vb (fml)* to give a wrong meaning or significance to. • *n misconstruction.*

**miscreant** /mɪskriənt/, /mis-cree-ant/ *n (fml)* a wicked person.

**misdeed** /mɪs'di:d/, /mis-**deed**/ *n (fml)* a wrongful action, a crime.

**misdemeanour** /mɪsdə'mi:nər/, /mis-di-**mee**-nor/ *n, also misdemeanor (US)* a fairly minor misdeed or act of misbehaviour.

**misdirect** /mɪsdə'rekt/, /mis-di-**rect**/ *vb* to give wrong instructions to. • *n misdirection.*

**miser** /'maɪzər/, /mie-ser/ *n* a person who dislikes spending money.

**miserable** /'mɪzrəbəl/, /miz-ru-bul/ *adj 1* very unhappy. **2** causing unhappiness or discomfort. **3** low in quality or quantity. • *adv miserably.*

**miserly** /'maɪzərli/, /mī-zər-lee/ *adj* very mean.

**misery** /'mɪzəri/, /mī-ze-ree/ *n* great unhappiness or suffering.

**misfire** /mɪs'faɪər/, /mīs-fīr/ *vb* 1 (of guns) to fail to go off. 2 to fail. • also *n.*

**misfit** /'mɪsfit/, /mīs-fit/ *n* a person unsuited to his or her circumstances.

**misfortune** /mɪs'fɔːrtʃən/, /mīs-fawr-chūn/ *n* 1 bad luck. 2 a piece of bad luck.

**misgiving** /mɪs'gɪvɪŋ/, /mīs-gī-vīng/ *n* a feeling of fear, doubt, or mistrust.

**misguided** /mɪs'gaɪdəd/, /mīs-gī-did/ *adj* showing bad judgment.

**mishandle** /mɪs'hændəl/, /mīs-hāndul/ *vb* (*fml*) to manage badly.

**mishap** /'mɪshæp/, /mīshāp/ *n* an unlucky event, usually not serious.

**misinform** /,mɪsɪn'fɔːrm/, /mī-sin-fawrm/ *vb* (*fml*) to give wrong information.

**misinterpret** /,mɪsɪn'terprɪt/, /mī-sin-ter-pret/ *vb* to give a wrong meaning to. • *n* **misinterpretation**.

**misjudge** /mɪs'dʒædʒ/, /mīs-judge/ *vb* to judge wrongly, to form a wrong opinion.

**mislay** /mɪs'leɪ/, /mīs-lay/ *vb* (*pt, pp* **mislaid**) to put.

**mislead** /mɪs'li:d/, /mīs-leed/ *vb* (*pt, pp* **misled**) to deceive, to give the wrong idea to.

**mismanage** /mɪs'manɪdʒ/, /mīs-mā-nidge/ *vb* to manage badly. • *n* **mismanagemen**t.

**misnomer** /mɪs'nō:mər/, /mīs-no-mer/ *n* a wrong or unsuitable name.

**misogynist** /,mɪsə'dʒɪnist/, /mī-sōdʒē-in-ist/ *n* a man who hates women.

**misplace** /mɪs'pleɪs/, /mīs-place/ *vb* to put in a wrong place.

**misprint** /mɪs'prɪnt/, /mīs-print/ *n* a mistake in printing. • also *vb.*

**mispronounce** /,mɪsprə'naʊns/, /mīs-pro-nounse/ *vb* to pronounce wrongly. • *n* **mispronunciation**.

**misquote** /mɪs'kwɔ:t/, /mīs-kwote/ *vb* to quote wrongly, to make mistakes in trying to repeat another's words. • *n* **misquotation**.

**misread** /mɪs'ri:d/, /mis-reed/ *vb (pt, pp misread /miss-red/)* to read wrongly.

**misrepresent** /mɪs'reprɪ'zənt/, /mis-re-pri-zent/ *vb* to give an untrue account of another's ideas or opinions. • *n misrepresentation*.

**misrule** /mɪs'rū:l/, /mis-rule/ *vb* to rule or govern badly. • *also n.*

**miss<sup>1</sup>** /mɪs/, /miss/ *vb* **1** to fail to hit, find, meet, catch, or notice. **2** to leave out. **3** to regret the loss or absence of. • *n* a failure to hit or catch.

**miss<sup>2</sup>** /mɪs/, /miss/ *n (pl misses)* **1** (cap) the title of an unmarried woman. **2** (*old*) an unmarried woman, a girl.

**missal** /'mɪsəl/, /mi-sal/ *n* a Roman Catholic prayer book containing prayers, etc, for Mass.

**misshapen** /mɪ'seɪpən/, /mis-shay-pen/ *adj* badly formed, deformed, ugly.

**missile** /'mɪsəl, 'mɪsaɪl/, /mi-sul , mi-sile/ *n* **1** any object thrown or fired from a gun to do harm. **2** an explosive flying weapon with its own engine, which can be aimed at distant objects.

**missing** /'mɪsɪŋ/, /mi-sing/ *adj* lost.

**mission** /'mɪʃən/, /mi-shun/ *n* **1** persons sent to carry out a certain task or discuss something, often overseas. **2** the task itself. **3** your chief aim in life. **4** a group of persons sent to a foreign land to teach their religion. **5** the building(s) in which they live.

**missionary** /'mɪʃə,nəri/, /mi-shu-ner-ee/ *n* a person who is sent to a foreign land to teach his or her religion. • *also adj.*

**misspell** /mɪs'spel/, /mis-spel/ *vb (pt, pp misspelled or misspelt)* to spell wrongly. • *n misspelling*.

**misspend** /mɪs'spēnd/, /mis-spend/ *vb (pt, pp misspent)* to spend wastefully or unprofitably.

**mist** /mɪst/, /mist/ *n* **1** rain in fine, tiny drops. **2** a cloud resting on the ground.

**mistake** /mɪ'steɪk/, /mi-stake/ *vb* **1** to understand wrongly. **2** to confuse one person or thing with another. • *n* an error.

**mistaken** /mɪ'steɪkən/, /mi-stay-ken/ *adj* in error, wrong.

**mister** /'mɪstər/, /mi-ster/ *n* the title put before a man's name (usually written Mr).

**mistime** /mɪs'taɪm/, /mis-time/ *vb* to time badly, to do something at a wrong time.

**mistletoe** /'mɪsəl,təʊ/, /mi-sul-toe/ *n* an evergreen plant with white berries.

**mistreat** /mɪs'tri:t/, /mi-street/ *vb* to treat badly.

**mistress** /'mistrəs/, /mi-stress/ *n* 1 (*cap, usually written Mrs* /miss-eez/) the title put before the name of a married woman. 2 a woman having charge or control. 3 a woman teacher. 4 a woman who is the lover of a man and sometimes maintained by him but not married to him.

**mistrust** /mɪs'trəst/, /mi-strust/ *vb* to suspect, to doubt. • *also n.*

**misty** /'mɪsti/, /mi-stee/ *adj* 1 darkened or clouded by mist. 2 not clear.

**misunderstand** /,mɪsəndər'stænd/, /mi-sun-der-stand/ *vb* (*pt, pp misunderstood*) to take a wrong meaning from.

**misunderstanding** /,mɪsəndər'stændɪŋ/, /mi-sun-der-stan-ding/ *n* a disagreement, especially one due to failure to see another's meaning or intention.

**misuse** /mɪs'ju:z/, /mis-yooz/ *vb* to use in the wrong way, to use badly. • *n* improper or wrong use.

**mite** /məɪt/, /mite/ *n* 1 a type of very small insect. 2 a small child. 3 a very small amount.

**mitre** /'maɪtər/, /mie-ter/ *n, also miter (US)* 1 the tall pointed headgear worn by bishops. 2 a way of joining two boards meeting at right angles.

**mitigate** /'mɪti,geɪt/, /mi-ti-gate/ *vb* to make less serious, to excuse to some extent. • *n mitigation.*

**mitt** /mit/, **mitten** /mit/, /mi-ten/ *n* 1 a type of glove that covers the hand but not the fingers and thumb. 2 a glove without separate places for the fingers.

**mix** /'miks/, /miks/ *vb* 1 to put together to form one. 2 to go together or blend successfully. 3 to join in (with others).

**mixed** /mɪkst/, /mikst/ *adj* 1 made up of different things or kinds. 2 relating to people of different sexes.

**mixture** /'mɪkstʃər/, /miks-cher/ *n* the result of mixing things or people together.

**mnemonic** /nɪ'monɪk/, /ne-mon-ic/ *adj* helping the memory. • *n* something easily remembered that helps you to remember something else.

**moan** /mo:n/, /moan/ *vb* 1 to make a low sound expressing sorrow or pain. 2 (*inf*) to complain. • *also n*.

**moat** /mo:t/, /moat/ *n* a trench, often filled with water, around a castle or fort.

**mob** /mɒb/, /mob/ *n* a disorderly crowd. • *vb (mobbed, mobbing)* to crowd around in a disorderly way.

**mobile** /'mo:bəl, 'mo:bəl/, /mo-bile, mo-bel/ *adj* 1 that can be moved. 2 easily moved. 3 able to move easily, active. • *n* 1 /mo-beel/ a decoration that hangs from the ceiling by threads or wire and that has attached to it several small objects that move when the surrounding air moves. 2 a mobile phone.

**mobile home** /'mo:bəl ,ho:m, 'mo:bəl ,ho:m/, /mo-bile home/ a large caravan which stays in one place and is used as a house.

**mobile phone** /'mo:bəl ,fo:n, 'mo:bəl ,fo:n/, /mo-bile foan/ *n* a handheld, portable phone that works by means of radio networks; a cellphone.

**mobility** /mo:'biliti:/, /mo-bi-li-tee/ *n* ability to move about.

**mobilize** /'mo:bɪ,laɪz/, /mo-bi-lize/ *vb, also mobilise* 1 to call upon to serve as soldiers. 2 to organize for a particular reason. • *n* **mobilization, also mobilisation**.

**moccasin** /'mɒkəsɪn/, /mok-a-sin/ *n* a shoe or slipper made of deerskin or sheepskin.

**mock** /mɒk/, /mock/ *vb* 1 to make fun of. 2 to imitate in order to make appear foolish. • *adj* false, not real.

**mockery** /'mɒkəri/, /mock-ree/ *n* 1 the act of mocking. 2 a person or thing mocked.

**mockingbird** /'mɒkɪŋ,bərd/, /mok-ing-burd/ *n* a type of thrush that imitates the song of other birds, etc.

**mode** /mo:d/, /mode/ *n* 1 (*fml*) the way of doing something. 2 (*old*) a fashion in clothing.

**model** /'mɒdəl/, /mo-del/ *n* **1** a person or thing to be copied. **2** a copy, usually smaller, of a person or thing. **3** a small copy of (e.g. a building or ship made from a plan to show what the finished object will look like). **4** a particular type or design of a product. **5** a living person who sits or stands still to let an artist draw him or her. **6** a person who is employed to display clothes by wearing them. • *adj* worth copying, perfect. • *vb* **1** to give shape to. **2** to make a model of. **3** to wear clothes to show to possible buyers.

**modem** /'mɒdəm/, /mo-dem/ *n* a piece of equipment that links a computer to the telephone system so that information can be sent to other computers.

**moderate** /'mɒdərət/, /mod-rit/ *adj* **1** not going to extremes. **2** within sensible limits. **3** average. • *vb* /mod-er-ate/ **1** to prevent from going to extremes. **2** to lessen. • *adv* **moderately**.

**moderation** /'mɒdə'reɪʃən/, /mod-e-ray-shun/ *n* avoidance of extremes, self-control.

**modern** /'mɒdərn/, /mod-ern/ *adj* **1** belonging to the present day. **2** belonging to recent centuries. **3** up-to-date. • *n* **modernity**.

**modernize** /'mɒdərnaɪz/, /mod-er-nize/ *vb*, also **modernise** to bring up-to-date.

**modest** /'mɒdəst/, /mod-est/ *adj* **1** not having too high an opinion of yourself. **2** not boastful. **3** decent. **4** not very large. • *adv* **modestly**. • *n* **modesty**.

**modicum** /'mɒdikəm/, /mod-i-cum/ *n* (*fml*) a small amount.

**modification** /'mɒdɪfɪ'keɪʃən/, /mod-i-fi-cay-shun/ *n* an alteration, a small change.

**modify** /'mɒdɪfaɪ/, /mod-i-fie/ *vb* **1** to alter in part. **2** to make less severe.

**modish** /'mo:dɪʃ/, /mod-ish/ *adj* (*fml*) fashionable.

**modulate** /'mɒdʒəleɪt/, /maw-ju-late/ *vb* **1** to raise or lower the tone or pitch of the voice when speaking or singing. **2** in music, to change from one key to another. • *n* **modulation**.

**module** /'mɒdju:l/, /maw-jul/ *n* **1** one of several parts that together form a larger structure. **2** a unit of a course of study.

**mohair** /'mo:hər/, /mo-hair/ *n* 1 the silky hair of an Angora goat. 2 the wool or cloth made from it.

**moist** /mɔɪst/, /moist/ *adj* slightly wet, damp.

**moisten** /mɔɪsən/, /moi-sen/ *vb* to make damp.

**moisture** /'mɔɪstʃər/, /mois-chur/ *n* dampness; wetness caused by tiny drops of water in the atmosphere.

**moisturizer** /'mɔɪstʃər'aɪzər/, /mois-chu-rie-zer/ *n*, also **moisturiser** cream or lotion applied to treat dry skin.

**molar** /mo:lər/, /mo-lar/ *n* one of the back teeth that grind food.

**molasses** /mə'læsɪz/, /mo-la-siz/ *n* a thick sticky dark liquid left over when sugar is made from sugarcane.

**mold** US variant of **mould**

**molder** US variant of **moulder**.

**molding** US variant of **moulding**.

**moldy** US variant of **mouldy**.

**mole<sup>1</sup>** /mo:l/, /mole/ *n* a dark spot on the human skin.

**mole<sup>2</sup>** /mo:l/, /mole/ *n* 1 a small furry burrowing animal. 2 a spy who works from within an organization, passing information to another organization.

**molecular** /mə'lɛkjʊlər/, /mol-e-cyu-lar/ *adj* having to do with molecules.

**molecule** /'mɒləkju:l/, /mol-i-cyool/ *n* the smallest particle of a substance that can exist while still retaining the chemical qualities of that substance.

**molehill** /'mo:lhɪl/, /mole-hill/ *n* the heap of earth thrown up by a burrowing mole.

**moleskin** /'mo:lskin/, /mole-skin/ *n* a strong ribbed cotton cloth.

**molest** /'mɒləst/, /mo-lest/ *vb* 1 to disturb or annoy. 2 to make a bodily, often sexual, attack upon. • *n* **molestation**.

**mollify** /'mɒləfaɪ/, /mol-i-fie/ *vb* to make less angry, to calm down.

**mollusc** /'mɒləsk/, /mol-usk/ *n*, also **mollusk** (US) a soft-bodied animal with a hard shell, as a snail, oyster, etc.

**mollycoddle** /'mɒli,kɒdəl/, /mol-ee-cod-ul/ *vb* to take too great care of.

**molt** /mo:lɪt/ US variant of **moult**.

**molten** /'mo:lten/, /moal-ten/ *adj* 1 melted. 2 made by having been melted.

**moment** /'mo:mənt/, /mo-ment/ *n* a very short time.

**momentarily** /,mo:mən'terili/, /mo-men-ter-i-lee/ *adv* for a moment. 2 (*inf*) shortly.

**momentary** /'mo:mən,teri/, /mo-men-ter-ee/ *adj* lasting only a moment.

**momentous** /mo:'mentəs/, /mo-men-tus/ *adj* very important.

**momentum** /mo:'mentəm/, /mo-men-tum/ *n* the force of a moving body.

**monarch** /'mɒnɑ:k/, /mon-ark/ *n* a single supreme ruler, a sovereign, a king or queen.

**monarchist** /'mɒnɑ:kɪst/, /mon-ar-kist/ *n* a person who believes in monarchy.

**monarchy** /'mɒnərki/, /mon-ar-kee/ *n* a state or system of government in which power is, in appearance or reality, in the hands of a single ruler.

**monastery** /'mɒnəstəri/, /mon-a-stree/ *n* a house for monks.

**monastic** /mæ'næstɪk/, /mu-na-stic/ *adj* having to do with monks or monasteries.

**Monday** /'mændeɪ/, /mun-day/ *n* the first day of the working week.

**monetary** /'mɛnitəri/, /mon-i-te-ree/ *adj* having to do with money.

**money** /'məni/, /mu-nee/ *n* metal coins and printed banknotes used in making payments, buying and selling.

**moneyed** /'məni:d/, /mu-need/ *adj* rich.

**moneylender** /'məni ,lendər/, /mu-nee-len-der/ *n* a person who lives by lending money on condition that interest is paid to him or her for the time of the loan.

**mongoose** /'mɒŋgu:s/, /mong-goos/ *n* (pl **mongooses**) a small weasel-like animal that kills snakes.

**mongrel** /'mɒŋgrəl/, /mong-grel/ *adj* of mixed breed or race. • *n* a dog of mixed breed.

**monitor** /'mɒnɪtər/, /mon-i-tor/ *n* 1 in school, a student who helps a teacher in some way. 2 a device for checking electrical transmission without interfering with it. 3 an instrument that receives and shows continuous information about the working of something. 4 a screen for use with a computer. 5 a small screen in a television studio showing the picture that is being broadcast at any given time. • *vb* to observe and check something regularly.

**monk** /mʌŋk/, /mungk/ *n* a man who, with the intention of devoting his life to prayer, joins a religious society and spends his life in a monastery.

**monkey** /'mæŋki/, /mung-kee/ *n* 1 a long-tailed animal resembling a human being in shape. 2 (*inf*) a mischievous child. • *vb* to play about (with).

**monkey puzzle** /'mæŋki/, /mung-kee pu-zul/ *n* an evergreen tree whose branches are covered with short prickly leaves.

**mono-** /'mɒno:/, /mon-oe/ *prefix one.*

**monochrome** /mɒnə'kro:m/, /mon-oe-crome/ *adj* in one colour, or in black and white.

**monocle** /'mɒnəkəl/, /mon-i-cul/ *n* a single eyeglass.

**monogamy** /mə'nɒgəmi/, /mo-nog-a-mee/ *n* marriage to one husband or wife only. • *n* **monogamist**. • *adj* **monogamous**.

**monogram** /'mɒnə,græm/, /mon-o-gram/ *n* letters, especially initials, written one on top of another to make a single design.

**monolith** /'mɒnəlɪθ/, /mon-o-lith/ *n* a single standing stone like a pillar or ornament. • *adj* **monolithic**.

**monologue** /mɒnə,log/, /mon-o-log/ *n*, also **monolog** (US) a scene or play in which only one person speaks.

**monoplane** /'mɒnə,pleɪn/, /mon-o-plane/ *n* an aeroplane with only one pair of wings.

**monopolize** /mə'nɒpə,laɪz/, /mu-nop-lize/ *vb*, also **monopolise** 1 to have or obtain complete possession or control of. 2 to take up the whole of.

**monopoly** /mə'nɒpəli/, /mu-no-pu-lee/ *n* 1 complete control of the trade in a certain article by a single person or company. 2

possession of or control over something that is not shared by others.

**monosyllable** /'mənə,siləbəl/, /mon-o-si-la-bul/ *n* a word of one syllable. • *adj monosyllabic*.

**monotone** /'mənə,tən/, /mon-o-tone/ *n* a single unvarying tone of voice when speaking.

**monotonous** /mə'nɒtənəs/, /mu-no-ti-nus/ *adj* 1 dull from lack of variety. 2 in a monotone.

**monotony** /mə'nɒtəni/, /mu-not-nee/ *n* dullness, lack of variety, sameness.

**monsoon** /mən'su:n/, /mon-soon/ *n* a south Asian wind, blowing from the southwest in summer and the northeast in winter, usually bringing heavy rain.

**monster** /'mɒnstər/, /mon-ster/ *n* 1 a huge frightening creature. 2 anything huge. 3 an unnaturally cruel or wicked person.

**monstrosity** /mɒn'strɒsɪti/, /mon-stros-i-tee/ *n* something, usually large, that is very ugly.

**monstrous** /'mɒnstrəs/, /mon-struss/ *adj* 1 huge. 2 unnaturally cruel or wicked.

**montage** /'mɒntɪdʒ/, /mon-tazh/ *n* a picture made by putting together many separate images.

**month** /mənθ/, /munth/ *n* one of the 12 periods of time into which the year is divided.

**monthly** /'mənθli/, /munth-lee/ *adj* happening once a month or every month. • *also adv.*

**monument** /'mɒnjumənt/, /mon-yu-ment/ *n* a statue, stone, etc, set up in memory of a person or event.

**monumental** /,mɒnju'mɛntəl/, /mon-yu-men-tal/ *adj* 1 huge. 2 outstanding.

**mood** /mu:d/, /mood/ *n* 1 a state of the mind and feelings, a person's temper at a certain moment. 2 a state of bad temper. 3 in grammar, a verb form that tells whether the verb is used to express a command, desire, statement of fact, etc.

**moo-dy** /'mu:di/, /moo-dee/ *adj* tending to change mood suddenly or often; often bad-tempered. • *adv moodily. • n moodiness.*

**moon** /mu:n/, /moon/ *n* 1 the heavenly body that moves around the earth and reflects the light of the sun. 2 any smaller heavenly body that moves around a larger one. • *vb (inf)* to walk about in a dreamy way.

**moonbeam** /'mu:nbi:m/, /moon-beem/ *n* a ray of light from the moon.

**moonlight** /'munləit/, /moon-lite/ *n* the light from the moon. • *adj* moonlit.

**moonstone** /'munstɔ:n/, /moon-stone/ *n* a precious stone, bluish white in colour.

**moor**<sup>1</sup> /mur/, /moor/ *n* a large extent of poor land on which only coarse grass, heather, etc, will grow; a heath.

**moor**<sup>2</sup> /mur/, /moor/ *vb* to fasten a ship by ropes, cables, etc.

**moorage** /'muridz/, /moo-ridge/ *n* a place for mooring a ship.

**moorcock** /'murkɒk/, /moor-cock/, **moorfowl** /moor-foul/ *n* the red grouse.

**moorhen** /'murhen/, /moor-hen/ *n* the water-hen.

**mooring** /'muring/, /moo-ring/ *n*, **moorings** /moo-ringz/ *npl* 1 the ropes, cables, etc, by which a ship is fastened. 2 the place where a ship is so fastened.

**moorland** /'murlænd/, /moor-land/ *n* a moor, moors.

**moose** /mu:s/, /mooss/ *n* an elk, a type of large deer with large flat antlers found in North America.

**moot** /mu:t/, /moot/ *vb (fm)* to put forward for discussion.

**moot point** /mu:t 'pɔ:nt/, /moot point/ *n* a matter on which two or more opinions may be upheld, an undecided matter.

**mop** /mɒp/, /mop/ *n* strips of coarse cloth, yarn, etc, fixed together to a handle and used for washing floors, etc. • *vb (mopped, mopping)* to clean with a mop, to wipe.

**mope** /mo:p/, /moap/ *vb* to be gloomy or sad.

**moral** /'mɔrəl/, /maw-ral/ *adj* 1 having to do with what is right or wrong in action. 2 living according to the rules of right conduct. • *n* 1 the lesson to be learned from a story. 2 (*pl*) your beliefs as to what is right or wrong in action. 3 standards of behaviour. • *adv* morally.

**morale** /mə'ræl/, /mu-ræl/ *n* belief in your ability to do what is asked of you; courage.

**moralist** /'mɔrəlist/, /maw-ra-list/ *n* a person who studies questions of right and wrong.

**morality** /mə'ræliti/, /maw-ra-li-tee/ *n* 1 moral principles. 2 a particular system of moral principles. 3 the quality of an action, as estimated by a standard of right and wrong.

**moralize** /'mɔrəlaɪz/, /maw-ra-lize/ *vb, also moralise* to discuss questions of morals.

**morbid** /'mɔrbɪd/, /mawr-bid/ *adj* 1 unhealthy, diseased. 2 thinking too much about what is gloomy or disgusting. • *n* **morbidity**. • *adv* **morbidly**.

**more** /mɔr/, /more/ *adj* greater in amount, number, etc. • *also n.* • *adv* 1 to a greater extent or degree. 2 again.

**morgue** /mɔrg/, /mawrg/ *n* a mortuary.

**Mormon** /'mɔrmən/, /mawr-mon/ *n* a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, founded by Joseph Smith in 1830. • *also adj.*

**morn** /mɔrn/, /mawrn/ *n* (*lit*) morning.

**morning** /'mɔrnɪŋ/, /mawr-ning/ *n* the early part of the day.

**morning star** /'mɔrnɪŋ 'star/, /mawr-ning star/ *n* the planet Venus when seen before sunrise.

**Morocco** /mə'rɒko:/, /mo-roc-o/ *n* a fine goatskin leather originally prepared in Morocco.

**moron** /'mɔrbn/, /moe-ron/ *n* (*inf*) a very stupid person. • *adj* **moronic**.

**morose** /'mɔrə:s/, /mo-rose/ *adj* gloomy and ill-natured.

**morphia** /'mɔrfiə/, /mawr-fee-a/, **morphine** /'mɔrfi:n/, /mawr-feen/ *n* a drug made from opium that causes sleep and lessens pain.

**morse** /mɔrs/, /mawrss/ *n* a signalling code in which dots and dashes (or short and long sounds or flashes) represent the letters of the alphabet.

**morsel** /'mɔrsəl/, /mawr-sel/ *n* a small piece, a bite.

**mortal** /'mɔrtəl/, /mawr-tal/ *adj* 1 having to die. 2 causing death. • *n* a human being. • *adv* **mortally**.

**mortality** /mɔr'tælɪti/, /mawr-ta-li-tee/ *n* 1 the state of being mortal. 2 the number who die from a certain cause.

**mortar** /'mɔrtər/, /mawr-tar/ *n* 1 a bowl in which substances are crushed into powder. 2 a gun with a short barrel. 3 a cement made of lime and sand and used in building.

**mortar-board** /'mɔrtər bord/, /mawr-tar-board/ *n* a square-topped cap worn with an academic gown.

**mortgage** /'mɔrgɪdʒ/, /mawr-gidge/ *n* 1 a legal arrangement by which a bank or other organization lends you money to buy a house and you agree to pay back the money over a set number of years, on the understanding that the bank has the right to sell the property if you cannot pay the loan back. 2 the amount of money you borrow in the form of a mortgage • *vb* to give control over property to another to obtain a loan.

**mortify** /'mɔrtɪfaɪ/, /mawr-ti-fie/ *vb* to make ashamed. • *n* **mortification**.

**mortise** /'mɔrtɪs/, /mawr-tis/ *n* a hole cut in a piece of wood, etc, to fit part of another piece.

**mortuary** /'mɔrtʃu;əri/, /mawr-chu-we-ree/ *n* a building in which dead bodies are kept until burial.

**mosaic** /mo:zeɪɪk/, /mo-zay-ic/ *n* design made by placing together differently coloured pieces of glass, stone, etc.

**mosque** /mɒsk/, /mosk/ *n* a Muslim place of worship.

**mosquito** /mɒs'ki:to:/, /mo-skee-toe/ *n* (*pl* **mosquitoes**) a stinging insect that sometimes carries the germs of malaria.

**moss** /mɒs/, /mawss/ *n* a tiny flowerless plant growing on walls and tree trunks and in damp places.

**mossy** /mɒsi/, /maw-see/ *adj* overgrown with moss.

**most** /mo:st/, /moast/ *adj* greatest in number, amount, etc. • *also n.* • *adv* 1 in or to the greatest degree or extent. 2 very.

**mostly** /mo:stli/, /moast-lee/ *adv* mainly.

**MOT test** /'emo:tɪ: test/, /em-owe-tee test/ *abbr* = **Ministry of Transport test**: a test that all cars over three years old in the UK must pass in order to show that they are safe to be driven on the road.

**motel** /'mo:təl/, /mo-tel/ *n* a hotel with special facilities for motorists.

**moth** /məθ/, /mawθ/ *n* **1** a winged insect that flies by night. **2** the clothes moth.

**mother** /məðər/, /mu-ther/ *n* **1** a female parent. **2** the female head of a convent of nuns. • *vb* to care for, as would a mother.

**motherhood** /'məðərhud/, /mu-ther-hood/ *n* the state of being a mother.

**mother-in-law** /'məðər in lɔ:/, /mu-ther-in-law/ *n* (*pl* **mothers-in-law**) the mother of the person to whom you are married.

**motherly** /'məðərli/, /mu-ther-lee/ *adj* like a mother.

**mother-of-pearl** /'məðər əv 'perl/, /mu-ther-ov-perl/ *n* the hard pearl-like lining of certain shells.

**mother tongue** /'məðər 'tʌŋ/, /mu-ther tung/ *n* your native language.

**motif** /'mo:tif/, /mo-teef/ *n* **1** a repeated theme in an artistic or a literary work. **2** a design or pattern used as a decoration.

**motion** /'mo:ʃən/, /mo-shun/ *n* **1** act of moving. **2** a movement. **3** an idea put to a meeting so that it can be voted on. • *vb* to make a movement as a sign.

**motionless** /mo:ʃənləs/, /mo-shun-less/ *adj* unmoving.

**motivate** /'mo:tɪ'veɪt/, /mo-ti-vate/ *vb* to give a reason or urge to act. • *n motivation*.

**motive** /'mo:tɪv/, /mo-tiv/ *n* a reason for doing something. • *adj* causing movement.

**motor** /'mo:tər/, /mo-tor/ *n* an engine that by changing power into motion drives a machine. • *adj* causing movement or motion. • *vb* to travel by motor car.

**motorbike** /'mo:tər,bəɪk/, /mo-tor-bike/ *n* a bicycle driven by a motor.  
• *similarly motor-boat, motor car*.

**motorist** /'mo:tərist/, /mo-tu-rist/ *n* a person who drives a motor car.

**motorway** /'mo:tər,wei/, /mo-tur-way/ *n* a road with multiple lanes to accommodate fast-moving traffic.

**mottle** /'mɒtəl/, /mot-ul/ *vb* to mark with spots or blotches.

**motto** /'mɒto:/, /mot-oe/ *n* (*pl* **mottoes**) **1** a wise saying that can be used as a rule of life. **2** the word or words on a coat of arms. **3** a printed saying.

**mould**<sup>1</sup> /mo:ld/, /moald/ *n, also mold (US)* **1** a shaped vessel into which hot molten metal is poured so that when it cools, it has the same shape as the vessel. **2** a vessel used to shape food. • *vb* **1** to form in a mould. **2** to work into a shape. **3** to shape or influence.

**mould**<sup>2</sup> /mo:ld/, /moald/ *n, also mold (US)* a fluffy growth consisting of tiny plants on stale food or damp surfaces.

**moulder** /'mo:ldər/, /moal-der/ *vb, also molder (US)* to rot away, to crumble.

**moulding** /'mo:ldɪŋ/, /moal-ding/ *n, also molding (US)* **1** anything given shape in a mould. **2** an ornamental pattern on a wall or ceiling or on a picture frame.

**mouldy** /'mo:ldi/, /moal-dee/ *adj, also moldy (US)* **1** covered with mould. **2** (*inf*) of little value, unpleasant, dull.

**moult** /mo:lt/, /moalt/ *vb, also molt (US)* to lose the hair or feathers, to fall off.

**mound** /maund/, /mound/ *n* **1** a low hill. **2** a heap of earth or stones.

**mount** /maunt/, /mount/ *n* **1** (*usually in names*) a hill, a mountain. **2** an animal, especially a horse, for riding. **3** a card or paper surrounding a painting or photograph. • *vb* **1** to go up, to climb. **2** to get on to. **3** to place in position. **4** to get on horseback.

**mountain** /'mauntən/, /moun-tin/ *n* **1** a high hill. **2** a large heap.

**mountain ash** /'mauntən ,aʃ/, /moun-tin ash/ *n* a type of tree, the rowan.

**mountaineer** /maunte'nir/, /moun-ti-neer/ *n* a person who climbs mountains. • *n* **mountaineering**.

**mountainous** /'mauntənəs/, /moun-ti-nus/ *adj* **1** having many mountains. **2** huge.

**mounted** /'maunted/, /moun-tid/ *adj* on horseback.

**mourn** /mɔrn/, /moarn/ *vb* to show sorrow, to feel grief, especially after a loss or death. • *n* **mourner**.

**mournful** /'mɔrnful/, /moarn-ful/ *adj* sad, sorrowful. • *adv* **mournfully**.

**mourning** /'mɔrnɪŋ/, /moar-ning/ *n* **1** sorrow, grief.

**mouse** /maʊs/, /mouse/ *n (pl mice)* **1** a small rodent animal found in houses or in the fields. **2** (*comput*) (*pl mouses, mice*) a handheld

device which allows the user to control some computer functions without the keyboard.

**moustache** /'məstæʃ/, /mus-tash/ *n, also mustache /mus-tash/ (US)* the hair growing on the upper lip.

**mouth** /məʊθ/, /mouth/ *n 1* the opening in the face for eating and uttering sounds. *2* the opening into anything hollow. *3* the part of a river where it flows into the sea. • *vb* to twist the mouth into different shapes.

**mouthful** /'məʊθfʊl/, /mouth-ful/ *n* the amount placed in the mouth at one time.

**mouthpiece** /məʊθpi:s/, /mouth-peess/ *n 1* the part of a musical instrument or pipe placed in the mouth. *2* a person who speaks for others.

**movable, moveable** /'mu:vəbəl/, /moo-va-bul/ *adj* able to be moved.

• *npl* property that can be moved, especially furniture.

**move** /mu:v/, /moov/ *vb 1* to cause to change place or position. *2* to go from one place to another. *3* to change houses. *4* to set in motion. *5* to stir up the feelings. *6* to rouse to action. *7* at a meeting, to put forward an idea to be voted on. • *n 1* a change of position or place. *2* a change of house. *3* an action. *4* in chess, etc, the act of moving a piece.

**movement** /'mu:vmənt/, /moov-ment/ *n 1* act of moving. *2* change of position. *3* a number of people working for the same purpose. *4* a complete part of a long musical work.

**movie** /'mu:vi/, /moo-vee/ *n (esp US)* a film. • *npl: the movies* a showing of a film.

**moving** /'mu:vɪŋ/, /moo-ving/ *adj* stirring up the feelings.

**mow** /mo:/, /moe/ *vb (pp mown)* *1* to cut. *2* to knock down, to kill in large numbers.

**mower** /mo:ər/, /moe-er/ *n* a person or machine that mows.

**MP** /ɛm'pi:/, /em-pee/ *abbr = member of parliament:* a member of the UK parliament.

**mp3** /'ɛmpi:'θri:/, /em-pee-three/ *abbr = MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) Layer-3:* is a file format for digital audio. • **mp3 player** a device on which you can store and play mp3s.

**Mr abbr of Mister.**

**Mrs abbr of Mistress.**

**MSP** /'ɛmɛs'pi:/, /em-ess-pee/ *abbr* = **Member of the Scottish Parliament.**

**much** /mətʃ/, /much/ *adj* great in amount or quantity. • *n* a great amount. • *adv* greatly.

**muck** /mʌk/, /muck/ *n (inf)* wet filth, dirt. • *vb (inf)* **1** to dirty. **2** to make a mess of. **3** to spoil. **4** to bungle.

**mucky** /'meki/, /mu-kee/ *adj (inf)* filthy.

**mucous** /'mju:kəs/, /myoo-cus/ *adj* producing mucus, slimy.

**mucous membrane** /'mju:kəs məmbreɪn/, /myoo-cus mem-brane/ *n* the inner skin lining the nose, mouth, etc.

**mucus** /'mju:kəs/, /myoo-cus/ *n* the shiny liquid coming from the mucous membrane of the nose.

**mud** /mʌd/, /mud/ *n* soft, wet earth.

**muddle** /'mʌdəl/, /mu-dul/ *vb* **1** to confuse. **2** to mix up. **3** to act without plan. • *n* confusion, disorder.

**muddy** /'mədi/, /mu-dee/ *adj* covered with mud. • *vb* **1** to make dirty or muddy. **2** to make unclear.

**mudguard** /'mədgard/, /mud-gard/ *n* a metal shield over a wheel of a bicycle or motorbike to protect against mud and water thrown up from the road.

**muesli** /'mju:zli/, /myoo-zlee/ *n* a breakfast cereal consisting of grains, nuts and dried fruit.

**muff<sup>1</sup>** /məf/, /muff/ *n* a cover of warm material.

**muff<sup>2</sup>** /məf/, /muff/ *vb (inf)* **1** to fail to hold. **2** to do badly.

**muffin** /'məfin/, /mu-fin/ *n* **1** a small round individual cake, often containing fruit or chocolate. **2** a small thick bread roll, often eaten toasted with butter.

**muffle** /'məfəl/, /mu-ful/ *vb* **1** to wrap up to keep warm. **2** to deaden sound. **3** to make a sound less loud.

**muffler** /'məflər/, /mu-fler/ *n* a warm scarf.

**mug<sup>1</sup>** /mʌg/, /mug/ *n* **1** a drinking vessel with a handle and more or less straight sides. **2 (inf)** someone who is easy to deceive.

**mug<sup>2</sup>** /mʌg/, /mʌg/ *vb* (**mugged**, **mugging**) to attack and rob. • *n mugger.*

**muggy** /'mægi/, /mu-gee/ *adj* unpleasantly warm and damp.

**mulberry** /'məl,bəri/, /mul-ber-ee/ *n* 1 a tree bearing dark red edible berries. 2 a dark reddish purple colour.

**mule** /'mju:l/, /myooł/ *n* the offspring of an ass and a horse, supposedly famous for its stubbornness. • *adj mulish* stubborn. • *n mulishness.*

**mull<sup>1</sup>** /mʌl/, /mull/ *vb.* • **mull over** to think carefully about.

**mull<sup>2</sup>** /mʌl/, /mull/ *vb* to heat, sweeten and spice.

**mullet** /'mələt/, /mu-let/ *n* an edible sea fish.

**mullion** /'məljən/, /mul-yin/ *n* an upright bar between the divisions of a window.

**multi-** /'məlti:/, /mul-tee/ *prefix* many.

**multicoloured** /'məlti,kələrd/, /mul-tee-cu-lurd/ *adj* of many colours.

**multilateral** /,məlti'lætərəl/, /mul-tee-lat-ral/ *adj* 1 having many sides. 2 (*fml*) concerning more than two groups.

**multimedia** /,məlti'mi:diə/, /mul-tee-mee-dee-ya/ *adj* 1 using several different methods and media. 2 in computing, using sound and video images as well as data.

**multiple** /'məltipəl/, /mul-ti-pul/ *adj* 1 having or affecting many parts. 2 involving many things of the same kind. • *n* a number that contains another an exact number of times.

**multiplex** /'məlti,pleks/, /mul-ti-pleks/ *n* a building that contains several cinemas.

**multiplier** /'məlti,plaɪər/, /mul-ti-plei-er/ *n* the number by which another is multiplied.

**multiply** /'məlti,plai/, /mul-ti-plei/ *vb* 1 to find the number obtained by adding a number to itself a certain number of times. 2 to increase.

**multi-storey** /,məlti'sto:ri:/, /mul-ti-sto-ree/ *adj* having several storeys.

**multitude** /'məlti,tʃu:d/, /mul-ti-chood/ *n* 1 (*old*) a crowd. 2 a great number.

**multitudinous** /məltɪ'tju:dɪnəs/, /mul-ti-tyood-nus/ *adj (fml or hum)*  
very many.

**mum** /məm/, /mum/ *n (inf)* mother. • *adj* silent.

**mumble** /'məmbəl/, /mum-bul/ *vb* to speak in a low, indistinct voice.

**mumbo-jumbo** /'məmbo:'jəmbo:/, /mum-bo-jum-bo/ *n* meaningless talk.

**mummy**<sup>1</sup> /'məmi/, /mu-mee/ *n* a human body kept from decay by being treated with certain drugs and wrapped tightly in cloth. • *vb mummify*.

**mummy**<sup>2</sup> /'məmi/, /mu-mee/ *n (inf)* mother.

**mumps** /məmps/, /mumps/ *n* an infectious disease that causes swelling of the neck and face.

**munch** /məntʃ/, /munch/ *vb* to chew noisily, to crush with teeth.

**mundane** /mən'deɪn/, /mun-dane/ *adj* 1 (*fml*) having to do with this world. 2 ordinary, with nothing exciting or unusual.

**municipal** /mju:nɪsɪpəl/, /myoo-ni-si-pal/ *adj* having to do with a city or town.

**municipality** /mju:nɪsɪ'pælɪti/, /myoo-ni-si-pa-li-tee/ *n* a city or town with certain powers of self-government.

**munificent** /mju:nɪfɪsənt/, /myoo-ni-fi-sent/ *adj (fml)* generous. • *n munificence*.

**munitions** /mju:nɪʃənz/, /myoo-ni-shunz/ *npl* the guns, shells, etc, used in making war.

**mural** /'mjʊrəl/, /myoo-ral/ *n* a painting that is painted directly on to the walls of a building.

**murder** /'mərdər/, /mur-der/ *n* act of unlawfully and intentionally killing another. • *also vb.* • *n murderer, murderess* /mur-de-reṣs/.

**murderous** /'mərdərəs/, /mur-de-rus/ *adj* 1 used to commit murder. 2 cruel, savage.

**murky** /'mərki/, /mur-kee/ *adj* 1 dark, gloomy. 2 vague or obscure.

**murmur** /'mərmər/, /mur-mur/ *n* 1 a low, indistinct sound, as of running water. 2 a soft, low continuous sound. 3 a grumble. • *vb* 1 to make a low indistinct sound. 2 to talk in a low voice. 3 to grumble.

**muscle** /'mʌsəl/, /mu-sul/ *n* the elastic fibres in the body that enable it to make movements.

**muscular** /'mæskjʊlər/, /mu-skyu-lar/ *adj* 1 having well-developed muscles, strong. 2 having to do with muscles.

**muse**<sup>1</sup> /mju:z/, /myooz/ *n* 1 in legend, one of the nine goddesses of the arts and learning. 2 (*fml*) inspiration to write (e.g. poetry).

**muse**<sup>2</sup> /mju:z/, /myooz/ *vb* to think deeply about, to ponder.

**museum** /mju:'ziəm/, /myoo-zee-um/ *n* a building in which objects of scientific, artistic, or literary interest are kept.

**mushroom** /'məʃru:m/, /mush-room/ *n* an edible plant with a soft whitish pulpy top. • *vb* to grow in size very rapidly.

**music** /'mju:zɪk/, /myoo-zic/ *n* 1 the art of arranging sounds to give melody or harmony. 2 the sounds so arranged when played, sung, or written down.

**musical** /'mju:zɪkəl/, /myoo-zi-cal/ *adj* 1 having to do with music. 2 pleasant-sounding. • *n* a play or a movie that includes a lot of songs. • *adv* **musically**.

**musician** /mju:'zɪʃən/, /myoo-zi-shun/ *n* a person who is skilled in music.

**musk** /məsk/, /musk/ *n* a sweet-smelling substance obtained from the musk deer and used in making perfume.

**musket** /'məskət/, /mus-ket/ *n* (*old*) a handgun formerly carried by soldiers.

**musketeer** /'məskə'ti:r/, /mus-ke-teer/ *n* (*old*) a soldier armed with a musket.

**muskrat** /'məskræt/, /musk-rat/ *n* a large water rat found in North America.

**musky** /məski/, /mus-kee/ *adj* smelling of musk.

**Muslim** /'məzlɪm/, /muz-lim/ *n* a person who follows the religion of Islam. • *also adj.*

**muslin** /'məzlɪn/, /muz-lin/ *n* a fine, thin cotton cloth.

**musquash** /'məskwəʃ/, /muz-kwawsh/ *n* the fur of the muskrat.

**mussel** /'məsəl/ *n* an edible shellfish enclosed in a hinged shell.

**must** /məst/, /must/ *vb* to have to.

**mustache** US variant of **moustache**.

**mustang** /'məstæŋ/, /mus-tang/ *n* a wild horse native to the United States, descended from horses brought by the Spanish.

**mustard** /'məstərd/, /mus-tard/ *n* 1 a plant with hot-tasting seeds. 2 a type of seasoning made from these for flavouring food, especially meat.

**musty** /'məsti/, /mu-stee/ *adj* stale.

**mutable** /'mju:təbəl/, /myoo-ta-bul/ *adj* (*fml*) changeable.

**mutation** /mju:'teɪʃən/, /myoo-tay-shun/ *n* a change in the genetic structure of an animal or plant that makes it different from others of the same kind. • *n* **mutant**.

**mute** /mju:t/, /myoot/ *adj* 1 silent. 2 unable to speak. 3 not pronounced. • *n* 1 a dumb person. 2 an attachment that lessens or modifies the sound of a musical instrument.

**muted** /mju:təd/, /myoo-tid/ *adj* 1 having the sound altered by a mute. 2 subdued. 3 soft in hue, shade, etc.

**mutilate** /'mju:tɪ,leɪt/, /myoo-ti-late/ *vb* to damage seriously by removing a part, especially a limb. • *n* **mutilation**.

**mutineer** /,mju:tɪ'nɪər/, /myoo-ti-neer/ *n* a person who takes part in a mutiny.

**mutinous** /'mju:tɪnəs/, /myoo-ti-nus/ *adj* 1 taking part in a mutiny. 2 obstinate and sulky, as if going to disobey.

**mutiny** /'mju:tini/, /myoo-ti-nee/ *n* refusal to obey those in charge, especially a rising of people in the armed services against their officers. • *also vb*.

**mutter** /'mətər/, /mu-ter/ *vb* to speak in a low voice, without sounding the vowels clearly, especially when grumbling or insulting. • *also n.*

**mutton** /'mətən/, /mu-tun/ *n* the flesh of sheep as meat.

**mutual** /'mju:tʃuəl/, /myoo-choo-wal/ *adj* 1 given and received in the same degree by those concerned. 2 common to, or shared by, two or more persons or parties. • *adv* **mutually**.

**muzzle** /'məzəl/, /mu-zul/ *n* 1 the mouth and nose of an animal. 2 a cage or set of straps fastened on an animal's mouth to prevent it biting. 3 the open end of a gun. • *vb* 1 to put a muzzle on an animal's mouth. 2 to prevent from speaking freely.

**muzzy** /'məzi/, /mu-zee/ *adj* 1 dazed or confused. 2 blurred, indistinct.

**my** /mai/, /mie/ *adj* belonging to me.

**myalgic encephalomyelitis** see **ME**.

**myopia** /maɪ'ɔ:pɪə/, /mie-oe-pee-a/ *n* short-sightedness. • *adj* **myopic** short-sighted.

**myriad** /'mɪriəd/, /mi-ree-ad/ *n* a very large number. • *also adj.*

**myrrh** /mər/, /mur/ *n* 1 a tree from which is obtained a sweet-smelling gum. 2 the gum so obtained.

**myrtle** /'mɜ:təl/, /mur-tul/ *n* an evergreen shrub with sweet-smelling white flowers.

**myself** /mai'self/, /mie-self/ *pron* (used reflexively or for emphasis) me.

**mysterious** /mɪ'sti:rɪəs/, /mi-stee-ree-us/ *adj* difficult to understand or explain. • *adv* **mysteriously**.

**mystery** /'mɪstəri/, /mi-ste-ree/ *n* 1 anything difficult to understand or explain. 2 a secret way of doing something, known only to a few.

**mystic** /'mɪstɪk/, /mi-stic/ *adj* having to do with religious mysteries or secrets. • *n* a person who believes that through prayer or sympathy he or she has understood in part the mysteries of life and the existence of God.

**mystical** /'mɪstɪkəl/, /mi-sti-cal/ *adj* mystic.

**mysticism** /'mɪstɪ,sɪzəm/, /mi-sti-si-zum/ *n* the beliefs or practices of a mystic.

**mystify** /'mɪstɪ,fai/, /mi-sti-fie/ *vb* to puzzle, to bewilder. • *n* **mystification**.

**mystique** /'mɪsti:k/, /mi-steek/ *n* a mysterious quality.

**myth** /mɪθ/, /mith/ *n* 1 a story about the gods or goddesses of ancient peoples, especially one containing their beliefs about the facts of nature. 2 something that is popularly thought to be true but is not.

**mythical** /'mɪθɪkəl/, /mi-thi-cal/ *adj* 1 existing in myths or legends. 2 imaginary, not real.

**mythologist** /mɪ'θɒlə,dʒɪst/, /mi-thol-o-jist/ *n* a person who studies myths.

**mythology** /mɪ'θɒlədʒi/, /mi-thol-o-jee/ *n* 1 a collection of myths. 2 the study of myths. • *adj* mythological.

# N

**N, n** /ɛn/, /en/ the 14th letter of the English alphabet.

**nab** /næb/, /nab/ *vb (inf)* (nabbed, nabbing) **1** to catch or capture. **2** to arrest.

**nag<sup>1</sup>** /næg/, /nag/ *n* a horse, especially a small, weak, or old one.

**nag<sup>2</sup>** /næg/, /nag/ *vb (nagged, nagging)* to keep on annoying or finding fault with.

**nail** /neɪl/, /nail/ *n* **1** the horny growth on the tips of the fingers or toes. **2** the claw of a bird or animal. **3** a thin piece of metal with a pointed end and a flattened head, used for joining together pieces of wood. • *vb* to fasten with a nail.

**nail-biting** /'neɪl,baitɪŋ/, /nail-bie-ting/ *adj* extremely tense and exciting, full of suspense.

**nailbrush** /'neɪl,brəʃ/, /nail-brush/ *n* a small, stiff brush for cleaning fingernails and toenails.

**nail file** /'neɪl,fail/, /nail file/ *n* a small, flat file for smoothing and shaping fingernails and toenails.

**nail head** /'neɪl,hed/, /nail hed/ *n* the flattened end of a nail.

**naïve** /nai'i:v/, /nie-eev/ *adj* **1** simple and natural, innocent. **2** ignorantly simple, too trusting. • *n* **naïveté**. • *n* **naïf** a naïve person.

**naked** /'neɪkəd/, /nay-ked/ *adj* **1** wearing no clothes. **2** uncovered. **3** plain, unconcealed. • *n* **nakedness**.

**name** /neɪm/, /name/ *n* **1** the word by which a person or thing is known. **2** reputation. • *vb* **1** to give a name to. **2** to speak about by name. • *adj* **1** having a good reputation. **2** carrying a name.

**nameless** /'neɪmləs/, /name-less/ *adj* **1** unknown. **2** having no name. **3** wanting his/her name to be concealed. **4** too bad to be mentioned by name.

**namely** /'neɪmlɪ/, /name-lee/ *adv* that is to say.

**nameplate** /'neɪmpleɪt/, /næm-plate/ *n* a metal, wooden or plastic plate on which the name of a person, firm, etc, is engraved.

**namesake** /'neɪmseɪk/, /næm-sake/ *n* a person with the same name as another.

**nan** /næn/, /næn/ *n* a kind of flat bread of India made with white flour.

**nana** /'nænə/, /nɑ-nɑ/ *n* a child's term for grandmother.

**nanny** /'næni/, /nɑ-nee/ *n* a person employed to take care of children, a children's nurse.

**nanny goat** /'næni go:t/, /nɑ-nee goat/ *n* a female goat.

**nanogram** /'nænəgræm/, /nɑ-no-gram/ *n* one-billionth of a gram.

**nanosecond** /'nænəsɛkənd/, /nɑ-no-se-cond/ *n* one-billionth of a second.

**nap<sup>1</sup>** /næp/, /nap/ *n* a short sleep, a doze. • *vb* (**napped**, **napping**) to take a short sleep. • **caught napping** taken by surprise.

**nap<sup>2</sup>** /næp/, /nap/ *n* the woolly or hairy surface of cloth.

**nape** /neɪp/, /nape/ *n* the back part of the neck.

**napkin** /'næpkɪn/, /nap-kin/ *n* a small cloth or paper used at the table to keep the clothes clean.

**nappy** /'næpi/, /nɑ-peel/ *n* (short for napkin) a piece of absorbent material or paper fastened around a baby's bottom to hold its urine and faeces. • also **diaper** (US).

**narcissism** /'nɑrsɪsɪzəm/, /nar-si-si-zum/ *n* too much interest in a person's own appearance, comfort, importance, etc. • *adj* **narcissistic**. • *n* **narcissist** a person who is like this.

**narcissus** /nar'sɪsəs/, /nar-si-sus/ *n* (pl **narcissi**) a flower of the daffodil family, but with white petals.

**narcotic** /nar'kɒtɪk/, /nar-cot-ic/ *n* a drug that causes sleep and eases pain. • *adj* causing sleep.

**narrate** /nə'reɪt/, /nar-rate/ *vb* to tell.

**narration** /nə'reɪʃən/, /nar-ray-shun/ *n* a story, the act of telling a story.

**narrative** /'nærətɪv/, /na-ra-tiv/ *adj* 1 telling a story. 2 having to do with storytelling. • *n* a story.

**narrator** /nə'reɪtər/, /na-ray-tor/ *n* the teller of a story.

**narrow** /'næro:/, /na-ro/ **adj** 1 not broad, measuring little from side to side. 2 (also **narrow-minded**) unwilling to accept new ideas or ways of doing things. 3 not extensive, not wide-ranging. 4 only just avoiding the opposite result. • *n* (usually *pl*) a narrow part of a river or sea. • *vb* to make or become narrow.

**narrowly** /'næro:li:/, /na-ro-lee/ **adv** barely, only just.

**narwhal** /'narwəl/, /nar-wal/ **n** a type of whale with one large tusk.

**NASA** /'næsə/, /na-sa/ **abbr** = **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**: the organization in the United States that deals with space travel and exploration.

**nasal** /'neɪzəl/, /nay-zal/ **adj** 1 having to do with the nose. 2 sounded through the nose. • *n* a vowel or consonant so sounded.

**nasty** /'næsti/, /na-stee/ **adj** 1 unpleasant. 2 dirty. 3 disagreeable. 4 unkind. • *n* **nastiness**.

**nation** /'neɪʃən/, /nay-shun/ **n** all the people belonging to one country and living under the same government.

**national** /'næʃnəl/, /na-shnal/ **adj** 1 having to do with a nation. 2 of concern to all the people in a country.

**nationalism** /'næʃnəlɪzəm/, /na-shna-li-zum/ **n** 1 devotion to, and pride in, a person's own country. 2 a belief in independence for one's country.

**nationalist** /'næʃnəlist/, /na-shna-list/ **n** 1 a person who has great pride in and love of their country and considers it superior to others. 2 a person who believes in, and seeks, independence for their country.

**nationality** /næʃə'næliti/, /na-shu-na-li-tee/ **n** membership of a particular nation.

**nationalize** /'næʃnəlaɪz/, /na-shna-lize/ **vb**, also **nationalise** to transfer ownership and control of land, resources, industry, etc. to the national government.

**national monument** /næʃnəl 'mɒnjument/, /na-shnal mon-yu-ment/ **n** a natural feature or historic site that is preserved by the government for the public to visit.

**national park** /næʃnəl 'pærk/, /na-shnal park/ **n** an area of scenic beauty or historical interest that is preserved by the government

for the public to visit.

**nationwide** /'neɪʃənwaɪd/, /nay-shun-wide/ *adj* by or throughout the whole nation.

**native** /'neɪtɪv/, /nay-tiv/ *adj* 1 of the place where one was born. 2 belonging to a country. • *n* a person who was born in a particular place.

**Native American** /'neɪtɪv e'merɪkən/, /nay-tiv ah-mer-i-can/ *n* one of the peoples, and their descendants, that originally occupied North and South America before Europeans began to settle there. • *also adj.*

**nativity** /nə'trɪviti/, /na-ti-vi-tee/, **the Nativity** the birth of Jesus.

**natter** /'nætər/, /na-ter/ *vb (inf)* to talk for a long time about nothing very important; to chat. • *also n.*

**natural** /'nætʃərəl/, /na-chu-ral/ *adj* 1 not caused or altered by humans, occurring in nature. 2 born in a person. 3 normal. 4 real, genuine. 5 (*mus*) neither sharp nor flat. • *n* 1 (*inf*) a person who is naturally good at something. 2 (*mus*) a natural note and the mark by which it is shown.

**natural gas** /'nætʃərəl/, /na-chu-ral gas/ *n* a gas that occurs naturally and is often used for fuel.

**natural history** /'nætʃərəl/, /na-chu-ral hi-stree/ *n* the study of the earth and all that grows on it.

**naturalism** /'nætʃərəlɪzəm/, /na-chu-ra-li-zum/ *n* 1 action or thought based on natural desires. 2 the belief that the natural world is all that exists and that there is no spiritual world dealing with creation or control.

**naturalist** /'nætʃərəlist/, /na-chu-ra-list/ *n* one who studies plant and animal life.

**naturalize** /'nætʃərəlaɪz/, /na-chu-ra-lize/ *vb*, *also naturalise* to accept someone as a member of a nation to which he or she does not belong by birth. • *n* **naturalization**, *also naturalisation*.

**naturally** /'nætʃərəli/, /na-chu-ra-lee/ *adv* 1 in a natural way. 2 of course.

**natural resource** /'nætʃərəl/, /na-chu-ral ri-zoarse/ *n* a form of wealth supplied by nature, such as coal, oil, water power, etc.

**natural science** /'nætʃərəl/, /na-chu-ral sie-ens/ *n* any of the branches of knowledge and study of nature, which includes zoology, chemistry, geology, etc.

**natural selection** /'nætʃərəl/, /na-chu-ral si-lec-shun/ *n* the process by which a kind of animal or plant will take on certain features and not others to help it adapt to its surroundings.

**nature** /'neɪtʃər/, /nay-chur/ *n* 1 all existing and happening in the universe that is not the work of humans, such as plants, animals, mountains, lakes, etc. 2 the sum of those qualities that make any creature or thing different from others. 3 the character of a person. 4 kind, sort.

**naught** /nɒt/, /nawt/ *n* (*old or lit*) nothing.

**naughty** /nɒti/, /naw-tee/ *adj* mischievous, badly behaved. • *n* **naughtiness**.

**nausea** /'nɔziə/, /naw-zee-ya/ *n* 1 a feeling of sickness, as if needing to vomit. 2 great disgust.

**nauseate** /'nɔzi,eɪt/, /naw-zee-ate/ *vb* 1 to sicken. 2 to disgust. • *adj* **nauseating**.

**nauseous** /'nɔʃəs/, /naw-shess/ *adj* 1 feeling sick. 2 causing sickness. 3 disgusting, sickening.

**nautical** /'nɔtɪkəl/, /naw-ti-cal/ *adj* having to do with the sea, sailors, or ships.

**nautical mile** /'nɔtɪkəl ,maɪl/, /naw-ti-cal mile/ *n* a unit for measuring distance at sea; about 1.2 miles, or about 6076 feet (1.8 kilometres).

**nautilus** /'nɔtləs/, /naw-ti-lus/ *n* a sea creature living in a shell that twists round in a spiral.

**naval** /'neɪvəl/, /nay-vul/ *adj* having to do with a navy or warships.

**nave<sup>1</sup>** /neɪv/, /nave/ *n* the main part of a church where people worship.

**nave<sup>2</sup>** /neɪv/, /nave/ *n* the central part of a wheel.

**navel** /'nɛrvəl/, /nay-vul/ *n* a little scar, sometimes shaped like a hollow, in the centre of the belly where, before birth, a baby was attached to its mother.

**navigable** /'nævɪgəbəl/, /na-vi-ga-bul/ *adj* that can be steered, that ships can sail through.

**navigate** /'nævɪgeɪt/, /na-vi-gate/ *vb* 1 to steer, to sail. 2 to work out the correct course for a ship, aircraft, etc, and direct it on that course.

**navigation** /'nævɪ'geɪʃən/, /na-vi-gay-shun/ *n* 1 the science of working out the course or position of a ship, aircraft, etc. 2 act of sailing a ship.

**navigator** /'nævɪ'geɪtər/, /na-vi-gay-tor/ *n* a person who navigates.

**navy** /'neivɪ/, /nay-vee/ *n* the warships of a nation, their crews, and their equipment.

**navy blue** /'neivɪ 'blu:/, /nay-vee blue/ *adj* very dark blue.

**navvy** /'nævi/, /na-vee/ *n* an unskilled worker who does physical work.

**Nazi** /'nætsi/, /nat-see/ *n* the far-right Nationalist Socialist Party, or one of its followers, which controlled Germany under the leadership of Adolf Hitler between 1933 and 1945. • *also adj.*

**Neanderthal** /ni'ændərthəl/, /nee-an-der-tawl/ *adj* of a form of early human being. • *n* 1 a Neanderthal human being. 2 a crude, primitive person.

**near** /ni:r/, /neer/ *adj* 1 close, not distant in time or place. 2 only just missed or avoided. • *prep* close to. • *adv* almost. • *vb* to approach.

**nearby** /ni:r'bai/, /neer-bie/ *adj, adv* near, close by.

**nearer** /ni:rə/, /nee-rer/ *adv, adj, prep* less distant from.

**nearest** /ni:rest/, /nee-rest/ *adv, adj, prep* least distant from.

**nearly** /ni:rli/, /neer-lee/ *adv* almost.

**nearsighted** /'ni:rsaitəd/, /neer-sie-ted/ *adj* short-sighted.

**neat** /ni:t/, /neet/ *adj* 1 tidily arranged. 2 skilfully done or made. 3 not mixed with anything, said of alcoholic drinks. • *n* **neatness**. • *vb* **neaten**.

**nebula** /'nebjʊlə/, /ne-byu-la/ *n* (pl **nebulae**) 1 (astron) a cloud of gas and dust in outer space. 2 (med) a cloudy patch on the cornea. • *adj* **nebular**.

**nebulous** /'nebjʊləs/, /ne-byu-lus/ *adj* not clear, cloudy.

**necessary** /'nesə,səri/, /ne-si-se-ree/ *adj* needed, unavoidable, that cannot be done without. • *adv necessarily.*

**necessitate** /nə'sesɪ,tate/, /ni-se-si-tate/ *vb* to make necessary.

**necessity** /nə'sesiti/, /ni-se-si-tee/ *n* 1 that which a person needs. 2 the condition of being necessary or unavoidable. 3 events forcing a person to act or behave in a certain way.

**neck** /nek/, /neck/ *n* 1 the part of the body joining the head to the shoulders. 2 the narrow part near the mouth of a bottle. 3 a narrow strip of land joining two larger masses of land. • **neck and neck** exactly level.

**neckband** /'nekbaend/, /neck-band/ *n* a band worn around the neck.

**neckerchief** /'nekərtʃif/, /ne-ker-chif/ *n* a large handkerchief or scarf worn around the neck.

**necklace** /'nekla:s/, /ne-cliss/ *n* a chain of gold, silver, etc or a string of beads or jewels worn around the neck.

**neckline** /'neklain/, /ne-cline/ *n* the line formed by the edge of a piece of clothing around or nearest the neck.

**nectar** /'nekta:r/, /nec-tar/ *n* 1 in Greek legend, the drink of the gods. 2 a sweet liquid found in flowers.

**nectarine** /'nekta,ri:n/, /nec-ta-reen/ *n* a type of peach with a smooth skin.

**need** /ni:d/, /need/ *n* 1 a want. 2 that which one requires. 3 poverty. • *vb* 1 to be in want of, to require. 2 to have to.

**needful** /ni:dful/, /need-ful/ *adj* necessary.

**needle** /ni:dəl/, /nee-dul/ *n* 1 a small, sharply pointed piece of steel used for drawing thread through cloth in sewing. 2 a short, pointed stick used for knitting wool. 3 a small metal pointer on a dial, compass, etc. 4 a very thin pointed piece of metal at the end of a syringe, used, for example, to administer drugs or draw blood. 5 the long pointed leaf of a pine tree, fir, etc.

**needlepoint** /ni:dəlpɔint/, /nee-dul-point/ *n* decorative sewing done with thread on canvas used for pillow covers, decorative hangings, etc.

**needless** /'ni:dləs/, /need-less/ *adj* not needed, unnecessary.

**needlework** /'ni:dəl,wərk/, /nee-dul-wurk/ *n* sewing done by hand with a needle such as crocheting, embroidering, knitting, etc.

**needy** /'ni:di/, /nee-dee/ *adj* poor, living in want.

**negate** /nə'geɪt/, /ni-gate/ *vb (fm)* **1** to deny. **2** to cause to have no effect.

**negation** /nə'geɪʃən/, /ni-gay-shun/ *n* **1** a denial. **2** a word or phrase saying no.

**negative** /'negətɪv/, /ne-ga-tiv/ *adj* **1** saying no. **2** criticizing, but putting forward no alternative plan or idea. • *n* **1** a word such as no, not, etc, expressing refusal or denial. **2** the image on a photographic film or plate in which light seems dark and shade light.

**neglect** /nə'glekt/, /ni-glect/ *vb* **1** to fail to take care of. **2** to leave undone. **3** to pay no or little attention to, to give too little care to. • *n* want of care or attention.

**neglectful** /nə'glektfʊl/, /ni-glect-ful/ *adj* heedless, careless.

**negligee** /'negli,ʒeɪ/, /ne-gli-zhay/ *n* a woman's light, thin robe or dressing gown.

**negligence** /'neglɪdʒəns/, /ne-gli-jense/ *n* carelessness, lack of proper care.

**negligent** /'neglɪdʒənt/, /ne-gli-jent/ *adj* careless.

**negligible** /'neglɪdʒibəl/, /ne-gli-ji-bul/ *adj* too little to bother about, unimportant.

**negotiable** /nə'go:ʃəbəl/, /ni-go-sha-bul/ *adj* **1** able to be settled or changed through discussion. **2** that can be exchanged for money. **3** able to be passed.

**negotiate** /nə'go:ʃeɪt/, /ni-go-she-ate/ *vb* **1** to try to reach agreement, to bargain. **2** to arrange, usually after a long discussion. **3** to pass. • *n* **negotiation**. • *n* **negotiator**.

**neigh** /neɪ/, /nay/ *n* the cry of a horse, a whinny. • *also vb*.

**neighbour** /'neɪbər/, /nay-bur/ *n*, *also neighbor* (US) **1** a person living near. **2** a person living next door.

**neighbourhood** /'neɪbər,hʊd/, /nay-bur-hood/ *n*, *also neighborhood* (US) **1** the surrounding area or district. **2** a group of people and their homes forming a small area within a larger one.

**neighbouring** /'neɪbərɪŋ/, /nay-bu-ring/ *adj, also neighboring (US)*  
close at hand, near.

**neighbourly** /'neɪbərlɪ/, /nay-bur-lee/ *adj, also neighborly (US)*  
friendly, helpful.

**neither** /'ni:ðər, 'naɪð-/ , /nee-ther, neye-ther/ *adj, pron, conj and adv*  
not either.

**Neolithic** /ni:e'lɪθɪk/, /nee-yo-li-thic/ *adj* having to do with the later  
Stone Age, during which people used polished stone tools, made  
pottery, reared stock, etc.

**neon** /'ni:ɒn/, /nee-on/ *n* a gas that glows brightly when electricity  
passes through it.

**nephew** /'nɛfju:/, /ne-fyoo/ *n* the son of a person's brother or sister.

**nepotism** /'nɛpə,tɪzəm/, /ne-pu-ti-zum/ *n* unjust use of a person's  
power by giving good positions to relatives.

**Neptune** /'nɛptn/, /nep-toon/ *n* **1** the eighth planet from the sun. **2**  
in Roman mythology, the god of the sea.

**nerd** /nərd/, /nurd/ *n* a person thought of as dull, awkward, etc,  
especially if they are overly interested in computers or schoolwork.

**nerve** /nərv/, /nerv/ *n* **1** one of the threadlike fibres along which  
messages pass to and from the brain. **2** courage. **3** (*inf*) self-  
confidence, cheek. **4** *pl* excitement, nervousness. • *vb* to give  
strength.

**nerveless** /'nərvləs/, /nerv-less/ *adj* without strength or feeling.

**nervous** /'nərvəs/, /ner-vus/ *adj* easily excited or upset, timid. • *n*  
**nervousness**.

**nervous breakdown** /'nərvəs 'breɪkdaʊn/, /ner-vus brake-down/ *n* an  
episode of mental illness.

**nervous system** /'nərvəs ,sɪstəm/, /ner-vus sis-tem/ *n* all the nerve  
cells and tissues in a body that control responses and behaviour.

**nervy** /'nərvi/, /ner-vee/ *n* nervous, easily frightened.

**nest** /nɛst/, /nest/ *n* **1** a place built by a bird in which it lays its eggs  
and brings up its young. **2** the home built by certain small animals  
and insects. **3** a comfortable shelter. **4** a set of things that fit one  
inside another. • *vb* to build a nest and live in it.

**nest egg** /'nest eg/, /**nest** egg/ **1** a sum of money put aside for future use. **2** a real or fake egg put into a nest to get a hen to lay more eggs there.

**nestle** /'nesəl/, /**ne-sul/** *vb* **1** to lie close to. **2** to settle comfortably.

**nestling** /'neslɪŋ, 'nest-/ , /**ne-sling/** *n* a bird too young to leave the nest.

**net<sup>1</sup>** /net/, /**net/** *n* **1** crisscrossing strings knotted together at the crossing places. **2** an extent of this used for catching fish, animals, etc, and for many other purposes. **3** a fabric made like this. • *vb* (**netted, netting**) **1** to catch in a net. **2** to cover with a net. **3** to hit or kick into a net.

**net<sup>2</sup>** /net/, /**net/** *adj* left after one has subtracted the amount due for taxes, expenses, etc. • *vb* (**netted, netting**) to bring in as profit.

**nether** /'neðər/, /**ne-ther/** *adj* (*fml* or *hum*) lower.

**nethermost** /'neðərmo:st/, /**ne-ther-moast/** *adj* farthest down.

**netting** /'netɪŋ/, /**ne-ting/** *n* **1** material made in the form of a net. **2** the act or process of making nets.

**nettle** /'netəl/, /**ne-tul/** *n* a weed covered with stinging hairs. • *vb* to anger, to annoy.

**network** /'netwɜ:k/, /**net-wurk/** *n* **1** anything in which lines, roads, railways, etc, cross and recross one another. **2** a widespread organization.

**neural** /'njʊrəl/, /**nyoo-ral/** *adj* of a nerve, nerves, or the nervous system.

**neurological** /'njʊrlɒdʒɪkəl/ /nyoo-ro-lodge-i-cal/ *adj* having to do with the nerves.

**neurology** /njʊ'rɒlədʒi/, /nyoo-ro-rol-o-jee/ *n* the study of the nerves. • *n* **neurologist.**

**neurosis** /njʊ'ro:sɪs/, /nyoo-ro-sis/ *n* a type of mental illness in which a person suffers from great anxiety, depression and/or fear.

**neurotic** /njʊ'rɒtɪk/, /nyoo-rot-ic/ *adj* **1** in a nervous state, unreasonably anxious or sensitive. **2** suffering from a neurosis.

**neuter** /'nju:tər/, /**nyoo-ter/** *adj* having no sexual organ. • *n* an animal that has been spayed or castrated, an animal that has been fixed. • *vb* to spay, castrate, or fix an animal.

**neutral** /'nu:trol, 'nju:-/, /noo-tral, nyoo-/ *adj* 1 not taking sides, neither for nor against, impartial. 2 not strong or definite. • *n* a neutral person or party.

**neutrality** /nu:treliti, nju:-/, /noo-tra-li-tee, nyoo-/ *n* the state of being neutral.

**neutralize, neutralise** /'nu:trolaiz, 'nju:-/, /noo-tra-lize, nyoo-/ *vb* to cause to have no effect, to make useless, to balance by an opposite action or effect.

**never** /'nevər/, /ne-ver/ *adv* at no time, not ever.

**nevermore** /'nevərmɔr/, /ne-ver-more/ *adv* never again.

**never-never land** /'nevərnəvər lænd/, /ne-ver-ne-ver land/ *n* an unreal place or situation.

**nevertheless** /'nevərðə'lɛs/, /ne-ver-the-less/ *adv* for all that, despite everything.

**new** /nju:/, /nyoo/ *adj* 1 never known before. 2 just bought or made, fresh. 3 changed from an earlier state, different. • *n* **newness**.

**newborn** /'nju:bɔrn/, /nyoo-bawrn/ *n* a recently born infant.

**newcomer** /'nju:kəmər/, /nyoo-cu-mer/ *n* a person who has recently arrived.

**newfound** /'nju:faund/, /nyoo-found/ *adj* newly gained.

**newly** /'nju:li/, /nyoo-lee/ *adv* recently.

**newlywed** /'nju:liwed/, /nyoo-lee-wed/ *n* a recently married person.

**new moon** /'nju: 'mu:n/, /nyoo moon/ *n* the first phase of the moon when it is between the Earth and the sun with its dark side facing the Earth.

**news** /nu:z, nju:z/, /nooz, nyooz/ *n* 1 information about what is going on. 2 an account of recent events.

**newsagent** /'nu:z,eidʒənt, 'nju:z-/, /nooz-ay-jent, nyooz-ay-jent/ *n* a person or shop that sells newspapers, magazines, etc and often cigarettes and sweets.

**newsletter** /'nu:zlətər, 'nju:z-/, /nooz-le-ter, nooz-/ *n* a printed sheet of news sent to members of a group, organization, etc.

**newspaper** /nu:z,peipər, 'nju:s-/, /nyooz-pay-per/ *n* a number of printed sheets (usually issued daily) containing the latest news, articles, advertisements, etc.

**newsprint** /'nu:zprint, 'nu:z-/ , /nooz-print, nyooz-/ *n* a cheap, low-grade paper used for printing newspapers.

**newsreel** /'nu:zri:l, 'nju:z-/ , /nooz-reel, nooz-/ *n* a film showing recent events.

**newsstand** /'nu:zstænd, 'nju:z-/ , /nyooz-stand/ *n* a stand at which newspapers, magazines, etc. are sold.

**newsy** /'nu:zstænd, 'nju:z-/ , /nyoo-zee/ *adj (inf)* containing a lot of news.

**newt** /'nju:t/, /nyoot/ *n* a small lizardlike creature that can live both on land and in water.

**New Testament** /,nju: 'tɛstəmənt/, /nyoo tes-ta-ment/ *n* the part of the Christian Bible that deals with the life and teachings of Jesus.

**next** /nekst/, /nekst/ *adj* nearest, just before or just after in time, place, degree, or rank. • *also adv, prep, n.*

**next-door** /nekst 'dɔ:r/, /neks(t)-door/ *adj* in or at the next house or building.

**next of kin** /'nekstəvkin/ /nek-stov-kin/ *n* someone's closest relative.

**nib** /nɪb/, /nib/ *n* 1 the bill or beak of a bird. 2 the point of a pen.

**nibble** /'nɪbəl/, /ni-bul/ *vb* to take small bites at. • *also n.*

**nice** /nɪs/, /nice/ *adj* 1 pleasing. 2 (*old*) particular when choosing, hard to please. 3 (*frm*) fine, delicate, precise.

**nicety** /'nɪsəti/, /nie-si-tee/ *n* 1 the quality or the state of being nice. 2 exactness, precise detail. 3 a very small difference.

**niche** /ni:ʃ, nɪtʃ/, /nich, neesh/ *n* 1 a hollow place in a wall for a statue, etc. 2 the work, place, or position for which a person or thing is best suited. 3 an area of the market specializing in a particular product.

**nick** /nɪk/, /nick/ *n* 1 the small hollow left when a piece is cut or chipped out of something, a notch. 2 (*inf*) a police station, prison. 3 (*inf*) condition. • *vb* 1 to cut notches in. 2 (*inf*) to steal. • **in the nick of time** just in time.

**nickel** /'nɪkəl/, /ni-cel/ *n* a hard silver-white metal used for plating utensils and mixed with other metals because it doesn't rust.

**nickname** /'nɪkneɪm/, /nic-name/ *n* a name used instead of one's real name in friendship or mockery. • *vb* to give a nickname to.

**nicotine** /'nɪkətɪn/, /ni-co-teen/ *n* the toxic oily liquid from tobacco that is addictive.

**niece** /ni:s/, /neess/ *n* the daughter of a person's brother or sister.

**night** /nəɪt/, /nite/ *n*, also **night time** the time between sunset and sunrise, darkness.

**nightcap** /'nəɪtkæp/, /nite-cap/ *n* 1 a cap worn in bed. 2 a drink taken last thing at night.

**nightclothes** /'nəɪtklo:ðz/, /nite-cloathz/ *n* clothes worn in bed, pyjamas.

**nightclub** /'nəɪt kləb/, /nite-club/ *n* a place of entertainment open at night for eating, drinking, dancing, etc.

**nightdress** /'nəɪtdres/, /nite-dres/ *n* a nightgown.

**nightfall** /'nəɪt fɔ:l/, /nite-fawl/ *n* evening, the approach of darkness.

**nightgown** /'nəɪtgaʊn/, /nite-goun/ *n*, also **nightie** a loose gown worn to bed by women or girls.

**nightingale** /'nəɪtɪŋ,geɪl/, /nie-ting-gale/ *n* a type of small bird that sometimes sings at night.

**night light** /'nəɪtləɪt/, /nite lite/ *n* a small, faint light burning all night, as in a hallway or child's room.

**nightly** /'nəɪtlɪ/, /nite-lee/ *adj* happening every night. • *adv* every night.

**nightmare** /'nəɪtmər/, /nite-mare/ *n* a frightening dream.

**night owl** /'nəɪtaʊl/, /nite owl/ *n* a person who works at night or who generally stays up late.

**nightshirt** /'nəɪtsɜ:t/, /nite-shirt/ *n* a long, loose-fitting, shirt worn to bed.

**night watch** /'nəɪt wɒtʃ/, /nite watch/ *n* a watching or guarding during the night.

**night watchman** /'nəɪt wɒtʃmən/, /nite watch-man/ *n* a man who looks after buildings, etc, by night.

**nightwear** /'nəɪt weɪr/, /nite-ware/ *n* nightclothes.

**nil** /nil/, /nil/ *n* nothing, zero.

**nimble** /'nɪmbəl/, /nim-bul/ *adj* active, quick-moving. • *n* **nimbleness**.

**nimbus** /'nimbəs/, /nim-bus/ *n* (*pl* **nimbi** or **nimbuses**) **1** a rain cloud. **2** the halo around the head of an angel in paintings.

**nimby** /'nimbi/, /nim-bee/ *acronym = not in my backyard* a person who protests against a new development if it is to be located near their own home. • *also adj.*

**nine** /nain/, /nine/ *adj* the number between eight and ten.

**nineteen** /nain'ti:n/, /nine-teen/ *adj* ten more than nine.

**nineteenth** /nain'ti:nθ/, /nine-teenth/ *adj* preceded by 18 others in a series.

**ninetieth** /nainti:iθ/, /nine-tee-eth/ *adj* preceded by 89 others in a series.

**nine-to-five** /naintəfaɪv/, /nine-to-five/ *adj* of or referring to the time between 9am and 5am, the period of business hours on a weekday.

**ninety** /nainti/, /nine-tee/ *n* the number between 89 and 91.

**ninth** /nainθ/, /nine-th/ *adj* **1** preceded by eight others in a series. **2** any of the nine equal parts of something.

**nip** /nip/, /nip/ *vb (nipped, nipping)* **1** to pinch. **2** to bite. **3** to stop the growth. • *n* **1** a pinch. **2** biting cold. **3** a small drink. • **nip in the bud** to destroy at an early stage.

**nipple** /nipəl/, /ni-pul/ *n* **1** the point of the breast. **2** anything so shaped. **3** a rubber stopper with a small hole in it through which liquid may pass; a teat.

**nippy** /nipi/, /ni-peel/ *adj* able to move very quickly.

**nirvana** /nər'venə/, /nir-və-na/ *n* **1** in Buddhism, the state of being perfectly blessed after death and taken into the supreme spirit. **2** complete peace and happiness. **3** in Hinduism, a blowing out of the flame of life through reunion with Brahma, the god of creation.

**nit** /nit/, /nit/ *n* a young louse or the egg of a louse or other small insect.

**nitpick** /'nɪtpɪk/, /nit-pick/ *vb* to find fault with someone or something in a manner that is finicky or minor.

**nitrogen** /'nəitrədʒən/, /nie-tro-jen/ *n* a colourless, odourless, and tasteless gas that makes up about four-fifths of the air. • *adj* **nitrogenous**.

- nitroglycerin** /nə'tro'glisərin/, /nie-tro-**glis**-ren/ *n* an explosive.
- nitty gritty** /'niti'griti/, /ni-tee **gri**-tee/ *n* the basic or most important details of something.
- nitwit** /'nitwit/, /nit-wit/ *n* a foolish, stupid, or silly person.
- no<sup>1</sup>** /no:/, /noe/ *sentence substitute* to express denial; refusal; the opposite of **yes**; it cannot be so. • *n* the answer of 'no'.
- no<sup>2</sup>** /no:/, /noe/ *determiner* not ever; not any; not at all.
- nobility** /no:'biliti/, /no-bi-li-tee/ *n* 1 goodness of character. 2 the class of nobles of a country.
- noble** /'no:bəl/, /no-bul/ *adj* 1 fine in character, honourable. 2 of high rank. 3 stately. • *n* a person of high rank. • *adv* **nobly**.
- nobleman** /'no:bəlmən/, /no-bul-man/ *n* a man in the noble class.
- noblewoman** /'no:bəlwumən/, /no-bul-woo-man/ *n* a woman in the noble class.
- nobody** /'no:bədi, -bədi/, /no-bu-dee/ *n* 1 no one. 2 (*inf*) a person of no importance.
- no-brainer** /no:'breɪnər/, /no-bray-ner/ *n* (*inf*) something so obvious or simple as to require little thought.
- nocturnal** /nɒk'tɜːnl/, /noc-tur-nal/ *adj* 1 (*fml*) happening at night. 2 active by night.
- nocturne** /'nɒktɜːrn/, /noc-turn/ *n* 1 a dreamy piece of music. 2 a painting of a night scene.
- nocuous** /'nɒkjʊəs/, /noc-yu-wus/ *adj* harmful, poisonous.
- nod** /nɒd/, /nod/ *vb (nodded, nodding)* 1 to bow the head slightly. 2 to let the head drop forward in tiredness. • *n* a slight bow of the head.
- nodal** /'no:dəl/, /no-dal/ *adj* of or like a node.
- node** /no:d/, /node/ *n* 1 the place where a leaf joins the stem. 2 the point at which a curve crosses itself. 3 a swelling or a roundish lump, as on a tree trunk or a person's body.
- nodule** /'nɒdju:l/, /nod-jul/ *n* a small rounded lump. • *adj* **nodular**.
- Noël** /'no:wəl/, /no-wel/ *n* Christmas.
- noise** /nɔɪz/, /noyz/ *n* 1 a sound. 2 loud or unpleasant sounds, din. • *adj* **noisy**.

**noiseless** /'nɔɪzləs/, /noyz-less/ *adj* not making any sound.

**nomad** /'no:mæd/, /no-mad/ *n* **1** a wanderer. **2** a member of a group of people that has no permanent home but moves around constantly in search of food, pastures, etc.

**nomadic** /no:'mædɪk/, /no-ma-dic/ *adj* wandering.

**no man's land** /'no: mænz lænd/, /no-manz-land/ *n* **1** land that belongs to no one. **2** land lying between two opposing armies.

**nominal** /'nɒmɪnəl/, /nom-in-al/ *adj* **1** existing in name but not in reality. **2** having to do with a noun or nouns. **3** very small compared to others.

**nominate** /'nɒmɪneɪt/, /nom-in-ate/ *vb* **1** to put forward another's name for a certain office. **2** to appoint. • *n nomination*.

**nominative** /'nɒmɪnətɪv/, /nom-in-a-tiv/ *adj* **1** having the name of a person on it. **2** in grammar, of or in the case of the subject of a verb.

**nominee** /nɒmɪ'ni:/, /nom-i-nee/ *n* a person who is nominated.

**non-** /nɒn/, /non/ *pref* not, the opposite of, used to give a negative meaning to a word.

**nonagenarian** /nɒnədʒə'nærɪən/, /non-i-ji-nay-ree-an/ *n* a person who is 90 years old or between 90 and 100.

**nonchalant** /nɒnʃə'lənt/, /non-sha-lont/ *adj* calm, unexcited, showing little interest, cool, without warmth or concern. • *n nonchalance*.

**nondescript** /nɒndɪskrɪpt/, /non-di-script/ *adj* not easily described, not very interesting.

**none** /nən/, /nun/ *pron* not one, not anyone, no persons or things.

**nonentity** /nɒn'entiti/, /non-en-ti-tee/ *n* a person of no importance, a person of little ability or character.

**nonetheless** /nənðə'lɛs/, /nun-thi-less/ *adv* in spite of that, nevertheless.

**nonexistent** /nɒneg'zɪstənt/, /non-ig-zi-stant/ *adj* not existing.

**nonflammable** /nɒn'flæməbəl/, /non-fla-ma-bul/ *adj* not likely to catch fire or burn easily.

**no-no** /'no:no:/, /no-no/ *n (inf)* something that is forbidden or unwise to do.

**no-nonsense** /no:'nonsns/, /no-non-sense/ *adj* practical and serious.

**nonplus** /nɒn'pləs/, /non-**plus**/ *vb* (**nonplussed**, **nonplussing**) to puzzle completely; to leave speechless.

**nonsense** /'nɒnsens/, /**non**-sense/ *n* foolish or meaningless words, ideas, etc.

**nonsensical** /nɒn'sensɪkəl/, /**non-sen**-si-cal/ *adj* meaningless, absurd.

**nonstop** /nɒn'stɒp/, /**non-stop**/ *adj and adv* without any stop or pause.

**noodle** /'nu:dəl/, /**noo**-dul/ *n* a long thin strip of pasta used especially in Chinese or Italian cooking, often eaten with sauce or soup.

**nook** /nuk/, /**nook**/ *n* 1 a corner. 2 an out-of-the-way place.

**noon** /nu:n/, /**noon**/ *n* midday, 12pm.

**noose** /nu:s/, /**nooss**/ *n* a cord or rope with a loop at one end fastened by a running knot. • *vb* to catch in a noose.

**nor** /nɔr, nər/, /**nor**/ *conj, prep* 1 (preceded by **neither**) and not. 2 or not; not either.

**norm** /nɔrm/, /**norm**/ *n* the usual rule, an example or standard with which others may be compared.

**normal** /nɔrməl/, /**nor**-mal/ *adj* usual, according to what is expected, average. • *n normality*.

**normalize** /'nɔrmə,laɪz/, /**nor**-ma-lize/ *vb*, also **normalise** to make normal.

**north** /nɔrθ/, /**north**/ *n* 1 one of the chief points of the compass; opposite south. 2 (often cap) the northern part of the country. 3 the northern regions of the world.

**northbound** /'nɔrðbaund/, /**north-bound**/ *adj* travelling north.

**northeast** /nɔrθ'i:st/, /**north-east**/ *n* the point of the compass halfway between north and east. • also *adj*. • *adj northeastern*.

**northern** /'nɔrðərn/, /**nor**-then/, **northerly** /'nɔrðərlɪ:/, /**nor**-ther-lee/ *adjs* 1 having to do with the north. 2 of or from the north.

**northerner** /'nɔrðərnər/, /**nor**-ther-ner/ *n* (often cap) a person living in or coming from the north.

**northern lights** /'nɔrðərn laits/, /**nor**-thern **lites**/ *npl* bright rays of coloured light sometimes seen in the region of the North Pole; common name for *aurora borealis*.

**northernmost** /'nɔrðərn,mo:st/, /nor-thern-moast/ *adj* farthest to the north.

**North Pole** /nɔrð 'po:l/, /north pole/ *n* the northernmost part of the Earth, in the middle of the Arctic regions.

**northward** /'nɔrθwərd/, /north-ward/ *adv* towards the north.

**northwest** /nɔrθ'west/, /north-west/ *n* the point of the compass halfway between north and west. • *also adj.*

**northwestern** /'nɔrðərn/, /north-we-stern/ *adj* in, of, to, towards, or facing the northwest.

**nose** /no:z/, /noze/ *n* **1** the part of the face between the eyes and mouth that allows people and animals to breathe and smell. **2** a sense of smell. **3** the part that juts out in the front of anything. • *vb* **1** to smell. **2** to find by smell. **3** to look or search around in. **4** to discover by searching. **5** to move slowly.

**nosebleed** /no:zbli:d/, /noze-bleed/ *n* a bleeding from the nose.

**nose dive** /'no:zdaiv/, /noze-dive/ *n* **1** a nose-first dive earthward by an aeroplane. **2** a sudden and great fall or drop. • *vb* to take a nose dive.

**nose ring** /'no:zrɪŋ/, /noze-ring/ *n* **1** a metal ring passed through the nose of an animal for leading it about. **2** a ring worn in the nose as a piece of jewellery.

**nostalgia** /nɒ'stældʒə/, /nos-tal-ja/ *n* a longing or feeling of fondness for things past. • *adj* **nostalgic**.

**nostril** /'nɒstrɪl/, /nos-tril/ *n* one of the two openings of the nose.

**nosy** /'no:zi/, /no-zee/ *adj* (*inf*) curious about the affairs of others.

**not** /nɒt/, /not/ *adv* in no manner, to no degree.

**notable** /'no:təbəl/, /no-ta-bul/ *adj* worthy of notice, deserving to be remembered. • *n* **notability**.

**notation** /no:'teɪʃən/, /no-tay-shun/ *n* a set of signs or symbols that stand for letters, numbers, notes in music, etc.

**notch** /nɒtʃ/, /notch/ *n* a small V-shaped cut. • *vb* to make a notch in.

**note** /no:t/, /note/ *n* **1** a short letter. **2** a short written account of what is said or done. **3** a written explanation. **4** a single musical sound or the sign standing for it. **5** fame, good reputation. **6** a piece of paper money. • *vb* **1** to put down in writing. **2** to take notice of.

**notebook** /'no:t'buk/, /note-book/ *n* a book into which notes may be written.

**noted** /'no:tid/, /no-tid/ *adj* famous, well known.

**notepad** /'no:tpæd/, /note-pad/ *n* a small pad of paper.

**notepaper** /'no:t,peipər/, /note-pay-per/ *n* paper for writing notes or letters on.

**noteworthy** /'no:t,wərði/, /note-wur-thee/ *adj* deserving to be noticed or remembered.

**nothing** /'nəθɪŋ/, /nu-thing/ *n* **1** no thing, not anything. **2** a thing of no importance.

**notice** /'no:tɪs/, /no-tiss/ *n* **1** a written or printed announcement. **2** warning. **3** attention. **4** advance information. • *vb* **1** to pay attention to. **2** to see. • *adj* noticeable.

**notify** /'no:tɪfaɪ/, /no-ti-fie/ *vb* to inform, to make known. • *n* notification.

**notion** /'no:ʃən/, /no-shun/ *n* **1** idea, opinion, view. **2** a sudden desire.

**notoriety** /no:tə'ræti/, /no-tu-rie-i-tee/ *n* bad reputation.

**notorious** /no:tɔriəs/, /no-toe-ree-us/ *adj* well known for something bad.

**notoriously** /no:tɔriəsli:/, /no-toe-ree-us-lee/ *adv* as is well known for something bad.

**nougat** /nu:gæt/, /noo-gat/ *n* a white toffeelike sweet containing nuts.

**noun** /naʊn/, /noun/ *n* in grammar, a word that names a person, place, quality, or thing.

**nourish** /'nərɪʃ/, /nu-rish/ *vb* **1** to feed, to give what is needed to grow or stay healthy. **2** to keep in the mind.

**nourishment** /-mənt/, /nu-rish-ment/ *n* food, especially food of value to health.

**nova** /'no:və/, /no-va/ *n* a type of star that suddenly increases in brightness and then decreases in brightness over time.

**novel** /'nɒvəl/, /nov-el/ *adj* new and often of an unusual kind. • *n* a long story of which all or some of the events are imaginary.

**novelist** /'nɒvəlist/, /nov-list/ *n* a person who writes novels.

**novelty** /'nɒvəlti/, /nov-əlti/ *n* **1** newness, the quality of being novel. **2** a new or unusual thing. **3** an unusual, small, cheap object.

**November** /no:'vembər/, /no-vem-ber/ *n* the eleventh month of the year.

**novice** /'nɒvɪs/, /nov-ɪs/ *n* **1** a beginner. **2** a person who has newly joined a religious order but has not yet taken vows.

**novitiate** /no:'vɪʃiət/, /no-vi-shi-et/ *n* **1** the time spent as a novice. **2** a novice.

**now** /naʊ/, /now/ *n* **1** at the present time. **2** at once.

**nowadays** /'naʊə,deɪz/, /now-a-daze/ *adv* in modern times.

**nowhere** /'no:wər/, /no-whare/ *adv* in no place.

**noxious** /'nɒkʃəs/, /nok-shus/ *adj* (*fml*) poisonous, harmful, hurtful.

**nozzle** /'nɒzəl/, /noz-ul/ *n* a spout or pipe fitted on to the end of a hose, etc, to direct the liquid.

**nuance** /'nju:nəns/, /nyoo-onse/ *n* a slight difference in meaning, colour, etc.

**nub** /nəb/, /nub/ *n* the most important point.

**nuclear** /'nju:kliər/, /nyoo-clee-ar/ *adj* having to do with the atomic nucleus.

**nuclear bomb** /nu:kliər bɒm, 'nju:-/, /noo-clee-ar bom, nyoo/ *n* an atomic bomb or a hydrogen bomb, capable of destroying a large area.

**nuclear energy** /nu:kliər 'enərdʒi:, 'nju:-/, /noo-clee-ar en-er-jee, nyoo-/ *n* the energy in an atomic nucleus.

**nuclear family** /nu:kliər famli:, 'nju:-/, /noo-clee-ar fa-mi-lee, nyoo-/ *n* a basic family unit consisting of parents and their children living in one household.

**nuclear physics** /nu:kliər fiziks, 'nju:-/, /nyoo-clee-ar fi-zics/ *n* the science of the forces within the nucleus of the atom.

**nuclear reactor** /nu:kliər ri:'aktər, 'nju:-/, /nyoo-clee-ar ree-ac-tor/ *n* a machine for producing atomic energy.

**nucleus** /nu:kliəs, 'nju:-/, /noo-clee-us, nyoo-/ *n* (*pl* **nuclei**) **1** the central part of an atom, seed, etc. **2** the central part of anything around which the rest grows up.

**nude** /nu:d, nju:d/, /nood, nyood/ *adj* naked, wearing no clothes. • *n* a naked person.

**nudge** /nʌdʒ/, /nudge/ *vb* to push with the elbow. • *also n.*

**nudist** /'nu:dɪst, 'nju:-/, /noo-dist, nyoo-/ *n* a person who believes that it is healthy to wear no clothes.

**nudity** /'nu:dɪti, 'nju:-/, /noo-di-tee, nyoo/ *n* nakedness.

**nugget** /'nʌgət/, /nu-get/ *n* a lump, as of gold, silver, etc.

**nuisance** /'nu:səns, 'nju:-/, /noo-sanse, nyoo-/ *n* a person, action, or thing that annoys.

**null** /nʌl/, /null/ *adj*. • **null and void** having no legal force.

**numb** /nʌm/, /num/ *adj* unable to feel. • *vb* to take away the power of feeling sensations. • *adj* numbing.

**number** /'nʌmbər/, /num-ber/ *n* 1 a word or sign that tells how many. 2 a collection of several. 3 a single copy of a magazine, etc, printed at a particular time; an issue. 4 a piece of popular music or a popular song usually forming part of a longer performance. • *vb* 1 (*fml*) to reach as a total. 2 to give a number to. 3 to include.

**numerable** /'nju:mərəbəl/, /nyoom-ra-bul/ *adj* that can be numbered or counted.

**numeral** /'nu:mərəl, 'nju:-/, /noom-ral, nyoom-/ *n* a word or figure standing for a number.

**numerate** /'nu:mərət, 'nju:-/, /noo-me-rate, nyoo-/ *vb* (*fml*) to count. • *adj* /nyoo-me-rit/ able to do arithmetic and mathematics. • *n* numeration.

**numerator** /'nu:mə,reɪtər, 'nju:-/, /noo-mer-ay-tor, nyoo-/ *n* in fractions, the number above the line, which tells how many parts there are.

**numerical** /nur'merɪkəl, nju:-/, /noo-mer-ic-al, nyoo-/ *adj* having to do with numbers.

**numerous** /'nu:mərəs, 'nju:-/, /nyoo-mer-uss/ *adj* many.

**nun** /nʌn/, /nun/ *n* a woman who joins a convent and vows to devote her life to the service of God.

**nunnery** /'nʌnəri/, /nu-ni-ree/ *n* a convent, a house for nuns.

**nuptial** /'nʌptʃəl/, /nup-shal/ *adj* (*fml*) having to do with marriage. • *npl* **nuptials** a marriage.

**nurse** /nərs/, /nurss/ *n* a person trained to look after the young, sick, or aged. • *vb* 1 to look after as a nurse. 2 to give milk from the breast, to suckle. 3 to look after with great care. 4 to keep in existence.

**nursemaid** /'nərsmeɪd/, /nur-smade/ *n* a woman hired to take care of a child or children.

**nursery** /'nərsəri/, /nur-si-ree/ *n* 1 a room in a house for children to sleep or play in. 2 a place where young children are looked after. 3 a place where young plants are grown for sale.

**nursery rhyme** /'nərsəri raim/, /nur-si-ree rime/ *n* a short, rhymed poem for children.

**nursery school** /'nərsəri sku:l/, /nur-si-ree skool/ *n* a school for young children of preschool age.

**nursing** /'nərsɪŋ/, /nur-sing/ *n* the duties of or care given by a nurse.

**nursing home** /'nərsɪŋ ho:m/, /nur-sing ho:m/, /nur-sing home/ *n* a care home or rest home for those unable to care for themselves.

**nurture** /'nərtʃər/, /nur-chur/ *n* care and training. • *vb* 1 to care for. 2 to help to grow or develop.

**nut** /nʌt/, /nut/ *n* 1 a fruit with a hard outer shell and an edible kernel inside it. 2 the edible kernel. 3 a screw that is turned on to one end of a bolt to fasten it. • **in a nutshell** in a few words.

**nutcracker** /'nʌt,krækər/, /nut-cra-ker/ *n* an instrument for cracking nuts.

**nutmeg** /'nætməg/, /nut-meg/ *n* the hard seed of a certain kind of tree, used as a spice in cooking.

**nutrient** /'nju:t्रiənt, /nyoo-tree-ent/ *n* a substance in food that is good for the body.

**nutriment** /'nju:t्रimənt/, /nyoo-tri-ment/ *n* food needed for life and growth.

**nutrition** /nju:t्रɪʃən/, /nyoo-tri-shun/ *n* 1 food, nourishment. 2 the process of giving or getting food.

**nutritious** /nju:t्रɪʃəs/, /nyoo-tri-shus/ *adj* good for the health of the body.

**nuzzle** /'nuzəl/, /nu-zul/ *vb* 1 to push or rub with the nose. 2 to press close up to.

**nylon** /'nailən/, /nie-lon/ *n* a strong lightweight synthetic material.

**nymph** /nimf/, /nimf/ *n* in legend, a goddess of forests, rivers, trees, etc.

# O

**O, o** /o:/, /oh/ the 15th letter of the English alphabet.

**oaf** /o:f/, /oaf/ *n* a stupid or clumsy person.

**oak** /o:k/, /oak/ *n* a hardwood tree that bears acorns.

**OAP** /o:ei'pi:/, /owe-ay-pea/ *abbr = old age pensioner*: *n* a person who is old enough to receive a state pension.

**oar** /ɔr/, /oar/ *n* a pole with a flat broad end, used for rowing a boat.

**oarlock** /'ɔrlɒk/, /oar-lock/ *n* a U-shaped device on the side of a boat for keeping an oar in place.

**oarsman** /'ɔrzmən/, /oarz-man/ *n* a rower. • *n* **oarsmanship**.

**oasis** /o:'eisis/, /oa-ay-sis/ *n* (*pl oases*) a place in the desert where there is water and trees and plants grow.

**oat** /o:t/, /oat/ *n*, **oats** /oats/ *npl* a grain often used for food.

**oatcake** /'o:tkeɪk/, /oat-cake/ *n* a thin cake made of oatmeal.

**oath** /o:θ/, /oath/ *n* 1 a solemn promise, especially one made in God's name. 2 a swear word.

**oatmeal** /'o:tmi:l/, /oat-meel/ *n* oats ground to powder.

**obedient** /o:'bi:dɪənt/, /oa-bee-dee-ent/ *adj* willing to do what you are told. • *n* **obedience**.

**obelisk** /'ɒbəlɪsk/, /ob-el-isk/ *n* a tall four-sided stone monument, narrowing to a point at its top.

**obese** /o:'bi:s/, /oa-beess/ *adj* very fat. • *n* **obesity**.

**obey** /o:'beɪ/, /oa-bay/ *vb* 1 to do what you are told. 2 to carry out.

**obituary** /o:'bitʃu:əri/, /oa-bi-chu-we-ree/ *n* 1 a list of deaths. 2 a newspaper account of the life of a person who has recently died.

**object** /'ɒbdʒekt/, /ob-ject/ *n* 1 anything that can be perceived by the senses. 2 aim, purpose. 3 in grammar, a word governed by a verb or preposition. • *vb* /ob-ject/ 1 to express dislike. 2 to speak against.

**objection** /əb'dʒækʃən/, /ob-jec-shun/ *n* a reason against.

**objectionable** /əb'dʒekʃənəbəl/, /ob-jec-shu-na-bul/ *adj* deserving to be disliked, unpleasant.

**objective** /əb'dʒektv/, /ob-jec-tiv/ *adj* not depending on, or influenced by, personal opinions. • *n* aim, purpose. • *adv* **objectively**.

**objector** /əb'dʒektər/, /ob-jec-tor/ *n* a person who objects.

**obligation** /ɒblɪ'geɪʃən/, /ob-li-gay-shun/ *n* 1 a duty, a promise that must be kept. 2 gratitude due to another for kindness or help.

**obligatory** /ə'bliɡətɔri/, /o-bli-ga-toe-ree/ *adj* that which has to be done (e.g. as a duty), compulsory.

**oblige** /ə'blaɪdʒ/, /o-blije/ *vb* 1 to force or make it necessary to do. 2 to do a kindness to or service for.

**obliging** /ə'blaɪdʒɪŋ/, /o-bli-jing/ *adj* ready to help, kind.

**oblique** /ə'blik/, /o-bleek/ *adj* 1 slanting. 2 indirect, roundabout.

**obliterate** /ə'blɪtə'reit/, /o-bli-te-rate/ *vb* 1 to destroy utterly. 2 to blot out. • *n* **obliteration**.

**oblivion** /ə'blɪviən/, /o-bli-vee-on/ *n* 1 the state of being unaware, forgetfulness. 2 the state of being forgotten.

**oblivious** /ə'blɪviəs/, /o-bli-vee-us/ *adj* unaware of, not paying attention to.

**oblong** /'ɒblɔŋ/, /ob-long/ *n* 1 a four-sided figure with all angles right angles and one pair of sides longer than the other pair. 2 a figure or object so shaped. • *adj* having this shape.

**obnoxious** /ɒb'nɒkʃəs/, /ob-nok-shus/ *adj* very unpleasant, hateful.

**oboe** /'o:bo:/, /o-bo/ *n* a wooden wind instrument. • *n* **oboist**.

**obscene** /ɒb'si:n/, /ob-seen/ *adj* disgusting, indecent. • *adv* **obscenely**. • *n* **obscenity**.

**obscure** /ɒb'skjʊər/, /ob-scyoor/ *adj* 1 not clear in meaning. 2 not well-known, not famous. • *vb* 1 to hide from view. 2 to make more difficult.

**obscurity** /ɒb'skjʊriti/, /ob-scyoo-ri-tee/ *n* the state of being obscure.

**observance** /ɒb'zɜrvəns/, /ob-zer-vans/ *n* 1 the act of observing. 2 the act of obeying.

**observant** /ɒb'zɜrvənt/, /ob-zer-vant/ *adj* quick to notice things.

**observation** /ɑbzər'veɪʃən/, /ob-zer-vay-shun/ *n* 1 the act, power, or habit of observing. 2 a remark.

**observatory** /ɑb'zərvətɔri/, /ob-zer-va-toe-ree/ *n* a place from which scientists study the stars, the planets, and the heavens.

**observe** /ɑb'zərv/, /ob-zerv/ *vb* 1 to see, to notice. 2 to watch carefully. 3 to carry out. 4 to say, to make a remark.

**observer** /ɑb'zərvər/, /ob-zer-ver/ *n* 1 a person who observes. 2 a person whose job it is to take careful notice of what is going on.

**obsess** /ɑb'ses/, /ob-sess/ *vb* to take up all your thoughts and interest. • *adj* **obsessive**.

**obsession** /ɑb'seʃən/, /ob-se-shun/ *n* an idea or interest that takes up all your attention so that you never think about other things.

**obsolete** /ɑbsə'li:t/, /ob-so-leet/ *adj* no longer in use, out-of-date.

**obstacle** /'ɑbstəkəl/, /ob-sta-cul/ *n* that which is in the way and prevents progress.

**obstacle race** /'ɑbstəkəl,\_reis/, /ob-sta-cul race/ *n* a race in which the runners have to find their way under, over, or through certain objects placed on the course to hinder them.

**obstetrician** /ɑbstə'triʃən/, /ob-ste-tri-shun/ *n* a doctor who specializes in obstetrics.

**obstetrics** /ɑbstətriks/, /ob-stet-riks/ *n* the branch of medicine concerned with childbirth.

**obstinate** /'ɑbstənət/, /ob-sti-nit/ *adj* 1 determined to hold to your own opinions, etc; stubborn. 2 not easy to cure or remove. • *n* **obstinacy**.

**obstruct** /ɑb'strɛkt/, /ob-struct/ *vb* 1 to stop up. 2 to prevent from moving or acting freely.

**obstruction** /ɑb'strækʃən/, /ob-struc-shun/ *n* 1 a cause of delay. 2 an obstacle.

**obstructive** /ɑb'strɛktiv/, /ob-struc-tiv/ *adj* causing delay.

**obtain** /ɑb'teɪn/, /ob-tane/ *vb* to get.

**obtainable** /ɑb'teɪnəbəl/, /ob-tay-na-bul/ *adj* that can be gotten.

**obtuse** /ɑb'tju:s/, /ob-tyoos/ *adj* 1 stupid, slow to understand. 2 (of an angle) greater than a right angle.

**obvious** /'ɒbviəs/, /ob-vee-us/ *adj* easily seen or understood. • *adv obviously.*

**occasion** /ə'keɪʒən/, /o-cay-zhun/ *n* 1 a particular time. 2 a special event. 3 (*fml*) a reason. 4 (*fml*) opportunity. • *vb* to cause.

**occasional** /ə'keɪʒənəl/, /o-cay-zhnal/ *adj* 1 happening now and then. 2 having to do with a particular event or occasion. • *adv occasionally.*

**occult** /ɒ'kʌlt/, /o-cult/ *adj* secret, mysterious, having to do with magic.

**occupancy** /'ɒkjupənsi/, /ok-yu-pan-see/ *n* 1 act of going to live in a house. 2 the time during which you live there.

**occupant** /'ɒkjupənt/, /oc-yu-pant/, **occupier** /oc-yu-pie-er/ *n* the person living in a house.

**occupation** /'ɒkjʊ'peɪʃən/, /oc-yu-pay-shun/ *n* 1 act of occupying. 2 the time during which a place is occupied. 3 your job. 4 that which you are doing at a certain time. • *adj occupational.*

**occupy** /'ɒkjupai/, /oc-yu-pie/ *vb* 1 to take possession of. 2 to live in. 3 to fill. 4 to keep busy. 5 to take up.

**occur** /ə'kər/, /u-cur/ *vb* (occurred, occurring) 1 to happen. 2 to come to the mind. 3 to be found here and there.

**occurrence** /ə'kərəns/, /u-cu-rencə/ *n* a happening, an event.

**ocean** /'o:ʃən/, /o-shin/ *n* 1 the vast body of salt water surrounding the land on the earth. 2 a large sea. • *adj oceanic.*

**ocelot** /'ɒsələt/, /oss-uh-lot/ *n* a spotted wildcat found in parts of America

**o'clock** /ə'klɒk/, /u-clock/ *adv* according to the clock.

**octagon** /'ɒktəgən/, /oc-ta-gon/ *n* a figure or shape with eight angles and sides.

**octagonal** /ɒk'tægənəl/, /oc-tag-nal/ *adj* eight-sided.

**octave** /'ɒktəv/, /oc-tave/ *n* 1 (*mus*) a scale of eight notes beginning and ending with a note of the same tone but a different pitch. 2 a stanza of eight lines.

**octet** /ɒk'tet/, /oc-tet/ *n* a piece of music for eight singers or instruments.

**October** /ɒk'to:bər/, /oc-toe-ber/ *n* the tenth month of the year.

**octogenarian** /'ɒktədʒə'nærɪən/, /oc-ta-je-nay-ree-an/ *n* a person who is 80 years old or between 80 and 90.

**octopus** /'ɒktəpəs/, /oc-to-pus/ *n* a sea creature with eight arms.

**odd** /ɒd/, /ɒd/ *adj* 1 (*of a number*) not even, that cannot be divided by two without leaving a remainder of one. 2 strange, unusual. 3 unmatched. • *adv oddly*.

**oddity** /'ɒdɪti/, /od-i-tee/ *n* something strange or unusual, a strange person.

**oddment** /'ɒdmənt/, /od-ment/ *n* a piece left over.

**odds** /ɒdz/, /odz/ *npl* the chances in favour of a certain happening or result. • **at odds with** on bad terms with. • **by all odds** in every way, without question. • **odds and ends** extra pieces or things of various kinds.

**ode** /o:d/, /ode/ *n* a poem in which the writer expresses his or her ideas or feelings on a certain subject at some length.

**odious** /'o:diəs/, /oe-dee-us/ *adj* hateful, disgusting.

**odium** /'o:diəm/, /oe-dee-um/ *n* (*frm*) hatred, widespread dislike or blame.

**odor** US variant of **odour**.

**odorous** /'o:dərəs/, /oe-du-rus/ *adj* having a smell, especially a characteristic one.

**odour** /'o:dər/, /oe-dur/ *n*, also **odor** (US) any smell, pleasant or unpleasant.

**odourless** /'o:dərlɪs/, /oe-dur-less/ *adj*, also **odorless** (US) having no smell.

**odyssey** /'ɒdɪsi/, /od-i-see/ *n* (*lit*) a long adventurous journey.

**o'er** /'o:ər/, /oar/ *prep, adv* (*lit*) over.

**oesophagus** /ə'safəgəs/, /i-sof-a-gus/ *n*, also **esophagus** (US) the tube that goes from your throat to your stomach.

**of** /əv, ɒv/, /ov/ *prep* 1 belonging to. 2 relating to. 3 made of. 4 from.

**off** /ɒf/, /off/ *adv* 1 away. 2 distant. • *adj* 1 not happening. 2 (*inf*) not fit to eat, bad, rotten. • *prep* away from, not on.

**offal** /'ɒfəl/, /of-al/ *n* the inner organs of an animal, sold as food or regarded as waste matter.

**offence** /ə'fens/, /o-fense/ *n, also offense (US)* **1** a wrongful act. **2** hurt done to the feelings, a feeling that you have been insulted.

**offend** /ə'fend/, /o-fend/ *vb* **1** to displease, to hurt someone's feelings. **2 (fml)** to do wrong. **3** to be unpleasant or disagreeable.

**offender** /ə'fendər/, /o-fen-der/ *n* **1** a person who does wrong. **2** a person who causes offence.

**offense** US variant of **offence**.

**offensive** /ə'fensiv/, /o-fen-siv/ *adj* **1** unpleasant. **2** insulting. **3** having to do with attack. • *n* an attack.

**offer** /'ɒfər/, /off-er/ *vb* **1** to give someone the chance of taking. **2** to say that you are willing. **3** to give as a sacrifice. • *n* **1** act of offering. **2** the thing or amount offered.

**offering** /'ɒfərɪŋ/, /off-er-ing/ *n* **1 (fml or hum)** a gift. **2 (old)** that which is sacrificed to God. **3** a sum of money given at a religious service, used for the work of the church.

**offhand** /ɒf'hænd/, /off-hand/ *adj* careless, thoughtless.

**office** /'ɒfɪs/, /off-is/ *n* **1** a special duty. **2** a job, especially one in the service of the public. **3** a room or building in which business is carried on. **4 (fml)** an act of kindness.

**officer** /'ɒfɪsər/, /off-i-ser/ *n* a person who holds a post with certain powers or duties, especially in the armed forces.

**official** /ə'fiʃəl/, /o-fi-shal/ *adj* **1** having to do with an office or the duties attached to it. **2** given out or announced by those with the right to do so. • *n* a person who holds a post with certain powers or duties. • *adv officially*.

**officialdom** /ə'fiʃəldəm/, /o-fi-shal-dom/ *n* **1** all those holding public office. **2** an unbending attitude of holding to regulations and routine.

**off-licence** /'ɒflaisəns/, /off-lie-sense/ *n* a shop that sells alcoholic drink to be drunk elsewhere.

**off-peak** /ɒf'pi:k/, /off-peek/ *adj* happening when, for example, the city is less busy.

**off-putting** /ɒf'putɪŋ/, /off-poo-ting/ *adj* discouraging.

**offset** /'ɒfsɛt/, /off-set/ *vb (offset, offsetting)* to make up for.

**offshoot** /'ɔfʃu:t/, /off-shoot/ *n* 1 a branch or shoot growing out from the main stem of a plant. 2 something growing out of something else.

**offshore** /'ɔfʃɔ:r/, /off-shore/ *adj* towards the sea. • *adv offshore*.

**offside** /'ɔf'saɪd/, /off-side/ *adv, adj* in football, in a position disallowed by the rules when the ball was last kicked or struck.

**offspring** /'ɔfsprɪŋ/, /off-spring/ *n* a child or children.

**often** /'ɔfən/, /off-en/ *adv* frequently.

**ogle** /'o:gəl/, /o-gul/ *vb* to look sidewise at, to look or stare at because of admiration or physical attraction.

**ogre** /'o:gər/, /o-gur/ *n* in fairy tales, a man-eating giant. • *f ogress*.

**ohm** /'o:m/, /oam/ *n* the unit of measurement of electrical resistance.

**oil** /'ɔɪl/, /oil/ *n* a greasy liquid obtained from vegetable, animal, or mineral sources, and used as a food, fuel, lubricant, etc. • *npl oil* paints or painting. • *vb* to put or drop oil on, as on the parts of a machine to make them work smoothly.

**oil painting** /'ɔɪl ,peɪntɪŋ/, /oil pane-ting/ *n* a picture done in oils.

**oilskin** /'ɔɪlskm/, /oil-skin/ *n* a cloth made waterproof with oil.

**oily** /'ɔɪli/, /oi-lee/ *adj* 1 covered with oil. 2 greasy.

**ointment** /'ɔɪntmənt/, /oint-ment/ *n* an oily paste rubbed on the skin to heal cuts or sores.

**OK** /o:'keɪ/, /o-kay/ *adv, adj (inf)* all right.

**old** /o:ld/, /oald/ *adj* 1 not new. 2 aged. 3 belonging to the past. 4 not fresh.

**olden** /'o:ldən/, /'o:ldən/, *adj (old)* of former times. • *npl olden days*.

**old-fashioned** /o:ld 'faʃənd/, /oald-fa-shund/ *adj* out-of-date.

**olive** /'ɒliv/, /ol-iv/ *n* 1 an evergreen tree bearing a small, sharp-tasting fruit, from which oil can be obtained. 2 its fruit, used as food. • *adj* yellowish green. • *n olive oil*.

**olive branch** /'ɒliv ,brænts/, /ol-iv branch/ *n* a sign of peace.

**olive-skinned** /'ɒliv ,skɪnd/, /ol-iv-skɪnd/ *adj* having a yellowish-brown skin.

**Olympic** /ə'lɪmpɪk/, /o-lim-pic/ *adj* having to do with Olympia in Greece, and the games held there every four years in ancient

times. • *n* **Olympic Games** /ɒlɪmpɪk 'geɪmz/, /o-lim-pic gaymz/ *n*  
an international athletic contest held every four years, each time in  
a different country.

**omelette** /'omlət/, /om-let/ *n*, also **omelet** (*US*) eggs beaten and fried  
in a pan, usually served folded in half.

**omen** /'o:mən/, /o-men/ *n* a sign of a future event, good or bad.

**ominous** /'ɒmɪnəs/, /om-in-us/ *adj* signifying future trouble or  
disaster.

**omit** /o:'mit/, /o-mit/ *vb* (**omitted**, **omitting**) **1** to fail to do. **2** to leave  
out. • *n* **omission**.

**omnibus** /'ɒmnɪbəs/, /om-ni-bus/ *n* **1** (*old*) a bus. **2** a book containing  
several works by the same author or on the same subject.

**omnivorous** /ɒm'nɪvərəs/, /om-niv-rus/ *adj* (*fml* or *hum*) eating all  
kinds of food.

**on** /ɒn/, /on/ *adv* **1** being worn. **2** forward. • *adj* in operation. • *prep*  
on top of.

**once** /wəns/, /wunse/ *adv* **1** on one occasion only. **2** formerly. • **once**  
**and for all** once and never again. • **at once** immediately.

**oncoming** /'ɒn,kəmɪŋ/, /on-cu-ming/ *adj* approaching.

**one** /wən/, /wun/ *adj* **1** the number coming before two. **2** single. •  
*pron* a person.

**one-off** /wən'ɒf/, /wun-off/ *adj* happening or done only once. • *n* **1**  
something that is done or made only once. **2** (*inf*) someone who is  
completely different from other people.

**one-sided** /wən'saɪdəd/, /wun-sie-did/ *adj* favouring one party or point  
of view only.

**one-way** /wən'wei/, /wun-way/ *adj* of a street, allowing movement of  
traffic in one direction only.

**ongoing** /'ɒn,go:iŋ/, /on-go-wing/ *adj* continuing, continuing to  
develop.

**onion** /'ənjən/, /un-yun/ *n* a strong-smelling edible bulb, often used in  
cooking.

**online** /ɒn'lain/, /on-line/ *adj* controlled by or connected to a central  
computer or connected to the Internet. • *also adv*.

**onlooker** /'ɒn'lʊkər/, /awn-loo-ker/ *n* a spectator, a person who looks at what is happening but takes no part in it.

**only** /'ɔ:nli/, /oan-lee/ *adv* no more than. • *conj* except that.

**only child** /o:nli:'tʒaɪld/, /oan-lee childe/ *n* a person who has no brothers or sisters.

**onomatopoeia** /ɒnə'mætə'pi:ə/, /on-o-ma-to-pay-a/ *n* forming words by imitating sounds (e.g. hiss, bang). • *adj* **onomatopoeic**.

**onrush** /'ɒnreʃ/, /on-rush/ *n* a rapid advance.

**onset** /'ɒnset/, /on-set/ *n* the first attack of or the beginning of.

**onshore** /'ɒnʃɔ:r/, /on-shore/ *adj* towards the shore. • *adv* **onshore**.

**onslaught** /'ɒnslɔ:t/, /on-slot/ *n* a fierce attack.

**onward** /'ɒnwərd/, /on-ward/ *adj* forward. • *adv* **onwards**.

**onyx** /'ɒnɪks/, /aw-niks/ *n* a precious stone containing layers of different colours.

**ooze** /u:z/, /ooz/ *n* soft mud, slime. • *vb* 1 to flow very slowly. 2 to have flowing from.

**opacity** /o:'peɪsɪti/, see **opaque**.

**opal** /'o:pəl/, /oa-pall/ *n* a white precious stone that changes colour when turned in the light.

**opaque** /o:'peɪk/, /oa-pake/ *adj* that cannot be seen through, letting no light through. • *n* **opacity**.

**open** /'o:pən/, /oa-pen/ *adj* 1 not shut, uncovered. 2 ready for business. 3 not hidden. 4 free from obstructions. 5 public. 6 sincere. 7 clear. • *vb* 1 to make or become open. 2 to unlock. 3 to begin. • **in the open air** outside. • **open up** to build roads, etc, in a country to make progress possible.

**open-handed** /'o:pən 'hændɪd/, /oa-pen-han-did/ *adj (fml)* generous.

**opening** /'o:pniŋ/, /ope-ning/ *n* 1 beginning. 2 a gap, a way in or out. 3 an opportunity.

**openly** /'o:pənli/, /oa-pen-lee/ *adv* publicly, not secretly.

**open-minded** /'o:pən 'maɪndəd/, /oa-pen-mine-did/ *adj* ready to consider new ideas, unprejudiced.

**opera**<sup>1</sup> /'ɒpərə, 'ɒprə/, /aw-pə-ra, aw-pra/ *n* a musical drama in which all or some of the words are sung.

**opera**<sup>2</sup> see [opus](#).

**opera glasses** /'ɒpərə 'glæsɪz, 'ɒprə-/ , /aw-pə-ra **gla-siz**, aw-pra-/ *npl* glasses used in the theatre to magnify the stage and players.

**operate** /'ɒpə'reɪt/, /aw-pe-rate/ *vb* **1** (*machine*) to work or to cause to work. **2** (*surgeon*) to cut the body in order to cure or treat a diseased part.

**operatic** /,ɒpə'rætɪk/, /aw-pe-**ra-tic**/ *adj* having to do with opera.

**operating system** /'ɒpə'reɪtɪŋ sɪstəm/, /aw-pe-ray-ting si-stem/ *n* the software that controls the operation of a computer.

**operation** /,ɒpə'reɪʃən/, /aw-pe-**ray-shun**/ *n* **1** action. **2** the way a thing works. **3** the cutting of the body by a doctor or surgeon to cure or treat a diseased or injured part.

**operative** /'ɒprətɪv/, /aw-pra-tiv/ *adj* **1** in action. **2** having effect. • *n* a worker in a factory.

**operator** /'ɒpə'reɪtər/, /aw-pe-ray-tor/ *n* a person who looks after a machine.

**operetta** /,ɒpə'retə/, /aw-pe-**re-ta**/ *n* a short, not too serious, musical play.

**ophthalmic** /ɒf'θælmɪk/, /of-thal-mic/ *adj* having to do with the eye(s).

**opinion** /ə'pɪnjən/, /o-pin-yun/ *n* **1** that which you think or believe about something. **2** judgement.

**opinionated** /ə'pɪnjəneɪtəd/, /o-pin-yu-nay-tid/, **opinionative** /o-pin-yu-na-tiv/ *adjs* sure that your opinions are correct.

**opium** /'o:pɪəm/, /o-pee-yum/ *n* a sleep-producing drug made from poppy seeds.

**opossum** /ə'pɒsəm/, /o-poss-um/ *n* a small animal that carries its young in a pouch.

**opponent** /ə'pɔ:nənt/, /o-po-**nent**/ *n* an enemy, a person whom you try to overcome in a game, argument, etc.

**opportune** /,ɒpər'tu:n/, /op-or-toon/ *adj* happening at the right time.

**opportunist** /,ɒpər'tu:nɪst/, /op-or-**too-nist**/ *n* a person who takes advantage of opportunities that occur). • *adj* **opportunistic**.

**opportunity** /,ɒpər'tju:nəti/, /op-or-**choo-ni-tee**/ *n* happening at the right time.

**oppose** /ə'po:z/, /o-poaz/ *vb* **1** to act or speak against. **2** to resist.

**opposite** /'ɒpəzɪt/, /op-u-zit/ *adj* **1** facing. **2** in the same position on the other side. **3** different in every way. • *n* something in every way different. • *adv, prep* across from.

**opposition** /ɒpə'zɪʃən/, /op-u-zi-shun/ *n* **1** the act of going or speaking against, resistance. **2** (often cap) in politics, the party that criticizes or resists the governing party.

**oppress** /ə'pres/, /o-press/ *vb* **1** to govern harshly or unjustly, to treat cruelly. **2** to make gloomy or anxious. • *n* **oppression**.

**oppressive** /ə'presɪv/, /o-pre-siv/ *adj* **1** harsh and unjust. **2** (of the weather) hot and tiring.

**opt** /ɒpt/, /opt/ *vb* to choose. • **opt out** to choose not to do something.

**optic** /'ɒptɪk/, /op-tic/, **optical** /op-ti-call/ *adjs* having to do with sight or the eye(s).

**optician** /ɒp'tɪʃən/, /op-ti-shan/ *n* a person who makes or sells glasses for the eyes.

**optics** /'ɒptɪks/, /op-tics/ *n* the science of light or sight.

**optimal** /'ɒptɪməl/, /op-ti-mal/ *adj* best.

**optimism** /'ɒptɪmɪzəm/, /op-ti-mi-zum/ *n* the belief that all that happens is for the best, cheerful hope that all will go well.

**optimist** /'ɒptɪmɪst/, /op-ti-mist/ *n* a cheerfully hopeful person.

**optimistic** /'ɒptɪmɪstɪk/, /op-ti-mi-stic/ *adj* having to do with or characterized by optimism. • *adv* **optimistically**.

**optimum** /'ɒptɪməm/, /op-ti-mum/ *adj, n* best.

**option** /'ɒpʃən/, /op-shun/ *n* choice.

**optional** /'ɒpjənəl/, /op-shnal/ *adj* that may be done or not, by choice.

**opulence** /'ɒpjuləns/, /op-yu-lense/ *n* (fml) riches, wealth.

**opulent** /'ɒpjulənt/, /op-yu-lent/ *adj* (fml) rich, wealthy.

**opus** /'o:pəs/, /oa-pus/ *n* (pl **opuses** or **opera**) **1** (fml) a work of art. **2** a musical work numbered in order of composition.

**or** /ɔr, ərl/, /awr/ *conj* used to link alternatives.

**oracle** /'ɔrəkəl, 'ɒ-/ , /aw-ra-cul/ *n* **1** in legend, the answer given to a question by or on behalf of a god. **2** the place where such answers were given. **3** a person who answers on behalf of a god. **4** (often *hum*) a wise or knowledgeable person.

**oral** /'ɔrəl/, /oar-al/ *adj* spoken, not written. • *adv orally*.

**orange** /'ɔrindʒ, 'ɒ-/ , /aw-ranj/ *n* **1** a juicy fruit with a reddish yellow skin. **2** the tree bearing it. **3** its colour, reddish-yellow. • *adj* of orange colour.

**orangutan** /o:ræŋju:tæn/, /aw-rang-u-tan/ *n* a large man-like ape with long arms.

**oration** /ɔ'reiʃən, ər-/ , /aw-ray-shun/ *n* (*fm*) a formal public speech.

**orator** /'ɔrətər/, /aw-ra-tor/ *n* a skilled public speaker.

**orb** /ɔrb/, /awrb/ *n* (*lit*) a sphere, a round object.

**orbit** /'ɔrbɪt/, /awr-bit/ *n* the curved path of a planet, comet, rocket, etc, around a larger heavenly body. • *adj orbital*.

**orchard** /'ɔrtʃərd/, /awr-chard/ *n* a field in which fruit trees are grown.

**orchestra** /'ɔrkəstrə/, /awr-ke-stra/ *n* **1** a group of musicians skilled in different instruments who play together. **2** the place where they sit in a hall or theatre.

**orchestral** /ɔrkəstrəl/, /awr-ke-stral/ *adj* suitable for performance by an orchestra.

**orchestrate** /'ɔrkə,streɪt/, /awr-ke-strate/ *vb* **1** to arrange for an orchestra. **2** to organize or arrange. • *n orchestration*.

**orchid** /'ɔrkɪd/, /awr-kid/ *n* a showy flower with unusually shaped petals.

**ordain** /ɔr'deɪn/, /awr-dane/ *vb* **1** (*fm*) to order. **2** to admit to office as a priest or minister of religion.

**ordeal** /ɔr'di:l/, /awr-deel/ *n* a difficult, painful experience.

**order** /'ɔrdər/, /awr-der/ *n* **1** a methodical arrangement. **2** a command. **3** rank, class. **4** obedience to law. **5** tidiness. **6** an instruction to make or supply something. **7** a body or brotherhood of people of the same profession, etc; a religious brotherhood obeying a certain rule. • *vb* **1** to arrange. **2** to command. **3** to give an instruction to make or supply.

**orderly** /'ɔrdərlɪ/, /awr-der-lee/ *adj* 1 tidy, well-arranged. 2 well-behaved. • *n* 1 a soldier who carries the orders and messages of an officer. 2 a hospital attendant.

**ordinal** /'ɔrdɪnəl/, /awr-di-nal/ *adj* showing the place in an order.

**ordinance** /'ɔrdɪnəns/, /awr-di-nans/ *n (fml)* a law, a command.

**ordinary** /'ɔrdɪnerɪ/, /awr-di-ne-ree/ *adj* usual, common, not exceptional. • *adv* **ordinarily**.

**ordination** /'ɔrdɪ'nейʃən/, /awr-di-nay-shun/ *n* the act or ceremony of admitting to office as a priest or minister of religion.

**ore** /ɔr/, /ore/ *n* rock from which metal is obtained.

**oregano** /ɔ'regəno:/, /awr-re-ga-no/ *n* the dried leaves of the herb marjoram, used in cooking.

**organ** /'ɔrgən/, /awr-gan/ *n* 1 part of an animal or plant that serves some special purpose. 2 a large musical instrument supplied with wind through pipes and played by a keyboard. 3 a means of conveying views or information to the public (e.g. a newspaper).

**organic** /ɔr'gænɪk/, /awr-ga-nic/ *adj* 1 having to do with an organ. 2 produced by living organs. 3 grown without the use of artificial fertilizers. • *adv* **organically**.

**organise** see **organize**.

**organism** /'ɔr'gə,nɪzəm/, /awr-ga-ni-zum/ *n* 1 any living thing. 2 anything in which the parts all work together to serve one purpose.

**organist** /'ɔrgənist/, /awr-ga-nist/ *n* a person who plays the organ.

**organization** /'ɔrgənaɪ'zeɪʃən/, /awr-ga-ni-zay-shun/ *n also organisation* 1 orderly arrangement. 2 a group of people working systematically to carry out a common purpose. • *adj* **organizational**, *also organisational*.

**organize** /'ɔrgə,nائز/, /awr-ga-nize/ *vb, also organise* 1 to put together in an orderly way, to make to work systematically. 2 to arrange. • *n* **organizer**, *also organisier*.

**orgasm** /'ɔrgæzəm/, /awr-ga-zm/ *n* the climax of sexual excitement.

**orgy** /'ɔrgi/, /awr-jee/ *n* 1 a wild or drunken party, with excessive drinking and indiscriminate sexual activity. 2 a wild excess of something.

**orient** /'ɔri,ənt/, /awr-ree-ent/ *vb* to orientate.

**Orient** /'ɔriɛnt/, /aw-ree-ent/ *n* the East.

**oriental** /ɔri'ɛntəl, ɔr-/ , /aw-ree-**en**-tal/ *adj* Eastern, Asian. • *n* a native of an Eastern or Asian country.

**Orientalist** /ɔri'ɛntəlist/, /oa-ree-**en**-ta-list/ *n* a person who studies Eastern languages.

**orientate** /ɔriɛn'teɪt/, /aw-ree-en-tate/ *vb* 1 to find out north, south, east, and west from the point where you are standing. 2 to arrange or direct towards. • *n* **orientation**.

**orienteering** /ɔriɛn'ti:rɪŋ, ɔr-/ , /aw-ree-en-**tee**-ring/ *n* the sport of following a route on foot as quickly as possible, using a map and compass.

**orifice** /'ɔrifɪs/, /aw-ri-fiss/ *n* (*frm*) an opening.

**origami** /ɔri'gæmi, ɔr/, /aw-ri-**ga**-mee/ *n* the Japanese art of paper-folding.

**origin** /'ɔridʒɪn/, /aw-ri-jin/ *n* 1 the place or point at which a thing begins; the beginning. 2 the cause.

**original** /ə'ridʒɪnəl/, /aw-ri-ji-nal/ *adj* 1 new, not thought of before. 2 first in order. 3 ready to think or act in a new way. 4 not copied. • *n* 1 an original work of art, etc. 2 a creative or eccentric person. • *adv* **originally**.

**originality** /ə'ridʒɪ'nɔlɪti:/, /aw-ri-ji-**na**-li-tee/ *n* the ability to think or act in a new way.

**originate** /ə'ridʒɪneɪt/, /aw-ri-ji-nate/ *vb* 1 to bring into being. 2 to come into being.

**oriole** /'ɔrio:l/, /aw-ree-ole/ *n* a bird with golden-yellow feathers.

**ornament** /'ɔrnəmənt/, /awr-na-ment/ *n* that which decorates or makes more attractive. • *vb* **ornament** to decorate. • *n* **ornamentation**.

**ornamental** /'ɔrnə'mentəl/, /awr-na-**men**-tal/ *adj* decorative.

**ornate** /ɔr'næt/, /awr-**nate**/ *adj* with a great deal of ornament, richly decorated.

**ornithology** /ɔrnɪ'θɒlədʒi/, /awr-na-**thol**-o-jee/ *n* the study of birds. • *n* **ornithologist** *n* a person who studies birds.

**orphan** /'ɔrfən/, /awr-fan/ *n* a child whose parents are dead. • *vb* to cause to become an orphan. • *also adj*.

**orphanage** /'ɔrfənɪdʒ/, /awr-fa-nidge/ *n* a home for orphans.

**orthodontist** /ɔrθə'dɔːntɪst/, /awr-tha-dawn-tist/ *n* a dentist who straightens teeth.

**orthodox** /'ɔrθə,dɒks/, /awr-tho-doks/ *adj* 1 having the same beliefs or opinions as most other people. 2 agreeing with accepted belief.  
• *n orthodoxy*.

**orthopaedic** /ɔrθə'dpi:dɪk/, /awr-tho-pee-dic/ *adj*, also **orthopedic** (US) having to do with injury or diseases of the bones or joints.

**osprey** /'ɒspreɪ/, /aw-spray/ *n* a hawk that feeds on fish.

**ostensible** /ɒ'stənsibəl/, /aw-sten-si-bul/ *adj* as far as can be seen, apparent. • *adv ostensibly*.

**ostentatious** /ɒstən'teɪʃəs/, /aw-sten-tay-shus/ *adj* showy, fond of display.

**osteopath** /'ɒstio:pəθ/, /aw-stee-o-path/ *n* a person who practises osteopathy.

**osteopathy** /ɒsti'ɒpəθi/, /aw-stee-op-a-thee/ *n* cure of pain or disease by massage or otherwise manipulating the bones.

**ostracize** /'ɒstrə,saɪz/, /aw-stra-size/ *vb*, also **ostracise** to drive out of society, to refuse to have anything to do with. • *n ostracism*.

**ostrich** /'ɒstrɪtʃ/, /aw-strich/ *n* a large swift-running bird valued for its feathers.

**other** /'ʌðər/, /u-ther/ *adj* 1 one of two things. 2 addition. 3 those not mentioned, present, etc.

**otherwise** /'ʌðər,waɪz/, /u-ther-wize/ *adv* 1 in a different way. 2 if this were not so.

**otter** /'ɒtər/, /aw-ter/ *n* a fish-eating animal of the weasel family.

**ottoman** /'atəmən/, /aw-to-man/ *adj* a sofa without back or arms.

**ought** /ɒt/, /awt/ *vb* should.

**ounce** /aʊns/, /ounse/ *n* 1 an imperial unit of weight (1/16 lb). 2 a small amount.

**our** /aur, ar/, /our/ *adj* belonging to us. • poss prns **ours**, **ourselves** /our-selvz/.

**oust** /əʊst/, /oust/ *vb* to put out, to drive out.

**out** /aut/, /out/ *adv* 1 not inside. 2 away. • *prep* out of, out through, outside. • *adj* 1 external. 2 asleep or unconscious. •

**out-and-out** /'autən'aut/, /ou-tan-(d)out/ *adj* thorough.

**outback** /'autbæk/, /out-back/ *n* a remote area of Australia with very few inhabitants.

**outbid** /aut'bid/, /out-bid/ *vb* to offer a higher price than another.

**outboard** /'autbɔrd/, /out-board/ *adj* attached to the outside of a boat.

**outbreak** /'autbreɪk/, /out-brake/ *n* a sudden beginning, a breaking out.

**outburst** /'autbərst/, /out-burst/ *n* a bursting out, an explosion.

**outcast** /'autkæst/, /out-cast/ *adj* driven away from your home and friends. • *n* a person who is so driven away.

**outcome** /'autkəm/, /out-come/ *n* the result.

**outcrop** /'autkrɒp/, /out-crop/ *n* a layer of rock that shows above the surface of the earth.

**outcry** /'autkraɪ/, /out-cry/ *n* widespread complaint.

**outdated** /'aut'deɪtəd/, /out-day-tid/ *adj* old-fashioned, out-of-date.

**outdo** /aut'du:/, /out-doo/ *vb* to do better than.

**outdoor** /'autdɔr/, /out-dore/ *adj* done in the open air.

**outdoors** /'aut'dɔrz/, /out-doarz/ *adv* in the open air. • *also n.*

**outer** /'autər/, /ou-ter/ *adj* 1 farther out. 2 outside.

**outermost** /'autər,mo:st/, /ou-ter-moast/ *adj* farthest out.

**outer space** /'autər,speɪs/, /ou-ter **space**/ *n* space beyond the earth's atmosphere.

**outfit** /'autfit/, /out-fit/ *n* 1 all the articles necessary for a certain job.

2 a set of articles of clothing.

**outgoings** /'aut,go:ɪŋz/, /out-go-ingz/ *npl* the money spent.

**outgrow** /'aut'gro:/, /out-gro/ *vb* 1 to grow taller than. 2 to grow too big or too old for.

**outing** /'autɪŋ/, /ou-ting/ *n* a short trip made for pleasure.

**outlast** /'aut'læst/, /out-last/ *vb* to last longer than.

**outlaw** /'autlɔ:/, /out-law/ *n* (old) someone whose person and property are no longer protected by the law. • *vb* 1 to declare an outlaw. 2 to declare not legal.

**outlet** /'autlət/, /out-let/ *n* 1 an opening outward. 2 an activity that allows you to make use of your powers or of a particular ability.

**outline** /'autlain/, /out-line/ *n* 1 a line showing the shape of a thing. 2 an account of the most important points, etc. • *vb* 1 to draw in outline. 2 to describe without giving details.

**outlive** /'aut'lɪv/, /out-liv/ *vb* to live longer than.

**outlook** /'autluk/, /out-look/ *n* 1 a view. 2 what seems likely to happen in future. 3 a point of view.

**outmoded** /'aut'mo:dəd/, /out-mo-did/ *adj* out of fashion.

**outnumber** /'aut'nʌməbər/, /out-num-ber/ *vb* to be greater in number than.

**out-of-date** /'autəv'deɪt/, /out-ov-date/ *adj* old-fashioned.

**outpatient** /'autpeɪʃənt/, /out-pay-shent/ *n* a person who visits a hospital for treatment but does not stay there overnight.

**outpost** /'autpo:st/, /out-poast/ *n* 1 a defended place close to enemy territory and in front of the main positions. 2 a settlement far from towns and main roads.

**output** /'autput/, /out-poot/ *n* the total amount produced by a machine, factory, worker, etc.

**outrage** /'autreɪdʒ/, /out-rage/ *n* 1 a violent and wicked deed. 2 a deed that shocks or causes widespread anger. • *vb* 1 to injure. 2 to insult. • *adj* **outrageous**.

**outrider** /'autraɪdər/, /out-rie-der/ *n* a person who rides on horseback or on a motorcycle beside or in front of a vehicle.

**outright** /'autrəit, aut'rəit/, /out-rite, out-rite/ *adv* 1 completely and at once. 2 openly, frankly. • *adj* complete.

**outrun** /'aut'ren/, /out-run/ *vb* to run faster than.

**outset** /'autset/, /out-set/ *n* beginning.

**outside** /'aut'saɪd, 'autsaɪd/, /out-side, out-side/ *n* 1 the outer part or parts. 2 the part farthest from the centre. • *adj* 1 being on the outside, external. 2 outdoor. 3 slight. • *adv* on or to the outside. • *prep* on or to the exterior of, beyond.

**outsider** /'aut'saɪdər/, /out-sie-der/ *n* 1 a person who is not accepted as a member of a certain group. 2 a person who is believed to have little chance of winning.

**outskirts** /'aʊtskərts/, /out-skirts/ *npl* the parts of a town or city farthest from the centre.

**outsmart** /'aʊt'smart/, /out-smart/ *v* to outwit someone.

**outsource** /'aʊtso:s/, /out-source/ *vb* to give work to, or obtain services from, people who are not employed within an organization.

**outspoken** /'aʊt'spo:kən/, /out-spo-ken/ *adj* saying just what you think, frank.

**outstanding** /'aʊt'stændɪŋ/, /out-stan-ding/ *adj* 1 exceptionally good. 2 still in existence.

**outward** /'aʊtwərd/, /out-ward/ *adj* 1 on the outside or surface. 2 away from a place. • *adv* **outwards**, **outwardly**.

**outwit** /'aʊt'wit/, /out-wit/ *vb* to outdo or overcome by greater cleverness, to deceive.

**ova** see **ovum**.

**oval** /'o:vəl/, /oa-val/ *adj* egg-shaped. • *n* an oval shape or figure.

**ovary** /'o:vəri/, /oa-va-ree/ *n* 1 a bodily organ in which eggs are formed. 2 the seed case of a plant.

**ovation** /o:'veɪʃən/, /oa-vay-shun/ *n* enthusiastic applause.

**oven** /'əvən/, /u-ven/ *n* a small chamber heated by a fire or stove and used for cooking.

**over** /'o:vər/, /oa-ver/ *prep* 1 above. 2 across. 3 more than. • *adv* 1 above. 2 across. 3 from one side to the other or another. 4 more than the quantity assigned. 5 completed. 6 from beginning to end.

**overalls** /'o:vərɔ:lz/, /oa-ver-awlz/ *npl* a garment worn over your usual clothing to keep it clean.

**overawe** /,o:vər'ə/, /oa-ver-aw/ *vb* to frighten into obeying or being silent, to fill with silent respect.

**overbalance** /,o:vər'bæləns/, /oa-ver-ba-lanse/ *vb* 1 to lean too much in one direction and fall. 2 to cause to fall in this way.

**overbearing** /,o:vər'beɪrɪŋ/, /oa-ver-bay-ring/ *adj* proud and commanding.

**overboard** /'o:vər,bɔ:d/, /oa-ver-board/ *adv* over the side of a ship.

**overcast** /'o:vər,kæst/, /oa-ver-cast/ *adj* clouded over.

**overcharge** /'o:vər'tʃɑrdʒ/, /oa-ver-charge/ *vb* to ask for too great a price.

**overcoat** /'o:vər,kɔ:t/, /oa-ver-coat/ *n* a warm outer garment.

**overcome** /'o:vər'kəm/, /oa-ver-cum/ *vb* **1** to defeat. **2** to get the better of.

**overdo** /'o:vər'du:/, /oa-ver-doo/ *vb* **1** to do too much. **2** to cook for too long.

**overdose** /'o:vər,do:s/, /oa-ver-doass/ *n* too large a dose. • *also vb.*

**overdraft** /'o:vər,dræft/, /oa-ver-draft/ *n* the amount of money drawn from a bank in excess of what is available in an account.

**overdraw** /'o:vər'drɔ:/, /oa-ver-draw/ *vb* to take more from a bank than you have in your account.

**overdress** /'o:vər'dres/, /oa-ver-dress/ *vb* to dress too well for the occasion.

**overdue** /'o:vər'du:/, /-dju:/, /oa-ver-doo, -dyoo/ *adj* after the time fixed or due.

**overestimate** /'o:vər'ɛstɪmeɪt/, /oa-ver-e-sti-mate/ *vb* to set too high a value on.

**overexpose** /'o:vərɪk'spo:z/, /oa-ver-ek-spoaz/ *vb* to expose a photographic film to too much light.

**overflow** /'o:vər'flo:/, /oa-ver-flo/ *vb* to flood, to flow over the edge or limits of. • *n* /oa-ver-flo/ **1** what flows over the sides. **2** the amount by which something is too much.

**overgrown** /'o:vər'gro:n/, /oa-ver-groan/ *adj* grown beyond the normal size.

**overhand** /'o:vər,hænd/, /oa-ver-hand/ *adj* something done with your arm raised above your shoulder.

**overhaul** /'o:vər'hɔ:l/, /oa-ver-haul/ *vb* to examine thoroughly and carry out necessary repairs or improvements. • *n* /oa-ver-haul/.

**overhead** /'o:vər'hed/, /oa-ver-head/ *adj* and *adv* in the sky, above.

**overheads** /'o:vər'hedz/, /oa-ver-heads/ *npl* the cost of running a business.

**overhear** /'o:vər'hi:r/, /oa-ver-heer/ *vb* to hear what you are not intended to hear.

**overjoyed** /'o:vər'dʒɔɪd/, /oa-ver-joyd/ *adj* extremely happy.

**overland** /'o:vərlænd/, /oa-ver-land/ *adv* across land (not sea). • *adj* passing by land.

**overlap** /,o:vərlæp/, /oa-ver-lap/ *vb* to cover partly and go beyond.

**overleaf** /,o:vərli:f/, /oa-ver-leef/ *adv* on the reverse side of a page.

**overload** /,o:vərlɔ:d/, /oa-ver-load/ *vb* to add too heavy a load.

**overlook** /,o:vərluk/, /oa-ver-look/ *vb* 1 to look down on from above.

2 to forgive, to let off without punishment. 3 not to notice, to miss.

**overnight** /,o:vərnait/, /oa-ver-nite/ *adv* during the night. • *adj* done in or lasting the night.

**overpower** /,o:vərpauər/, /oa-ver-pow-er/ *vb* to defeat by greater strength.

**overpowering** /-,ɪŋ/, /oa-ver-pow-er-ing/ *adj* too great to bear.

**overrate** /,o:vər'reit/, /oa-ver-rate/ *vb* to think a person or thing better than he, she, or it really is.

**override** /,o:vər'raɪd/, /oa-ver-ride/ *vb* to decide to pay no attention to.

**overrule** /,o:vər'rul/, /oa-ver-rool/ *vb* to use your power to rule out the decision or judgment of another.

**overrun** /,o:vər'rən/, /oa-ver-run/ *vb* 1 to spread over in large numbers. 2 to continue beyond the expected time.

**oversaw** see **oversee**.

**oversea(s)** /,o:vərsi:z/, /oa-ver-see(z)/ *adj* and *adv* across the sea.

**oversee** /,o:vərsi:/, /oa-ver-see/ *vb* (*pt oversaw, pp overseen*) to direct the work of others. • *n overseer*.

**overshadow** /,o:vər'sædo:/, /oa-ver-sha-doe/ *vb* 1 to make less happy. 2 to make seem less important.

**overshoot** /,o:vər'shu:t/, /oa-ver-shoot/ (*pt, pp overshot*) *vb* to go beyond before stopping.

**oversight** /'o:vərsəit/, /oa-ver-site/ *n* a mistake, a failure to do something.

**oversleep** /,o:vər'sli:p/, /oa-ver-sleep/ *vb* (*pt, pp overslept*) to sleep later than intended.

**overstep** /,o:vər'step/, /oa-ver-step/ *vb* to go beyond the limits of.

**overt** /o:'vərt/, /oa-vert/ *adj* done or said openly, not hidden. • *adv overtly*.

**overtake** /'o:vər'teɪk/, /oa-ver-take/ *vb* 1 to pass while travelling in the same direction. 2 to become larger in number or amount, more important, etc. 3 to affect someone suddenly.

**overthrow** /'o:vər'θro:/, /oa-ver-throe/ *vb* to defeat, to remove from power. • *also n.*

**overtime** /'o:vər,taim/, /oa-ver-time/ *n* time worked beyond the regular hours. • *also adj and adv.*

**overture** /'o:vər,tʃər/, /oa-ver-choor/ *n* 1 a proposal, an offer. 2 the music played by the orchestra before an opera, etc.

**overturn** /'o:vər'tərn/, /oa-ver-turn/ *vb* 1 to turn upside down. 2 to make fall, to defeat, to ruin.

**overweight** /'o:vər'weɪt/, /oa-ver-wate/ *adj* weighing more than the proper amount. • *n* excess weight.

**overwhelm** /'o:vər'welm/, /oa-ver-whelm/ *vb* 1 to defeat utterly. 2 to overcome all your powers, to make feel helpless. • *adj overwhelming. • adv overwhelmingly.*

**overwork** /'o:vər'wɜ:k/, /oa-ver-wurk/ *vb* to work too hard. • *n* too much work.

**ovoid** /'o:vɔɪd/, /oa-void/ *adj* egg-shaped.

**ovum** /'o:vəm/, /oa-vum/ *n* (*pl ova*) an egg.

**owe** /o:/, /oa/ *vb* 1 to be in debt to. 2 to be obliged to (someone), to feel grateful to. • **owing to** because of.

**owl** /aʊl/, /owl/ *n* a night bird of prey.

**owlet** /'aʊlət/, /ow-let/ *n* a young owl.

**own** /o:n/, /oan/ *adj* belonging to yourself. • *vb* to possess. • **own up** to admit. • *n owner. • n ownership.*

**ox** /ɒks/, /oks/ *n* (*pl oxen*) a bull or cow. • *npl oxen* cattle.

**oxidation** /ɒksɪ'deɪʃən/, /ok-si-day-shun/ *n* compounding with oxygen.

**oxide** /'ɒksaɪd/, /ok-side/ *n* a compound of oxygen with another element.

**oxidize** /'ɒksɪdaɪz/, /ok-si-dize/ *vb*, *also oxidise* to unite with oxygen.

**oxygen** /'ɒksɪdʒən/, /ok-si-jen/ *n* a gas without colour, taste, or smell that is present in air and water, and is necessary for all life.

**oxygenate** /'ɒksɪdʒəneɪt/, /ok-si-je-nate/, **oxygenize** /'ɒksɪdʒənaɪz/, /ok-si-je-nize/, *also oxygenise* *vb* to mix with oxygen.

**oxymoron** /ɒksi:'mɔrən/, /ok-si-mo-ron/ *n* a figure of speech in which an adjective seems to contradict the noun it accompanies.

**oyster** /'ɔɪstər/, /oy-ster/ *n* an edible shellfish with a double shell in which pearls are sometimes found.

**oyster-catcher** /'ɔɪstər ,kætʃər/, /oy-ster-ca-cher/ *n* a bird of the seashore.

**ozone** /'o:zo:n/, /oa-zone/ *n* 1 a kind of colourless gas with a chlorinelike smell. 2 (*inf*) clean, bracing air as found at the shore.

**ozone layer** /'o:zo:n ,leɪər/, /oa-zone lair/ *n* a layer of ozone in the stratosphere that absorbs ultraviolet rays from the sun.

# P

**P, p** /pi:/, /pee/ the 16th letter of the English alphabet.

**pace** /peɪs/, /payss/ *n* **1** a step with the foot. **2** the distance so covered. **3** speed. • *vb* **1** to walk slowly. **2** to measure by steps.

**pacification** /,pæsəfɪ'keɪʃən/, /pa-si-fi-cay-shun/ *n* act of bringing peace.

**pacifier** /'pæsə,fair/, /pa-si-fie-er/ *n* (esp US) a rubber teat given to babies to suck on; a dummy.

**pacifism** /'pæsə,fizəm/, /pa-si-fi-zum/ *n* the belief that war is never right.

**pacifist** /'pæsə,fist/, /pa-si-fist/ *n* someone who works for the end of all war.

**pacify** /'pæsə,fai/, /pa-si-fie/ *vb* **1** to restore peace, to end a war in. **2** to calm, to soothe.

**pack** /pæk/, /pack/ *n* **1** a bundle of things fastened or strapped together. **2** a set of playing cards. **3** individual items grouped together into one package. **4** a number of animals acting or hunting together. **5** a gang. **6** a mass of floating pieces of ice. • *vb* **1** to make into a bundle, to put things into a case, etc. **2** to fill. **3** to fill to overflowing. **4** to fill with a person's own supporters.

**package** /'pækɪdʒ/, /pa-kidge/ *n* **1** a parcel, a bundle, usually sent by post. **2** a set of plans, proposals, services put forward or offered as a group. • *n* **package holiday** a holiday offered by a travel company at a fixed price covering both transport costs and accommodation costs.

**packaging** /'pækɪdʒɪŋ/, /pa-ka-jing/ *n* the materials in which objects are wrapped before being sold.

**pack animal** /'pækənɪməl/, /pack a-ni-mal/ *n* an animal used for carrying loads.

**packet** /'pækət/, /pa-kit/ *n* **1** a wrapped and sealed container, along with its contents. **2** a small parcel. **3** a mail boat.

**pack-ice** /'pækais/, /pa-**ck**-ice/ *n* a mass of floating pieces of ice.

**packing** /'pækɪŋ/, /pa-**king**/ *n* the paper, cardboard, etc, used to protect goods being delivered.

**pact** /pækt/, /pa-**ct**/ *n* an agreement.

**pad**<sup>1</sup> /pæd/, /pa-**d**/ *n* 1 a small cushion. 2 soft material used to protect or to alter shape. 3 sheets of paper fixed together. 4 the soft flesh on the foot of certain animals. • *vb* (**padded**, **padding**) 1 to fill out with soft material. 2 to make longer with unnecessary words.

**pad**<sup>2</sup> /pæd/, /pa-**d**/ *vb* to walk steadily and usually softly.

**padding** /'pædɪŋ/, /pa-**ding**/ *n* 1 soft material used for stuffing or filling out. 2 words, sentences, etc, put in merely to make something longer.

**paddle** /'pædəl/, /pa-**dul**/ *n* a short oar with a broad blade, sometimes at each end. • *vb* 1 to row with a paddle. 2 to walk in water with bare feet.

**paddle steamer** /'pædəl ,sti:mər/, /pa-**dul stee-mer**/ *n* a steamer driven by two large wheels turning in the water to make it move.

**paddock** /'pædək/, /pa-**dick**/ *n* 1 a small enclosed field. 2 an enclosure in which horses are assembled before a race.

**paddy field** /'pædi ,fi:ld/, /pa-**dee feeld**/ *n* a field in which rice is grown.

**padlock** /'pædlɒk/, /pa-**pad-lock**/ *n* a metal locking device that closes over two rings and thus fastens something. • *vb* to close with a padlock.

**paediatrician** /pi:dɪ'æ'trɪʃən/, /pee-dee-a-**tri-shan**/, also **pediatrician** (US) *n* a doctor specializing in children's illnesses.

**paediatrics** /pi:dɪ'ætrɪks/, /pee-dee-a-**tri-iks**/, also **pediatrics** (US) *n* the branch of medicine dealing with children's illnessss. • *adj* **paediatric**.

**paedophile** /'pi:də,fail/, /pee-**du-file**/, also **pedophile** (US) *n* a person who is sexually attracted to children.

**pagan** /'peɪgən/, /pa-**gan**/ *n* 1 someone who does not believe in any of the world's major religions. 2 someone who worships many gods. 3 someone who has no religion; heathen. • *n* **paganism**.

**page**<sup>1</sup> /peɪdʒ/, /paɪdʒ/ *n* **1** a boy servant, usually uniformed, in a hotel, club, etc. **2** a boy attendant on a bride at a wedding. **3** (*old*) a boy attendant of a knight or nobleman.

**page**<sup>2</sup> /peɪdʒ/, /paɪdʒ/ *n* one side of a sheet of paper in a book, etc.

**pageant** /'pædʒənt/, /paɪdʒənt/ *n* **1** a performance or procession, often presenting scenes from history. **2** a fine display or show.

**pageantry** /'pædʒəntri/, /paɪdʒəntri/ *n* splendid display.

**pagoda** /pə'go:də/, /paɪdʒədə/ *n* a pyramid-shaped temple in Eastern countries.

**paid** /peɪd/, *pt and pp of pay*.

**pail** /peɪl/, /pail/ *n* an open vessel with a handle for carrying liquids.

**pain** /peɪn/, /paɪn/ *n* **1** suffering of body or mind. **2** *pl* trouble, care. • *vb (fml)* to cause suffering to. • *adj* **painful**, **painless**. • **on pain of death** with death as a punishment.

**painstaking** /'peɪn,steɪkɪŋ/, /paɪn-stay-kiŋ/ *adj* **1** very careful. **2** taking great trouble.

**paint** /peɪnt/, /paɪnt/ *n* a colouring substance spread over the surface of an object with a brush. • *vb* **1** to put on paint. **2** to paint a picture. • *n painter*.

**paintbrush** /'peɪnt,brəʃ/, /paɪnt-brush/ *n* **1** a brush used for decorating a house with paint. **2** a brush used for painting pictures.

**painting** /'peɪntɪŋ/, /paɪn-tiŋ/ *n* a painted picture.

**pair** /peɪr/, /paɪr/ *n* **1** two things of the same kind, a set of two. **2** a couple, two people, animals, etc, often one of either sex, who are thought of as being together. • *vb* **1** to arrange in twos. **2** to join one to another.

**pal** /pæl/, /pal/ *n (inf)* a friend, comrade.

**pajamas** US variant of **pyjamas**.

**palace** /'pælɪs/, /paɪlɪs/ *n* a large and splendid house, especially the house of a king or queen. • *adj* **palatial**.

**palaeolithic** /,peɪliə'lɪθɪk/, /pay-lee-o-li-thic/ *adj, also paleolithic (US)* having to do with the early Stone Age.

**palaeontology** /,peɪliən'tɒlədʒi/, /pay-lee-on-tol-uh-jee/ *n, also paleontology (US)* the study of fossils and ancient life forms.

**palaeontologist** /peɪliən'tɒlədʒɪst/, /pay-lee-on-tol-uh-jist/ *n*, also **paleontologist** (US) someone who studies palaeontology.

**palate** /'pælət/, /pa-lit/ *n* 1 the roof of the mouth. 2 the sense of taste, the ability to tell good food or wine from bad. 3 a taste or liking.

**pale**<sup>1</sup> /peɪl/, /pale/ *adj* 1 lacking colour, whitish. 2 not dark in colour. • *vb* to make or become pale.

**pale**<sup>2</sup> /peɪl/, /pale/ *n* a pointed stake of wood driven into the ground as part of a fence. • **beyond the pale** beyond the limit of proper behaviour.

**paleolithic** US variant of **palaeolithic**.

**paleontology** US variant of **palaeontology**.

**paleontologist** US variant of **palaeontologist**.

**palette** /'pælət/, /pa-lit/ *n* a thin board on which an artist mixes paints.

**palindrome** /'pælmɪndro:m/, /pa-lin-droam/ *n* a word or phrase whose letters when read from end to beginning spell the same word (e.g. noon).

**palisade** /pælɪ'seɪd/, /pa-li-sade/ *n* (old) a defensive fence of stakes.

**pallet** /'pælət/, /pa-let/ *n* 1 a wooden platform on which goods can be carried by a fork-lift truck. 2 (old) a bed of straw.

**pallor** /'pælər/, /pa-lur/ *n* paleness.

**palm**<sup>1</sup> /pɒm/, /pahm/ *n* the inner part of the hand between the wrist and fingers. • *vb* **palm off** to get to accept something worthless.

**palm**<sup>2</sup> /pɒm/, /pahm/ *n* a tall tropical tree with a crown of long broad leaves at the top of the trunk.

**palmist** /'pɒmɪst/, /pah-mist/ *n* a person who claims to tell someone's future from the lines on their hand. • *n* **palmistry**.

**Palm Sunday** /pɒm 'sʌndfeɪ/, /pahm sun-day/ *n* the Sunday before Easter.

**palsy** /'pɒlzi/, /pawl-zee/ *n* a disease causing trembling of the limbs. • *adj* **palsied**.

**paltry** /'pɒltri/, /pawl-tree/ *adj* 1 contemptibly small, worthless. 2 mean.

**pampas** /'pæmpəs/, /pam-paz/ *npl* the vast grassy treeless plains of South America.

**pamper** /'pæmpər/, /pam-per/ *vb* to spoil by trying to please too much.

**pamphlet** /'pæmflət/, /pam-flit/ *n* a small paper-covered book.

**pan** /pæn/, /pan/ *n* 1 a metal pot used for cooking. 2 the tray of a balance or set of scales. • *vb* 1 to criticize severely. 2 **pan out** to turn out, to result.

**Pan** /'pæn/, /pan/ *n* in legend, the Greek god of nature and shepherds.

**pan-** /pæn/, /pan/ *prefix* all.

**panacea** /,pænə'si:ə/, /pa-na-**see**-ya/ *n* a cure for all diseases or evils.

**panache** /pə'næʃ/, /pa-nash/ *n* style, a dramatic show of skill, etc.

**pancake** /'pænkeɪk/, /pan-cake/ *n* a thin cake of batter cooked in a pan or on a griddle.

**pancreas** /'pæŋkriəs/, /pan-cree-as/ *n* a gland in the body that produces a fluid that helps digestion and produces insulin that helps the body to use glucose. • *adj* **pancreatic**.

**panda** /'pændə/, /pan-da/ *n* a large black-and-white animal found in China.

**pandemonium** /,pændə'mo:nɪəm/, /pan-di-**moe**-nee-um/ *n* a scene of noisy disorder, uproar.

**pander** /'pændər/, /pan-der/ *vb* to give in to the desires of a person or group.

**pane** /peɪn/, /pane/ *n* a single piece of glass in a window.

**panel** /'pænəl/, /pa-nul/ *n* 1 a thin board fitted into the framework of a door or on a wall or ceiling. 2 a group of people who discuss or answer questions put to them by others.

**pang** /pæŋ/, /pang/ *n* 1 a sudden sharp pain. 2 a sudden sharp feeling.

**panic** /'pæník/, /pa-nic/ *n* 1 a sudden uncontrollable fear. 2 sudden fear spreading through a crowd and causing wild disorder. • *also adj.*

**panic-stricken** /'pæník,strikən/, /pa-nic-**stri**-kin/ *adj* filled with panic.

**panorama** /,pænə'ræmə/, /pa-nu-**ra**-ma/ *n* 1 a wide view. 2 a general representation in words or pictures.

**pansy** /'pænzi/, /pan-zee/ *n* a large type of violet.

**pant** /pænt/, /pænt/ *vb* **1** to take short quick breaths. **2** to long for. • *n* a gasp.

**panther** /'pænθər/, /panth-er/ *n* a leopard, especially the black variety.

**panties** /'pæntiz/, /pan-tees/ *npl* women or children's underpants, knickers.

**pantomime** /'pæntə,maɪm/, /pan-tu-mime/ *n* **1** a story told through mime. **2** (Br) an amusing Christmas play, popular with children, with music and songs, based on a well-known story or fairy tale.

**pantry** /'pæntri/, /pan-tree/ *n* **1** a small room for keeping food. **2** a room in which food, dishes, cutlery, etc, are stored.

**pants** /pænts/, /pants/ *npl* **1** underpants. **2** knickers.

**paparazzi** /pæpæ'rætsi/, /pa-pa-rat-see/ *npl* (*sing paparazzo* /pa-pa-rat-so/) photographers who follow famous people (often intrusively) in order to take their photographs to sell to newspapers and magazines.

**papaw, pawpaw** /pə'pɔ:, 'pɔ,pɔ/, /paw-paw/ *n* a North American tree with edible fruit.

**papaya** /pə'paɪjə/, /pa-pie-ya/ *n* a yellow or orange, melonlike sweet-tasting tropical fruit.

**paper** /'peɪpər/, /pay-per/ *n* **1** a material made from wood pulp, rags, etc, and used for writing, printing, wrapping and many other purposes. **2** a newspaper. **3** an essay. **4** a set of examination questions on a subject or part of a subject. • *vb* to cover with paper.

**paperback** /'peɪpər,bæk/, /pay-per-back/ *n* a soft book with a cover of thin card.

**paper chase** /'peɪpər,tʃeɪs/, /pay-per-chase/ *n* a cross-country run in which certain runners throw down a trail of paper for the others to follow.

**paper money** /'peɪpər,məni:/, /pay-per mu-nee/ *n* banknotes.

**paperweight** /'peɪpər,weɪt/, /pay-per-wate/ *n* a heavy object placed on top of loose papers to keep them in place.

**papier mâché** /'peɪpər mə'ʃeɪ/, /pay-per ma-shay, pa-pee-ay ma-shay/ *n* a substance consisting of paper pulp and used for making

boxes, ornaments, etc.

**paprika** /'pæprɪkə, pə'pri:kə/, /pa-pree-ka, pa-pree-ka/ *n* red pepper.

**papyrus** /pə'pairəs/, /pa-pie-rus/ *n* (*pl* **papyri**) **1** a reed from which paper was made in ancient times. **2** the paper thus made.

**par** /par/, /par/ *n* **1** the state of being equal. **2** the normal value, amount or degree of something. **3** in golf, the number of strokes that should be taken on a round by a good player.

**parable** /'pærəbəl/, /pa-ra-bul/ *n* a simple story made up to illustrate the difference between right and wrong.

**parabola** /pə'ræbələ/, /pa-ra-bu-la/ *n* **1** a curved line so drawn that it is throughout its length the same distance from both a fixed point and a line. **2** a section obtained by cutting a cone by a plane parallel to its side.

**parachute** /'perəʃu:t/, /pa-ra-shoot/ *n* an apparatus that opens like an umbrella and enables people to jump from an aeroplane and drop to the ground safely.

**parade** /pə'reid/, /pa-rade/ *n* **1** a public procession. **2** display, show. **3** soldiers, etc, standing in lines under the command of their officers.  
• *vb* **1** to show off. **2** to take up places in an orderly body (e.g. of soldiers). **3** to march in procession. **4** to walk up and down.

**paradise** /'perədəɪs/, /pa-ra-dice/ *n* **1** heaven. **2** the garden of Eden.  
**3** (*inf*) a place or state of great happiness.

**paradox** /'perədɒks/, /pa-ra-doks/ *n* a statement that seems to contradict itself. • *adj* **paradoxical**.

**paraffin** /'perəfin/, /pa-ra-fin/ *n* a waxy substance obtained from shale or coal and used for making candles or made into oil for lamps, etc.

**paragon** /'perəgɒn/, /pa-ra-gon/ *n* a perfect example of some good quality.

**paragraph** /'perəgræf/, /pa-ra-graf/ *n* a distinct division of a piece of writing beginning on a new line, often with its first word slightly in from the left-hand margin.

**parakeet** /'perəki:t/, /pa-ra-keet/ *n* a small parrot.

**parallel** /'perəlel/, /pa-ra-lel/ *adj* **1** (*of lines*) at the same distance from each other at all points. **2** similar. • *n* **1** a like or similar

example, a comparison. **2** one of the lines drawn on maps through all places at the same distance from the equator.

**parallelogram** /'pərə'lɛlə,græm/, /pa-ra-**lel**-lo-gram/ *n* a four-sided figure whose opposite sides are parallel.

**paralyse** /'pərə,laɪz/, /pa-ra-lize/ *vb*, also **paralyze** (US) **1** to make helpless or powerless. **2** to strike with paralysis.

**paralysis** /pə'rælɪsɪs/, /pa-**ra**-li-sis/ *n* a condition causing loss of feeling and the power to move in part of the body.

**paralytic** /pæræ'lɪtɪk/, /pa-**ra**-li-tic/ *adj* suffering from paralysis. • *also n.*

**paramedic** /pərə'medɪk/, /pa-**ra**-med-ic/ *n* a person who is trained to give someone a certain amount of medical treatment until the patient can be treated by a doctor.

**parameter** /pə'ræmətər/, /pa-**ra**-mi-ter/ *n* a factor that determines the limits.

**paramount** /'pərə,maʊnt/, /pa-**ra**-mount/ *adj* highest, greatest.

**paranoia** /pərə'nɔɪə/, /pa-**ra**-noy-a/ *n* a form of mental illness that can result in delusions or feelings of persecution.

**parapet** /'pərəpət/, /pa-**ra**-pit/ *n* a safety wall at the side of a bridge, at the edge of a roof, etc.

**paraphernalia** /pərəfə'neɪljə/, /pa-**ra**-fer-nale-ya/ *npl* a large collection of objects, often personal belongings, or all the tools necessary for a job or hobby.

**paraphrase** /'pərə,freɪz/, /pa-**ra**-fraze/ *vb* to express the sense of a passage by using other words. • *also n.*

**parasite** /'pərə,səɪt/, /pa-**ra**-site/ *n* **1** a plant or animal that lives on or in another. **2** someone who lives at another's expense. • *adj parasitic.*

**parasol** /'pærə,sɒl/, /pa-**ra**-sawl/ *n* a sunshade in the form of an umbrella.

**paratroop(er)** /'pærə,tru:p(ər)/, /pa-**ra**-troop(-er)/ *n* a soldier trained to drop from an aeroplane by parachute.

**parboil** /'par,bɔɪl/, /pa-**r**-boil/ *vb* to boil slightly.

**parcel** /'parsəl/, /pa-**r**-sul/ *n* **1** a small bundle or package. **2** a small piece of land, especially part of a large piece. • *vb (parcelled,*

**parcelling**) **1** to divide into shares. **2** to wrap up in paper, etc.

**parch** /pɑ:tʃ/, /pɑ:tʃ/ *vb* to dry up.

**parched** /pɑ:tʃt/, /pɑ:tʃt/ *adj* **1** dried out. **2** (*inf*) very thirsty.

**parchment** /'pɑ:tʃmənt/, /pɑ:tʃ-mənt/ *n* **1** a skin prepared for writing on. **2** what is written on it.

**pardon** /'pɑ:dn/, /pɑ:dn/ *vb* to forgive, to let off without punishment. • *n* forgiveness.

**pardonable** /'pɑ:dnəbəl/, /pɑ:du-na-bul/ *adj* that can be forgiven.

**pare** /per/, /pɑ:re/ *vb* to cut off the skin or edge of.

**parent** /'pɛrənt/, /pɛrənt/ *n* a father or mother.

**parentage** /'pɛrəntɪdʒ/, /pɛrəntɪdʒ/ *n* parents and ancestors, birth.

**parental** /pɛr'entəl/, /pa-ren-tal/ *adj* of a parent.

**parenthesis** /pɛ'renθɛsis/, /pa-ren-thi-sis/ *n* **1** a group of words put into the middle of a sentence interrupting its sense, often enclosed in brackets. **2** either of a pair of brackets. • *adj* **parenthetical**.

**parish** /'pɛriʃ/, /pa-ri-sh/ *n* **1** a district with its own church and priest or minister. **2** a division of a county for administrative purposes. • *adj* having to do with a parish.

**paring** /'pɛriŋ/, /pɛy-ring/ *n* a piece of skin cut off.

**parity** /'pɛriti/, /pa-ri-tee/ *n* equality, the state of being equal.

**park** /park/, /pɑ:k/ *n* **1** an enclosed piece of ground for the use of the public. **2** a large enclosed space of open ground around a country house. • *vb* to leave.

**parka** /pɑ:kə/, /par-kah/ *n* a heavy jacket with a hood.

**parliament** /'pɑ:ləmənt/, /par-li-ment/ *n* **1** an assembly that discusses and makes laws. **2** (*cap*) in the United Kingdom, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. • *adj* parliamentary.

**parlour** /'pɑ:lər/, /par-lur/ *n*, also **parlor** (US) **1** (*old*) a sitting room. **2** a shop providing some kind of personal service.

**parody** /'pærədi/, /pa-ru-dee/ *n* **1** a humorous imitation of a serious work of literature. **2** a weak and unsuccessful copy or absurd imitation. • *vb* **1** to make a parody of. **2** to imitate in order to make fun of.

**parole** /pə'ro:l/, /pa-role/ *n* the release of a prisoner before the end of his or her sentence on condition that he or she does not break the

law.

**parrot** /'perət/, /pa-rut/ *n* a brightly coloured tropical bird able to imitate human speech.

**parse** /parz/, /parss/ *vb* to tell what part of speech a word is and its relation to other words in the sentence. • *n parsing*.

**parsley** /parsli/, /par-slee/ *n* a garden herb used in cooking.

**parsnip** /parsnip/, /par-snip/ *n* a vegetable with a yellow edible root.

**parson** /parsən/, /par-sun/ *n* a member of clergy.

**part** /part/, /part/ *n* 1 one of the pieces into which a thing can be divided. 2 some but not all. 3 the character played by an actor. 4 a person's contribution to an action. • *adj, adv* in part. • *vb* 1 to divide. 2 to separate. • *adv partly*. • **in good part** without being angry. • **part and parcel** a necessary part.

**partake** /par'teɪk/, /par-take/ *vb (fml)* 1 to take a share in, to take part in. 2 to eat.

**partial** /'parʃəl/, /par-shul/ *adj* 1 in part only. 2 favouring one side or person. 3 fond.

**partiality** /'parʃi'æliti/, /par-shee-a-li-tee/ *n* 1 (*fml*) the favouring of one more than others, unfairness. 2 liking.

**participant** /par'tisəpənt/, /par-ti-si-pant/, **participator** /par-ti-si-pay-tor/ *n* someone who takes part in.

**participate** /par'tisəpeɪt/, /par-ti-si-pate/ *vb* to take part in, to have a share in. • *n participation*.

**participle** /'partɪsɪpəl/, /par-ti-si-pul/ *n* a part of the verb that does the work of an adjective.

**particle** /'partɪkəl/, /par-ti-cul/ *n* a very small part.

**particular** /par'tɪkjʊlər/, /par-ti-cyu-lar/ *adj* 1 different from others, special. 2 careful, exact. 3 difficult to please. • *n* a single fact, a detail.

**particularize** /par'tɪkjʊlə,raɪz/, /par-ti-cyu-la-rize/ *vb*, also **particularise** to describe in detail.

**parting** /'partɪŋ/, /par-ting/ *n* 1 separation. 2 act of going away or leaving. 3 the division made when the hair is brushed in two directions. • *adj* done when going away, final.

**partition** /par'tɪʃən/, /par-ti-shun/ *n* **1** a dividing wall or screen. **2** division. **3** a part divided off from the rest. • *vb* **1** to divide up. **2** to set up a dividing wall, etc.

**partner** /'partnər/, /part-ner/ *n* **1** someone who works or plays with another in a certain undertaking, game, etc. **2** a husband or wife, someone with whom one lives or is in a long-term relationship. • *vb* to go with or give to as a partner.

**partnership** /'partnərfɪp/, /part-ner-ship/ *n* **1** the state of being partners. **2** a group of people working together for the same purpose. **3** people playing on the same side in a game.

**partridge** /'partrɪdʒ/, /par-tridge/ *n* a game bird with grey, brown and white feathers.

**part-time** /,part'taim/, /part-time/ *adj* for some of the time only.

**party** /'parti/, /par-tee/ *n* **1** a group of people who have the same or similar beliefs and opinions. **2** a number of people meeting for enjoyment. **3** a person or organization taking part.

**pass** /pæs/, /pass/ *vb* **1** to go past. **2** to go on one's way. **3** to move. **4** to die. **5** (*of time*) to go by. **6** to spend. **7** to overtake. **8** to succeed at examination. **9** to recognize as good enough, to approve. **10** to utter. **11** to set up as by vote. **12** (*frm*) to be too great for. • *n* **1** a narrow valley between mountains. **2** a written permission to visit certain places. **3** success in an examination. • **a pretty pass** a bad state of affairs.

**passable** /'pæsəbəl/, /pa-sa-bul/ *adj* **1** fairly good. **2** that can be crossed or travelled on.

**passage** /'pæsɪdʒ/, /pa-sidge/ *n* **1** a way through. **2** act of passing. **3** a journey, especially by sea. **4** a corridor. **5** part of a book, poem, etc.

**passbook** /'pæsbuk/, /pass-book/ *n* a book showing the amounts paid into and drawn from a bank account.

**passenger** /'pæsəndʒər/, /pa-sin-jer/ *n* someone travelling in a ship, car, train, etc.

**passe-partout** /,pæspar'tu:/, /pa-spar-too/ *n* (*frm*) a sticky tape used in framing pictures, photographs, etc.

**passer-by** /'pæsər'bai/, /pa-sur-bie/ *n* (*pl* **passers-by**) someone who is walking past.

**passing** /'pæsɪŋ/, /pa-sing/ *adj* **1** moving or going by. **2** lasting for a short time only.

**passion** /'pæʃən/, /pa-shin/ *n* **1** a strong feeling, such as love. **2** anger. **3** great enthusiasm. **4** (*fml*) great suffering. • **the Passion** the last sufferings of Christ.

**passionate** /pæʃənat/, /pash-nit/ *adj* **1** having or showing strong feelings. **2** very enthusiastic.

**passion fruit** /'pæʃən ,fru:t/, /pa-shin-froot/ *n* an edible purple fruit of the passion flower.

**passive** /'pæsɪv/, /pa-siv/ *adj* **1** acted on. **2** showing no emotion, interest, etc. **3** unresisting. • *n* **passivity**.

**passive smoking** /'pæsɪv 'smo:kɪŋ/, /pa-siv smo-king/ *n* the breathing in of other people's cigarette smoke.

**Passover** /'pæs,o:vər/, /pa-so-ver/ *n* a Jewish feast in memory of their escape from Egypt.

**passport** /'pæspɔ:t/, /pass-poart/ *n* a document giving a person permission to travel in foreign countries.

**password** /'pæswɔ:d/, /pass-wurd/ *n* **1** a secret word, that proves identity or allows access to something. **2** a sequence of characters that allows access to a computer.

**past** /pæst/, /past/ *adj* **1** gone by. **2** belonging to an earlier time. • *n* **1** time gone by. **2** one's earlier life. • *prep* **1** beyond. **2** after. • *adv* by.

**pasta** /'pæstə/, /pa-sta/ *n* an Italian food made from flour, eggs and water and formed into different shapes, such as spaghetti, often dried before use.

**paste** /peɪst/, /paist/ *n* **1** flour mixed with water, etc, to make dough for cooking. **2** a sticky mixture used as an adhesive. **3** food crushed so that it can be spread like butter. **4** the material of which imitation gems are made. • *vb* to stick with paste.

**pasteboard** /'peɪstbɔ:d/, /paist-board/ *n* cardboard.

**pastel** /pæ'stel/, /pa-stul/ *n* **1** a coloured chalk or crayon. **2** a drawing done with pastel. • *adj* soft, quiet, not bright.

**pasteurize** /'pæstʃə,raɪz/, /pa-styu-rize/ *vb, also pasteurise* to heat in order to kill all harmful germs.

**pastille** /pæ'sti:l/, /pa-stul/ *n 1* a small sweet-smelling lozenge. *2* a lozenge containing medicine.

**pastime** /'pæstaɪm/, /pa-stime/ *n* a hobby, a game, an interest for one's spare time.

**past master** /,pæst 'mæstər/, /past ma-ster/ *n* an expert, someone with great skill.

**pastor** /'pæstər/, /pa-stur/ *n* the minister of a church.

**pastoral** /'pæstɔ:rəl/, /pa-stu-ral/ *adj 1 (fml)* having to do with the country or country life. *2* having to do with a member of the clergy or his or her duties. • *n* a poem describing country life.

**past participle** /,pæst 'pærtɪsɪpəl/, /past par-ti-si-pul/ *n* a form of verb, often ending in -ed or -en, that shows that an action happened in the past.

**past perfect** /,pæst 'perfekt/, /past per-fect/ *n, also pluperfect* /plu-per-fect/ a tense indicating that an action took place before a past action (e.g. *I had written*).

**pastry** /'peɪstri/, /pay-stree/ *n 1* dough of flour, water etc, made crisp by baking. *2* a pie or tart.

**pasture** /'pæstʃər/, /pa-schur/ *n* grassland where farm animals graze. • *vb 1* to put cattle to graze. *2* to eat grass on.

**pasty**<sup>1</sup> /'peɪsti/, /pay-stee/ *n* a small piece of pastry filled with meat and vegetables.

**pasty**<sup>2</sup> /'peɪsti/, /pay-stee/ *adj* white and unhealthy, pale.

**pat** /pæt/, /pat/ *n 1* a tap, a light touch. *2* a small lump. • *vb (patted, patting)* to tap, to hit lightly. • *adj* ready, coming too easily.

**patch** /pætʃ/, /patch/ *n 1* a piece of material sewed or put on to cover a hole. *2* a small piece of ground. • *vb* to mend by covering over.

**patchwork** /'pætʃwɜ:k/, /patch-wurk/ *n* many small pieces of material sewn together.

**patchy** /'pætʃi/, /pa-chee/ *adj 1* full of small areas of differing quality. *2 (inf)* sometimes good, sometimes bad.

**pâté** /pæ'teɪ/, /pa-tay/ *n* finely minced meat, such as liver, that can be spread on bread etc.

**patent** /'pætənt/, /pa-tint, pay-tint/ *n* 1 a written document giving someone the sole right to make or sell a new invention. 2 the granting of land titles by the government. • *adj* 1 protected by patent. 2 (*frm*) obvious, clear. • *vb* 1 to obtain a patent for. 2 to grant land titles by a patent.

**patent leather** /,pætənt 'leðər/, /pay-tint le-ther/ *n* leather with a very high gloss.

**paternal** /pə'tərnəl/, /pa-ter-nal/ *adj* 1 fatherly, like a father. 2 related by blood to one's father.

**paternity** /pə'tərniti/, /pa-ter-ni-tee/ *n* the state of being a father.

**path** /pæθ/, /path/ *n* 1 a narrow way made by the treading of feet, a track. 2 the course followed by a person or thing.

**pathetic** /pə'θetik/, /pa-the-tic/ *adj* sad, causing pity.

**pathological** /pæθə'lɒdʒɪkəl/, /pa-thu-lodge-ic-al/ *adj* 1 having to do with the study of disease. 2 (*inf*) unreasonable, unnatural.

**pathology** /pə'θɒlədʒi/, /pa-thol-u-jee/ *n* the study of diseases. • *n* **pathologist** a doctor who specializes in pathology, especially one who examines dead bodies to find out the cause of death.

**pathos** /'peɪθɒs/, /pay-thos/ *n* the quality that excites pity or sadness.

**pathway** /'pæθweɪ/, /path-way/ *n* a path.

**patience** /'peɪʃəns/, /pay-shince/ *n* 1 the ability to suffer or wait long without complaining, calmness despite delay or difficulty. 2 a card game for one person, solitaire.

**patient** /'peɪʃənt/, /pay-shint/ *adj* suffering delay, pain, irritation, etc quietly and without complaining. • *n* a person receiving treatment from a doctor.

**patio** /'pætɪo:/, /pa-tee-o/ *n* a paved area outside a house where people can sit, plants can be grown in containers, etc.

**patriarch** /'peɪtri,ɑːrk/, /pay-tree-ark/ *n* (*frm*) 1 the head of a tribe or family. 2 a senior bishop. 3 a head of the Greek church. 4 a very old man. • *adj* **patriarchal**.

**patriot** /'peɪtriət/, /pay-tree-ut/ *n* someone who loves his or her country. • *n* **patriotism**.

**patriotic** /'peɪtri'ɒtik/, /pay-tree-ot-ic/ *adj* loving one's country.

**patrol** /pə'tro:l/, /pa-tro'l/ *n* **1** a group of men, ships, etc, sent out as a moving guard. **2** the act of patrolling. **3** a small group of Scouts or Guides. • *vb* (**patrolled**, **patrolling**) to move about on guard or to keep watch.

**patron** /'peitrən/, /pay-trun/ *n* **1** someone who encourages, helps or protects. **2** a regular customer.

**patronage** /'peitrənɪdʒ/, /pay-tru-nidge/ *n*, also /pa-tru-nidge/ **1** the help or protection given by a patron. **2** the right of appointing to certain offices. **3** a manner that shows that one thinks oneself superior.

**patronize** /'peitrənaɪz, 'pæ-/ , /pay-tru-nize, pah-/ , also pay-tru-nize/ *vb*, also **patronise** **1** to behave to another as if superior to him or her. **2** to go somewhere regularly as a patron.

**patron saint** /,peitrən'seɪnt/ /pay-trun **saint**/ *n* a saint believed to give special protection.

**patter<sup>1</sup>** /'pætər/, /pa-ter/ *vb* **1** to make a light tapping sound. **2** to run with quick light steps. • *n* the sound of patterning.

**patter<sup>2</sup>** /'pætər/, /pa-ter/ *n* fast talk, especially persuasive talk.

**pattern** /'pætərn/, /pa-tern/ *n* **1** a model that can be copied. **2** an example. **3** a design as on cloth, a carpet, etc. **4** the way in which something happens or develops.

**patty** /'pæti/, /pa-tee/ *n* a little pie.

**paunch** /pəntʃ/, /pawnch/ *n* the belly, especially a large protruding one.

**pauper** /'pəpər/, /paw-per/ *n* a person too poor to support himself or herself.

**pause** /pəz/, /pawz/ *vb* to stop for a time. • *n* a short stop.

**pave** /peɪv/, /pave/ *vb* to make a road or pathway by laying down flat stones. • **pave the way for** to prepare for.

**pavement** /'peɪvmənt/, /pave-mint/ *n* a footpath at the side of a road.

**pavilion** /pə'velɪjən/, /pa-vil-yun/ *n* a building or large tent put up quickly for a special purpose.

**paw** /pɔ:/, /paw/ *n* the foot of an animal that has claws. • *vb* **1** to scrape with the forefoot. **2** to handle clumsily and often in too familiar a way.

**pawn**<sup>1</sup> /pɔn/, /pawn/ *n* **1** in chess, the piece of least value. **2** a person made use of by another to do his or her will.

**pawn**<sup>2</sup> /pɔn/, /pawn/ *vb* to hand over in return for money lent. • *n* a thing handed over in return for a loan of money and returned when the loan is repaid. • **pawnbroker** *n* someone who lends money to those who pawn goods with him or her until the loan is repaid.

**pay** /pei/, /pay/ *vb* (*pt, pp paid*) **1** to give money for goods, service, etc. **2** to suffer for faults, crimes, etc. **3** to give. **4** to produce a profit. **5** to let run out. • *n* wages, salary. • **pay through the nose** (*inf*) to pay too much for something.

**payment** /'peimənt/, /pay-mint/ *n* **1** the act of paying. **2** the amount paid.

**payroll** /'peiro:l/, /pay-role/ *n* a list of persons to be paid.

**PC** /pi'si:/, /pee-see/ *abbr* = **1 personal computer**: a computer designed to be used by one person. **2** see **politically correct**. **3 police constable**.

**pea** /pi:/, /pee/ *n* **1** a climbing plant with pods containing round edible seeds. **2** one of the seeds.

**peace** /pi:s/, /peess/ *n* **1** quiet, calm. **2** freedom from war or disorder. **3** the agreement to end a war.

**peaceful** /'pi:sful/, /peess-ful/ *adj* **1** quiet, calm, untroubled. **2** without war.

**peach** /pi:tʃ/, /peech/ *n* a juicy fruit with a rough stone and soft velvety skin.

**peacock** /pi:kɒk/, /pee-cock/ *n* a male peafowl.

**peahen** /pi:hen/, /pee-cock/ *n* a female peafowl.

**peafowl** /'pi:fauł/, /pee-fowl/ *n* a bird of the pheasant family, the male of which has a large brightly coloured spreading tail; the female's plumage is grey/brown. • *m* **peacock**. • *f* **peahen**.

**peak** /pi:k/, /peek/ *n* **1** the highest point. **2** the pointed top of a mountain. **3** the jutting-out brim at the front of a cap. • *adj* connected with the time of greatest use or demand. • *vb* to reach the highest point.

**peaked** /pi:kd/, /peekt/ *adj* having a jutting-out brim in front.

**peal** /pi:1/, /peel/ *n* **1** a sudden noise. **2** the loud ringing of bells. **3** a set of bells for ringing together. • *vb* to sound or ring loudly.

**peanut** /'pi:nət/, /pee-nut/ *n* a type of edible nut.

**pear** /per/, /pare/ *n* a juicy fruit, narrower at one end than at the other. • **go pear-shaped** to go wrong, fail.

**pearl** /pərl/, /perl/ *n* **1** a shining white jewel found in shellfish, especially oysters. **2** (*inf*) something highly valued. **3** mother-of-pearl.

**peasant** /'pɛzənt/, /pe-zant/ *n* a person who works on the land, especially in a poor, primitive or underdeveloped area.

**peasantry** /'pɛzəntri/, /pe-zan-tree/ *n* peasants, country people.

**peat** /pi:t/, /peet/ *n* turf containing decayed vegetable matter, dried and used as fuel.

**pebble** /'pɛbəl/, /pe-bul/ *n* a small stone made round by the action of water. • *adj* **pebbly**.

**peck<sup>1</sup>** /pɛk/, /peck/ *n* an imperial measure for grain, etc (= 2 gallons).

**peck<sup>2</sup>** /pɛk/, /peck/ *vb* **1** to strike with the beak. **2** to pick up with the beak. **3** to eat slowly in small mouthfuls, to nibble.

**peculiar** /pə'kjü:li:ər/, /pi-cyool-yar/ *adj* **1** strange, odd. **2** belonging to one person, place or thing in particular and to no other.

**peculiarity** /pə,kjü:lɪ'rɪti/, /pi-cyool-ya-ri-tee/ *n* **1** a quality, custom, etc, that belongs to a particular person, thing, etc. **2** an odd way of behaving.

**pedal** /'pedəl/, /pe-dal/ *n* a lever worked by foot to control the working of a machine. • *vb* (**pedalled**, **pedalling**) to work a pedal by foot.

**pedant** /'pedənt/, /pe-dant/ *n* **1** someone who shows off his or her learning. **2** someone who attaches too much importance to small details and unimportant rules. • *adj* **pedantic**.

**pedantry** /'pedəntri/, /pe-dan-tree/ *n* **1** showing off one's learning. **2** over-insistence on rules, etc.

**peddle** /'pedəl/, /pe-dal/ *vb* to sell from door to door.

**peddler**, also **pedlar**, **pedler** /'pedlər/, /ped-ler/ *n* someone who travels about selling small objects.

**pedestal** /'pedəstəl/, /pe-di-stal/ *n* the block of stone at the base of a column or under a statue. • **put on a pedestal** to treat with very great, often too much, respect.

**pedestrian** /pə'dɛstriən/, /pi-de-stree-an/ *n* someone who goes on foot, a walker. • *adj* 1 going on foot. 2 dull, uninteresting. • *adj* of streets in which traffic is not allowed so that pedestrians can walk safely.

**pedestrian crossing** /pə'dɛstriən ,krɔ:sɪŋ/, /pi-de-stree-an craw-sing/ *n* a specially marked area on a road at which people may safely cross.

**pediatrician** see [paediatrician](#).

**pediatrics** see [paediatrics](#).

**pedicure** /'pedɪ,kjʊr/, /pe-di-cyoor/ *n* treatment for the feet to remove corns etc, or cosmetic treatment to improve their appearance.

**pedigree** /'pedɪ,gri:/, /pe-di-gree/ *n* 1 a written table showing one's ancestors. 2 one's ancestors. • *adj* of good birth.

**pediment** /'pedimənt/, /pe-di-ment/ *n* the triangular topmost part at the front of a building.

**pedlar, pedler** see [peddler](#).

**pedometer** /pə'dɒmɪtər/, /pi-dom-i-ter/ *n* an instrument that measures distance walked.

**pedophile** see [paedophile](#).

**peel** /pi:l/, /peel/ *vb* 1 to strip off. 2 to cut the skin off a fruit or vegetable. 3 to come off, as does skin or the bark of a tree. • *n* skin, rind, bark.

**peeling** /'pi:lin/, /pee-ling/ *n* a piece peeled off.

**peep<sup>1</sup>** /pi:p/, /peep/ *vb* to chirp, to squeak. • *n* 1 a chirp or squeak. 2 any of various small sandpipers.

**peep<sup>2</sup>** /pi:p/, /peep/ *vb* 1 to look at through a narrow opening. 2 to look at for a moment only. 3 to begin to appear. • *n* 1 a quick or secret look. 2 a look through a narrow opening. 3 a first appearance.

**peephole** /'pi:pho:l/, /peep-hole/ *n* a small hole for looking through.

**peer<sup>1</sup>** /pi:r/, /peer/ *vb* 1 to strain one's eyes to see. 2 to look closely.

**peer<sup>2</sup>** /pi:r/, /peer/ *n* **1** an equal, one's equal in age, ability, rank. **2** a British nobleman. • *f peeress*.

**peerage** /'pi:ridʒ/, /pee-ridge/ *n* **1** all the noblemen of a country. **2** the rank or title of a British nobleman.

**peerless** /'pi:rles/, /peer-less/ *adj* (*fml*) unequalled.

**peevish** /'pi:vɪʃ/, /pee-vish/ *adj* irritable, full of complaints.

**peg** /peg/, /peg/ *n* a nail, pin or fastener. • *vb* (**pegged**, **pegging**) to fasten with a peg. • **take down a peg** to humble, to humiliate.

**pejorative** /pr'dʒɔ:rətɪv/, *adj* (*of a word or phrase*) having unpleasant or deliberately negative connotations.

**pelican** /'pelikən/, /pe-li-can/ *n* a water bird with a large beak containing a pouch for storing fish.

**pellet** /'pelət/, /pe-lit/ *n* **1** a small ball of anything. **2** one of a number of small lead balls packed in a cartridge and fired from a gun.

**pell-mell** /pel'mel/, /pel-mel/ *adv* in great disorder.

**pelt<sup>1</sup>** /pelt/, /pelt/ *n* the raw skin of an animal.

**pelt<sup>2</sup>** /pelt/, /pelt/ *vb* **1** to attack by throwing things at. **2** (*of rain*) to fall heavily.

**pelvis** /'pelvis/, /pel-vis/ *n* the bony frame and the lower end of the trunk, into which the hip bones fit.

**pen<sup>1</sup>** /pen/, /pen/ *n* an instrument for writing in ink. • *vb* to write.

**pen<sup>2</sup>** /pen/, /pen/ *n* a female swan.

**pen<sup>3</sup>** /pen/, /pen/ *n* a small enclosure, especially for animals. • *vb* (**penned**, **penning**) to shut up in a small space.

**penal** /'pi:nəl/, /pee-nal/ *adj* having to do with punishment.

**penalize** /'pi:nəlaɪz/, /pee-na-lize/ *vb*, also **penalise** **1** to punish. **2** to put someone at a disadvantage, often unfairly.

**penalty** /'penəlti/, /pe-nal-tee/ *n* **1** due punishment. **2** a disadvantage of some kind that must be suffered for breaking the rules.

**penance** /'penəns/, /pe-nanse/ *n* punishment willingly accepted as a sign of sorrow for sin.

**pence** /pens/, /pense/ see **penny**.

**penchant** /'penʃənt/, /pon-shont/ *n* (*fml*) a liking for, a preference for.

**pencil** /'pensəl/, /pen-sil/ *n* a writing or drawing instrument. • *vb* (**pencilled**, **pencilling**) to write or draw with a pencil.

**pendant** /'pendənt/, /pen-dant/ *n* 1 an ornament hanging from a necklace or bracelet. 2 an earring. 3 anything hanging (e.g. a lamp from a roof).

**pending** /'pendɪŋ/, /pen-ding/ *adj* not yet decided. • *prep* waiting for.

**pendulous** /'pendjuləs/, /pen-ju-luss/ *adj (fml)* hanging.

**pendulum** /'pendjuləm/, /pen-ju-lum/ *n* a swinging weight, as in a large clock.

**penetrable** /'penətrəbəl/, /pe-ni-tra-bul/ *adj* that can be penetrated.

**penetrate** /'penətreɪt/, /pe-ni-trate/ *vb* 1 to pass through. 2 to make a hole in or through. 3 to reach the mind of.

**penetrating** /'penətreɪtɪŋ/, /pe-ni-tray-ting/ *adj* 1 sharp. 2 loud and clear.

**penetration** / penətreɪʃən/, /pe-ni-tray-shun/ *n* 1 act of passing through or making a hole in. 2 clear understanding, intelligence.

**pen friend** /'pen frend/, /pen frend/ *n* a person one gets to know only through exchanging letters. • also **pen pal**.

**penguin** /'peŋgwin/, /pen-gwin/ *n* a web-footed bird with very short wings that it uses for swimming, not flying.

**penicillin** /,peni'silən/, /pe-ni-si-lin/ *n* a medicinal drug used to treat infections caused by bacteria.

**peninsula** /pə'ninsjələ/, /pe-nin-su-la/ *n* a piece of land almost surrounded by water.

**penis** /'pi:nəs/, /pee-nis/ *n* the male reproductive and urinary organ in mammals and humans.

**penitent** /'penɪtənt/, /pe-ni-tent/ *adj* sorrowful for having done wrong. • *n* someone who is penitent. • *n* **penitence**.

**penitential** /,peni'tenʃəl/, /pe-ni-ten-shal/ *adj (fml)* having to do with penitence.

**penitentiary** /,peni'tenʃəri/, /pe-ni-ten-shree/ *n* a prison.

**penknife** /'pennəif/, /pen-nife/ *n* a folding pocket knife.

**penmanship** /'penmənʃip/, /pen-man-ship/ *n* the art of handwriting.

**pen name** /'pen neɪm/, /pɛn name/ *n* a name, other than his or her real name, under which an author writes.

**pennant** /'pɛnənt/, /pe-nant/, **pennon** /pɛ-nun/ *n* a long, narrow triangular flag.

**penniless** /'pɛnɪləs/, /pɛ-nee-less/ *adj* having no money.

**penny** /'pɛni/, /pɛ-nee/ *n* (*pl* **pennies**, **pence**) a British bronze coin worth one-hundredth of a pound. 100 pence = £1.

**pen pal** see **pen friend**.

**pension** /'pɛnʃən/, /pɛn-shun/ *n* money paid regularly to someone for the rest of his or her lifetime after he or she has stopped working or after some misfortune. • *vb* to give a pension to.

**pensioner** /'pɛnʃənər/, /pɛn-shu-ner/ *n* someone who receives a pension.

**pensive** /'pɛnsɪv/, /pɛn-siv/ *adj* (*fml*) thoughtful.

**pentagon** /'pɛntəgɒn/, /pɛn-ta-gon/ *n* a five-sided figure.

**Pentagon** /'pɛntəgɒn/, /pɛn-ta-gon/ *n* the headquarters of the US Department of Defense.

**Pentecost** /'pɛntəkɒst/, /pɛn-ta-cawst/ *n* a Christian and Jewish festival.

**penthouse** /'pɛnθaʊs/, /pɛnt-house/ *n* an apartment, usually luxurious, at the top of a building.

**penultimate** /pə'nʌltɪmət/, /pɛ-nul-ti-mit/ *adj* the last but one.

**peony** /pi:əni/, /pee-u-neel/ *n* a garden plant with large white or red flowers.

**people** /pi:pəl/, /pee-pul/ *n* **1** persons in general. **2** (*pl* **peoples**) all those belonging to one nation or country. **3** the ordinary persons of a country and not their rulers, etc. • *vb* **1** to fill with people. **2** to inhabit.

**pep** /pɛp/, /pɛp/ *n* vitality, high spirits.

**pepper** /'pɛpər/, /pɛ-per/ *n* **1** a plant whose seeds are ground into a hot-tasting powder and used for flavouring food. **2** the powder so used.

**peppercorn** /'pɛpərkɔrn/, /pɛ-per-cawrn/ *n* the seed of the pepper plant.

**peppermint** /'pɛpərmɪnt/, /pe-per-mint/ *n* **1** a plant with sharp-tasting oil. **2** a sharp-tasting sweet.

**peppery** /'pɛpəri/, /pe-per-ee/ *adj* **1** like pepper, hot. **2** easily angered.

**per** /pər/, /per/ *prep* **1** for each. **2** during each. **3** (*inf*) according to.

**perceive** /pərvɪv/, /per-seev/ *vb* to know through one of the senses, to see, to understand.

**percent, per cent** /pər'sent/, /per-sent/ in each hundred (%).

**percentage** /pər'sentɪdʒ/, /per-sen-tidge/ *n* the number of cases in every hundred.

**perceptible** /pər'septɪbəl/, /per-sep-ti-bul/ *adj* able to be perceived.

**perception** /pər'sepʃən/, /per-sep-shun/ *n* **1** the ability to perceive. **2** the ability to understand and notice things quickly.

**perceptive** /pər'septɪv/, /per-sep-tiv/ *adj* **1** quick to notice or understand. **2** showing the ability to notice or understand.

**perch<sup>1</sup>** /pərtʃ/, /perch/ *n* a freshwater fish.

**perch<sup>2</sup>** /pərtʃ/, /perch/ *n* **1** the bar on which a bird stands when resting. **2** a high place. • *vb* **1** to rest on a bar or high place. **2** to put or be in a high position.

**perchance** /pərtʃæns/, /per-chance/ *adv* (*old*) perhaps.

**percussion** /pərkʌʃən/, /per-cu-shun/ *n* **1** the striking of one thing against another. **2** the sound thus made. **3** the drums and cymbals section of an orchestra.

**perdition** /pərdɪʃən/, /per-di-shun/ *n* **1** entire ruin. **2** condemnation to hell.

**peremptory** /pə'remptəri/, /pe-remp-tree/ *adj* short and commanding.

**perennial** /pə'reniəl/, /pe-ren-ee-yal/ *adj* **1** lasting forever, continual.

**2** (*of a plant*) growing again year after year. • *n* a perennial plant.

**perfect** /'pərfɛkt/, /per-fect/ *adj* **1** without fault, excellent. **2** exact. **3** complete, utter. • *vb* /per-fect/ to finish, to make perfect. • *n* **perfection.**

**perforate** /'pərfəreɪt/, /per-fu-rate/ *vb* to make a hole or row of holes through.

**perforation** /pərfə'reiʃən/, /per-fu-ray-shun/ *n* a row of small holes, often to make tearing easy, as in sheets of stamps, etc.

**perform** /pər'fɔrm/, /per-fawrm/ *vb* 1 to do, to carry out. 2 to show in a theatre. 3 to act in a play.

**performance** /pər'fɔrməns/, /per-fawr-manss/ *n* 1 act of doing or carrying out. 2 that which is done. 3 the acting of a play or part.

**performer** /pər'fɔrmər/, /per-fawr-mer/ *n* an actor, musician, etc.

**performing** /pər'fɔrmɪŋ/, /per-fawr-ming/ *adj* trained to act, do tricks, etc.

**perfume** /'pərfju:m/, /per-fyoom/ *n* 1 a sweet smell. 2 a sweet-smelling liquid, scent. • *vb* /per-fyoom/ 1 to apply perfume to. 2 to give a pleasant smell to.

**perfumery** /pər'fju:məri/, /per-fyoo-mer-ee/ *n* 1 a place where perfumes are made or sold. 2 the art of making perfumes.

**perfunctory** /pər'fʌŋktəri/, /per-fung(k)-tree/ *adj* done carelessly or without interest, badly done.

**perhaps** /pər'hæps/, /per-haps/ *adv* it may be, possibly.

**peril** /'peril/, /pe-ril/ *n* risk, danger.

**perilous** /'periləs/, /pe-ri-lus/ *adj* dangerous.

**perimeter** /pə'rɪmɪtər/, /pe-ri-mi-ter/ *n* 1 the total length of the line(s) enclosing a certain space or figure. 2 the boundaries of a camp or piece of land.

**perineum** /peri'nī:əm/, /pe-ri-nee-um/ *n* the area between the genitals and the anus.

**period** /'pi:riəd/, /pee-ree-ud/ *n* 1 a certain length of time. 2 an age in history. 3 the dot or full stop marking the end of a sentence. 4 a time of menstruation.

**periodic** /pi:ri'ɒdɪk/, /pee-ree-od-ic/ *adj* happening at regular intervals.

**periodical** /pi:ri'ɒdɪkəl/, /pee-ree-od-ic-al/ *n* a newspaper or magazine that appears at regular intervals (e.g. of a week, month, etc). • *adj* periodic.

**periodic table** /pi:riɒdɪk 'teɪbəl/, /pee-ree-od-ic tay-bul/ *n* a chart showing the arrangement of chemical elements and their connections to one another.

**periphery** /pə'rɪfəri/, /pee-ri-free/ *n* a boundary line.

**periscope** /'pærə,sko:p/, /pe-ri-scope/ *n* an instrument in which mirrors are so arranged that one can see things on the surface of the land or sea when in a trench or submarine.

**perish** /'perɪʃ/, /pe-ri-shish/ *vb* **1** to die. **2** to pass away completely. **3** to rot away.

**perishable** /'perɪʃəbəl/, /pe-ri-sha-bul/ *adj* that will rot away under ordinary conditions.

**perjury** /'pərdʒəri/, /per-ju-ree/ *n* the act of saying under oath that a statement is true when one knows it to be false.

**perk<sup>1</sup>** /pərk/, /perk/ *vb.* • **perk up (inf)** to cheer up.

**perk<sup>2</sup>** *n* see [perquisite](#).

**perky** /'pərki/, /per-kee/ *adj* lively, cheerful. • *n* **perkiness**.

**perm** /pərm/, /perm/ *n* an artificial wave in the hair.

**permanent** /'pərmənənt/, /per-ma-nent/ *adj* lasting. • *n* **permanence**.

**permeable** /'pəmiəbəl/, /per-mee-a-bul/ *adj* allowing liquid, gases, etc, to pass through.

**permeate** /'pərmɪ,eɪt/, /per-mee-ate/ *vb* to pass through, to spread through every part of.

**permissible** /pər'misibəl/, /per-mi-su-bul/ *adj* that can be allowed.

**permission** /pər'miʃən/, /per-mi-shun/ *n* leave, consent.

**permissive** /pər'miʃɪv/, /per-mi-siv/ *adj* allowing freedom.

**permit** /pər'mit/, /per-mit/ *vb* (**permitted, permitting**) to allow. • *n* /per-mit/ a paper giving the holder the right to do certain things.

**permutation** /pərmju'teɪʃən/, /per-myoo-tay-shun/ *n* **1** all the ways in which a series of things, numbers, etc, can be arranged. **2** one of these ways.

**pernickety** /pər'nɪkɪti/, /per-nik-i-tee/ *adj* fussy, being too concerned with small and unimportant details.

**peroration** /pərə'reiʃən/, /pe-ru-ray-shun/ *n* **1** (*frm*) the closing part of a speech. **2** a grand long speech, often meaningless.

**peroxide** /pə'rɒksaɪd/, /per-ok-side/ *n* **1** a mixture of oxygen with another element to contain the greatest possible amount of oxygen. **2** a substance used for bleaching, e.g. the hair.

**perpendicular** /pər'pən'dikjulər/, /per-pen-di-cyoo-lar/ *adj* 1 at right angles. 2 upright. • *n* a line at right angles to another.

**perpetrate** /'pərpə'treɪt/, /per-pi-trate/ *vb* to commit, to do. • *n* **perpetration, perpetrator.**

**perpetual** /pər'pɛtʃuəl/, /per-pe-chu-wal/ *adj* 1 lasting forever. 2 continuing endlessly, uninterrupted.

**perpetuate** /pər'pɛtʃueɪt/, /per-pe-chu-wate/ *vb* to cause to continue to exist for a long time. • *n* **perpetuation.**

**perpetuity** /pərpə'tju:ti/ /per-pe-choo-wi-tee/ *n* (*fml*) everlasting time. • *in perpetuity* forever.

**perplex** /pər'plekss/, /per-pleks/ *vb* to puzzle, to bewilder.

**perplexity** /-iti/, /per-plek-si-tee/ *n* puzzlement, bewilderment.

**perquisite** /'pərkwəzɪt/, /per-kwi-zit/ *n* (*usually shortened to perk*) money, goods, etc, gained from a job in addition to wages or salary.

**persecute** /'pərsə,kju:t/, /per-si-cyoot/ *vb* to ill-treat, especially because of someone's beliefs; to treat cruelly. • *n* **persecution**. • *n* **persecutor.**

**perseverance** /pər'səvə,rəns/, /per-si-vee-ranse/ *n* the quality of continuing to try until one succeeds.

**persevere** /pərsə'veɪr/, /per-si-veer/ *vb* to keep on trying.

**persist** /pər'sist/, /per-sist/ *vb* 1 to keep on doing. 2 to last. 3 not to give in despite difficulty.

**persistence** /pər'sistəns/, /per-si-stense/ *n* the quality of persisting; obstinacy.

**persistent** /pər'sistənt/, /per-si-stent/ *adj* 1 keeping on trying, not giving in easily. 2 long, continuing.

**person** /'pərsən/, /per-sun/ *n* 1 a human being, a man, woman or child. 2 (*fml*) one's body.

**personal** /'pərsənəl/, /per-su-nal/ *adj* 1 concerning a person's own private life. 2 (*of remarks*) unkind. 3 done by a particular person and not someone acting for them.

**personal identification number** see **PIN**.

**personality** /pərsə'næliti/, /per-su-na-li-tee/ *n* 1 the combination of qualities that makes someone's character different from those of

other people. **2** a strong, distinct character. **3** a well-known person.  
**personally** /'pərsənəli/, /pers-na-lee/ *adv* as far as one is concerned oneself.

**personify** /pər'sənə,fai/, /per-son-i-fie/ *vb* **1** to speak or write of a thing, quality, etc, as if it were a human being. **2** to be a perfect example of. • *n* **personification**.

**personnel** /pərsə'nəl/, /per-su-nel/ *n* the persons employed in an organization.

**perspective** /pərs'pektiv/, /per-spec-tiv/ *n* **1** the art of drawing objects on a flat surface so that they appear farther or nearer as they do to the eye. **2** a view. • **see in perspective** to see the real value or importance of things when compared with others.

**Perspex** /'pərspəks/, /per-speks/ *n* (*TM*) tough transparent glasslike plastic.

**perspicacious** /pərspi'keɪʃəs/, /per-spi-cay-shus/ *adj* quick to notice or understand.

**perspicacity** /pərspi'kæsiti:/ /per-spi-ca-si-tee/ *n* quickness or clearness of understanding.

**perspire** /pər'spair/, /per-spire/ *vb* to sweat. • *n* **perspiration**.

**persuade** /pər'sweɪd/, /per-swade/ *vb* to convince a person or get him or her to do as one wants by argument.

**persuasion** /pər'sweiʒən/, /per-sway-zhun/ *n* **1** act of persuading. **2** (*fml*) a belief or set of beliefs.

**persuasive** /pər'sweiſiv/, /per-sway-siv/ *adj* good at gaining the agreement of others, able to influence others.

**pert** /pərt/, /pert/ *adj* forward, cheeky. • *n* **pertness**.

**pertain** /pər'teɪn/, /per-tain/ *vb* to belong, to have to do with.

**pertinent** /'pərtɪnənt/, /per-ti-nent/ *adj* to the point, having to do with the subject. • *n* **pertinence**, **pertinency** /per-ti-nen-see/.

**perturb** /pər'tərb/, /per-turb/ *vb* to make worried or anxious, to disturb. • *n* **perturbation**.

**perusal** /pəru:zəl/, /pe-roo-zal/ *n* reading, study.

**peruse** /pə'ru:z/, /pe-rooz/ *vb* (*fml*) to read through, to examine carefully.

**pervade** /pər'veeđ/, /per-vade/ *vb* to spread through.

**pervasive** /pər'veɪsɪv/, /per-vay-siv/ *adj* spreading through all parts.

**perverse** /pər'vərs/, /per-verse/ *adj* 1 holding firmly to a wrong opinion. 2 continuing to do things that one knows to be wrong, unacceptable or forbidden.

**perversion** /pər'vərʒən/, /per-ver-zhun/ *n* 1 putting to a wrong or evil use. 2 abnormal or unacceptable sexual behaviour.

**perversity** /pər'vərsɪti/, /per-ver-si-tee/ *n* the quality of being perverse.

**pervert** /pər'vərt/, /per-vert/ *vb* 1 to put to a wrong use. 2 to teach wrong ways to. • *n* /per-vert/ someone whose sexual behaviour is abnormal or unacceptable.

**peseta** /pə'seɪtə/, /pi-say-ta/ *n* a former Spanish coin.

**pessimism** /'pɛsə,mɪzəm/, /pe-si-mi-zum/ *n* the belief that things generally turn out for the worst. • *n* **pessimist**.

**pessimistic** /'pɛsə,mɪstɪk/, /pe-si-mi-stic/ *adj* having to do with pessimism, gloomy.

**pest** /pɛst/, /pest/ *n* 1 an annoying person, a nuisance. 2 a destructive animal, insect, etc.

**pester** /'pɛstər/, /pe-ster/ *vb* to keep on annoying.

**pesticide** /'pɛstɪsaɪd/, /pe-sti-side/ *n* a chemical substance used to kill pests, especially insects that are harmful to crops and other plants.

**pestilence** /'pɛstɪləns/, /pe-sti-lense/ *n* any deadly disease that spreads quickly, plague. • *adj* **pestilential**.

**pestilent** /'pɛstɪlənt/, /pe-sti-lent/ *adj* causing pestilence or disease.

**pestle** /'pɛsəl/, /pe-sul/ *n* an instrument for pounding substances to powder.

**pet** /pet/, /pet/ *n* 1 a favourite child. 2 a tame animal kept in the house as a companion. • *adj* best-loved, favourite. • *vb* (**petted**, **petting**) 1 to treat lovingly. 2 to fondle.

**petal** /'pɛtəl/, /pe-tal/ *n* the leaf-shaped part of a flower.

**peter** /'pi:tər/, /pee-ter/ *vb*. • **peter out** to stop or disappear gradually.

**petite** /pə'ti:t/, /pi-teet/ *adj* tiny, dainty.

**petition** /pə'tɪʃən/, /pi-ti-shun/ *n* 1 a request. 2 a written request signed by a number of people. 3 a prayer. • *vb* 1 to make a

request to someone able to grant it. **2** to put forward a written request. • *n* **petitioner**.

**petrel** /'petrəl/, /pe-trul/ *n* a sea bird.

**petrifaction** /pə'tri'fækʃən/, /pe-tri-fac-shun/ *n* **1** turning into stone. **2** terror, amazement.

**petrify** /'petrifai/, /pe-tri-fie/ *vb* **1** to turn into stone. **2** to terrify, to astound.

**petrol** /'petrəl/, /pe-trul/ *n* a liquid obtained from a mixture of gas and petroleum, used as a fuel for motor vehicles.

**petroleum** /pə'tro:lɪəm/, /pi-tro-lee-um/ *n* a heavy oil obtained from under the surface of the earth.

**petrology** /pi'trɒlədʒi/, /pi-trol-u-jee/ *n* the study of the formation, composition and erosion of rocks.

**petticoat** /'peti,kɔ:t/, /pe-tee-coat/ *n* a woman's undergarment.

**pettish** /'petiʃ/, /pe-tish/ *adj* sulky.

**petty** /'peti/, /pe-tee/ *adj* **1** small, unimportant, trivial. **2** mean-spirited.

**petty cash** /'peti 'kæʃ/, /pe-tee cash/ *n* money held in readiness to meet small expenses.

**petty officer** /'peti 'ɒfɪsər/, /pe-tee aw-fi-ser/ *n* in the navy, a non-commissioned officer.

**petulant** /'petʃu:lənt/, /pe-chu-lant/ *adj* easily angered or annoyed, peevish. • *n* **petulance**.

**petunia** /pə'tu:niə/, /pe-toon-ya/ *n* a flowering garden plant of various colours, often purple.

**pew** /pjoo:/, /pyoo/ *n* a seat in a church.

**pewter** /'pjoo:tər/, /pyoo-ter/ *n* a mixture of tin and lead.

**pH** /pi:'eɪtʃ/, /pee-aich/ *n* the measurement of the acid or alkaline content of something.

**phaeton** /'feɪtən/, /fay-u-tun/ *n* (*old*) an open four-wheeled carriage drawn by a pair of horses.

**phalanx** /'fælæŋks/, /fa-langks/ *n* **1** (*fml* or *old*) a body of foot soldiers standing close to each other in battle. **2** a body of persons or animals standing close to one another.

**phantom** /'fæntəm/, /fan-tum/ *n* a ghost.

**pharaoh** /'fəro:/, /fay-ro/ *n* a king of ancient Egypt.

**pharisee** /'fərɪsɪ:/, /fa-ri-see/ *n* (*inf*) a hypocrite.

**pharmaceutical** /fərmə'su:tikəl/, /far-ma-soo-ti-cal/ *adj* having to do with the making up of drugs or medicines.

**pharmacy** /fərməsi/, /far-ma-see/ *n* **1** the making up of drugs or medicines. **2** a shop in which medicines are made up and sold. • *n pharmacist*.

**pharyngitis** /fərɪn'dʒətɪs/, /fa-rin-jie-tis/ *n* inflammation of the pharynx.

**pharynx** /fərɪŋks/, /fa-rinks/ *n* the back part of the mouth.

**phase** /feɪz/, /faze/ *n* **1** a distinct stage in growth or development. **2** apparent shape (e.g. of the moon).

**pheasant** /'fezənt/, /fe-zant/ *n* a large bird hunted for sport.

**phenomenon** /fə'nəmənən/, /fi-nom-i-nun/ *n* (*pl* **phenomena**) **1** any natural happening that can be perceived by the senses. **2** anything unusual or extraordinary.

**phenomenal** /fə'nəmənəl/, /fi-nom-i-nal/ *adj* unusual, extraordinary.

**phial** /faiəl/, /fie-al/ *n* a small glass bottle.

**philander** /fi'lændər/, /fi-lan-der/ *vb* to flirt. • *n philanderer*.

**philanthropy** /fi'lænθrəpi/, /fi-lan-thru-pee/ *n* love of humankind, shown by giving money, etc, to help those in need or to benefit the public. • *adj philanthropic*. • *n philanthropist*.

**philately** /fi'lætəli/, /fi-la-tu-lee/ *n* stamp collecting. • *n philatelist*.

**philistine** /filɪ,stɪ:n/, /fi-li-stine/ *n* an uncultured person.

**philology** /fi'lɒlədʒi/, /fi-lol-u-jee/ *n* the study of languages, their history and development. • *n philologist*.

**philosopher** /fi'lɒsəfər/, /fi-los-u-fer/ *n* **1** someone who tries to find by reasoning the causes and laws of all things. **2** someone who treats life calmly.

**philosophic(al)** /filə'sɒfɪk/, /fi-lu-sof-ic-al/ *adj* **1** having to do with philosophy. **2** calm, not easily annoyed.

**philosophy** /fi'lɒsəfi/, /fi-los-u-fee/ *n* **1** the study of the causes and laws of all things. **2** a particular way of thinking.

**philter** /'flɪtər/, /fil-ter/ *n (fml)* a magic drink supposed to make the drinker fall in love.

**phlebitis** /flə'bəɪtɪs/, /fli-bie-tus/ *n* inflammation of a vein of the body.

**phlegm** /fləm/, /flem/ *n* the thick, slimy liquid coughed up from the throat.

**phlegmatic** /fleg'mætɪk/, /fleg-ma-tic/ *adj* cool, not easily excited.

**phlox** /fləks/, /floks/ *n* a garden plant with brightly coloured flowers.

**phobia** /'fo:bɪə/, /foe-bee-ya/ *n.* an unreasoning fear or dread.

**phoenix** /'fi:niks/, /fee-niks/ *n* in ancient fables, a bird said to burn itself and rise again from its own ashes.

**phone** /fɔ:n/, /foan/ *n* the common short form of **telephone**.

**phonetic** /fə'nɛtɪk/, /fu-ne-tic/ *adj* having to do with the sounds of speech or pronunciation. • *npl* the study of the sounds of speech.

**phonic** /'fɔnɪk/, /fon-ic/ *adj* having to do with sound.

**phonograph** /'fɔ:nə,græf/, /fon-u-graph/ *n (old)* an instrument for recording sounds and playing them back.

**phony** /'fo:ni/, /foe-nee/ *adj (inf)* not genuine, not sincere, unreal.

**phosphate** /'fɒsfet/, /fos-fate/ *n* a type of salt mixed into soil to make it more fertile.

**phosphorescence** /fɒsfə'resəns/, /fos-fu-re-sense/ *n* a faint shining visible only in the dark.

**phosphorescent** /fɒsfə'resənt/, /fos-fu-re-sent/ *adj* giving out a faint light in the dark.

**phosphorous** /'fɒsfərəs/, /fos-fu-rus/ *n* a yellow substance, easily set alight, giving out a faint light.

**photo** /'fɔ:to:/, /fo-toe/ *n* the common short form of **photograph**.

**photocopier** /'fɔ:to:kɔpiər/, /fo-toe-cop-ee/ *a* (digital or analogue) machine that makes copies of written or graphic material. see **xerox**.

**photocopy** /'fɔ:to:kɔpi/, /fo-toe-cop-ee/ *n* a photographed reproduction made by a photocopier. • *vb* to make a photographed copy. see **xerox (see 1)**.

**photogenic** /'fɔ:to:dʒenɪk, -dʒi:nɪk/, /fo-toe-jen-ic/ *adj* suitable for photographing, looking particularly attractive in photographs.

**photograph** /'fə:tə,græf/, /fo-toe-graph/ *n* (*abbr* = **photo**) a picture taken with a camera by means of the action of light on film and developed on photographic paper; such a picture, taken digitally. • *vb* to take a photograph. • *n* **photographer**. • *adj* **photographic**.

**photography** /fə'tɒgrəfi/, /fo-tog-ra-fee/ *n* the art of taking photographs.

**photometer** /fə:tɒmɪtər/, /fo-tom-i-ter/ *n* an instrument for measuring intensity of light.

**phrase** /'freɪz/, /fraze/ *n* 1 a small group of connected words expressing a single idea. 2 (*mus*) a group of connected notes. • *vb* to express in words.

**phraseology** /freɪzi'ɒlədʒi/, /fray-zee-ol-u-jee/ *n* a manner or style of expressing in words.

**phrenology** /frə'nɒlədʒi/, /fri-nol-u-jee/ *n* 1 the belief that a person's intelligence and abilities may be judged from the shape of his or her skull. 2 study of the shape of the skull based on this belief. • *n* **phrenologist**.

**physical** /'fɪzɪkəl/, /fi-zi-cal/ *adj* 1 having to do with the body. 2 having to do with the natural world.

**physiotherapy** /fɪzɪo'θerəpi/, /fi-zee-oa-ther-a-pee/ *n* the use of exercise or massage to improve mobility after illness or injury.

**physician** /fɪ'zɪʃən/, /fi-zi-shun/ *n* a doctor, especially as opposed to a surgeon.

**physicist** /'fɪzɪsɪst/, /fi-zi-sist/ *n* a scientist who specializes in physics.

**physics** /'fɪzɪks/, /fi-zics/ *n* the study of matter, its properties, and the forces affecting it (e.g. heat, electricity, etc).

**physiology** /fɪzɪ'ɒlədʒi/, /fi-zee-ol-u-jee/ *n* the study of living bodies, their organs and the way they work. • *adj* **physiological**. • *n* **physiologist**.

**physique** /fɪ'zi:k/, /fi-zeek/ *n* 1 the structure of a person's body. 2 strength of body.

**pianissimo** /piə'nɪsɪmo:/, /pee-a-ni-si-mo/ *adv* (*mus*) very softly.

**pianist** /'piənist/, /'pjænist/, /pee-a-nist/ *n* someone who plays on a piano.

**piano<sup>1</sup>** /pi'æno:/, 'pjæno:/, /pee-a-no, pya-no/, **pianoforte** /pi,æno:'fɔ:rteɪ/, /pee-a-no-for-tay/ *n* a musical instrument played by pressing down keys that cause little hammers to strike tuned strings.

**piano<sup>2</sup>** /pi'æno:/, /pee-a-no/ *adv (mus)* softly.

**piazza** /pi'ætsə/, /pee-at-za/ *n* 1 an open square surrounded by buildings. 2 a path under a roof supported by pillars.

**piccolo** /'pikəlo:/, /pi-ca-lo/ *n* a small high-pitched flute.

**pick<sup>1</sup>** /pɪk/, /pick/ *vb* 1 to choose. 2 to pull or gather. 3 to eat by small mouthfuls. 4 to open. • *n* choice, the best. • **pick holes in** to point out the faults in. • **pick up** 1 to take up. 2 to learn as if by chance. 3 to come upon by chance.

**pick<sup>2</sup>** /pɪk/, /pick/, **pickaxe** /'pɪk,aks/, /pi-caks/ *n*, also **pickax** (US) a tool with a long pointed head, used for breaking up hard ground. etc.

**picket** /'pɪkət/, /pi-cit/ *n* 1 a pointed wooden post. 2 a small group of soldiers acting as a guard. 3 a number of people on strike who try to prevent others from going to work. • *vb* to send out soldiers, strikers, etc, on picket.

**pickle** /'pɪkəl/, /pi-cul/ *n* 1 salt water or vinegar in which food is preserved. 2 (*inf*) a difficult or unpleasant situation. 3 *pl* vegetables, especially cucumber, preserved in vinegar. • *vb* to preserve by putting in salt water, vinegar, etc.

**pickpocket** /'pɪk,pɒkət/, /pic-poc-it/ *n* someone who steals from pockets.

**picnic** /'pɪknɪk/, /pic-nic/ *n* an outing taken for pleasure, during which a meal is eaten out of doors. • *also vb*.

**pictorial** /pɪk'tɔriəl/, /pic-toe-ree-al/ *adj* told or illustrated by pictures.

**picture** /'pɪktʃər/, /pic-chur/ *n* a painting, drawing, photograph or other likeness; a portrait. • *vb* 1 to imagine clearly. 2 (*frm*) to represent in a painting.

**picturesque** /,pɪktʃə'resk/, /pic-chu-resk/ *adj* that would make a good picture, striking in appearance, beautiful.

**pie** /paɪ/, /pie/ *n* meat or fruit in or under a crust of pastry.

**piece** /pi:s/, /peess/ *n* **1** a bit. **2** a distinct part. **3** a literary or musical composition. **4** a gun. **5** a short distance. **6** a coin. • *vb* **1** to put. **2** to patch.

**piecemeal** /'pi:smi:l/, /peess-meel/ *adv* **1** in or by pieces. **2** little by little.

**piecework** /'pi:swɜ:k/, /peess-wɜ:k/ *n* work paid by the amount done, not by time.

**pied** /paɪd/, /pied/ *adj (fml)* of different colours, spotted.

**pier** /pi:r/, /peer/ *n* **1** a stone pillar supporting an arch, etc. **2** a wooden platform built out into the sea, often used as a landing place by boats.

**pierce** /pi:rs/, /peerss/ *vb* **1** to make a hole through. **2** to go through.

**piercing** /'pi:rsɪŋ/, /peer-sɪŋ/ *adj* **1** high-sounding. **2** bright and intelligent-looking, staring.

**pig** /pig/, /pig/ *n* **1** a common farm animal. **2** a rough block or bar of smelted metal. • *vb* (**pigged**, **pigging**) to live in dirty or untidy surroundings. • **buy a pig in a poke** to buy something without examining it first.

**pigeon** /'pɪdʒən/, /pi-jin/ *n* a bird like a dove, but slightly larger.

**pigeon-hole** /'pɪdʒən,ho:l/, /pi-jin-hole/ *n* one of several compartments in a desk for storing papers, letters, etc.

**piggy bank** /'pɪgi;bæŋk/, /pi-gee bank/ *n* a small savings bank shaped like a pig.

**pig-headed** /'pɪg'hedəd/, /pig-he-did/ *adj* foolishly stubborn.

**pigment** /'pɪgmənt/, /pig-mint/ *n* any substance used for colouring.

**pigmy** see [pygmy](#).

**pigpen** /'pɪgpen/, /pig-pen/ *n* an enclosure for pigs.

**pig-sticking** /'pɪg,stɪkɪŋ/, /pig-sti-king/ *n* hunting wild boar with spears.

**pigtail** /'pɪgteɪl/, /pig-tale/ *n* a plait of hair hanging down the back or from each side of the head.

**pike<sup>1</sup>** /pəɪk/, /pike/ *n* a large freshwater fish.

**pike<sup>2</sup>** /pəɪk/, /pike/ *n* (old) a long spear.

**pilchard** /'pɪltʃərd/, /pil-churd/ *n* a small edible sea fish.

**pilates** /'pilætəz/, /pi-lat-ays/ *n* a series of gentle exercises, based on the principles of yoga and devised by Dr Joseph Pilates.

**pile<sup>1</sup>** /pail/, /pile/ *n* **1** a heap. **2** (*inf*) a large and grand building. • *vb* to heap up.

**pile<sup>2</sup>** /pail/, /pile/ *n* one of a number of wooden posts driven into the ground as the foundation for a building.

**pile<sup>3</sup>** /pail/, /pile/ *n* the soft woolly hair on cloth, carpets, etc.

**pilfer** /'pilfər/, /pil-fur/ *vb* to steal small amounts or articles of small value. • *n* **pilferer**.

**pilgrim** /'pilgrɪm/, /pil-grim/ *n* someone who travels, often very far, to a holy place to worship.

**pilgrimage** /'pilgri,mɪdʒ/, /pil-gri-midge/ *n* a journey made by a pilgrim.

**pill** /pɪl/, /pill/ *n* a tiny ball of medicine.

**pillar** /'pɪlər/, /pi-lar/ *n* **1** an upright of stone, wood, etc, for supporting an arch, roof, etc. **2** any person or thing that gives support.

**pillow** /'pilo:/, /pi-lo/ *n* a soft cushion for the head.

**pillowcase** /'pilo;keɪs/, /pi-lo-case/ *n* the cover put over a pillow.

**pilot** /'paɪlət/, /pie-lut/ *n* **1** someone who steers an aeroplane. **2** someone who guides a ship in and out of harbour. • *vb* **1** to steer an aeroplane. **2** to guide, to show the way.

**pimple** /'pɪmpəl/, /pim-pul/ *n* a small swelling on the skin.

**pimply** /'pimpli/, /pim-plee/ *adj* (*inf*) covered with pimples.

**pin** /pɪn/, /pin/ *n* **1** a short pointed bar of wire with a flattened head, used for fastening cloth, paper etc. **2** a wooden, metal, or plastic peg. **3** a bolt. **4** a narrow brooch. • *vb* (**pinned**, **pinning** /pi-ning/) **1** to fasten with pins. **2** to hold firmly (to). • **pins and needles** a tingling feeling in a limb as the blood starts to flow freely through it again.

**PIN** /pɪn/, /pin/ *abbr* = **personal identification number**: a number, consisting of several digits, used to identify a person.

**pinata** /pɪn'jatə/, /pi-nya-ta/ *n* a paper container full of treats, hung from the ceiling and hit with sticks until its contents spill out.

**pincers** /'pɪnsərz/, /pin-surz/ *npl* **1** a tool for gripping things firmly, used especially for pulling out nails. **2** claws (e.g. as of a crab).

**pinch** /pɪntʃ/, /pinch/ *vb* **1** to take or nip between the finger and thumb. **2** to squeeze the flesh until it hurts. **3** (*inf*) to steal. • *n* **1** the amount that can be taken between the finger and thumb. **2** a small amount. **3** need, distress.

**pine<sup>1</sup>** /paɪn/, /pine/ *n* a cone-bearing evergreen tree.

**pine<sup>2</sup>** /pine/ *vb* **1** to waste away with sorrow, pain, etc. **2** to long for.

**pineapple** /'paɪnæpəl/, /pine-a-pul/ *n* a pine-cone-shaped tropical fruit.

**pine cone** /'paɪn,kɔ:n/, /pine-cone/ *n* the scaly fruit of the pine tree.

**ping** /pɪŋ/, /ping/ *n* a sharp sound, as of a bullet striking something.

**pink<sup>1</sup>** /pɪŋk/, /pingk/ *n* **1** a garden flower. **2** a light red colour. **3** the best of condition. • also *adj*.

**pink<sup>2</sup>** /pɪŋk/, /pingk/ *vb* to cut a zigzag edge on cloth.

**pinnacle** /'pɪnækəl/, /pi-na-cul/ *n* **1** a pointed tower or spire on a building. **2** a pointed mountain. **3** the highest point.

**pinstripe** /'pɪnstrɔ:p/, /pin-stripe/ *n* a very thin stripe running through a material.

**pint** /paɪnt/, /pinte/ *n* in imperial measurement, the eighth part of a gallon, 0.568 litres.

**pioneer** /paɪə'nɪ:r/, /pie-u-neer/ *n* **1** someone who goes before the main body to prepare the way, someone who is the first to try out new ideas etc. **2** an explorer. • *vb* **1** to begin. **2** to explore.

**pious** /'paɪəs/, /pie-us/ *adj* loving and worshipping God, religious. • *n* **piety**.

**pip** /pɪp/, /pip/ *n* **1** seed of fruit. **2** the spot on a card, dice, domino, etc. **3** one of the badges worn on an army officer's shoulder to show his rank.

**pipe** /pɪp/, /pipe/ *n* **1** a musical wind instrument. **2** a long tube. **3** a tube with a bowl at one end for smoking tobacco. **4** a shrill voice. **5** a bird's note. **6** (*fm!*) a measure of wine. • *vb* **1** to play upon a pipe. **2** to make. **3** to speak in a shrill voice. **4** to whistle. • **piping hot** very hot.

**pipeline** /'pəɪplain/, /pipe-line/ *n* a long line of pipes to carry water, oil, etc. • **in the pipeline** in preparation.

**piper** /'pəɪpər/, /pie-per/ *n* someone who plays a pipe or bagpipes. • **pay the piper** to pay the bill.

**piquant** /pi:'kænt, 'pi:kænt/, /pee-kawnt, pee-kawnt/ *adj* 1 sharp-tasting, appetizing. 2 witty, arousing interest. • *n* **piquancy**.

**pique** /pi:k/, /peek/ *n* irritation, anger caused by wounded pride. • *vb* to wound the pride of, to offend.

**pirate** /'paɪrət/, /pie-rit/ *n* 1 someone who attacks and robs ships at sea. 2 a person who does something without legal right. • *also vb.* • *n* **piracy**.

**pirouette** /pɪru:'et/, /pi-roo-wet/ *vb* to turn round on the points of the toes as in ballet. • *also n.*

**pistachio** /pi'stæfjɔ:/, /pi-sta-shee-o/ *n* a nut with a green kernel.

**pistil** /'pɪstl/, /pi-stul/ *n* the seed-bearing part of a flower.

**pistol** /'pɪstəl/, /pi-stul/ *n* a small firearm fired with one hand.

**piston** /'pɪstən/, /pi-stun/ *n* a plug that fits closely into a hollow cylinder inside which it moves up and down.

**pit<sup>1</sup>** /pit/, /pit/ *n* 1 a deep hole in the earth. 2 the passageway leading down to a mine. 3 a mine. 4 the area in front of the stage in a theatre where the orchestra sits. 5 a trading area in a commodities exchange. • *vb (pitted, pitting)* 1 to lay in a pit. 2 to set against in order to outdo.

**pit<sup>2</sup>** /pit/, /pit/ *n* the stone of fruits such as the peach, plum, or cherry.

**pitch<sup>1</sup>** /pitʃ/, /pitch/ *vb* 1 to set up. 2 to throw. 3 to fall heavily. 4 to set the keynote of. 5 (of a ship) to dip down headfirst after rising on a wave. • *n* 1 a throw. 2 the highness or lowness of a note in music. 3 the ground marked out for a game. • **pitched battle** a set battle between two prepared armies.

**pitch<sup>2</sup>** /pitʃ/, /pitch/ *n* a thick dark substance obtained from tar.

**pitcher<sup>1</sup>** /'pitʃər/, /pi-cher/ *n* a container for liquids.

**pitcher<sup>2</sup>** /'pitʃər/, /pi-cher/ *n* the person who throws the ball to the batter in baseball.

**pitchfork** /'pitʃfɔrk/, /pitch-fawrk/ *n* a long-handled tool with prongs for moving hay. • *vb* **1** to move with a pitchfork. **2** to put suddenly into a new situation.

**pitfall** /'pitfɔl/, /pit-fawl/ *n* a trap.

**pith** /pɪθ/, /pith/ *n* **1** material just under the skin of an orange, etc. **2** the soft centre of the stem of a plant. **3** the most important part.

**pithy** /'pɪθi/, /pith-ee/ *adj* short and to the point, forceful.

**pitiable** /'pitiəbəl/, /pi-tee-ya-bul/ *adj* deserving pity.

**pitta (bread)** /'pitə/, /pi-ta bred/ *n* an oval-shaped type of flat bread that can be opened to insert a filling.

**pittance** /'pitəns/, /pi-tansel/ *n* a small allowance or wage.

**pitted** /'pitəd/, /pi-tid/ *adj* marked with little hollows.

**pity** /'pti/, /pi-tee/ *n* sympathy for the pain or sorrow of others. • *vb* to feel sorry for. • *adjs* **pitiful**, **pitiless** /pi-tee-less/.

**pivot** /'pivət/, /pi-vut/ *n* **1** the pin on which anything (e.g. a wheel) turns. **2** the central point of anything.

**pivotal** /'pivətəl/, /pi-vu-tal/ *adj* holding a central or important position.

**pixel** /'piksəl/, /piks-ul/ *n* in computing or photography, one of many tiny dots that make up a larger picture.

**pixie, pixy** /'piksi/, /pik-see/ *n* a fairy.

**pizza** /'pi:tṣəl/, /peet-sa/ *n* a baked circle of dough covered with cheese, tomatoes, etc.

**pizzeria** /'pi:tṣə'ri:ə/, /peet-se-ree-a/ *n* a restaurant where pizzas are baked and sold.

**placard** /'plækard/, /pla-card/ *n* a notice put up in a public place to announce or advertise something.

**placate** /plə'keɪt/, /pla-cate/ *vb* to make calm or peaceful.

**place** /pleis/, /place/ *n* **1** an open space in a town. **2** a particular area of space. **3** a village, town, etc. **3** the post or position held by someone. **4** rank in society. **5** a passage in a book. • *vb* **1** to put or set. **2** to decide from where a thing comes or where it ought to be. **3** to recognize. **4** to find a job for.

**placebo** /plə'si:bo:/, /pla-see-bo/ *n* an ineffective medication given to a control group in an experiment, when members of another group

are given a new medicine under trial.

**placid** /'plæsɪd/, /pla-sid/ *adj* calm, not easily angered or upset, gentle. • *n placidity*.

**plagiarism** /'pleɪdʒə,rɪzəm/, /play-ja-ri-zum/ *n* the act of stealing from another author's works. • *n plagiarist*.

**plagiarize** /'pleɪdʒə,raɪz/, /play-ja-rize/ *vb*, also **plagiarise** to use the words or ideas of another and pretend they are one's own.

**plague** /pleɪg/, /plaig/ *n* 1 a very infectious and dangerous disease. 2 (*inf*) a nuisance. • *vb (inf)* to keep on annoying, to pester.

**plaice** /pleɪs/, /place/ *n* an edible flat fish.

**plaid** /plæd/, /plaid/ *n* 1 a type of checked or tartan cloth. 2 a large woollen shawl-like wrap, often of tartan, worn as part of Scottish Highland dress.

**plain** /pleɪn/, /plain/ *adj* 1 clear, easily understood. 2 simple, bare, undecorated. 3 obvious. • *n* a stretch of level country. • **plain sailing** /pleɪn 'seɪlɪŋ/, /plain say-ling/ *n* something easy.

**plain-spoken** /'pleɪn'spo:kən/, /plain-spo-kin/ *adj* saying what one thinks, frank.

**plaintiff** /'pleɪntɪf/, /plain-tif/ *n* the person who brings a suit before a court of law.

**plaintive** /'pleɪntɪv/, /plain-tiv/ *adj* sad, expressing sorrow.

**plait** /pleɪt/, /plat/, /plate/, **pleat** /pleet/ *n* 1 a pigtail of intertwined hair. 2 a fold (e.g. in material). • *vb* to twist together into a plait.

**plan** /plæn/, /plan/ *n* 1 a drawing of the outlines made by an object on the ground, a map. 2 a scheme of what is to happen on a future occasion. • *vb (planned, planning)* 1 to draw a plan of. 2 to arrange beforehand what should happen. • *n planner*.

**plane**<sup>1</sup> /pleɪn/, /plane/ *n* 1 a smooth or level surface. 2 a carpenter's tool for giving wood a smooth surface. 3 a common short form of **aeroplane**. • *adj* level, smooth. • *vb* to make smooth.

**plane**<sup>2</sup>, **plane tree** /'pleɪn tri:/, /plane tree/ *n* a tall broad-leaved tree.

**planet** /'plænət/, /pla-nit/ *n* one of the heavenly bodies moving in orbit round the sun.

**planetarium** /plænə'teriəm/, /pla-ni-tay-ree-um/ *n* 1 a model of the planetary system. 2 a type of museum in which you can learn

about the universe.

**planetary** /'plænətəri/, /pla-ni-te-ree/ *adj* having to do with the planets.

**plank** /plæŋk/, /plangk/ *n* a long, flat piece of timber.

**plankton** /'plæŋktən/, /plangk-tun/ *n* small living organisms found in the sea.

**plant** /plænt/, /plant/ *n* 1 anything growing from the earth and feeding on it through its roots. 2 the machinery and equipment used in a factory. • *vb* 1 to put in the ground to grow. 2 to set firmly.

**plantain<sup>1</sup>** /plæn'teɪn, 'plæn-/ , /plan-tin/ *n* a type of plant with small green flowers and broad leaves.

**plantain<sup>2</sup>, plantain tree** /plæn'teɪn tri:/, /plan-tin tree/ *n* a tropical tree with fruit like a banana.

**plantation** /plæn'teɪʃən/, /plan-tay-shun/ *n* 1 a wood planted by man. 2 an estate on which a large amount of sugar, tea, cotton, etc, is cultivated.

**planter** /'plæntər/, /plan-ter/ *n* the owner or manager of a plantation.

**plaque** /plæk/, /plak/ *n* 1 an ornamental plate of metal, etc. 2 a deposit of saliva and bacteria that forms on the teeth.

**plasma** /'plæzmə/, /plaz-ma/ *n* the liquid part of blood.

**plasma screen** /'plæzmə ,skri:n/, /plaz-ma screen/ a type of flat screen on a television set.

**plaster** /'plæstər/, /pla-ster/ *n* 1 a mixture of lime, water and sand spread over the walls of buildings to make them smooth. 2 an adhesive bandage used for dressing wounds, etc. • *vb* 1 to cover with plaster. 2 to spread over the surface of.

**plaster cast** /'plæstər kæst/, /pla-ster cast/ *n* a rigid casing put around a broken limb for support while it is healing.

**plasterer** /'plæstərər/, /pla-stu-rer/ *n* someone who plasters walls.

**plastic** /plæstik/, /pla-stic/ *adj* easily shaped or moulded. • *n* 1 one of a group of man-made substances that can be moulded into any shape. 2 credit cards.

**plastic surgery** /,plæstik 'sɜrdʒəri:/, /pla-stic sur-ju-ree/ *n* the reshaping of part of the human body by surgery.

**plate** /pleɪt/, /plæt/ *n* **1** a shallow dish for food. **2** a flat piece of metal, glass, etc. **3** gold and silver household articles. **4** a picture printed from an engraved piece of metal, etc. • *vb* to cover with a thin coat of metal.

**plateau** /plæ'to:/, /pla-toe/ *n* (*pl* **plateaux** or **plateaus**) an extent of high level land, a tableland.

**platform** /'plætfɔrm/, /plat-fawrm/ *n* **1** a raised part of the floor. **2** a bank built above ground level for those entering trains, etc. **3** statement of the aims of a group.

**plating** /'pleɪtɪŋ/, /play-ting/ *n* the art of covering articles with a thin coat of metal.

**platinum** /'plætməm/, /plat-num/ *n* a valuable heavy greyish white metal.

**platonic love** /plæ,tɒnɪk 'ləv/, /pla-ton-ic luv/ *n* a non-sexual love between two human beings.

**platoon** /plə'tu:n/, /pla-toon/ *n* a small division of a company of infantry.

**platter** /'plætər/, /pla-ter/ *n* a large flat plate or dish.

**platypus** /'plætɪpəs/, /pla-ti-pus/ *n* an Australian mammal with jaws like a duck's bill.

**plausible** /'pləzibəl/, /plau-zi-bul/ *adj* that which sounds convincing, is seemingly true or truthful. • *n* **plausibility**.

**play** /pleɪ/, /play/ *vb* **1** to amuse oneself. **2** to take part in a game or sport. **3** to gamble. **4** to act a part in a drama. **5** to perform on a musical instrument. **6** to trifle with. • *n* **1** a drama. **2** things that people, such as children, do to amuse or entertain themselves. **3** gambling. **4** free movement.

**player** /'pleɪər/, /play-er/ *n* **1** someone who takes part in a sport or drama. **2** a musical performer.

**playful** /'pleɪfʊl/, /play-ful/ *adj* fond of sport or amusement.

**playground** /'pleɪgraʊnd/, /play-ground/ *n* a piece of ground set aside for children to play in.

**playhouse** /'pleɪhaʊs/, /play-house/ *n* a toy house large enough for children to play inside.

**playmate** /'pleɪmeɪt/, /play-mate/ *n* a childhood companion.

**plaything** /'pleɪθɪŋ/, /play-thing/ *n* a toy.

**playwright** /'pleɪrət/, /play-rite/ *n* someone who writes plays.

**plea** /pli:/, /plee/ *n* 1 an excuse. 2 an earnest request. 3 the prisoner's answer to the charge in a law court.

**plead** /pli:d/, /pleed/ *vb* (*pt, pp pled or pleaded*) 1 to request earnestly. 2 to put forward in excuse. 3 to present one's case or one's client's case in a court of law.

**pleasant** /'plezənt/, /ple-zant/ *adj* agreeable, enjoyable.

**please** /pli:z/, /pleez/ *vb* 1 to make happy or content. 2 to seem good to. 3 to be so kind as to.

**pleasurable** /'plɛdʒərəbəl/, /plezh-ra-bul/ *adj* giving pleasure.

**pleasure** /'plɛdʒər/, /ple-zhur/ *n* 1 delight, joy. 2 will or choice.

**pleat** /pli:t/ see **plait**.

**pectrum** /'plæktrəm/, /plec-trum/ *n* a small instrument for plucking the strings of stringed instruments.

**pled** *pt and pp of plead*.

**pledge** /plɛdʒ/, /pledʒ/ *n* 1 a solemn promise. 2 an object handed over to another to keep until a debt has been paid back to him or her. 3 a toast. • *vb* 1 to promise solemnly. 2 (*fml*) to give to keep until a debt has been repaid. 3 to drink to the health of.

**plenitude** /'plenɪtju:d/, /ple-ni-tood/ *n* an abundance, completeness.

**plentiful** /'plenti,ful/, /plen-ti-ful/ *adj* enough, more than enough.

**plenty** /'plenti/, /plen-tee/ *n* all that is necessary, more than is necessary.

**plethora** /'plɛθərə/, /ple-tho-ra/ *n* more than enough of anything.

**pliable** /'plaɪəbəl/, /plie-a-bul/ *adj* 1 easily bent. 2 easily influenced. • *n pliability*.

**pliant** /'plaɪənt/, /plie-ant/ *adj* 1 easily bent. 2 easily influenced. • *n pliancy*.

**pliers** /'plaɪərz/, /plie-urs/ *npl* a small tool for gripping things firmly and for cutting wire.

**plight**<sup>1</sup> /plɔɪt/, /plite/ *n* a difficult condition, situation.

**plight**<sup>2</sup> /plɔɪt/, /plite/ *vb* (*old*) to promise.

**plinth** /plɪnθ/, /plɪnθ/ *n* the square slab at the foot of a pillar or under a statue.

**plod** /plɒd/, /plɒd/ *vb* (**plodded**, **plodding**) to walk or work slowly and steadily.

**plodder** /plɒdər/, /plɒd-ər/ *n* someone who, though not clever, makes progress by hard work.

**plonk** /plɒŋk/, /plɔŋk/ *n* (*inf*) cheap or low-quality wine. • *v* to put something down heavily or carelessly.

**plot** /plɒt/, /plɔt/ *n* 1 a small piece of ground. 2 the planned arrangement of the events of a story, play, etc. 3 a secret plan against one or more persons. • *vb* (**plotted**, **plotting**) 1 to plan. 2 to form a plan against. 3 to mark out or set down on paper. • *n* **plotter**.

**plough** /plaʊ/, /plow/ *n*, also **plow** (*US*) an instrument for turning up soil before seeds are sown. • *vb* to turn up with a plough.

**ploughman** /'plaʊmən/, /plow-man/ *n* someone who ploughs, a farm labourer.

**ploughshare** /'plaʊʃər/, /plow-share/ *n* the cutter or blade of a plough.

**ploy** /plɔɪ/, /ploy/ *n* a devious tactic.

**pluck** /plʌk/, /pluck/ *vb* 1 to pick or gather. 2 to snatch. 3 to pull off the feathers. • *n* courage.

**plucky** /'pləki/, /plu-kee/ *adj* brave.

**plug** /plʌg/, /plug/ *n* 1 an object that fits into a hole and stops it, a stopper. 2 a device with metal pins that connects an electrical appliance to the main electrical supply. • *vb* (**plugged**, **plugging**) 1 to stop with a plug. 2 (*inf*) to publicize.

**plughole** /'plæg,hə:l/, /plug-hole/ *n* a hole at the foot of a sink or bath through which the water drains and into which a plug fits.

**plum** /plʌm/, /plum/ *n* a smooth-skinned, purple-coloured fruit with a pit. • *adj* 1 a dark, purple-red colour. 2 desirable.

**plumage** /'plu:mɪdʒ/, /ploo-midge/ *n* the feathers of a bird.

**plumb** /plʌm/, /plum/ *n* a piece of lead on a string, lowered from the top of a wall to see that it is at right angles to the ground. • *adj*

straight up and down. • *adv* 1 exactly. 2 straight up and down. • *vb* 1 to measure depth. 2 to study thoroughly.

**plumber** /'plʌmər/, /plu-mer/ *n* a workman skilled in mending or fitting pipes, taps, etc.

**plumbing** /'pləmɪŋ/, /plu-ming/ *n* 1 the work of a plumber. 2 all the pipes, taps, etc, in a house.

**plumline** /'pləmlaɪn/, /plum-line/ *n* the string by which a plumb is lowered.

**plume** /plu:m/, /ploom/ *n* 1 a feather. 2 an ornament of feathers in a hat, etc. • 3 a cloud of something such as smoke, etc that rises up into the air.

**plummet** /'pləmət/, /plu-mit/ *vb* to drop down, to plunge.

**plump<sup>1</sup>** /pləmp/, /plump/ *adj* fat and rounded. • *vb* to grow fat, to fatten. • *n* **plumpness**.

**plump<sup>2</sup>** /pləmp/, /plump/ *vb* 1 to sit or fall suddenly. 2 to choose. • *adv* suddenly or directly.

**plum pudding** /,pləm'puðɪŋ/, /plum poo-ding/ *n* a pudding containing currants, raisins, etc, flavoured with spices.

**plunder** /'pləndər/, /plun-der/ *vb* to steal by force, to rob. • *n* that which is taken away by force.

**plunge** /pləndʒ/, /plunj/ *vb* 1 to thrust into water. 2 to jump or dive into water. 3 to rush. • *n* 1 a dive. 2 act of rushing.

**pluperfect** /plu:'pərfikt/, /ploo-per-fect/ *n* see **past perfect**.

**plural** /'plurəl/, /plu-ral/ *adj* more than one in number. • *n* the form(s) of a word indicating more than one.

**pluralist** /'plurəlist/, /plu-ra-list/ *n* (*fml*) someone who holds more than one office.

**plurality** /plu'rælɪti/, /plu-ra-li-tee/ *n* (*fml*) 1 a number consisting of more than one. 2 the majority.

**plus** /pləs/, /plus/ *prep* with the addition of. • *adj* 1 more than. 2 to be added, extra. • *n* the sign (+) of addition.

**plush** /pləʃ/, /plush/ *n* (*inf*) a velvety kind of cloth. • *adj* luxurious.

**Pluto** /plu:tə/, /ploo-to/ *n* originally classified as the ninth planet from the sun, since 2006 Pluto has been regarded as one of 44 dwarf

planets (there are now deemed to be eight planets in the solar system).

**ply**<sup>1</sup> /plaɪ/, /plie/ *vb* **1** to work at. **2** to go regularly between two places. **3** to use skilfully.

**ply**<sup>2</sup> /plaɪ/, /plie/ *n* a layer.

**plywood** /'plaɪwud/, /plie-wood/ *n* strong board made up of several thin layers of wood stuck together.

**p.m.** /pi:'em/, /pee-em/ *abbr* = **post meridiem** /post mer-id-ee-em/: a Latin phrase, meaning after noon.

**PMS** /pi;ɛm'ɛs/, /pee-em-ess/ *n abbr* = **premenstrual syndrome**: the physical and emotional effects that some women experience just before a period starts. • sometimes **PMT** *n abbr* = **premenstrual tension**.

**pneumatic** /nu:'mætɪk, nju:-/, /noo-ma-tic, nyoo-/ *adj* filled with air, moved by air.

**pneumonia** /nu:'mɔ:nɪə, nju-/, /noo-moe-nee-a, nyoo-/ *n* an inflammation of the lungs.

**poach**<sup>1</sup> /po:tʃ/, /poach/ *vb* to cook (fish, eggs, etc.) lightly in liquid.

**poach**<sup>2</sup> /po:tʃ/, /poach/ *vb* to hunt unlawfully on another's land. • *n poacher*.

**pocket** /'pækət/, /pock-it/ *n* **1** a small bag attached to a garment, billiard table, suitcase, etc. **2** a hollow in earth or rock filled with metal ore. • *vb* **1** to put into a pocket. **2** to steal. **3** to conceal.

**pocketbook** /'pækət,buk/, /pock-it-book/ *n* a small case for holding paper money, letters, etc.

**pocket money** /'pækət,məni:/, /pock-it mu-nee/ *n* a small amount of money that parents give regularly to their children.

**pockmarked** /'pækət,məni:/, /pock-markt/ *adj* marked with small hollows on the skin as a result of smallpox.

**pod** /pɒd/, /pod/ *n* the covering of the seed of plants, such as peas, beans, etc.

**podcast** /'pɒdkæst/, /pod-cast/ *n* an audio or video file, downloadable (usually for free) from a web site and playable on computers or mp3 players.

**podgy** /'pɒdʒi/, /pɒd-jee/ *adj (inf)* short and fat.

**poem** /'po:əm/, /poə-em/ *n* a piece of writing set down in memorable language and in lines with a recognizable rhythm.

**poet** /'po:ət/, /poə-et/ *n* someone who writes poetry. • *f poetess*.

**poetic** /po:'etik/, /poa-et-ic/, **poetical** /poa-et-i-cal/ *adjs* 1 having to do with poetry. 2 suitable for poetry.

**poetry** /'po:ətri/, /poa-e-tree/ *n* ideas, feelings, etc, expressed in memorable words and rhythmical language.

**poinant** /'pɔɪnənt/, /poy-nyant/ *adj* painful and deeply felt.

**point** /pɔɪnt/, /point/ *n* 1 the sharp end of anything. 2 a headland. 3 a dot. 4 the exact place or time. 5 the purpose for which something is said or written. 6 a single stage in an argument or list. 7 the unit of scoring in certain games. • *vb* 1 to show the direction of with a finger, stick, etc. 2 to sharpen. 3 to aim. 4 (of dogs) to show the direction of game with the nose. • **make a point of** to attach special importance to. • **on the point of** about to.

**pointed** /'pɔɪntəd/, /poin-tid/ *adj* 1 sharp. 2 meant to be understood in a certain way.

**pointer** /'pɔɪntər/, /poin-ter/ *n* 1 a rod for pointing with. 2 a dog trained to point out game.

**pointless** /'pɔɪntləs/, /point-less/ *adj* having no meaning, having no sensible purpose.

**poise** /'poɪz/, /poiz/ *n* 1 balance. 2 calmness and good sense. • *vb* 1 to balance. 2 to hover.

**poison** /'poɪzən/, /poi-zun/ *n* 1 any substance that when taken into a living creature (animal or vegetable) harms or kills it. 2 any idea, etc, that when spread through society causes standards of judgment to become lower. • *vb* 1 to give poison to. 2 to kill by poison.

**poisonous** /'poɪzənəs/, /poi-zu-nuss/ *adj* 1 being or containing poison. 2 having a very harmful influence.

**poke** /po:k/, /poke/ *vb* to push with something pointed (e.g. a finger, stick, etc), to prod. • *n* a prod given with something pointed. • **poke fun at** to make fun of. • **poke one's nose into** to interfere in what does not concern one.

**poker** /po:k/, /po-ker/ *n* **1** a metal rod for stirring the coal, etc, in a fire. **2** a card game, usually played for money.

**poky** /'po:ki/, /po-kee/ *adj (inf)* small and cramped.

**polar** /'po:lər/, /po-lar/ *adj* of or near one of the poles of the earth.

**polar bear** /'po:lər ,beɪə/, /po-lar bare/ *n* the white bear of Arctic regions.

**polarize** /'po:lə,raɪz/, /po-la-rize/ *vb*, also **polarise** to divide into groups based on two completely opposite opinions, attitudes, etc.

**pole<sup>1</sup>** /po:l/, /pole/ *n* **1** a long rod. **2** a long rounded post. **3** an imperial measure of length (= 5.03 metres).

**pole<sup>2</sup>** /po:l/, /pole/ *n* **1** one of the ends of the axis of the earth. **2** one of the points in the sky opposite the poles of the earth. **3** the end of either of the two arms of a magnet.

**polecat** /po:lkæt/, /pole-cat/ *n* a weasel-like animal that throws out a foul-smelling liquid when attacked.

**polestar, Pole Star** /'po:l stær/, /pole-star/ *n* a particular star at or near the celestial North Pole, used for finding directions.

**police** /pə'li:s/, /pu-leess/ *n* a body of persons whose job is to keep public order and see that the law is kept. • *vb* to see that law and order are kept. • *n* **policeman, police officer, policewoman**.

**policy** /'polisi:/, /pol-i-see/ *n* **1** the methods or plans of a government or party. **2** a plan for a course of action. **3** a written agreement with an insurance company.

**polish** /'polɪʃ/, /pol-ish/ *vb* **1** to make smooth and shining by rubbing. **2** to improve, to refine. • *n* **1** a smooth, shiny surface. **2** any substance rubbed on to make smooth and shiny. **3** good manners, refinement.

**polite** /pə'ləɪt/, /pu-lite/ *adj* well-mannered, refined. • *n* **politeness**.

**political** /pə'lɪtɪkəl/, /pu-li-ti-cal/ *adj* having to do with politics.

**politically correct** /pə,lɪtɪkli: kə'rekt/, /pu-li-tic-lee cu-rect/ *adj* of language that is designed to avoid giving offence to particular groups of people, usually people who are often discriminated against, often abbreviated to **PC**. • *n* **political correctness**.

**politician** /,pɒlɪ'tɪʃən/, /pol-i-ti-shun/ *n* **1** a statesman whose work is concerned with the public affairs or government of a country. **2**

someone who seeks political office for selfish motives.

**politics** /'pɔlɪtɪks/, /pol-i-tics/ *n* the art or study of government; political matters.

**polka** /'po:lkə/, /pol-ka/ *n* a quick lively dance.

**poll** /po:l/, /pole/ *n* 1 an election. 2 the number of votes. • *vb* 1 to record the vote of. 2 to receive a vote or votes.

**pollen** /'pɔlən/, /pol-in/ *n* the yellow dust on a flower that when united to seeds makes them grow.

**pollinate** /'pɔli,nate/, /pol-in-ate/ *vb* to make pollen unite with the seed. • *n* **pollination**.

**pollutant** /'pɔlu:nənt/, /pu-loo-tant/ *n* something that pollutes.

**pollute** /pə'lut/, /pu-loot/ *vb* to make filthy or unfit for use. • *n* **pollution**.

**polo** /'po:lo:/, /po-lo/ *n* a game like hockey played on horseback.

**poltergeist** /'po:ltər,gəɪst/, /pole-ter-giest/ *n* a mischievous spirit or ghost.

**poly-** /'pɔli/, /pol-ee/ *prefix* many.

**polyester** /,pɒli'ɛstər/, /po-lee-es-ter/ *n* a synthetic fibre used to make fabric.

**polythene** /'pɒli,θi:n/, /pol-i-theen/ *n* a man-made plastic material resistant to chemicals and moisture.

**pomegranate** /'pɒmə,grænɪt/, /pom-e-gra-nit/ *n* a large thick-skinned fruit containing many red, juicy, edible seeds.

**pomp** /pɒmp/, /pomp/ *n* splendid show or display, grandeur.

**pomposity** /pɒm'pɒsiti/, /pom-pos-i-tee/ *n* act of being pompous.

**pompous** /'pɒmpəs/, /pom-pus/ *adj* trying to appear dignified or important.

**poncho** /'pɒntʃo:/, /pon-sho/ *n* a circular or rectangular cloak with a hole in the middle to put the head through.

**pond** /pɒnd/, /pond/ *n* a large pool of standing water.

**ponder** /'pɒndər/, /pon-der/ *vb* (*fm!*) to think deeply, to consider carefully.

**ponderous** /'pɒndərəs/, /pon-drus/ *adj* 1 (*fm!*) very heavy. 2 slow, dull.

**pong** /pɒŋ/, /pɔŋ/ *n (inf)* an unpleasant smell.

**pontiff** /'pɒntɪf/, /pon-tif/ *n* **1** a bishop. **2** the pope. • **Supreme Pontiff** the pope.

**pontifical** /pɒn'tɪfɪkəl/, /pon-ti-fi-cal/ *adj* **1** having to do with a bishop or the pope. **2** pompous.

**pontificate** /pɒn'tɪfi'keɪt/, /pon-ti-fi-cate/ *vb* **1** (*fml*) to state one's opinions pompously, as if stating undoubted facts. **2** to act as a pontiff. • *n* the office or reign of a pontiff.

**pontoon<sup>1</sup>** /pɒn'tu:n/, /pon-toon/ *n* a card game, usually played for money.

**pontoon<sup>2</sup>** /pɒn'tu:n/, /pon-toon/ *n* a flat-bottomed boat used as a support for a bridge. • *n* **pontoon bridge**.

**pony** /'po:ni/, /poe-nee/ *n* a small horse.

**poo** /pu:/, /poo/ (*inf*) *n* **1** faeces. **2** the passing of faeces. • *vb* to pass faeces.

**poodle** /'pu:dəl/, /poo-dul/ *n* a pet dog with curly hair, often clipped to leave part of its hair short.

**pooh** /pu:/, /poo/ *interj* an exclamation of contempt.

**pooh-pooh** /pu:'pu:/, /poo-poo/ *vb* (*inf*) to sneer at, to speak scornfully of.

**pool<sup>1</sup>** /pu:l/, /pool/ *n* **1** a puddle. **2** a deep place in a stream or river. **3** an area of still water.

**pool<sup>2</sup>** /pu:l/, /pool/ *n* **1** all the money bet on a certain game or event. **2** a collection of resources, money, etc, for sharing, communal use etc. • *vb* to put together the goods, etc, of individuals for use by the whole group.

**poop<sup>1</sup>** /pʊp/, /poop/ *n* the back part of a ship, the stern.

**poop<sup>2</sup>** /pʊp/, /poop/ *vb* to exhaust.

**poop<sup>3</sup>** /pʊp/, /poop/ *n (inf)* **1** faeces. **2** the passing of faeces. • *vb* to pass faeces.

**poor** /pur/, /poor/ *adj* **1** having little money. **2** unfortunate. **3** bad.

**poorly** /'pʊrlɪ/, /poor-lee/ *adj* unwell.

**pop** /pɒp/, /pop/ *n* **1** a sharp, low sound. **2** pop music. • *vb* (**popped, popping**) **1** to make a sharp, low sound. **2** to move quickly or

suddenly.

**Pope** /po:p/, /pope/ *n* the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

**poplar** /'poplər/, /pop-lar/ *n* a tall slender tree.

**pop music** /'pop ,mju:zɪk/, /pop myoo-zic/ *n* modern popular music,  
usually having simple tunes and a strong beat.

**poppy** /'pɒpi/, /pop-ee/ *n* a plant with brightly coloured flowers.

**population** /'pɒpjuləs/, /pop-yu-lis/ *n* (fml) the common people.

**popular** /'pɒpjulər/, /pop-yu-lar/ *adj* 1 having to do with the people. 2  
well-liked by most people.

**popularity** /pɒpjʊ'lærɪti/, /pop-yu-la-ri-tee/ *n* the state of being liked  
by most people.

**popularize** /'pɒpjʊləraɪz/, /pop-yu-la-rize/ *vb*, also **popularise** to  
make popular.

**populate** /'pɒpjʊleɪt/, /pop-yu-late/ *vb* to provide with inhabitants.

**population** /'pɒpjʊ'leɪʃən/, /pop-yu-lay-shun/ *n* all the people living in  
a place.

**populous** /'pɒpjuləs/, /pop-yu-lus/ *adj* having many inhabitants.

**porcelain** /'pɔrsələn/, /pore-su-lin/ *n* fine pottery.

**porch** /pɔrtʃ/, /poarch/ *n* a roofed approach to a door.

**porcupine** /'pɔrkjupain/, /pawr-cyu-pine/ *n* an animal like the rat,  
covered with prickly quills.

**pore**<sup>1</sup> /pɔr/, /pore/ *n* a tiny opening, especially in the skin.

**pore**<sup>2</sup> /pɔr/, /pore/ *vb*. • **pore over** to study closely.

**pork** /pɔrk/, /poark/ *n* the meat obtained from a pig.

**porous** /'pɔrəs/, /poe-rus/ *adj* having small holes through which liquid  
may pass.

**porpoise** /'pɔrpəs/, /pawr-poiz/ *n* a sea animal about 1.5 metres  
long.

**porridge** /'pɔridʒ/, /paw-ridge/ *n* a food made from oatmeal boiled in  
water or milk and served hot for breakfast.

**port**<sup>1</sup> /pɔrt/, /port/ *n* 1 a harbour. 2 a place with a harbour.

**port**<sup>2</sup> /pɔrt/, /port/ *n* an opening in the side of a ship.

**port**<sup>3</sup> /pɔrt/, /pɔrt/ *n* the left side of a ship (looking forward), larboard (*old*).

**port**<sup>4</sup> /pɔrt/, /pɔrt/ *n* a dark sweet red wine.

**portable** /'pɔrtəbel/, /pore-ta-bul/ *adj* able to be carried about.

**portal** /'pɔrtəl/, /pore-tal/ *n* (*fml*) a doorway, a gateway.

**portcullis** /pɔrt'kʌlis/, /port-cu-lis/ *n* a grating of crisscrossed iron bars that can be lowered suddenly to close the gateway of a castle against attackers.

**porter** /'pɔrtər/, /pore-tur/ *n* 1 someone who carries loads, baggage, etc, for others. 2 a person employed in a hospital to move patients from place to place. 3 a person in charge of the entrance to a hotel or other large building. 4 a dark brown beer.

**portfolio** /pɔrt'fo:lio/, /port-foe-lee-o/ *n* 1 a case for carrying loose papers, drawings, etc. 2 the office of a minister of state.

**porthole** /'pɔrθo:l/, /poart-hole/ *n* a small window in the side of a ship.

**portico** /'pɔrtiko:/, /pore-ti-co/ *n* (*pl porticoes or porticos*) 1 a roof supported by a row of pillars, jutting out at the front of a building. 2 a roofed approach to a door. 3 a path covered by a roof supported by pillars.

**portion** /'pɔrʃən/, /pore-shun/ *n* 1 a share. 2 a helping, a serving. 3 the money and property given to a woman at the time of her marriage. 4 (*fml or old*) one's fate. 5 a part of something. • *vb* 1 to divide up. 2 to give a share to.

**portly** /'pɔrtli/, /port-lee/ *adj* stout.

**portrait** /'pɔrtrət/, /pore-trait/ *n* 1 a picture of a person. 2 a good description.

**portraiture** /'pɔrtrətʃər/, /pore-tri-chur/ *n* 1 the drawing of portraits. 2 describing in words.

**portray** /pɔr'treɪ/, /pore-tray/ *vb* 1 to draw or paint. 2 to describe.

**portrayal** /pɔr'treɪəl/, /pore-tray-al/ *n* the act of portraying.

**Portuguese** /pɔr'tju:giz/, /pore-tyoo-geez/ *n* the language of Portugal and Brazil. • *adj* pertaining to the land or people of Portugal.

**pose** /po:z/, /poze/ *vb* 1 to put. 2 to put on or take up a certain attitude. 3 to pretend to be what one is not. • *n* 1 position, attitude.

**2** a pretence of being what one is not. **3** a false manner or attitude.  
**posh** /pɒʃ/, /poʃ/ *adj* **1** expensive or luxurious. **2** upper-class.

**position** /pə'zɪʃən/, /pu-zɪ-shun/ *n* **1** place. **2** rank, grade. **3** job. **4** state of affairs. **5** a place occupied by troops during battle. • *vb* to place.

**positive** /'pozɪtɪv/, /pos-i-tiv/ *adj* **1** sure. **2** certain, definite. **3** confident. **4** greater than zero. **5** really existing. **6** active, leading to practical action.

**positively** /'pozɪtɪvli/, /pos-i-tiv-lee/ *adv* completely, really.

**posse** /'pɒsi/, /pos-ee/ *n* a group of people with a shared interest or purpose.

**possess** /pə'zes/, /pu-zess/ *vb* **1** to have as one's own. **2** (*frm*) to control the mind of. • *adj* possessed.

**possession** /pə'zeʃən/, /pu-ze-shun/ *n* **1** the act of possessing. **2** ownership. **3** control by evil spirits.

**possessive** /pə'zesɪv/, /pu-ze-siv/ *adj* **1** showing possession. **2** liking to possess or own, unwilling to share.

**possessor** /pə'zesər/, /pu-ze-sur/ *n* someone who possesses.

**possibility** /,pɒsɪ'biliti/, /paw-si-bi-li-tee/ *n* something possible.

**possible** /'pɒsɪbəl/, /paw-si-bul/ *adj* **1** that may be true. **2** that may exist. **3** that can be done.

**possibly** /'pɒsiblɪ/, /paw-si-blee/ *adv* perhaps, maybe.

**post<sup>1</sup>** /po:st/, /poast/ *n* a strong pole or length of wood stuck upright in the ground. • *vb* to put up on a post, noticeboard, etc.

**post<sup>2</sup>** /po:st/, /poast/ *n* **1** the official system by which letters, parcels, etc are sent from one place to another. **2** letters or parcels sent in this system. **3** one's place of duty. **4** one's job. **5** a military camp. **6** a settlement. • *vb* **1** to send by post. **2** to send to a certain place of duty. **3** (*old*) to travel on horseback changing horses at regular intervals. **4** to supply with the latest news.

**post-** /po:st/, /poast/ *prefix* after.

**postage** /'po:stɪdʒ/, /poa-stidge/ *n* the charge for sending something by mail.

**postbox** /'po:stboks/, /poast-boks/ *n* a metal box in a public place for putting letters to be sent by post.

**postcard** /'po:stkard/, /poast-card/ *n* a card on which a message may be written and which can be posted without an envelope.

**postcode** /'po:stko:d/, *n* /poast-code/ a combination of letter and number to aid in addressing posted items.

**postdate** /po:st'deit/, /poast-date/ *vb* to put on a date later than the actual one.

**poster** /'po:stər/, /poas-ter/ *n* a large printed notice for public display.

**posterior** /pb'sti:riər/, /pu-sti-ree-ur/ *adj* (*fml*) **1** later. **2** placed behind.

**posterity** /pb'steriti/, /pos-te-ri-tee/ *n* one's descendants, later generations.

**posthumous** /'pɒstjəməs/, /'pɒstʃəməs/, /pos-chu-mus/ *adj* **1** happening after someone's death. **2** born after the father's death. **3** published after the author's death.

**postman** /'po:stmæn/, /poast-man/ *n* a man whose job is to deliver letters and parcels sent by post.

**postmortem** /po:st'mɔrtəm/, /poast-mawr-tum/ *adj* after death. • *n* an examination of a body after death to find out the cause of death. • also **autopsy** (US).

**postnatal** /po:st'neitəl/, /poast-nay-tal/ *adj* after birth.

**post office** /'po:st,ɒfɪs/, /poast awf-iss/ *n* **1** an office where stamps may be bought, letters posted, etc. **2** **the Post Office** of the government department in charge of postal services.

**postpone** /po:st'po:n/, /poast-pone/ *vb* to put off until a later time. • *n* **postponement**.

**postscript** /'po:stskept/, /poast-script/ *n* something extra written at the end of a letter after the signature, abbr **PS**.

**posture** /'pɒstʃər/, /pos-chur/ *n* **1** a way of holding oneself. **2** an attitude. • *vb* **1** to hold oneself in a certain way. **2** (*fml*) to behave in a way not natural to oneself.

**posy** /'po:zi/, /poe-zee/ *n* a small bunch of flowers.

**pot** /'pɒt/, /pot/ *n* **1** a vessel for cooking in. **2** a vessel for holding plants, liquids, etc. • *vb* (**potted**, **potting**) **1** to put in a pot. **2** to shoot at and kill.

**potash** /'pɒtæʃ/, /pot-ash/ *n* a substance obtained from the ashes of certain plants.

**potassium** /pə'tæsiəm/, /pu-ta-see-um/ *n* the metallic base of potash.

**potato** /pə'teɪto:/, /pu-tay-toe/ *n* (*pl* **potatoes**) a plant, the tubers of which are eaten as vegetables.

**potency** /'po:tənsi/, /poe-ten-see/ *n* power.

**potent** /'po:tənt/, /poe-tent/ *adj* strong, powerful.

**potential** /pə'tenʃəl/, /pu-ten-shal/ *adj* existing but not made use of; possible. • *n* the unrealized ability to do something.

**potentially** /-fi'ælɪti/, /pu-ten-shee-a-li-tee/ *n* unused or undeveloped power(s).

**pothole** /'pɒtho:l/, /pot-hole/ *n* 1 a hole in the surface of a road. 2 a deep hole in limestone.

**potholing** /'pɒtho:lɪŋ/, /pot-hole-ing/ *n* the exploring of limestone potholes.

**potion** /'po:ʃən/, /po-shun/ *n* (*lit*) a dose, a liquid medicine.

**pot luck** /pɒtlæk/, /pot luck/ *n* 1 whatever food is available. 2 whatever is available.

**potpourri** /po:pʊ'ri:/, /po-poo-ree/ *n* 1 a mixture of dried pieces of sweet-smelling flowers and leaves. 2 (*frm*) a selection of writings or pieces of music, a miscellany.

**pottage** /'pɒtɪdʒ/, /pot-idge/ *n* (*old*) a thick soup or porridge.

**potter<sup>1</sup>** /'pɒtər/, /pot-er/ *n* someone who makes earthenware vessels.

**potter<sup>2</sup>** /'pɒtər/, /pot-er/ *vb* work slowly and without much attention.

**pottery** /'pɒtəri/, /pot-er-ee/ *n* 1 cups, plates, etc, made of earthenware. 2 a potter's workshop.

**pouch** /paʊtʃ/, /pouch/ *n* a small bag.

**pouffe** /puf/, /poof/ *n* a large firm cushion used as a seat or for resting your feet on.

**poulterer** /'po:lterər/, /pole-tu-rer/ *n* someone who buys and sells poultry.

**poultice** /'po:ltɪs/, /pole-tiss/ *n* a dressing containing some soft material, often heated, and placed on or over a sore part of the

body. • *vb* to put a poultice on.

**poultry** /'po:ltri/, /pole-tree/ *n* farmyard fowls.

**pounce** /pauns/, /pounse/ *n* 1 a sudden jump on. 2 the claw of a bird. • *vb* 1 to jump on suddenly. 2 to attack suddenly.

**pound<sup>1</sup>** /paund/, /pound/ *n* 1 an imperial measure of weight (= 16 ounces or 0.454 kilograms), *abbr* **lb**. 2 a British unit of money (100 pence).

**pound<sup>2</sup>** /paund/, /pound/ *vb* 1 to beat hard. 2 to crush into powder or small pieces. 3 to walk or run heavily.

**pound<sup>3</sup>** /paund/, /pound/ *n* 1 a place for stray cats and dogs. 2 a place where cars that have been illegally parked are kept until the owners pay to get them back.

**pour** /pɔ:r/, /pore/ *vb* 1 to cause to flow. 2 to flow strongly. 3 to rain heavily. 4 to move in great quantity or in large numbers.

**pout** /pəut/, /pout/ *vb* to thrust out the lips in displeasure, to look sulky. • *n* a sulky look.

**poverty** /'pɔvərti/, /po-vur-tee/ *n* lack of money or goods, want, the state of being poor.

**poverty-stricken** /'pɔvərti ,stri:kən/, /po-vur-tee-stri-kin/ *adj* very poor.

**powder** /'paudər/, /pow-der/ *n* 1 any substance in the form of tiny dry particles. 2 gunpowder. • *vb* 1 to make into a powder. 2 to put powder on.

**powdery** /'paudəri/, /pow-dree/ *adj* 1 dustlike. 2 covered with powder.

**power** /'pauər/, /pow-er/ *n* 1 the ability to act or do. 2 strength, force. 3 influence. 4 control. 5 a strong nation. 6 mechanical energy. • *adj* **powerful**, **powerless**.

**powerhouse** /'pauər,həʊs/, /pow-er-house/ *n* (*inf*) a strong or energetic person, team, etc.

**power station** /'pauər,steiʃən/, /pow-er stay-shun/ *n* a place where electrical power is generated.

**powwow** /'pauwau/, /pow-wow/ *n* 1 (*inf*) a friendly discussion. 2 (*old*) a conference among American Indians.

**practicable** /'præktikəbəl/, /prac-ti-ca-bul/ *adj* that can be done, possible.

**practical** /'præktrɪkəl/, /prac-ti-cal/ *adj* 1 skilful in work, able to deal with things efficiently. 2 that can be carried out, useful. 3 concerned with action rather than with ideas. • *adv practically*.

**practicality** /præktrɪ'kælɪti/, /prac-ti-ca-li-tee/ *n* usefulness.

**practice** /præktɪs/, /prac-tiss/ *n* 1 (*frm*) habit, frequent use. 2 the doing of an action often to improve one's skill. 3 a doctor or lawyer's business.

**practise** /'præktsɪs/, /prac-tiss/ *vb*, also **practice** (*US*) 1 to do frequently. 2 to do often in order to improve one's skill. 3 to carry on a profession.

**practitioner** /præk'tɪʃənər/, /prac-tish-ner/ *n* someone who practises a profession.

**pragmatic** /præg'mætɪk/, /prag-ma-tic/ *adj* concerned with practicalities rather than theories.

**pragmatism** /prægmætɪzəm/, /prag-ma-ti-zum/ *n* the judging of actions or events by their practical outcome.

**prairie** /'præri/, /pray-ree/ *n* an extent of level treeless grassland.

**praise** /preɪz/, /praise/ *vb* 1 to speak well of, to speak in honour of. 2 to worship, as by singing hymns, etc. • *n* 1 an expression of credit or honour. 2 glory, worship expressed through song.

**praiseworthy** /'preɪz, wərði/, /praise-wur-thee/ *adj* deserving to be spoken well of.

**pram** /prəm/, /pram/ *n* a four-wheeled vehicle for pushing a baby in.

**prance** /præns/, /pranss/ *vb* 1 to jump about. 2 to walk in a showy manner.

**prank** /prɔŋk/, /prangk/ *n* a trick played in fun.

**prattle** /'prætəl/, /pra-tul/ *vb* to talk a lot and foolishly, to chatter like a young child. • *n* foolish or childish talk.

**prawn** /prən/, /prawn/ *n* a small pink edible shellfish.

**pray** /preɪ/, /pray/ *vb* 1 to beg for, to ask earnestly. 2 to speak to God in worship, thanksgiving, etc.

**prayer** /preɪr/, /prare/ *n* 1 an earnest request. 2 words addressed to God in worship, thanksgiving, etc.

**prayer book** /'preɪr buk/, /prare book/ *n* a book containing prayers, order of services, etc.

**pre-** /pri:/, /pree/ *prefix before.*

**preach** /pri:tʃ/, /preech/ *vb* **1** to speak in public on a religious or sacred subject. **2** to give advice on how to behave correctly, especially in what is considered a boring or annoying way. **3** to recommend a particular way of behaving or thinking. • *n* **preacher**.

**preamble** /pri:'æmbəl/, /pree-am-bul/ *n (fml)* the introductory part of a statute or constitution, speech, piece of writing, etc.

**prearrange** /pri:e'reindʒ/, /pre-a-range/ *vb* to arrange beforehand.

**precarious** /pri'keriəs/, /pri-cay-ree-us/ *adj* uncertain, dangerous.

**precaution** /pri'kɔʃən/, /pri-caw-shun/ *n* something done to prevent future trouble. • *adj* **precautionary**.

**precede** /pri'si:d/, /pree-seed/ *vb* to come or go before in time, place or importance.

**precedence** /'presidəns/, /pre-si-dense/ *n* **1** being earlier in time. **2** greater importance. **3** order according to rank.

**precedent** /'presidənt/, /pre-si-dent/ *n* an earlier case that helps one to decide what to do in like circumstances.

**preceding** /pri'si:dɪŋ/, /pri-see-ding/ *adj* previous.

**precinct** /pri:sɪŋkt/, /pree-singkt/ *n* **1** the land around and belonging to a building. **2** *pl* the grounds. **3** a part laid out for a particular use.

**precious** /preʃəs/, /pre-shus/ *adj* **1** of great worth or value. **2** too deliberate, too concerned with perfection or unimportant detail.

**precipice** /'presɪpɪs/, /pre-si-piss/ *n* a very steep cliff.

**precipitate** /pri'sipi,teɪt/, /pri-si-pi-tate/ *vb* **1** to make happen at once. **2** to hasten. **3** to cause the solid matter in a liquid to sink to the foot. • *adj* /pri-si-pi-tit/ thoughtless, overhasty. • *n* /pri-si-pi-tit/ the solid matter that settles at the bottom of a liquid.

**precipitation** /pri,sɪpɪ'teɪʃən/, /pri-si-pi-tay-shun/ *n* the fall of water from the sky in the form of rain, hail, sleet or snow.

**precise** /pri'səs/, /pri-siess/ *adj* **1** exact, clearly expressed. **2** careful. **3** exact, particular, very. • *n* **precision**.

**precocious** /pri'ko:ʃəs/, /pri-co-shus/ *adj* (of a child) too clever for one's age, forward. • *n* **precocity**.

**predator** /'predətər/, /preh-da-tor/ *n* an animal that hunts other animals for food.

**predatory** /'prɛdətəri/, /preh-da-toe-ree/ *adj* living by killing or robbing others.

**predecessor** /'prɛdəsəsər/, /pree-di-se-sur/ *n* someone who held a certain post before another.

**predestination** /pri;dɛstɪ'nɛʃən/, /pree-de-sti-nay-shun/ *n* the belief that God has settled beforehand everything that is to happen, including the fate of people in the afterlife.

**predestine** /pri'dɛstɪn/, /pree-de-stin/ *vb* to settle or decide beforehand.

**predetermine** /,pri:di'tərmin/, /pree-di-ter-min/ *vb (fml)* to decide beforehand.

**predicament** /pri'dɪkəmənt/, /pri-di-ca-ment/ *n* a difficulty, an unpleasant situation.

**predicate** /'predɪkeɪt/, /pre-di-cit/ *n* the part of sentence, containing a verb, which tells you what the subject or object does, or what is done to it.

**predict** /pri'dikt/, /pri-dict/ *vb* to say what will happen in the future, to foretell. • *n prediction*.

**predilection** /,pri:di'lekʃən/, /pre-di-lec-shun/ *n (fml)* a preference.

**predispose** /,pri:di'spo:z/, /pree-di-spoaz/ *vb* to influence, to make more likely to be affected by.

**predisposition** /,pri:disprə'zɪʃən/, /pree-dis-pu-zı-shun/ *n* a tendency to be influenced or affected by.

**predominance** /pri'domɪnəns/, /pri-dom-in-anse/ *n* 1 control. 2 superiority in numbers, etc.

**predominant** /pri'domɪnənt/, /pri-dom-in-ant/ *adj* 1 outstanding. 2 largest.

**predominate** /pri'domɪneɪt/, /pri-dom-in-ate/ *vb* 1 to have control over. 2 to be most or greatest.

**preempt** /pri'empt, pri'empt/, /pree-empt/ *vb* to take action to stop something from happening.

**preen** /pri:n/, /preen/ *vb* 1 (*of birds*) to clean the feathers with the beak. 2 to tidy one's hair, clothes, etc.

**prefabricate** /pri'fæbri,kеɪt/, /pree-fa-bri-cate/ *vb* to make ready the parts.

**preface** /'prefəs/, /pre-fiss/ *n* an explanatory passage at the beginning of a speech or book. • *vb* to begin with some explanation or other remarks.

**prefect** /'pri:fekt/, /pree-fect/ *n* 1 in some countries, such as France, an officer responsible for an area of local government. 2 a senior pupil who helps to keep order in a school.

**prefer** /prə'fər/, /pri-fer/ *vb* (**preferred**, **preferring**) to like better; to choose before others.

**preferable** /'prefərəbəl/, /pref-ra-bul/ *adj* more likable, chosen before others.

**preference** /'prefərəns/, /pref-rense/ *n* a liking for one more than another.

**preferential** /'prefə'renʃəl/, /pre-fe-ren-shal/ *adj* giving, receiving or showing preference.

**prefix** /'pri:fiks/, /pree-fiks/ *vb* to put at the beginning. • *n* a meaningful syllable or word put at the beginning of a word to alter its meaning.

**pregnant** /'pregnənt/, /preg-nant/ *adj* 1 carrying unborn young within the body. 2 full of. 3 full of meaning. • *n* **pregnancy**.

**prehensile** /pri'hensail/, /pree-hen-sul/ *adj* (*fml*) able to grasp or hold.

**prehistoric** /pri:hi'stɔrik/, /pre-hi-stor-ic/ *adj* before the time of written records.

**prejudge** /pri'dʒədʒ/, /pre-judge/ *vb* to decide or form an opinion before hearing all the facts.

**prejudice** /predʒudis/, /pre-ju-diss/ *n* 1 an unreasonable feeling for or against. 2 an opinion formed without full knowledge of the facts. 3 (*fml*) harm, injury. • *vb* 1 to influence unreasonably for or against. 2 to harm, to spoil.

**prejudicial** /predʒu'diʃəl/, /pre-ju-di-shal/ *adj* harmful.

**preliminary** /pri'lɪminəri/, /pri-li-mi-na-ree/ *adj* coming before what is really important, introductory. • *also n.*

**prelude** /'prelu:d/, /prel-yood/ *n* 1 a piece of music played before and introducing the main musical work. 2 something done or happening before an event, helping to prepare one for it.

**premature** /pri:mə'tʃur/, /pree-ma-choor/ *adj* 1 happening or done too soon. 2 before the natural or proper time.

**premeditate** /pri'medɪteɪt/, /pree-med-i-tate/ *vb* to plan beforehand.

**premeditation** /prɪ'meðɪ'teɪʃən/, /pree-med-i-tay-shun/ *n* the act of thinking about something before doing it.

**premier** /'pri:mji:r/, /'pri:mixr/, /'premjər/, /pri-myur/ *adj* first, chief. • *n* the prime minister.

**premiere** /prem'jer/, /pri-myur/ *n* the first public performance of a play, film, etc. • *also vb.*

**premise** /'premis/, /pre-miss/ *n* 1 a statement accepted as true for the purpose of an argument based on it. 2 *pl* a building, its outhouses and grounds.

**premium** /'pri:miəm/, /pree-mee-um/ *n* 1 the amount paid for an insurance policy. 2 a reward, especially an inducement to buy. 3 something given free or at a reduced price with a purchase. • **at a premium** of greater value than usual, difficult to obtain.

**premonition** /premə'nɪʃən/, /pre-mu-ni-shun/ *n* a feeling that something particular is about to happen.

**prenatal** /pri'neɪtəl/, /pree-nay-tal/ *adj* before birth.

**preoccupation** /pri'okju'peɪʃən/, /pree-oc-yu-pay-shun/ *n* a concern that prevents one thinking of other things.

**preoccupied** /pri'okjupaid/, /pree-oc-yu-pide/ *adj* thinking of other things.

**prepaid** /'pri:peɪd/, /pree-paid/ *adj* paid in advance.

**preparation** /prɛpə'reɪʃən/, /pre-pe-ray-shun/ *n* 1 the act of preparing. 2 something done to make ready. 3 that which is made ready.

**preparatory** /'prepərətɔri/, /pri-pa-ri-toe-ree/ *adj* helping to prepare, making ready for something that is to follow.

**prepare** /prə'per/, /pri-pare/ *vb* 1 to make ready. 2 to get oneself ready.

**preposition** /prɛpə'zɪʃən/, /pre-pu-zı-shun/ *n* a word showing the relation between a noun or pronoun and another word.

**preposterous** /pri'pəstərəs/, /pri-pos-truss/ *adj* completely absurd, foolish.

**prerogative** /prə'rogətɪv/, /pri-rog-a-tiv/ *n* a special power or right attached to a certain office.

**prescribe** /prə'skraɪb/, /pri-scribe/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to lay down what is to be done. 2 to order a certain medicine.

**prescription** /prə'skripfʃən/, /pri-scrip-shun/ *n* a written order by a doctor for a certain medicine.

**prescriptive** /pri'skrɪptɪv/, /pri-scrip-tiv/ *adj* indicating how something must be done.

**presence** /'prezəns/, /pre-zinss/ *n* 1 the state of being in the place required. 2 someone's appearance and bearing. • **presence of mind** ability to behave calmly in the face of difficulty or danger.

**present<sup>1</sup>** /'prezənt/, /pre-zent/ *adj* 1 in the place required or mentioned. 2 now existing or happening. • *n* the time in which we live.

**present<sup>2</sup>** /'prezənt/, /pre-zent/ *n* a gift. • *vb* /pri-zent/ 1 to give, to offer. 2 to introduce. 3 to show. 4 to put forward. 5 to point.

**presentable** /pri'zentəbəl/, /pri-zen-ta-bul/ *adj* fit to be seen or shown.

**presentation** /,prezən'teɪʃən/, /pre-zen-tay-shun/ *n* 1 the act of handing over a present, especially in public. 2 something given by a group of people to mark a special occasion. 3 the way in which things are shown or arguments put forward.

**presently** /'prezəntli/, /pre-zent-lee/ *adv* soon.

**preservation** /,prezər'veeʃən/, /pre-zer-vay-shun/ *n* 1 the act of preserving. 2 safeguarding.

**preservative** /prə'zərvətɪv/, /pre-zer-va-tiv/ *n* an ingredient or application that prevents something from going bad. • *also adj.*

**preserve** /prə'zərv/, /pri-zerv/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to keep from harm. 2 to keep from rotting or decaying. 3 to keep safe or in good condition. • *n* 1 fruit, etc, treated so as to prevent it from going bad; jam. 2 a place where animals, birds, etc, are protected.

**preside** /pri'zaɪd/, /pri-zide/ *vb* to control a meeting, to act as chairman.

**presidency** /prezidənsi/, /pre-zi-den-see/ *n* the job or office of president.

**president** /'prezɪdənt/, /pre-zɪ-dənt/ *n* 1 the elected head of state of a republic. 2 the head of a company, etc; a chairman.

**presidential** /'prezɪdənsɪəl/, /pre-zɪ-dən-shəl/ *adj* having to do with a president.

**press<sup>1</sup>** /'pres/, /press/ *vb* 1 to push on or against with force. 2 to squeeze. 3 to smooth and flatten. 4 to try to persuade. • *n* 1 a crowd. 2 a printing machine. 3 a machine for crushing or squeezing. 4 the newspapers.

**press<sup>2</sup>** /'pres/, /press/ *vb* (*old*) to force to serve in the armed forces.

**press gang** /'pres gæŋ/, /press gang/ *n* (*old*) a body of seamen sent out to seize men and force them to serve in the navy. • *vb* **press-gang** 1 (*old*) to seize someone and force him or her to serve in the navy. 2 to make someone do something by forceful persuasion.

**pressing** /'presɪŋ/, /press-ing/ *adj* requiring immediate action, urgent.

**pressure** /'preʃər/, /pre-shur/ *n* 1 the act of pressing; force. 2 forceful influence. 3 stress.

**prestige** /pre'sti:dʒ/, /pre-steezh/ *n* good name, high reputation.

**presumably** /pri'zju:m, məbli/, /pri-zoo-ma-blee/ *adv* apparently.

**presume** /pri'zju:m/, /pri-zyoom/ *vb* 1 to take for granted, to accept as true without proof. 2 to act in a bold or forward way.

**presumption** /pri'zəmpʃən/, /pri-zum-shun/ *n* 1 something supposed to be true. 2 forwardness, boldness of manner.

**presumptive** /pri'zəmptɪv/, /pri-zum-tiv/ *adj* (*fml*) probable.

**presumptuous** /pri'zəmptʃu:əs/, /pri-zum-chu-wus/ *adj* overconfident, bold in manner.

**presuppose** /pri:sə'po:z/, /pree-su-poaz/ *vb* to take for granted.

**pretence** /pri:təns/, /pri-tense/ *n*, also **pretense** (*US*) 1 the act of pretending. 2 a deception. 3 a false claim.

**pretend** /pri'tend/, /pri-tend/ *vb* 1 to make believe by words or actions that one is other than one really is. 2 to behave as if one were in other circumstances. 3 to claim.

**pretender** /pri'tendər/, /pri-ten-der/ *n* (*fml*) someone making a certain claim.

**pretension** /pri'tenʃən/, /pri-ten-shun/ *n* **1** a claim, true or false. **2** pretentiousness.

**pretentious** /pri'tenʃəs/, /pri-ten-shus/ *adj* claiming much for oneself, too proud.

**preterite** /'pretərɪt/, /pre-tu-rite/ *n* the past tense of a verb.

**pretext** /'pri:tekst/, /pree-tekst/ *n* a pretended reason, an excuse.

**pretty** /'priti/, /pri-tee/ *adj* pleasing to the eye, attractive. • *adv* quite.  
• *n* prettiness.

**prevail** /pri'veil/, /pri-vail/ *vb* **1** to overcome, to prove better or stronger than. **2** to be in general use. **3** to persuade.

**prevailing** /-ɪŋ/, /pri-vay-ling/ *adj* **1** common, most widely accepted, etc. **2** (*of wind*) that usually blows over an area.

**prevalent** /'prevələnt/, /pre-va-lent/ *adj* common, widespread. • *n* prevalence.

**prevent** /prɪ'vent/, /pri-vent/ *vb* to stop from happening. • *n* prevention.

**preventive** /pri'ventɪv/, /pri-ven-tiv/ *adj* helping to prevent. • also *n*.

**preview, prevue** /'pri:vju:/, /pree-vyoo/ *n* an advance showing of a film, performance, etc. before its official opening

**previous** /'pri:viəs/, /pree-vee-us/ *adj* earlier, happening before.

**prey** /prei/, /pray/ *n* **1** an animal or bird hunted and killed by another animal or bird. **2** someone who suffers (from). • *vb* **1** to hunt and kill for food. **2** to keep on attacking and robbing. **3** to trouble greatly.

**price** /prɔɪs/, /price/ *n* **1** the money asked or paid for something on sale. **2** what is required to obtain something.

**priceless** /-ləs/, /price-less/ *adj* of great value.

**prick** /prɪk/, /prick/ *vb* **1** to stab lightly with the point of a needle, dagger, etc. **2** to make a tiny hole in. **3** to make to stand up straight. • *n* **1** a sharp point. **2** a tiny hole. **3** a sting. **4** a thorn.

**prickle** /'prɪkəl/, /pri-cul/ *n* a small sharp point growing out from a plant or an animal.

**prickly** /'prɪkli/, /pri-clee/ *adj* covered with small sharp points.

**prickly heat** /prɪkli 'hi:t/, /pri-clee heet/ *n* skin inflammation causing severe itching.

**pride** /'praɪd/, /pride/ *n* 1 a feeling of pleasure at one's own abilities, deeds, etc. 2 too great an opinion of oneself, one's deeds, etc. 3 the most valuable person or thing. • **pride oneself on** to take pleasure in.

**priest** /pri:st/, /preest/ *n* a clergyman, a minister of religion. • *f* **priestess**.

**priesthood** /pri:sthud/, /preest-hood/ *n* 1 the office of priest. 2 priests in general.

**prim** /prɪm/, /prim/ *adj* 1 stiff in manner, formal and correct. 2 neat, restrained.

**primacy** /'praɪməsi/, /prie-ma-see/ *n* 1 the office of archbishop. 2 the state of being first in time, order, rank, etc.

**prima donna** /pri:mə'dənə/, /pree-ma don-a/ *n* 1 the chief female singer in an opera. 2 someone who is prone to tantrums if his or her wishes are not met.

**primal** /'praɪməl/, /prie-mal/ *adj (fml)* original, having to do with early times.

**primary** /'praɪmeri/, /prie-mer-ee/ *adj* 1 first. 2 chief. • *n* a preliminary US election in which the candidates are chosen. • *adv* **primarily**.

**primary colours** /'praɪmeri kələrs/, /prie-mer-ee cu-lurz/ *npl* the colours red, yellow and blue, from which other colours may be made.

**primary school** /'praɪmeri sku:l/, /prie-mer-ee skool/ *n* a school for children roughly between the ages of four and twelve.

**primate** /'praimeit/, /prie-mate/ *n* 1 an archbishop. 2 one of the highest kinds of animals, including humans and monkeys.

**prime** /praim/, /prime/ *adj* 1 most important. 2 excellent in quality. 3 that cannot be divided by any smaller number. • *n* the best time. • *vb* 1 to provide with information. 2 to prepare.

**prime minister** /praim 'ministər/, /prime mi-ni-ster/ *n* the chief minister in a parliamentary government.

**prime number** /praim 'nəmbər/, /prime num-ber/ *n* a number that can be divided only by itself and the number 1.

**primer** /'praɪmər/, /prie-mer/ *n* 1 the mechanism that sets off the explosive in a shell, etc. 2 (*old*) a child's first reading book. 3 (*old*)

a simple book on any subject. **4** an undercoat of paint.

**primeval** /'pri:mivəl/, /prie-mee-val/ *adj, also primaeval* having to do with the first ages of the world.

**priming** /'præmɪŋ/, /prie-ming/ *n* the powder in a gun.

**primitive** /'prɪmitɪv/, /pri-mi-tiv/ *adj* **1** of the earliest times. **2** simple or rough.

**primordial** /'pri:mɔrdiəl/, /prie-mawr-dee-al/ *adj (fml)* existing from the beginning.

**primrose** /'primro:z/, /prim-roze/ *n* **1** a pale yellow early spring flower. **2** a pale yellow colour. • *adj* pale yellow.

**primula** /'prɪmjʊlə/, /prim-yu-la/ *n* a flowering plant of the primrose family.

**prince** /prɪns/, /prɪnss/ *n* **1** a ruler. **2** the son of a king or emperor.

**princely** /'prɪnsli/, /prɪnss-lee/ *adj* **1** of or like a prince. **2** (*fml*) magnificent, splendid.

**princess** /'prɪnses/, /prin-sess/ *n* **1** the wife of a prince. **2** the daughter of a king or emperor.

**principal** /'prɪnsipəl/, /prin-si-pal/ *adj* chief, most important. • *n* **1** the head of a school, college, etc. **2** a amount of money lent at interest.

**principality** /prɪnsɪ'pælɪti/, /prin-si-pa-li-tee/ *n* a country ruled by a prince.

**principally** /'prɪnsɪpæli/, /prin-si-pa-lee/ *adv* chiefly.

**principle** /'prɪnsipəl/, /prin-si-pul/ *n* **1** a general truth from which other truths follow. **2** a rule by which one lives.

**print** /prɪnt/, /print/ *vb* **1** to make a mark by pressure. **2** to reproduce letters, words, etc, on paper by use of type. **3** to publish in printed form. **4** to write without joining the letters. **5** to stamp. **6** to stamp a design on cloth. **7** to produce a picture from a photographic negative. **8** to write in large clear lettering. **9** to export a computer file in the form of hard copy. • *n* **1** a mark made by pressure. **2** letters, words, etc, reproduced on paper by use of type. **3** a copy of a picture taken from a photographic negative or engraving. **4** cloth with a design stamped on it.

**printer** /'prɪntər/, /prin-ter/ *n* **1** someone who prints books, newspapers, etc. **2** a machine connected to a computer which prints a record of computer information.

**printing machine** /'prɪntɪŋ məʃɪn/, /prin-ting ma-sheen/, **printing press** /prin-ting press/ *n* a machine for printing with type.

**prior<sup>1</sup>** /'praɪər/, /prie-ur/ *adj* earlier, previous.

**prior<sup>2</sup>** /'praɪər/, /prie-ur/ *n* **1** the head of a house of monks. **2** a monk next in rank to an abbot.

**prioress** /'praɪərɛs/, /prie-ur-ess/ *n* the head of a house of nuns.

**priority** /prai'ɔriti/, /prie-aw-ri-tee/ *n* **1** the state or right of coming before others in position or time. **2** something or someone that must be considered or dealt with first.

**priory** /'praɪəri/, /prie-ur-ee/ *n* a house of monks or nuns ruled by a prior(ess).

**prise** /praɪz/, /prize/ *vb*, also **prize** to force open.

**prism** /'prɪzəm/, /pri-zum/ *n* **1** a solid body with ends the same in shape and size and parallel to one another, and sides that are parallelograms. **2** a triangular glass solid used for breaking up light into colours.

**prismatic** /prɪz'mætɪk/, /priz-ma-tic/ *adj* **1** of or like a prism. **2** (of colours) very bright.

**prison** /'prɪzən/, /pri-zun/ *n* a building in which criminals convicted of serious crimes are held.

**prisoner** /'prɪznər/, /priz-ner/ *n* **1** someone kept in prison. **2** a person captured by the enemy in war.

**pristine** /'prɪstɪn/, /pri-steen/ *adj* **1** former, of earlier times. **2** pure, undamaged, clean.

**privacy** /'praɪvəsi/, /pri-va-see/ *n* **1** undisturbed quiet. **2** secrecy.

**private** /'praɪvət/, /prie-vit/ *adj* **1** belonging to oneself only, not open to other people. **2** not public. **3** secret. • *n* a common soldier who has not been promoted.

**privateer** /'praɪvə'ti:r/, /prie-vi-teer/ *n* a privately owned ship licensed to carry arms and attack enemy vessels.

**privation** /prai'veɪʃən/, /prie-vay-shun/ *n* lack of food and comforts, hardships.

**privatize** /'praɪvətaɪz/, /pri-e-vu-tize/ *vb, also privatise* to transfer something from public to private ownership. • *n privatization, also privatisation.*

**privilege** /'prɪvlɪdʒ/, /priv-lidge/ *n 1* a right or advantage allowed to a certain person or group only. **2** advantage possessed because of social position, wealth, etc. • *vb to allow a privilege to.*

**prize<sup>1</sup>** /praɪz/, /prize/ *n 1* something given as a reward for merit or good work. **2** that which is won by competition. **3** anything seized from an enemy. • *vb to value highly.*

**prize<sup>2</sup>** /'praɪz/, /prize/ *vb* variant spelling of **prise**.

**prizefight** /'praɪzfəit/, /prize-fite/ *n* a boxing match for a prize.

**pro-** /'pro:/, /pro/ *prefix 1* before. **2** in favour of. • **pros and cons** reasons for and against.

**proactive** /pro:'æktyv/, /pro-ac-tiv/ *adj* acting positively and taking the initiative so that you are in charge of a situation rather than reacting to it.

**probability** /'prɒbə'bɪlɪti/, /prob-a-bi-li-tee/ *n* likelihood.

**probable** /'prɒbəbəl/, /prob-a-bull/ *adj 1* likely to happen, likely to be true. **2** easy to believe.

**probably** /'prɒbəbəli/, /prob-u-blee/ *adv* very likely.

**probate** /'pro:bət/, /pro-bate/ *n* proving before a court that a will has been properly and lawfully made. • *also vb.*

**probation** /pro:'beɪʃən/, /pro-bay-shun/ *n 1* the testing of a person's conduct, work or character. **2** a time of trial or testing, especially for a young person found guilty of a crime, but not sentenced on condition that his or her conduct improves.

**probation officer** /pro:'beɪʃən ɔfɪsər/, /pro-bay-shun aw-fi-ser/ *n* someone whose duty it is to watch over young persons on probation.

**probationary** /pro:'beɪʃənəri/, /pro-bay-shu-ne-ree/ *adj* being tested, on approval.

**probationer** /pro:'beɪʃənər/, /pro-bay-shu-ner/ *n 1* someone whose fitness for certain work is being tested. **2** someone who is on probation.

**probe** /pro:b/, /probe/ *n* a blunt metal instrument used by doctors when examining a wound closely. • *vb* 1 to examine with a probe. 2 to examine carefully, to inquire into thoroughly.

**probity** /'pro:bɪti/, /pro-bi-tee/ *n* (*fml*) honesty, uprightness.

**problem** /'prɒbləm/, /prob-lem/ *n* a question or difficulty to which the answer is hard to find.

**problematic(al)** /,prɒblə'mætɪkəl/, /prob-lem-a-tic(-al)/ *adj* involving problems, difficult.

**proboscis** /pro:'bɒsɪs/, /pru-boss-iss/ *n* (*fml*) 1 the trunk of an elephant. 2 the tube through which certain animals or insects suck food to their mouths.

**procedure** /prə'si:dʒər/, /pro-see-jur/ *n* way of conducting business.

**proceed** /prə'sɪ:d, 'pro:-/, /pru-seed/ *vb* 1 to move forward. 2 to go on doing, to continue. 4 (*fml*) to go to law. • *npl* /pro-seeds/ money made on a particular occasion.

**proceedings** /prə'sɪ:dɪŋz/ /pru-see-dings/ *npl* 1 the official written report of a meeting, society, etc. 2 an event or series of events. 3 a legal action.

**process** /'pro:ses, 'prɒ-/ , /pro-sess/ *n* 1 the way in which a thing is done or made. 2 a series of actions, each of which brings one nearer to the desired end. 3 (*fml*) a legal case.

**procession** /pro:'seʃən, prə-/, /pro-se-shun/ *n* a body of people moving forward in an orderly column.

**processional** /pro:seʃənəl/, /pro-se-shnal/ *adj* having to do with a procession. • *n* a hymn sung during a religious procession.

**proclaim** /prə'kleɪm/, /pro-claim/ *vb* to announce publicly, to tell openly.

**proclamation** /'prɒkləmeɪʃən/, /pro-cla-may-shun/ *n* a public announcement.

**procrastinate** /prə'kræsti,nɪte/, /pro-cra-sti-nate/ *vb* to put off until later.

**procrastination** /prə'kræsti,nɪʃən/, /pro-cra-sti-nay-shun/ *n* delay, a habit of putting things off until later.

**procreation** /pro:'kri:eɪʃən/, /pro-cree-ay-shun/ *n* having sexual intercourse in order to reproduce.

**prod** /prəd/, /prod/ *vb* (**prodded, prodding**) **1** to push someone with something pointed. **2** to nudge. **3** to urge into action. • *also n.*

**prodigal** /'prədɪgəl/, /prod-i-gal/ *adj* (*fml*) wasteful, spending too freely. • *n* a waster, a spendthrift.

**prodigious** /prə'dɪdʒəs/, /pru-di-jus/ *adj* (*fml*) **1** wonderful, extraordinary. **2** huge.

**prodigy** /'prədɪdʒi/, /prod-i-jee/ *n* **1** (*fml*) a wonder. **2** a person of extraordinary abilities.

**produce** /prə'dju:s/, /pro-dyooss/ *vb* **1** to bring forward, to bring into view. **2** to bear, to yield. **3** to cause or bring about. **4** to make or manufacture. **5** to give birth to. • *n* /praw-dyooss/ things grown, crops.

**producer** /'prədjʊsər/, /pru-dyoo-ser/ *n* **1** a person or country that grows or makes certain things. **2** someone who gets a play or programme ready for performance.

**product** /'prədikt/, /prod-uct/ *n* **1** that which grows or is made. **2** result. **3** the number given by multiplying other numbers together.

**production** /prə'dækʃən/, /pru-duc-shun/ *n* **1** the act of making or growing. **2** the amount produced. **3** a performance or series of performances of a programme, play, opera, etc.

**productive** /prə'dektrɪv/, /pru-duc-tiv/ *adj* **1** fertile. **2** having results.

**productivity** /-vɪti/, /praw-duc-ti-vi-tee/ *n* the rate of producing something.

**profane** /prə'feɪn/, /pro-fane/ *adj* not showing respect for what is holy. **2** coarse or vulgar. • *vb* to treat irreverently.

**profanity** /prə'fænɪti/, /pru-fa-ni-tee/ *n* **1** bad language. **2** lack of respect for what is holy.

**profess** /prə'fes/, /pru-fess/ *vb* **1** to say openly. **2** to claim skill or ability. **3** to declare one's beliefs. **4** to pretend.

**professed** /prə'fest/, /pru-fest/ *adj* openly admitted or declared.

**profession** /prə'fɛʃən/, /pru-fe-shun/ *n* **1** an employment requiring special learning. **2** the people involved in such employment. **3** a public declaration.

**professional** /prə'fɛʃnəl/, /pru-fesh-nal/ *adj* **1** having to do with a profession. **2** paid for one's skill. **3** done for a living. **4** of a very

high standard. • *n* someone who makes his or her living by arts, sports, etc.

**professor** /prə'fesər/, /pru-fə-sur/ *n* a teacher of the highest rank in a university or college.

**professorial** /prəfə'sɔ:rɪəl/, /pro-fi-soe-ree-al/ *adj* having to do with a professor.

**proficient** /prə'fɪʃənt/, /pru-fi-shent/ *adj* highly skilled, expert. • *n* **proficiency**.

**profile** /'pro:fail/, /pro-file/ *n* 1 an outline, a short description. 2 a head or an outline of it in side view.

**profit** /'prɒfit/, /prof-it/ *n* 1 an advantage. 2 a gain, especially of money. • *vb* 1 to gain an advantage. 2 to be of use to.

**profitable** /'prɒfitəbəl/, /prof-i-ta-bul/ *adj* 1 bringing profit or gain. 2 useful.

**profiteer** /prɒfi'ti:r/, /prof-i-teer/ *n* someone who makes money by selling scarce goods at very high prices. • *vb* to make money thus.

**profound** /prə'faʊnd/, /pru-found/ *adj* 1 deep. 2 showing much knowledge or intelligence. 3 intense.

**profundity** /prə'fənditi/, /pro-fun-di-tee/ *n* 1 depth. 2 the state of being profound.

**profuse** /prə'fju:z/, /pro-fyoos/ *adj* very plentiful.

**profusion** /prə'fju:ʒən/, /pro-fyoo-zhun/ *n* great plenty.

**prognosis** /prəg'nō:sis/, /prog-no-sis/ *n* a forecast, especially of the progress of a disease.

**program** /'pro:græm/, /pro-gram/ *n* a sequence of instructions put into a computer. • *vb* (**programmed**, **programming**) 1 to put a program into a computer. 2 to write a computer program.

**programme** /'pro:græm/, /pro-gram/ *n*, also **program** (US) 1 a plan or scheme. 2 a list of the items in a concert, etc. 3 a scheduled radio or television broadcast. • also *vb* (**programmed**, **programming**).

**progress** /'prəgrɛs/, /pro-gress/ *n* 1 movement forward, advance. 2 improvement. • *vb* /pru-gress/ 1 to advance. 2 to improve.

**progression** /prə'greʃən/, /pru-gre-shun/ *n* 1 onward movement. 2 a steady and regular advance.

**progressive** /prə'gresɪv/, /pru-gre-siv/ *adj* 1 moving forward, advancing. 2 believing in trying new ideas and methods.

**prohibit** /pro'hɪbit/, /pro-hi-bit/ *vb* 1 to forbid. 2 to prevent.

**prohibition** /pro'hɪbɪʃən/, /pro-hi-bi-shun/ *n* 1 an order not to do something. 2 the forbidding by law of the making or selling of all strong drink in a country.

**prohibitive** /pro'hɪbitɪv/, /pro-hi-bi-tiv/ *adj* so high (in price) that people are unable to buy.

**project** /prə'dʒekt/, /pro-ject/ *vb* 1 to throw. 2 to plan. 3 to stick out. 4 to make pictures appear on screen by using a projector. • *n* /praw-jekt/ a plan.

**projectile** /prə'dʒektaɪl/, /pro-jec-tile/ *n* 1 something thrown. 2 something fired from a gun, a shell.

**projection** /prə'dʒekʃən/, /pro-jec-shun/ *n* a part that sticks out.

**projector** /prə'dʒektər/, /pro-jec-tur/ *n* 1 someone who forms plans. 2 an apparatus for showing pictures on a screen.

**proletariat** /pro:lə'teriət/, /pro-li-tay-ree-at/ *n* the lowest class in society, the working people. • *adj* **proletarian**.

**prolific** /prə'lifɪk/, /pru-li-fic/ *adj* producing much.

**prologue** /'pro:lɒg/, /pro-log/ *n*, also **prolog** (US) 1 an introduction. 2 some lines spoken to the audience before a play begins. 3 an event that leads to another.

**prolong** /prə'lɒŋ/, /pro-long/ *vb* to make longer. • *n* **prolongation**.

**prolonged** /prə'lɒŋd/, /pro-longd/ *adj* very long.

**prom** /prəm/, /prom/ *n* 1 **abbrev = promenade concert**. 2 (esp US) a formal dance in a high school or college.

**promenade** /'prəmə,næd/, /prom-i-nad/ *n* (fml) a short walk for pleasure. • *vb* (fml) 1 to take a short walk. 2 to walk up and down.

**promenade concert** /'prəmə,næd kɒnsərt/, /prom-i-nad kon-surt/ *n* a concert at which many members of the audience remain standing up during the performance.

**prominence** /'prəminəns/, /prom-i-nense/ *n* 1 the state or act of being prominent. 2 something that sticks out or is prominent.

**prominent** /'prəminənt/, /prom-i-nent/ *adj* 1 easily seen. 2 well-known. 3 sticking out.

**promiscuous** /prə'miskjʊəs/, /pru-mi-skyu-wus/ *adj* having many sexual relationships. • *n* **promiscuity**.

**promise** /'prɒmɪs/, /prom-iss/ *vb* 1 to say that one will do or not do something, to give one's word. 2 to give hope of a good result. • *n* 1 act of giving one's word. 2 a sign of future success.

**promising** /'prɒmɪsɪŋ/, /prom-iss-ing/ *adj* likely to do well in the future.

**promontory** /'prɒməntɔri/, /prom-un-toe-ree/ *n* a headland.

**promote** /'prəmo:t/, /pru-mote/ *vb* 1 to raise to a higher position or rank. 2 to help on. 3 to help to start. • *n* **promoter**. • *n* **promotion**.

**prompt** /prɒmp特/, /prompt/ *adj* 1 ready, quick to take action. 2 done without delay, quick. • *vb* 1 to cause another to take action. 2 to help someone (especially an actor) who cannot remember what he or she ought to say.

**prompter** /prɒmp特ə/, /prom(p)-ter/ *n* someone whose job it is to whisper words to an actor who cannot remember them.

**prone** /prə:n/, /prone/ *adj* 1 lying face downward. 2 inclined (to).

**prong** /prɒŋ/, /prong/ *n* the spike of a fork, etc. • *adj* **pronged**.

**pronoun** /'pro:nən/, /pro-noun/ *n* a word used instead of a noun.

**pronounce** /prə'nauns/, /pru-nounse/ *vb* 1 to make the sound of. 2 to declare publicly. 3 to speak.

**pronounced** /prə'naunst/, /pru-nounst/ *adj* very noticeable.

**pronouncement** /prə'naunsmənt/, /pru-nounse-ment/ *n* 1 a statement to an assembly. 2 a firm statement.

**pronunciation** /prə'nænsi'eʃən/, /pru-nun-see-ay-shun/ *n* the way of making the sounds of a word or language.

**proof** /pru:f/, /proof/ *n* 1 an argument, fact, etc, that shows clearly that something is true or untrue. 2 (*frm*) a test or trial. 3 (*in printing*) a first printing made solely for correction. 4 the statement of strength of some spirits, e.g. whiskey. • *adj* not affected by, able to resist.

**proofreader** /'pru:f ri:dər/, /proof ree-der/ *n* someone whose job it is to read first printings and mark errors.

**prop** /prɒp/, /prop/ *n* 1 a support. 2 a piece of stage equipment. • *vb* (**propped**, **propping**) to support, to hold up.

**propaganda** /prə'gændə/, /prop-a-gan-da/ *n* the organized spreading of certain ideas, beliefs etc, to large numbers of people.

**propagandist** /prə'gändɪst/, /prop-a-gan-dist/ *n* someone who spreads ideas, etc, by propaganda.

**propagate** /'prɒpəgeɪt/, /prop-u-gate/ *vb* 1 to spread widely. 2 to increase in numbers by sowing seeds or producing young. • *n propagation*.

**propel** /prə'pel/, /pru-pel/ *vb* (**propelled**, **propelling**) to drive or push forward.

**propeller** /prə'pelər/, /pru-pe-lur/ *n* a revolving screw with sloping blades attached for moving forward ships, aeroplanes, etc.

**propensity** /prə'pensiti/, /pru-pen-si-tee/ *n* a natural leaning or tendency to behave in a certain way.

**proper** /'prɔpər/, /prop-er/ *adj* 1 correct, suitable, decent, polite. 2 (*inf*) thorough, complete.

**properly** /'prɔpərlɪ/, /prop-er-lee/ *adv* 1 correctly, suitably. 2 strictly.

**property** /'prɔpərti/, /prop-er-tee/ *n* 1 anything owned, that which belongs to one. 2 someone's land. 3 a building or buildings with any surrounding land. 4 a quality or characteristic. 5 (abbr = **prop**) an object needed on the stage during a play.

**prophecy** /'prɒfēsi/, /prof-i-see/ *n* 1 the foretelling of future events. 2 something foretold.

**prophesy** /'prɒfē,sai/, /prof-i-sye/ *vb* to tell what will happen in the future, to foretell.

**prophet** /'prɒfət/, /prof-it/ *n* 1 someone who foretells the future. 2 someone who tells men a message or command from God. • *f prophetess*. • *adj prophetic(al)*.

**proponent** /prə'po:nənt/, /pru-po-nent/ *n* someone who argues in favour of something.

**proportion** /prə'pɔ:ʃən/, /pru-pore-shun/ *n* 1 the size of a part when compared with the whole. 2 the size of one object, number, etc, when compared with that of another. 3 a share. 4 *pl* size.

**proportional** /prə'pɔ:ʃənəl/, /pru-pore-shnal/, **proportionate** /pru-pore-shu-nate/ *adj* in correct or proper proportion.

**proposal** /prə'po:zəl/, /pru-poe-zal/ *n* **1** a suggestion or plan put forward. **2** an offer to marry.

**propose** /prə'po:z/, /pru-po:ze/ *vb* **1** to put forward for consideration. **2** to intend. **3** to offer to marry.

**proposition** /'prɒpəzɪʃən/, /prop-u-zi-shun/ *n* **1** a plan or suggestion put forward. **2** an offer. **3** a statement, a statement that is to be proved true. **4** (*in geometry*) a problem to be solved.

**proprietary** /prə'priətəri/, /pru-pri-u-tree/ *adj* **1** produced and marketed by a particular company under a registered trademark. **2** owned by a person or group of persons. **3** possessive.

**proprietor** /prə'priətər/, /pru-prie-u-tur/ *n* an owner. • *f* **proprietress**, **proprietrix**.

**propriety** /prə'priəti/, /pru-prie-u-tee/ *n* correctness of behaviour, fitness.

**propulsion** /prə'pʌlʒən/, /pru-pul-shun/ *n* a driving or pushing forward.

**prosaic** /prə'zeɪk/, /pro-zay-ic/ *adj* dull, commonplace, unpoetic.

**proscribe** /prə'skraɪb/, /pro-scribe/ *vb* to forbid the use of. • *n* **proscription**.

**prose** /pro:z/, /proze/ *n* **1** the language of ordinary speech and writing. **2** all writing not in verse.

**prosecute** /prəsə,kju:t/, /pros-i-cyoot/ *vb* **1** to accuse in a court of law. **2** (*frm*) to carry on. • *n* **prosecution**.

**prosecution** /prəsə'kju:ʃən/, /pros-si-cyoo-shun/ *n* the lawyers, etc, in a court who try to prove that someone is guilty of a crime.

**prosecutor** /prəsə,kju:tər/, /pros-si-cyoo-tur/ *n* the person who makes the accusation in a court of law.

**prosody** /'pro:zədi:/, /proz-u-dee/ *n* (*frm*) rules for the writing of poetry.

**prospect** /'prɒspɛkt/, /pros-pekt/ *n* **1** (*frm*) a view. **2** an idea of what the future may hold. **3** chance of future success. • *vb* to explore, to search for places where mines may be sunk for oil, metals, etc.

**prospective** /prə'spektɪv/, /pru-spec-tive/ *adj* expected, probable.

**prospector** /prə'spekər/, /pru-spec-tor/ *n* someone who searches for gold or other minerals.

**prospectus** /prə'spektəs/, /pru-**spec**-tus/ *n* a written description of some undertaking or of the training offered by a school.

**prosper** /'prɒspər/, /pros-per/ *vb* to do well, to succeed.

**prosperity** /prɒ'speriti/, /pru-**spe**-ri-tee/ *n* success, good fortune.

**prosperous** /prɒspərəs/, /pros-prus/ *adj* successful, well-off.

**prostate** /'prɒsteɪt/, /pros-tate/ *n*, also **prostate gland** a gland in males in front of the bladder.

**prostrate** /'prɒstreɪt/, /pros-trate/ *adj* 1 lying flat with the face to the ground. 2 exhausted. • *vb* /pros-trate/ 1 to throw flat on the ground. 2 to bow in reverence. 3 to tire out. • *n* **prostration**.

**protagonist** /pro:tægənist/, /pru-ta-gu-nist/ *n* 1 someone playing a leading part in a drama or in an exciting situation in real life. 2 a leader. 3 someone taking part in a contest.

**protect** /prə'tekt/, /pru-tect/ *vb* to keep safe from danger, loss, etc; to defend.

**protection** /prə'tekʃən/, /pru-tec-shun/ *n* 1 defence, watchful care. 2 the taxing of goods brought in from other countries so that goods made at home will be cheaper than them.

**protectionist** /prə'tekʃənist/, /pru-tec-shu-nist/ *n* someone who believes in taxing goods from abroad to protect home goods.

**protective** /prə'tektɪv/, /pru-tec-tiv/ *adj* giving defence, care or safety.

**protector** /prə'tektor/, /pru-tec-tur/ *n* a person or thing that protects.

**protectorate** /prə'tektrət/, /pru-tec-trit/ *n* a country that is defended and governed by another until it can look after itself.

**protégé** /'pro:tɛʒi:/, /pro-ti-zhay/ *n* someone under the care of another.

**protein** /'pro:tɪ:n/, /proe-teen/ *n* a substance contained in certain foods (e.g. meat, eggs) that helps the body to grow and become stronger.

**protest** /'pro:teɪst/, /pro-test/ *vb* 1 to object. 2 to strongly disapprove. 3 to declare. • *n* a statement of disagreement or disapproval.

**Protestant** /'prɒtəstənt/, /prot-i-stant/ *n* a member of one of the Christian groups which separated from the Roman Catholic Church at the Reformation. • *also adj.*

**Protestantism** /'prɒtəstəntɪzm/, /prot-i-stan-ti-zum/ *n* the Protestant religion.

**protestation** /prɒtə'steɪʃən/, /prot-u-stay-shun/ *n* 1 an objection. 2 a declaration.

**proto-** /'pro:tə:/, /pro-to/ *prefix* first.

**protocol** /'prɒ:təkɒl/, /pro-to-col/ *n* 1 correct procedure or behaviour. 2 an international agreement or treaty.

**proton** /'prɒ:tɒn/, /pro-ton/ *n* part of the nucleus of an atom that has a positive charge.

**protoplasm** /'prɒ:to:pλæzəm/, /pro-to-pla-zum/ *n* the living substance from which plants and animals grow.

**prototype** /'prɒ:tə,təip/, /pro-to-type/ *n* the first model from which others are copied, a pattern.

**protozoan** /'prɒ:tə'zo:ən/, /pro-to-zo-an/ *n* a tiny living creature, the lowest form of animal life. • *npl* **protozoans, protozoa**.

**protract** /prə'trækɪt/, /pru-tract/ *vb* to make long, to make last longer.

**protractor** /prə'trækɪtər/, /pru-trac-tur/ *n* an instrument for measuring angles.

**protrude** /prə'tru:d/, /pru-trood/ *vb* to stick out, to stand out from. • *n* **protrusion**. • *adj* **protrusive**.

**protuberance** /prə'tu:bərəns/, /pru-too-ber-anse/ *n* a swelling, a part that bulges out.

**protuberant** /prə'tu:bərənt/, /pru-too-ber-ant/ *adj* bulging out.

**proud** /praʊd/, /proud/ *adj* 1 having too high an opinion of oneself, one's deeds or possessions. 2 rightly satisfied with oneself and what one has done.

**prove** /pru:v/, /proov/ *vb* 1 to show the truth of. 2 to turn out to be. 3 show your abilities, good qualities, etc.

**proverb** /'prɒvərb/, /prov-erb/ *n* a popular truth or belief expressed in a short memorable sentence.

**proverbial** /prɒ'verbɪəl/, /pru-ver-bee-al/ *adj* 1 well-known to all. 2 expressed in a proverb.

**provide** /prə'veɪd/, /pru-vide/ *vb* 1 to supply what is needed. 2 to make ready beforehand, to prepare for.

**provided (that)** /prə'veɪdəd/, /pru-vie-dd (that)/ *conj* on condition (that).

**providence** /'prɒvɪdəns/, /prov-i-dense/ *n* 1 care for the future, foresight. 2 Christians' belief in God's care of his creatures. 3 fate.

**provident** /prɒvɪdənt/, /prov-i-dent/ *adj (fml)* 1 taking care of the future. 2 not spending too much.

**province** /'prɒvɪns/, /prov-inss/ *n* 1 a division of a country. 2 the limits of one's powers, knowledge, etc. 3 *pl* all the parts of a country outside the capital.

**provincial** /prə'venʃəl/, /pru-vin-shal/ *adj* 1 like or in a province. 2 having limited or local interests, unsophisticated.

**provision** /prə'vez̬ən/, /pru-vi-zhun/ *n* 1 something provided for the future. 2 *pl* food. • *vb* to supply with stores of food.

**provisional** /prə'vez̬ənəl/, /pru-vizh-nal/ *adj* for a time only, that may be changed.

**provocation** /prə'vekeɪʃən/, /prov-u-cay-shun/ *n* a cause of anger or annoyance.

**provocative** /prə'vekətɪv/, /pru-voc-a-tiv/ *adj* intended to anger or annoy, arousing the emotions or passions.

**provoke** /prə'vo:k/, /pru-voke/ *vb* 1 to make angry. 2 to give rise to.

**prow** /prau/, /prow/ *n* the front part of a ship or boat.

**prowess** /prau'es/, /prow-ess/ *n* skill or ability.

**prowl** /prau'l/, /prowl/ *vb* to keep moving about as if searching for something, to move quietly about looking for the chance to do mischief.

**prowler** /'praułər/, /prow-ler/ *n* someone who moves stealthily, especially a thief.

**proximate** /'prɒksɪmət/, /prok-si-mit/ *adj (fml)* nearest.

**proximity** /prɒk'siməti/, /prok-si-mi-tee/ *n* nearness, neighbourhood.

**proxy** /prɒksi/, /prok-see/ *n* 1 the right to act or vote for another. 2 someone with the right to act or vote for another.

**prude** /pru:d/, /prood/ *n* a person who makes a show of being very modest and correct in behaviour. • *n* **prudery**.

**prudence** /'pru:dəns/, /proo-dense/ *n* foresight, caution.

**prudent** /'pru:dənt/, /proo-dent/ *adj* thinking carefully before acting, wise, cautious.

**prudery** see **prude**.

**prudish** /'pru:diʃ/, /proo-dish/ *adj* over-correct in behaviour.

**prune**<sup>1</sup> /pru:n/, /proon/ *n* a dried plum.

**prune**<sup>2</sup> /pru:n/, /proon/ *vb* **1** to cut off the dead or overgrown parts of a plant. **2** to shorten by cutting out what is unnecessary.

**pry** /prie/ *vb* to inquire closely, especially into the secrets of others; to examine closely.

**psalm** /sɒm/, /sahm/ *n* a sacred song or hymn.

**psalmist** /sɒmɪst/, /sahm-ist/ *n* a writer of sacred songs.

**pseudo** /su:do:/, /soo-doe/ *adj* false, not real.

**pseudonym** /su:də,nɪm/, /soo-du-nim/ *n* a name used instead of one's real name (e.g. a pen-name).

**psychiatry** /səɪ'kaiətri/, /sie-kie-u-tree/ *n* the treatment of diseases of the mind. • *n* **psychiatrist**.

**psychic** /'səɪkɪk/, /sie-kik/, **psychical** /sie-ki-kal/ *adj* **1** having to do with the mind. **2** (*of influences and forces*) that act on the mind and senses but have no physical cause. **3** (*of a person*) sensitive to these influences. **4** able to communicate with spirits. • *n* someone who claims to be psychic, a clairvoyant.

**psychoanalysis** /səɪkəʊ'ə'næləsəs/, /sie-ko-a-na-li-sis/ *n* treatment of mental disease by questioning problems, fears, etc, that exist in the patient's mind without his or her being aware of them. • *n* **psychoanalyst**. • *vb* **psychoanalyse**.

**psychology** /saɪ'kolədʒi/, /sie-kol-u-jee/ *n* **1** the study of the human mind. **2** the mental processes of a person. • *adj* **psychological**. • *n* **psychologist**.

**psychopath** /'səɪko:pæθ/, /sie-ko-path/ *n* someone with a personality disorder which can lead him or her to commit often violent acts without guilt.

**pterodactyl** /'terə'dæktil/, /ter-u-dac-tul/ *n* a prehistoric winged reptile known of from fossils.

**pub** /pəb/, /pub/ *n* a building in which alcoholic drinks, and sometimes food, are served; a public house.

**puberty** /'pjʊ:bərti/, /pyoo-bur-tee/ *n* the age by which a young person has fully developed all the characteristics of his or her sex.

**public** /'pæblɪk/, /pu-blic/ *adj* 1 open to all. 2 having to do with people in general. 3 well-known. • *n* the people in general.

**publication** /,pæblə'keɪʃən/, /pu-bli-cay-shun/ *n* 1 the act of publishing. 2 a published book, magazine or paper.

**public house** see **pub**.

**public school** /pæblɪk 'sku:l/, /pub-lick skool/ *n* 1 in England, a fee-paying private school for senior pupils who often live at the school. 2 in US and Scotland, a free government-run school.

**publicity** /pæb'lɪsɪti/, /pu-bli-si-tee/ *n* 1 making something widely known, advertising. 2 the state of being well-known. • *vb* **publicize**, also **publicise**.

**publish** /'pæblɪʃ/, /pu-blish/ *vb* 1 (*fml*) to make widely known. 2 to print for selling to the public.

**publisher** /-ər/, /pu-bli-sher/ *n* someone who publishes books, etc.

**puck** /pæk/, /puck/ *n* a small hard rubber disc used instead of a ball in ice hockey.

**pucker** /'pækər/, /pu-ker/ *vb* to gather into small folds or wrinkles. • *n* a fold or wrinkle.

**pudding** /'pudɪŋ/, /poo-ding/ *n* a sweet soft dessert served at the end of a meal.

**puddle** /'pædəl/, /pu-dul/ *n* a small pool of dirty water. • *vb* to make watertight with clay.

**pudgy** /'pædʒi/, /pu-jee/ *adj* (*inf*) short and fat.

**puff** /pəf/, /puff/ *n* 1 a short sharp breath or gust of wind. 2 a small cloud of smoke, steam, etc, blown by a puff. 3 a soft pad for powdering the skin. 4 a kind of light pastry. • *vb* 1 to breathe quickly or heavily, as when short of breath. 2 to blow in small blasts. 3 to blow up, to swell. 4 to praise too highly.

**puffin** /'pɛfin/, /pu-fin/ *n* a diving bird with a brightly coloured beak.

**puffy** /'pæfi/, /pu-fee/ *adj* blown out, swollen.

**pug, pug dog** /pʌg/, /pug dawg/ *n* a type of small dog with an upturned nose.

**pugnacious** /pʌg'neɪʃəs/, /pug-nay-shus/ *adj* quarrelsome, fond of fighting. • *n pugnacity.*

**pug nose** /pʌg no:z/, /pug noze/ *n* a short upturned nose. • *adj pug-nosed.*

**puke** /pju:k/, /pyook/ *vb (inf)* to bring up the contents of the stomach, to vomit.

**pule** /pju:l/, /pyool/ *vb (fml)* to whine, to cry peevishly.

**pull** /pʊl/, /pool/ *vb* 1 to draw towards one, to draw in the same direction as oneself. 2 to bring along behind one while moving. 3 to remove. 4 to gather. 5 to row with oars. • *n* 1 act of pulling. 2 (*inf*) advantage, special influence.

**pulley** /'puli/, /poo-lee/ *n* a grooved wheel with a cord running over it used for raising weights.

**pulmonary** /'pʌlmənəri/, /pul-mu-ne-ree/ *adj (fml)* having to do with the lungs.

**pulp** /pʌlp/ , /pulp/ *n* 1 the soft juicy part of a fruit. 2 soft substance obtained by crushing rags, wood, etc, and made into paper. • *vb* to make into pulp, to become pulpy.

**pulpit** /'pʌlpɪt/, /pool-pit/ *n* a raised platform enclosed by a half wall for preaching in a church.

**pulsate** /'pʌlseɪt/, /pul-sate/ *vb* to beat or throb. • *n pulsation.*

**pulse<sup>1</sup>** /pəls/, /pulss/ *n* 1 the throb of the heart or of the blood passing through the arteries. 2 a place on the body where the throb of the blood can be felt. • *vb* to beat or throb.

**pulse<sup>2</sup>** /pəls/, /pulss/ *n* any of the edible seeds of peas, beans, lentils, etc.

**pulverize** /'pʌlvə,raɪz/, /pul-vu-rize/ *vb, also pulverise* 1 to make into dust or powder. 2 (*inf*) to defeat thoroughly.

**puma** /'pju:mə/, /pyoo-ma/ *n* a large wild cat, the cougar.

**pumice** /'pəmɪs/, /puhm-iss/ *n* a light stone with a rough surface, used for cleansing or polishing.

**pummel** /'pəməl/, /pu-mul/ *vb (pummelled /pu-muld/, pummelling; also pummeled, pummeling [US])* to strike repeatedly with the fist(s).

**pump**<sup>1</sup> /pʌmp/, /pʊmp/ *n* **1** a machine for raising water from a well. **2** a machine for raising any liquid to a higher level. **3** a machine for taking air out of or putting air into things. • *vb* **1** to work a pump. **2** to raise with a pump. **3** (*inf*) to get information from someone by asking them constant questions.

**pump**<sup>2</sup> /pʌmp/, /pʊmp/ *n* a light shoe for dancing, exercise etc.

**pumpkin** /'pəmpkɪn/, /pum(p)-kin/ *n* a large fleshy fruit with a thick yellow skin.

**pun** /pʌn/, /pun/ *n* the witty or amusing use of a word like another in sound but different in meaning. • *vb* (**punned**, **punning**) to make a pun.

**punch**<sup>1</sup> /pʌntʃ/, /pʊnч/ *vb* **1** to strike with the fist. **2** to herd or drive cattle. **3** to make a hole with a special tool or machine. • *n* **1** a blow with the fist. **2** a tool or machine for making holes.

**punch**<sup>2</sup> /pʌntʃ/, /pʊnч/ *n* a drink made from wine or spirit mixed with sugar, hot water, fruit, etc.

**punctual** /'pʌŋktʃuəl/, /pungk-chu-wal/ *adj* **1** on time, not late. **2** good at arriving at the correct time. • *n* **punctuality**.

**punctuate** /'pʌŋktʃeɪt/, /pungk-chu-wate/ *vb* **1** to divide up written work with full stops, commas, etc. **2** to interrupt repeatedly. • *n* **punctuation**.

**puncture** /'pʌŋktʃər/, /pungk-chur/ *n* a hole made by a sharp point. • *vb* to make a hole in, to pierce.

**pundit** /'pʌndɪt/, /pun-dit/ *n* (*frm*) an expert.

**pungent** /'pʌndʒənt/, /pung-jent/ *adj* **1** sharp to taste or smell. **2** sharp. • *n* **pungency**.

**punish** /'pəniʃ/, /pu-nish/ *vb* **1** to cause someone to suffer for doing wrong. **2** to deal roughly with.

**punishment** /'pəniʃmənt/, /pu-nish-ment/ *n* pain, loss, etc, inflicted on a wrongdoer.

**punitive** /'pjʊnɪtɪv/, /pyoo-ni-tiv/ *adj* **1** done by way of punishment, inflicting punishment. **2** very high and expensive.

**punster** /'pənster/, /pun-ster/ *n* (*inf*) someone who makes puns.

**punt**<sup>1</sup> /pənt/, /punt/ *n* a flat-bottomed boat moved by means of a pole. • *vb* to move a punt with a pole.

**punt**<sup>2</sup> /pənt/, /punt/ *vb* to kick a ball dropped from the hands before it touches the ground. • *also n.*

**puny** /'pjuni/, /pyoo-nee/ *adj* small and weak.

**pup** /pəp/, /pup/ *n* a puppy, a young dog.

**pupa** /'pjupə/, /pyoo-pa/ *n* (*pl pupae or pupas*) **1** a stage in the growth of an insect just before it develops wings. **2** an insect in this stage.

**pupil** /'pjupil/, /pyoo-pil/ *n* **1** someone being taught, a learner. **2** the round opening in the centre of the eye through which light passes.

**puppet** /'pepit/, /pu-pit/ *n* **1** a doll whose movements are controlled by strings, etc. **2** someone who obeys without question all the orders given him or her by another.

**puppet show** /'pepitʃo:/, /pu-pit show/ *n* a performance using puppets.

**puppy** /'pepi/, /pu-pee/ *n* a young dog.

**purchase** /'pərtʃəs/, /pur-chis/ *vb* to buy. • *n* **1** the thing bought. **2** a position that allows one to apply all one's strength.

**purchaser** /'pərtʃəsər/, /pur-chi-ser/ *n* a buyer.

**pure** /pjur/, /pyoor/ *adj* **1** clear. **2** unmixed. **3** clean, free from dirt or harmful matter. **4** free from guilt or evil. **5** complete, absolute.

**purée** /pjur'eɪ/, /pyoo-ray/ *n* food crushed to pulp and sometimes passed through a sieve.

**purely** /'pjurli/, /pyoor-lee/ *adv* **1** wholly. **2** only, merely. **3** in a pure manner.

**purge** /pərdʒ/, /purge/ *vb* **1** to make pure and clean. **2** to get rid of unwanted persons. **3** to clear the body of waste matter, to empty the bowels.

**purification** /pjʊrɪfi'keɪʃən/, /pyoo-ri-fi-cay-shun/ *n* **1** act of purifying. **2** a ceremonial cleansing.

**purify** /pjʊrɪ,fai/, /pyoo-ri-fie/ *vb* **1** to cleanse. **2** to make pure.

**puritan** /'pjʊritən/, /pyoo-ri-tan/ *n* someone who is very strict in matters of morals or religion. • *adj* **puritanic(al)**. • *n* **puritanism**.

**purity** /'pjuriti/, /pyoo-ri-tee/ *n* the state of being pure.

**purl<sup>1</sup>** /'pɜrl/, /purl/ *n* the rippling sound made by a stream. • *vb* to ripple.

**purl<sup>2</sup>** /pɜrl/ *n* a type of knitting stitch. • *also vb*.

**purple** /'pərpəl/, /pur-pul/ *n* 1 a colour of red and blue mixed. 2 (*fml*) the purple robe of a king or cardinal. 3 (*fml*) the rank of king or cardinal. • *adj* of purple colour.

**purpose** /'pərpəs/, /pur-puss/ *n* 1 the reason for an action, an intention or plan. 2 use or function. 3 determination. • *vb* to intend.

**purposeful** /'pərpəs,ful/, /pur-pus-ful/ *adj* 1 having a clear intention in mind. 2 determined.

**purposely** /'pərpəsli/, /pur-pus-lee/ *adv* intentionally, on purpose.

**purr** /pər/, /pur/ *n* the low sound made by a cat when pleased. • *also vb*.

**purse** /pərs/, /purss/ *n* 1 a small leather or plastic bag used by women to carry coins, paper money, and sometimes credit cards. 2 a sum of money offered as a prize. • *vb* to pull in.

**pursue** /pər'su:/, /pur-soo/ *vb* 1 to follow in order to catch. 2 to carry on.

**pursuer** /pər'su:ər/, /pur-soo-er/ *n* someone who chases.

**pursuit** /pər'suit/, /pur-soot/ *n* the act of pursuing.

**purvey** /'pərvəi/, /pur-vay/ *vb* (*fml*) to provide food or meals. • *n purveyor*.

**pus** /pəs/, /puiss/ *n* yellow matter from an infected sore or wound.

**push** /puʃ/, /poosh/ *vb* 1 to press against with force. 2 to move by force, to shove. 3 to try to make someone do something. 4 (*inf*) to promote, to advertise. • *n* 1 a shove. 2 a strong effort. 3 (*inf*) energy. 4 an attack by a large army.

**pushchair** /'pʊstʃər/, /poosh-chare/ *n* a small folding chair on wheels on which a young child is pushed.

**pushy** /puʃi/, /poo-shee/ *adj* extremely assertive or ambitious.

**pusillanimous** /,pjusə'lænəməs/, /pyoo-si-la-ni-muss/ *adj* timid, cowardly. • *n pusillanimity*.

**puss** /'pus/, /pooss/, **pussy** /'pusi/, /poo-see/ *n* (*inf*) a cat.

**pustule** /'pʌstʃu:l/, /pus-tchul/ *n* a small pimple containing infected matter.

**put** /put/, /poot/ *vb (put, putting)* **1** to set down in, or move into, a certain place. **2** to ask. **3** to express in words. **4** to throw from the shoulder with a bent arm. • *n* act of throwing a weight in sport. • **put by** to keep for future use. • **put up** to give accommodation to. • **put up with** to bear without complaining.

**putative** /'pjʊ:tətɪv/, /pyoo-tay-tiv/ *adj* supposed, commonly believed to be.

**putrefy** /'pjʊ:trefaɪ/, /pyoo-tri-fie/ *vb (fml)* to become rotten, to decay. • *n* **putrefaction**.

**putrid** /'pjʊ:trɪd/, /pyoo-trid/ *adj (fml)* rotten, decayed. **2 (inf)** very bad, poor.

**putt** /pet/, /putt/ *vb (putted, putting) (in golf)* to hit the ball into the hole on the green. • *n (in golf)* a hit intended to send the ball into the hole.

**putter** /pətər/, /pu-ter/ *n* a golf club for putting.

**putting green** /'pətɪŋ ,grɪ:n/, /pu-ting green/ *n (in golf)* the smooth green near a hole.

**putty** /'pəti/, /pu-tee/ *n* a paste made from chalk and linseed oil, used for fitting glass in windows, etc. • *vb* to cement with putty.

**puzzle** /'pəzəl/, /pu-zul/ *vb* **1** to present with a difficult problem or situation, to baffle, to perplex. **2** to think long and carefully about. • *n* **1** a difficult question or problem. **2** a game or toy intended to test one's skill or cleverness. • *n* **puzzlement**.

**PVC** /pi:vi:'si:/, /pee-vee-see/ *abbr = polyvinyl chloride*: a tough kind of plastic.

**pygmy, pigmy** /'pɪgmi/, /pig-mee/ *n* **1** a member of a race of very small people in Africa. **2 (inf)** a very small person or animal. • *also adj.*

**pyjamas** /pə'dʒæməz/, /pa-ja-maz/ *npl, also pajamas (US)* a loose, lightweight set of trousers and shirt, worn in bed.

**pylon** /'paɪlən/, /pie-lon/ *n* a hollow skeleton pillar for carrying overhead electric cables.

**pyramid** /'pɪrəmɪd/, /pi-ra-mid/ *n* 1 a solid body with triangular sides meeting in a point at the top. 2 a monument of this shape.

**pyre** /paɪr/, /pire/ *n* a pile of wood, etc, on which a dead body is placed for burning.

**pyrotechnic** /,paɪro:tɛknɪk/, /pie-ro-**tec**-nic/ *adj* having to do with fireworks.

**pyrotechnics** /,paɪro:tɛknɪks/, /pie-ro-**tec**-nics/ *n* the art of making or using fireworks.

**Pyrrhic** /'pɪrɪk/, /pi-ric/ *adj.* • **Pyrrhic victory** a victory in which the victors suffer very heavy losses (King Pyrrhus of Epirus, suffered great casualties in defeating the Romans during the Pyrrhic War 280–275 BC).

**python** /'paɪθɒn/, /pie-thon/ *n* a large nonpoisonous snake that crushes its prey in its coils.

# Q

**Q, q** /kyu:/, /kyoo/ the 17th letter of the English alphabet.

**quack<sup>1</sup>** /kwæk/, /kwak/ *n* the harsh cry of a duck. • *vb* to make the cry of a duck.

**quack<sup>2</sup>** /kwæk/, /kwak/ *n* 1 a person who pretends to have knowledge or skill that he or she does not have, especially in medicine. 2 (*inf*) a doctor. • *n* **quackery** the claims or methods of a quack.

**quad** /kwəd/, /kwad/ *n* 1 *short for quadrangle* (of a school or college). 2 *short for quadruplet*. 3 *pl short for quadriceps*.

**quadr-** /'kwədr/, /kwad-r/ *prefix* four.

**quadrangle** /'kwəd,ræŋgəl/, /kwad-rang-gul/ *n* 1 a figure with four sides and four angles. 2 a square or rectangular courtyard enclosed by a building or buildings, especially at a school or college.

**quadrant** /'kwədrənt/, /kwad-rant/ *n* 1 the fourth part of a circle. 2 an instrument for measuring angles.

**quadratic** /kwo'drætɪk/, /kwad-ra-tic/ *adj* in algebra, having to do with the square of an unknown quantity, but with no higher power.

**quadrennial** /kwo'drəniəl/, /kwad-re-nee-al/ *adj* 1 happening every four years. 2 lasting for four years.

**quadrennium** /kwo'drəniəm/, /kwad-re-nee-um/ *n* a period of four years.

**quadriceps** /'kwədrə,səps/, /kwad-ri-seps/ *npl* the large muscles at the front of the thighs.

**quadrilateral** /,kwədrə'lætərəl/, /kwad-ri-lat-rul/ *n* a four-sided figure.

**quadrille** /kwo'dril/, /kwad-ril/ *n* 1 a dance for four couples, each forming the side of a square. 2 a kind of card game played by four people.

**quadruped** /'kwədru,pəd/, /kwad-ru-ped/ *n* an animal with four feet.

**quadruple** /kwo'*dru:pəl*/, /kwad-**roo**-pul/ *adj* four times as great. • *vb* to make or become four times greater.

**quadruplet** /kwo'*dru:plət*/, /kwad-**roo**-plet/ *n* (*abbr quad*) one of four children born at one birth.

**quaff** /kwo'*f*/, /kwaf/ *vb (fm)* to drink a lot at one swallow.

**quagmire** /'kwæg,mair/, /kwag-mire/ *n* soft, very wet ground, bog, marsh.

**quail**<sup>1</sup> /kweɪl/, /kwail/ *vb* to bend or draw back in fear.

**quail**<sup>2</sup> /kweɪl/, /kwail/ *n* a small bird of the partridge family.

**quaint** /kweɪnt/, /kwaint/ *adj* unusual or old-fashioned in a pleasing way.

**quake** /kweɪk/, /kwake/ *vb* to shake, to tremble.

**Quaker** /'kweɪkər/, /kway-ker/ *n* a member of the religious group the Society of Friends.

**qualification** /kwo'ləfɪ'keɪʃən/, /kwal-i-fi-**cay**-shun/ *n* an ability, skill, etc, that fits a person for a certain position or job.

**qualify** /'kwo'lifai/, /kwal-i-fie/ *vb* 1 to achieve the standards required before entering a business, filling a certain position, getting a job, etc. 2 to make fit. 3 to change but not alter completely.

**qualitative** /'kwɔ:lɪ,teɪtɪv/, /kwal-i-tay-tiv/ *adj (fm)* having to do with quality.

**quality** /'kwɔ:lti/, /kwal-i-tee/ *n* 1 a feature of a person or thing. 2 the degree to which something is good or excellent, a standard of excellence. 3 excellence. • *adj qualitative*.

**qualm** /kwɔ:m/, /kwahm/ *n* doubt; a fear that a person is about to do something that is wrong.

**quandary** /'kwɔ:ndri/, /kwawn-dree/ *n* a state of uncertainty; doubt as to what a person ought to do.

**quantify** /'kwɔ:ntri,fai/, /kwan-ti-fie/ *vb* to express the amount of, to measure.

**quantitative** /'kwɔ:ntri,teɪtɪv/, /kwan-ti-tay-tiv/ *adj (fm)* able to be measured, having to do with quantity.

**quantity** /'kwɔ:n̩t̩i/, /kwan-ti-tee/ *n* 1 size, amount. 2 a large amount. 3 the length of a vowel sound.

**quantum** /'kwɔːntəm/, /kwawn-tum/ *n* an amount.

**quarantine** /'kwɔːrən,tɪ:n/, /kwaw-ren-teen/ *n* a period of time during which a person, animal, or ship that may carry infection is kept apart.

**quarrel** /'kwɔːrəl/, /kwaw-rel/ *n* an angry argument or disagreement. • *vb* (quarrelled, quarrelling; also quarreled, quarreling (US)) **1** to exchange angry words with, to fall out (with). **2** to disagree.

**quarrelsome** /'kwɔːrlsəm/, /kwaw-rel-sum/ *adj* fond of quarrelling.

**quarry<sup>1</sup>** /'kwɔːri/, /kwaw-ree/ *n* an intended prey.

**quarry<sup>2</sup>** /'kwɔːri/, /kwaw-ree/ *n* a place from which stone, slate, etc, may be cut. • *vb* to dig or cut from a quarry.

**quart** /'kwɔːrt/, /kwawrt/ *n* an imperial measurement of liquid (1.136 litres, 2 pints, or 1/4 gallon).

**quarter** /'kwɔːtər/, /kwawr-ter/ *n* **1** the fourth part of anything. **2** an imperial measure of weight, a quarter of a hundredweight (25 pounds). **3** one fourth of an hour. **4** a district in a town. **5** *pl* lodgings. • *vb* **1** to divide into four equal parts. **2** (*frm*) to provide with lodgings.

**quartered** /'kwɔːtərd/, /kwawr-terd/ *adj* divided into four parts.

**quarterfinal** /'kwɔːtər,fainəl/, /kwawr-ter-fie-nal/ *n* a match or game just before the semifinals in a contest. • *adj* having to do with quarterfinals.

**quarter-hour** /'kwɔːtər,aʊər/, /kwawr-ter-hour/ *n* 15 minutes.

**quarterly** /'kwɔːtərli/, /kwawr-ter-lee/ *adj* happening every three months. • *also n.* • *adv* once every three months.

**quartet** /kwɔːr'tet/, /kwawr-tet/ *n* **1** a piece of music written for four performers. **2** a group of four singers or players. **3** a set or group of four.

**quartz** /kwɔːts/, /kwawrts/ *n* a type of mineral found in rocks, usually in the form of crystals.

**quasar** /'kweɪzər/, /kway-zar/ *n* a distant starlike heavenly body that emits light and radio waves.

**quash** /kwoʃ/, /kwawsh/ *vb* **1** to set aside. **2** to put down, to put an end to.

**quasi-** /'kweɪzəl/, /kway-zie/ *prefix* almost, to some extent but not really.

**quassia** /'kwɑːʃə/, /kwa-sha/ *n* a South American tree with a bitter-tasting bark used in medicines.

**quatrain** /'kwɔːtreɪn/, /kwaw-train/ *n* a poem or section of a poem of four lines, usually rhyming alternately.

**quaver** /'kweɪvər/, /kway-ver/ *vb* 1 to shake, to tremble. 2 to speak in a trembling, uncertain voice. • *n* 1 a trembling of the voice. 2 (*mus*) a note having the duration of a minim (also quarter note (*US*)).

**quay** /ki:/, /kee/ *n* a landing place for the loading and unloading of ships.

**queasy** /'kwiːzi/, /kwee-zee/ *adj* feeling sick, easily made sick.

**queen** /'kwiːn/, /kween/ *n* 1 the wife of a king. 2 a female royal ruler of a country. 3 the female bee, ant, etc. 4 a picture playing card. 5 a piece in chess.

**queenly** /'kwiːnlɪ/, /kween-lee/ *adj* like a queen.

**queen mother** /'kwiːn 'məθə/, /kween mu-ther/ *n* a former queen who is mother of the reigning king or queen.

**queer** /kwiːr/, /kweer/ *adj* strange, unusual.

**quell** /kweɪl/, /kwell/ *vb* 1 to put down completely, to crush. 2 to put an end to.

**quench** /kwenʃ/, /kwench/ *vb* 1 to put out (e.g. water on a fire). 2 to satisfy.

**querulous** /'kweruləs/, /kwe-ru-lus/ *adj* complaining.

**query** /'kwiːri/, /kwee-ree/ *n* 1 a question. 2 a question mark (?). • *vb* 1 (*frm*) to ask a question. 2 to doubt.

**quest** /kwest/, /kwest/ (*frm* or *lit*) *n* a search. • *vb* to go in search of.

**question** /'kwestʃən/, /kwes-chun/ *n* 1 a request for news, information, knowledge, etc. 2 words spoken or arranged in such a way that an answer is called for. 3 a problem. 4 the matter under consideration. • *vb* 1 to ask questions. 2 to doubt. • *n* **questioner**.

**questionable** /kwestʃənəbəl/, /kwes-chu-na-bul/ *adj* 1 doubtful. 2 open to suspicion.

**question mark** /'kwestʃən mærk/, /kwes-chun mark/ *n* a piece of punctuation, ?, that denotes a question.

**questionnaire** /kwestʃənneɪr/, /kwes-chu-nare/ *n* a set of written questions chosen for a particular purpose.

**queue** /kju:/, /cyoo/ *n* a line of people waiting their turn for something. • *vb* to form a queue, to stand in a queue.

**quibble** /'kwibəl/, /kwi-bul/ *n* an objection or argument, especially an unimportant objection or argument. • *vb* to argue about small, unimportant details.

**quiche** /ki:ʃ/, /keesh/ *n* an unsweetened egg custard baked in a tart with onions, cheese, bacon, etc.

**quick** /kwɪk/, /kwick/ *adj* 1 fast-moving. 2 clever. 3 done in a short time. 4 (*old*) living. • *n* the very tender flesh under the nails or just below the skin. • *adv* quickly.

**quicken** /'kwikən/, /kwi-ken/ *vb* 1 to give life to. 2 to become alive or lively. 3 to make or become faster.

**quickly** /'kwikli:/, /kwik-lee/ *adv* at once, rapidly.

**quicksand** /'kwiksænd/, /kwik-sand/ *n* loose, wet sand into which anything of weight (e.g. ships, people) may sink.

**quicksilver** /'kwik,silvər/, /kwik-sil-ver/ *n* mercury.

**quiet** /'kwaɪət/, /kwie-et/ *adj* 1 at rest. 2 noiseless, not noisy. 3 calm, peaceful, gentle. 4 (*of colours*) not bright. • *n* 1 rest, peace. 2 silence. • *vb* 1 to calm. 2 to make silent.

**quill** /kwɪl/, /kwill/ *n* 1 a large feather from a goose or other bird, used as a pen. 2 the hollow stem of a feather. 3 one of the prickles on the back of a porcupine.

**quilt** /kwilt/, /kwilt/ *n* a bedcover padded with feathers, wool, etc. • *vb* to make a quilt.

**quince** /kwɪns/, /kwinss/ *n* 1 a sour pear-shaped fruit often used in jams. 2 a kind of fruit-bearing tree.

**quintet** /kwin'tet/, /kwin-tet/ *n* 1 a piece of music written for five performers. 2 a group of five singers or players. 3 a set or group of five.

**quintuple** /kwin'təpəl/, /kwin-too-pul/ *adj* five times as great. • *vb* to make or become five times greater.

**quintuplet** /kwin'təplət/, /kwin-tu-plet/ *n* (*abbr* **quin**) one of five children born at one birth.

**quip** /kwɪp/, /kwip/ *n* a joking or witty remark. • *vb (quipped, quipping)* to make such remarks.

**quirk** /kwɜːk/, /kwirk/ *n* 1 a way of behaving or doing something peculiar to oneself. 2 a strange or unexpected happening.

**quit** /kwɪt/, /kwit/ *vb (quitted or quit, quitting)* 1 to leave. 2 to give up.

**quite** /kwət/, /kwite/ *adv* 1 completely, wholly. 2 fairly, rather.

**quits** /kwɪts/, /kwits/ *adj* on even terms, owing nothing to each other.

**quiver<sup>1</sup>** /'kwɪvər/, /kwi-ver/ *n* a case for carrying arrows.

**quiver<sup>2</sup>** /'kwɪvər/, /kwi-ver/ *vb* to tremble. • *n* a shudder, a slight trembling.

**quixotic** /'kwɪk'sɒtɪk/, /kwik-sot-ic/ *adj* trying to achieve impossible or unrealistic aims, especially when these are to help others and bring danger to oneself.

**quiz** /kwɪz/, /kwiz/ *vb (quizzed, quizzing)* to examine by questioning. • *n* a number of questions set to test a person's knowledge.

**quizzical** /'kwɪzɪkəl/, /kwi-zi-cal/ *adj* as if asking a question, especially mockingly or humorously.

**quota** /'kwo:tə/, /kwo-ta/ *n* the share of the whole to which each member of a group has a right.

**quotation** /kwo:təʃən/, /kwo-tay-shun/ *n* 1 the words or passage quoted. 2 a price stated.

**quotation marks** /kwo:təʃən/, /kwo-tay-shun marks/ *npl* punctuation marks (" ' or " ') placed at the beginning and end of a written quotation.

**quote** /kwo:t/, /kwoat/ *vb* 1 to repeat or write down the exact words of another person, making it known that they are not anyone else's. 2 to say the price of. • *n (inf)* 1 a quotation. 2 a quotation mark.

**quotidian** /kwo:tɪdiən/, /kwo-ti-dee-an/ *adj (fm)* daily.

**quotient** /'kwo:ʃənt/, /kwo-shent/ *n* the answer to a division problem.

**Qu'ran** see [Koran](#).

# R

**R, r** /ɑ:/, /ɑr/ the 18th letter of the English alphabet.

**rabbi** /'ræbə/, /ra-bie/ *n* a person who is learned in the law and doctrine of the Jewish people, a Jewish leader and teacher.

**rabbit** /'ræbit/, /ra-bit/ *n* a small long-eared burrowing animal.

**rabble** /'ræbəl/, /ra-bul/ *n* a noisy or disorderly crowd.

**rabid** /'ræbɪd/, /ra-bid/ *adj* 1 fanatical. 2 (of dogs) suffering from rabies.

**rabies** /'reɪbi:z/, /ray-beez/ *n* a disease, usually caught from a bite from another infected animal, that causes madness, and often death, in dogs and other animals.

**raccoon**, **racoons** /rə'ku:n/, /ra-coon/ *n* an American animal of the bear family.

**race<sup>1</sup>** /reɪs/, /race/ *n* 1 a contest to see who can reach a given mark in the shortest time. 2 a strong quick-moving current of water. • *vb* 1 to take part in a race. 2 to run or move very quickly.

**race<sup>2</sup>** /reɪs/, /race/ *n* 1 any of the main groups into which human beings can be divided according to their physical characteristics. 2 the fact of belonging to one of these groups. 3 a group of people who share the same culture, language, etc. 4 ancestors, family.

**racing car** /race-ing car/ *n* a car designed to race and to travel at high speed.

**race course** /'reɪskɔrs/, /race coarss/ *n*, also **racetrack** /race-track/ (US) the ground on which races are run.

**racehorse** /'reɪshɔrs/, /race-hawrss/ *n* a horse bred for racing.

**racial** /'reɪʃəl/, /ray-shul/ *adj* having to do with a race or nation.

**racism** /'reɪsɪzəm/, /ray-si-zum/ *n* prejudice or discrimination against people on the grounds of race, sometimes accompanied by violent behaviour. • *adj, n racist*.

**rack** /ræk/, /ræk/ *n* **1** a frame for holding articles. **2** (*old*) instrument for torturing people by stretching their joints. • *vb* to cause great pain or trouble to. • **rack your brains** to think as hard as possible.

**racket<sup>1</sup>** /'rækət/, /ra-kit/ *n* a bat (usually a frame strung with crisscrossing cords) for playing tennis, badminton, etc.

**racket<sup>2</sup>** /'rækət/, /ra-kit/ *n* **1** an uproar, a din. **2** a dishonest method of making a lot of money.

**racketeer** /'rækə'ti:r/, /ra-ki-teer/ *n* a person who makes money by dishonest or violent methods. • *n* **racketeering**.

**raccoon** see **raccoon**.

**radar** /'reɪdər/, /ray-dar/ *n* the sending out of radio signals to determine the position of ships, aeroplanes, etc.

**radial** /'reɪdiəl/, /ray-dee-al/ *adj* **1** of or in rays. **2** arranged like spokes.

**radiance** /'reidiəns/, /ray-dee-anse/ *n* brightness, brilliance.

**radiant** /'reidiənt/, /ray-dee-ant/ *adj* **1** showing great joy or happiness. **2** sending out rays of light or heat. **3** glowing. **4** shining.

**radiate** /'reidi,eɪt/, /ray-dee-ate/ *vb* **1** to send out rays of light or heat. **2** to shine with. • *n* **radiation**.

**radiator** /'reɪdi,eɪtər/, /ray-dee-ay-tur/ *n* **1** a metal device fixed to a wall through which hot water passes to warm a room. **2** an apparatus for cooling the engine of a car.

**radical** /'rædɪkəl/, /ra-di-cal/ *adj* **1** having to do with the root or basic nature. **2** seeking great political, social, or economic change. **3** very thorough. • *n* a person who desires to make far-reaching changes in society or in methods of government. • *adv* **radically**.

**radii** see **radius**.

**radio** /'reɪdɪo:/, /ray-dee-o/ *n* **1** the sending or receiving of sounds through the air by electric waves. **2** an apparatus for receiving sound broadcast through the air by electric waves. **3** the radio broadcasting industry.

**radioactive** /'reɪdio:'æktyv/, /ray-dee-o-ac-tiv/ *adj* giving off rays of force or energy which can be dangerous but that can be used in medicine, etc. • *n* **radioactivity**.

**radiographer** /'reɪdɪ'ɒgræfər/, /ray-dee-og-ra-fer/ *n* a person who is trained to take X-ray photographs.

**radiography** /'reɪdɪ'ɒgræfi/, /ray-dee-og-ra-fee/ *n* the obtaining of photographs by X-rays.

**radiology** /'reɪdɪ'ɒlədʒi/, /ray-dee-ol-u-jee/ *n* the study or use of radioactivity as a means of treating disease. • *n* **radiologist**.

**radiotherapy** /'reɪdɪ'oθεrəpi:/, /ray-dee-o-ther-a-pee/ *n* the treatment of disease by rays (e.g. X-rays). • *n* **radiotherapist**.

**radish** /rædɪʃ/, /ra-dish/ *n* a plant with an edible hot-tasting red root.

**radium** /'reɪdiəm/, /ray-dee-um/ *n* a rare metallic substance that gives off rays of heat and light used in the treatment of disease.

**radius** /'reɪdiəs/, /ray-dee-us/ *n* (*pl* **radii**) **1** a straight line from the centre of a circle to any point on the circumference. **2** a bone in the forearm.

**radon** /'reɪdɒn/, /ray-don/ *n* a radioactive gas that can be produced from the earth and rock.

**raffle** /'ræfəl/, /ra-ful/ *n* a sale in which people buy tickets for an article that is given to the person whose name or number is drawn by lottery. • *vb* to sell by raffle.

**raft** /ræft/, /raft/ *n* **1** logs fastened together to make a floating platform or a flat boat without sides. **2** a large number of things, a series.

**rag** /ræg/, /rag/ *n* a torn or tattered piece of cloth, a left-over piece of material. • *npl* old tattered clothes.

**rage** /reɪdʒ/, /rage/ *n* **1** violent anger, fury. **2** something very popular or fashionable at a certain time. • *vb* **1** to be furious with anger. **2** to behave or talk violently.

**ragged** /'rægid/, /ra-gid/ *adj* **1** torn or tattered. **2** wearing old tattered clothing. **3** rough-edged.

**ragtime** /'rægtaim/, /rag-time/ *n* a highly syncopated form of music of African-American origin, an early form of jazz.

**raid** /reɪd/, /raid/ *n* a sudden quick attack made by a group intending to return to their starting point. • *also vb.* • *n* **raider**.

**rail** /reɪl/, /rail/ *n* **1** a level or sloping bar of wood or metal linking up a line of posts, banisters, etc. **2** a strip of metal moulded to a certain

shape and laid down as part of a railway track. **3** railways as a means of transport. • *vb* **1** to enclose with railings. **2** to send by railway.

**railing** /'reɪlɪŋ/, /ray-ling/ *n* a fence made of posts some distance apart linked together by crossbars or a rail.

**railway** /'reɪlweɪ/, /rail-way/ *n* **1** a track laid with parallel metal strips so moulded that a train can run on them. **2** a system of tracks and trains.

**rain** /reɪn/, /rain/ *n* moisture falling from the clouds in drops. • *vb* **1** to fall in drops. **2** to fall or throw down in large numbers. • *n* **raindrop**, **rainwater**.

**rainbow** /'reɪnbəʊ/, /rain-bo/ *n* a semicircular coloured band that often appears in the sky when the sun shines through raindrops.

**rainfall** /'reɪnfɔ:l/, /rain-fawl/ *n* the amount of rain that falls in a certain place during a certain length of time.

**rainforest** /'reɪnfɔ:rəst/, /rain-faw-rest/ *n* a dense tropical forest where there is a high rainfall.

**rainy** /'reini/, /rain-ee/ *adj* wet, raining.

**raise** /reɪz/, /raiz/ *vb* **1** to lift upward, to move to a higher position. **2** to breed. **3** to make higher. **4** to cause to grow, to cultivate. **5** to increase in amount, size, etc. **6** to begin to talk about. **7** to collect. **8** to make louder. **9** to give up.

**raisin** /'reɪzən/, /ray-zin/ *n* a dried grape.

**rake** /reɪk/, /rake/ *n* a metal or wooden toothed crossbar fixed to a pole and used for scraping the ground, pulling together cut grass or hay, smoothing the soil, etc. • *vb* **1** to scrape, pull together, smooth, etc, with a rake. **2** to search very carefully.

**rally** /'ræli/, /ra-lee/ *vb* **1** to bring or come together again in one body. **2** to regain some of your strength, health, etc, after weakness or illness. • *n* **1** a coming together in large numbers. **2** recovery of strength, health, good spirits, etc.

**ram** /ræm/, /ram/ *n* **1** a male sheep. **2** any heavy instrument used for breaking down walls, doors, etc. • *vb* (**rammed**, **ramming**) **1** run into with great force. **2** to push down into or onto with great force. **3** (*of a ship*) to strike another ship head-on in order to make a hole in its side. **4** to strike violently.

**RAM** /ræm/, /ram/ *abbr = Random Access Memory*: memory that is lost when a computer is switched off.

**Ramadan** /'ræmə'dæn/, /ra-ma-dan/ *n* the ninth month of the Muslim year during which Muslims fast between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

**ramble** /'ræmbəl/, /ram-bul/ *vb* **1** to change from one subject to another in a foolish, purposeless way. **2** to walk as and where you like for pleasure. **3** to grow in all directions. • *n* a walk taken for pleasure.

**rambler** /'ræmblər/, /ram-bler/ *n* **1** a wanderer, a person who rambles. **2** a climbing plant, especially a type of rose.

**ramification** /ræməfɪ'keɪʃən/, /ra-mi-fi-cay-shun/ *n* a consequence, especially one of many and an indirect one.

**ramp** /ræmp/, /ramp/ *n* a slope.

**rampage** /'ræmpeɪdʒ/, /ram-page/ *vb* to rush about, to rage. • *n* great anger or excitement.

**rampant** /'ræmpənt/, /ram-pant/ *adj* **1** uncontrolled. **2** growing uncontrollably. **3** in heraldry, standing on the hind legs.

**rampart** /'ræmpart/, /ram-part/ *n* a defensive wall or mound of earth.

**ramshackle** /'ræmʃækəl/, /ram-sha-kul/ *adj* broken-down, nearly falling down.

**ranch** /ræntʃ/, /ranch/ *n* a large cattle farm.

**rancher** /'ræntʃər/, /ran-cher/ *n* a person who owns or works on a ranch.

**rancid** /'rænsɪd/, /ran-sid/ *adj* bad, unpleasant to taste or smell.

**random** /'rændəm/, /ran-dum/ *adj* without plan or purpose. • **at random** without plan or purpose.

**rang** *pt of ring*.

**range** /reɪndʒ/, /range/ *vb* **1** to extend. **2** to vary between certain limits. **3** to set in a line, to place in order. **4** (*fml*) to wander. • *n* **1** a variety. **2** extent. **3** a line or row, e.g. of mountains. **4** the distance between a gun and the fall of the shot, the distance over which an object can be sent or thrown, sound carried, heard, etc. **5** an area of land where animals roam and graze. **6** a piece of ground for

firing practice. **7** an enclosed kitchen fireplace for cooking and baking.

**ranger** /'reɪndʒər/, /rane-jer/ *n* a person in charge of a national park or forest.

**rank<sup>1</sup>** /ræŋk/, /rangk/ *n* **1** a position of authority; a level of importance. **2** a social class. **3** a row or line. **4** a row of soldiers standing side by side. • *vb* **1** to put or be in a certain class or in an order of merit. **2** to arrange in a row or line. • **rank and file** the common people.

**rank<sup>2</sup>** /ræŋk/, /rangk/ *adj* **1** very bad. **2** overgrown. **3** growing thickly and untidily.

**rankle** /'ræŋkəl/, /rang-kul/ *vb* to go on causing anger or dislike.

**ransack** /'ræn,sæk/, /ran-sack/ *vb* **1** to search thoroughly. **2** to plunder.

**ransom** /'rænsəm/, /ran-sum/ *n* a sum of money paid to free someone from captivity. • *vb* to pay to obtain freedom, to redeem.

**rant** /rænt/, /rant/ *vb* to talk in a loud, uncontrolled, forceful manner. • also *n*. • *n* **ranter**.

**rap** /ræk/, /rap/ *n* **1** a quick light blow, a knock. **2** a style of popular music in which (usually rhyming) words are spoken in a rhythmic chant over an instrumental backing. • *vb* (**rapped**, **rapping**) **1** to give a rap, sense 1, to. **2** to chat, converse. **3** to perform a rap, sense 2. • **take the rap** to be blamed or punished for something, often unfairly. • *n* **rapper**.

**rape** /reɪp/, /rayp/ *vb* to force someone to have sex against their will.  
• also *n*.

**rapid** /'ræpid/, /ra-pid/ *adj* very quick-moving. • *n* (*usually pl*) a quick-flowing stretch of river running downhill. • *n* **rapidity**. • *adv* **rapidly**.

**rapier** /'reɪpiər/, /ray-pee-er/ *n* a long, thin sword.

**rappel** /ræ'pəl/, /ra-pel/ *vb* same as **abseil**.

**rapport** /rə'pɔr/, /ra-poar/ *n* a friendly relationship between people who understand one another.

**rapt** /ræpt/, /rapt/ *adj* giving your whole mind.

**rapture** /'ræptʃər/, /rap-chur/ *n* delight, great joy.

**rapturous** /'ræptʃərəs/, /rap-chu-rus/ *adj* full of delight, very happy.

**rare** /reər/, /rare/ *adj* **1** uncommon, unusual. **2** valuable. **3** very good.

**4** very lightly cooked. **5** not thick. • *n* **rareness**.

**rarefied** /'reɪrifaiðə/, /ray-ri-fied/ *adj* thin; (*of air*) with less oxygen than usual.

**rarely** /'rerli/, /rare-lee/ *adv* seldom, not often.

**rarity** /'rəriti/, /ray-ri-tee/ *n* **1** a thing seldom met with. **2** rareness.

**rascal** /'ræskəl/, /ra-scal/ *n* **1** a rogue, a scoundrel. **2** a naughty boy. • *adj* **rascally**.

**rash<sup>1</sup>** /ræʃ/, /rash/ *n* a redness of the skin caused by illness.

**rash<sup>2</sup>** /ræʃ/, /rash/ *adj* **1** acting without forethought. **2** hasty. **3** foolishly daring. • *adv* **rashly**. • *n* **rashness**.

**rasher** /'ræʃər/, /ra-sher/ *n* a thin slice of bacon.

**rasp** /ræsp/, /rasp/ *n* **1** a file with a very rough face. **2** a harsh, grating sound. • *vb* **1** to rub with a rasp. **2** to make a harsh, grating sound. **3** to say in a harsh, angry voice.

**raspberry** /'ræzberi/, /rasp-be-ree/ *n* **1** a common shrub. **2** its edible red berry.

**Rastafarian** /ræstə'feriən/, /ra-sta-fay-ree-an/ *n* a member of a religious group that originated in Jamaica and worships the late Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie.

**rat** /ræt/, /rat/ *n* a gnawing animal like, but larger than, the mouse. • *vb* (**ratted**, **ratting**) to inform on someone.

**ratchet** /'rætʃət/, /rat-chit/ *n* a toothed wheel with which a catch automatically engages as it is turned, preventing it from being turned in the reverse direction.

**rate** /reɪt/, /rate/ *n* **1** the amount of one thing measured by its relation to another. **2** speed. **3** price. • *vb* **1** to consider. **2** to value. **3** to assign to a position on a scale. • *adj* **ratable**.

**rather** /'ræðər/, /ra-ther/ *adv* **1** preferably, more willingly. **2** fairly, quite. **3** more exactly, more truly.

**rating** /'reɪtɪŋ/, /ray-ting/ *n* **1** value or rank according to some kind of classification. **2** in the navy, a sailor who is not an officer.

**ratio** /'reɪʃio:/, /ray-sho/ *n* one number or amount considered in relation or proportion to another.

**ration** /'ræʃən/, /ra-shun/ *n* 1 a fixed amount of something allowed every so often. • *npl (old)* food. • *vb* to limit to fixed amounts.

**rational** /'ræʃənəl/, /ra-shnul/ *adj* 1 having the power to think things out. 2 reasonable, sensible. • *adv* **rationally**.

**rationalist** /'ræʃənəlist/, /ra-shna-list/ *n* a person who tries to find natural causes for all things, including miracles. • *n* **rationalism**.

**rationalize** /'ræʃənəlaɪz/, /ra-shna-lize/ *vb, also rationalise* 1 to try to find reasons for all actions. 2 to explain as due to natural causes. 3 to reorganize a business firm in order to improve efficiency.

**rat race** /'ræt reɪs/, /rat-race/ *n* the competitive, aggressive struggle to survive and be successful in the modern world.

**rattle** /'rætl/, /ra-tul/ *vb* 1 to make a number of short quick noises one after the other. 2 to shake something so as to cause such noises. 3 to speak or say quickly. • *n* 1 an instrument or toy for rattling. 2 a rattling sound.

**rattlesnake** /'rætl,sneɪk/, /ra-tul-snake/ *n* an American snake able to make a rattling sound with horny rings on its tail.

**raucous** /rɒkəs/, /raw-cus/ *adj* hoarse, harsh-sounding.

**ravage** /'rævɪdʒ/, /ra-vidge/ *vb* to lay waste, to plunder, to destroy far and wide. • *n* damage, destruction.

**rave** /reɪv/, /rave/ *vb* 1 to talk wildly or madly. 2 to praise very highly.

**raven** /'rævən/, /ray-vin/ *n* a bird of prey of the crow family. • *adj* black.

**ravenous** /'rævənəs/, /ra-vi-nus/ *adj* very hungry. • *adv* **ravenously**.

**ravine** /rə'veɪn/, /ra-veen/ *n* a narrow valley with steep sides.

**ravioli** /rævi'o:li/, /ra-vee-o-lee/ *n* an Italian dish consisting of small squares of pasta with a meat or vegetable filling.

**ravish** /'rævɪʃ/, /ra-vish/ *vb* 1 to take or carry off by force. 2 to delight. 3 to rape.

**ravishing** /'rævɪʃɪŋ/, /ra-vi-shing/ *adj* delightful, wonderful. • *adv* **ravishingly**.

**raw** /rɒ/, /raw/ *adj* 1 uncooked. 2 in its natural state. 3 sore. 4 (of part of the body) uncovered by skin, scraped. 5 cold and damp.

**ray<sup>1</sup>** /reɪ/, /ray/ *n* 1 a line of light, heat, etc, getting broader as it goes further from its origin. 2 a little, a very small amount.

**ray**<sup>2</sup> /reɪ/, /ray/ *n* a species of flatfish.

**rayon** /'reɪɒn/, /ray-on/ *n* artificial silk.

**raze** /reɪz/, /raze/ *vb* to destroy completely, to wipe out.

**razor** /'reɪzər/, /ray-zor/ *n* an implement for shaving hair.

**razorblade** /'reɪzərbleɪd/, /ray-zor-blade/ *n* a very sharp blade for use in certain kinds of razor.

**reach** /ri:tʃ/, /reech/ *vb* **1** to stretch out. **2** to stretch out a hand or arm for some purpose. **3** to obtain by stretching out for. **4** to arrive at, to get as far as. **5** to pass with the hand. • *n* **1** the distance you can extend the hand from the body. **2** a distance that can be easily travelled. **3** a straight stretch of river.

**react** /ri:'ækt/, /ree-act/ *vb* **1** to act, behave, or change in a certain way as a result of something said or done. **2** to do or think the opposite.

**reaction** /ri'ækʃən/, /ree-ac-shun/ *n* **1** action or behaviour given rise to by something said or done. **2** opposition to progress. **3** in chemistry, the change in a substance when certain tests are made on it.

**reactionary** /-,eɪri/, /ree-ac-shun-ree/ *adj* wanting to return to things as they were before, opposed to progress. • *also n.*

**read** /ri:d/, /reed/ *vb* (*pt, pp* **read** /red/) **1** to look at and understand. **2** to speak aloud what is written or printed. **3** in computing, to extract. **4** to be written or worded.

**readable** /'ri:dəbəl/, /ree-da-bul/ *adj* easy to read, interesting.

**reader** /'ri:dər/, /ree-der/ *n* **1** a person who enjoys reading. **2** a person whose job it is to report on manuscripts sent in to publishers or to read and correct proofs. **3** a reading book for schools. • *n* **readership**.

**readily** /'redili/, /re-di-lee/ *adv* willingly, cheerfully.

**reading** /'ri:dɪŋ/, /ree-ding/ *n* **1** the study of books. **2** words read out from a book or written paper. **3** an explanation of what is written. **4** the figure recorded on an instrument.

**readjust** /,ri:ə'dʒəst/, /ree-a-just/ *vb* **1** to put right or in the proper place again. **2** to make changes needed for altered circumstances.

• *n* **readjustment**.

**ready** /'redi/, /re-dee/ *adj* 1 prepared and fit for use. 2 quick. 3 willing.

• *n* **readiness**.

**real** /ri:l/, /reel/ *adj* 1 actually existing. 2 true, genuine, not false or fake. 3 utter, complete. • *adv* very.

**real estate** /'ri:l,\_osteit/, /reel i-state/ (*esp US*) *n* property consisting of lands and buildings.

**realism** /'ri:ə,lizəm/, /ree-li-zum/ *n* 1 the belief that only objects perceptible by the senses actually exist. 2 trying to make works of art as true to life as possible. 3 the habit of taking a sensible, practical view of life.

**realist** /'ri:ə,li:st/, /ree-a-list/ *n* a person who believes in realism.

**realistic** /riə'listik/, /ree-a-li-stic/ *adj* 1 lifelike. 2 taking a sensible, practical view of life. • *adv* **realistically**.

**reality** /ri'æliti/, /ree-a-li-tee/ *n* 1 that which actually exists. 2 truth. 3 things as they actually are.

**realize** /'riəlaɪz/, /ree-a-lize/ *vb*, also **realise** 1 to understand fully. 2 to make real. 3 to sell for money. • *n* **realization**, also **realisation**.

**really** /'ri:li/, /ree-lee/ *adv* 1 actually, in fact. 2 very.

**realm** /relm/, /relm/ *n* 1 (*fml*) a kingdom. 2 one particular aspect or sphere of life.

**reap** /ri:p/, /reep/ *vb* 1 to cut down.

**reaper** /ri:pər/, /ree-per/ *n* 1 a person who reaps. 2 a machine for reaping.

**reappear** /,riə'pi:r/, /ree-a-peer/ *vb* to appear again. • *n* **reappearance**.

**rear<sup>1</sup>** /ri:r/, /reer/ *n* 1 the part behind. 2 the back part of an army or fleet.

**rear<sup>2</sup>** /ri:r/, /reer/ *vb* 1 to bring up. 2 to breed. 3 to stand on the hind legs. 4 to raise.

**reason** /'ri:zən/, /ree-zun/ *n* 1 cause for acting or believing. 2 the power to think things out. 3 good sense. • *vb* 1 to think out step by step. 2 to try to convince by arguing.

**reasonable** /'ri:zənəbəl/, /reez-na-bul/ *adj* 1 sensible. 2 willing to listen to another's arguments. 3 not excessive. • *adv* **reasonably**.

**reasoning** /'ri:zənɪŋ/, /ree-zu-ning/ *n* 1 use of the power of reason. 2 arguments used to convince.

**reassure** /rɪ:ə'sjər/, /ree-a-shoor/ *vb* to take away the doubts or fears of. • *n* **reassurance**.

**rebate** /'ri:bət/, /ree-bate/ *n* part of a payment given back to the payer.

**rebel** /'rɛbəl/, /re-bel/ *n* a person who revolts against authority. • *vb* /ri-bel/. 2 to refuse to obey those in authority.

**rebellion** /rɛ'bɛljən/, /ri-bel-yun/ *n* open resistance to or fighting against authority.

**rebellious** /rɛ'bɛljəs/, /ri-bel-yuss/ *adj* 1 ready to rebel, disobedient. 2 fighting against authority.

**rebirth** /'ri:bərθ/, /ree-berth/ *n* a revival of something.

**reboot** /ri:'bu:t/, /ree-boot/ *vb* to start a computer again.

**rebound** /'ri:baund/, /ree-bound/ *vb* to bounce back off, to spring back. • *also n.*

**rebuke** /rɛ'bju:k/, /ri-byook/ *vb* to scold, to find fault with. • *n* a scolding.

**rebut** /rɛ'bʌt/, /ri-but/ *vb* (**rebutted**, **rebutting**) to refuse to accept as true. • *n* **rebuttal**.

**recall** /rɛ'kɔ:l/, /ri-cawl/ *vb* 1 to remember. 2 to call back. • *n* /ri'kɔ:l/, /ree-cawl/ an order to return.

**recede** /rɛ'si:d/, /ri-seed/ *vb* 1 to move back. 2 to slope back.

**receipt** /rɛ'si:t/, /ri-seet/ *n* 1 a written statement that a sum of money or an article has been received. 2 the act of receiving.

**receive** /rɛ'si:v/, /ri-seev/ *vb* 1 to come into possession of, to get. 2 to welcome.

**receiver** /rɛ'si:vər/, /ri-see-ver/ *n* 1 a person who accepts stolen goods from a thief. 2 the earpiece of a telephone. 3 a radio set.

**recent** /'ri:sənt/, /ree-sint/ *adj* not long past. • *adv* **recently**.

**receptacle** /rɛ'səptəkəl/, /ri-sep-ti-cal/ *n* a place or vessel for holding things.

**reception** /rɛ'sepʃən/, /ri-sep-shun/ *n* 1 the act of receiving or being received, the welcoming of guests. 2 a formal party. 3 welcome. 4 the desk or area in a hotel or other large organization where

guests or visitors go first. **5** the quality of radio or television signals.

**receptionist** /rə'septʃənist/, /ri-**sep**-shu-nist/ *n* a person who is employed by a hotel, doctor, business, etc, to receive guests, clients, callers, etc.

**receptive** /rə'septiv/, /ri-**sep**-tiv/ *adj* quick to learn. • *n receptivity*.

**recess** /'ri:ses/, /ree-sess/ *n* **1** a break from work or study. **2** part of a room set back into the wall.

**recession** /rɪ'seʃən/, /ri-**se**-shun/ *n* a period of reduced trade and business activity.

**recipe** /'resipi:/, /re-si-pee/ *n* instructions on how to make or prepare a certain dish.

**recipient** /rə'sipiənt/, /ri-**si**-pee-ent/ *n* a person who receives.

**recital** /rə'səitəl/, /ri-**sie**-tal/ *n* **1** a detailed account. **2** a public musical performance, especially by one performer.

**recitation** /rɛsə'teɪʃən/, /re-si-**tay**-shun/ *n* **1** a reciting of something. **2** that which is recited (e.g. a poem).

**recite** /rə'səit/, /ri-**site**/ *vb* to repeat aloud from memory.

**reckless** /'rekłəs/, /reck-less/ *adj* rash, heedless of danger. • *adv recklessly*.

**reckon** /'rekən/, /re-kun/ *vb* **1** to think or consider. **2** to guess, to estimate. **3** (*frm*) to count.

**reckoning** /'rekənɪŋ/, /re-ku-ning/ *n* **1** a calculation, estimate. **2** (*old*) a settlement of accounts, a bill.

**reclaim** /rə'kleim/, /ri-**claim**/ *vb* **1** to demand the return of. **2** to bring under cultivation waste land, land covered by the sea, etc. • *n reclamation*.

**recline** /rə'klain/, /ri-**cline**/ *n* to sit or lie back at your ease, to rest.

**recluse** /rə'klu:s/, /ri-**clooss**/ *n* a person who prefers to live away from human society. • *adj reclusive*.

**recognition** /rekəgnɪʃən/, /re-cug-**ni**-shun/ *n* **1** act of recognizing. **2** acknowledgment.

**recognizable** /rekəg'naizəbəl/, /re-kug-**nie**-za-bul/ *adj*, also **recognisable** that may be recognized.

**recognize** /'rekəgnaɪz/, /re-kug-nize/ *vb*, also **recognise** 1 to know again. 2 to greet or salute. 3 to admit. 4 to accept. 5 to reward.

**recoil** /rə'kɔɪl/, /re-coil/ *vb* 1 to go suddenly backward in horror, fear, etc. 2 (*of a gun*) to move sharply backward on firing. • *n* /ree-coil/ 1 a shrinking backward. 2 the backward kick of a gun on firing.

**recollect** /,rekə'lɛkt/, /re-cu-lect/ *vb* to remember.

**recollection** /,rekə'lækʃən/, /re-cu-lec-shun/ *n* 1 memory. 2 something remembered.

**recommend** /,rekə'mend/, /re-cu-mend/ *vb* 1 to speak in praise of, to suggest that something or someone is good, suitable, etc. 2 to advise.

**recommendation** /,rekəmen'deɪʃən/, /re-cu-men-day-shun/ *n* 1 act of praising or speaking in favour of. 2 a letter praising a person's good points.

**reconcile** /'rekənseɪl/, /re-con-sile/ *vb* 1 to make or become friendly again. 2 to make (yourself) accept something new or strange.

**reconciliation** /,rekən'sili'eɪʃən/, /re-cun-si-lee-ay-shun/ *n* a renewal of friendship.

**reconsider** /ri:kən'si:dər/, /ree-kun-si-der/ *vb* to think about again with a view to changing your mind. • *n* **reconsideration**.

**reconstruct** /ri:kən'strʌkt/, /ree-con-struct/ *vb* 1 to rebuild. 2 to try to build up a description or picture of, to work out exactly what happened when all the facts are not known. • *n* **reconstruction**.

**record** /'rekɔːrd/, /ri-cauld/ *vb* 1 to put down in writing. 2 to preserve sounds or images by mechanical means, on a CD, tape, etc. 3 to sing songs, play music, etc, which is recorded on a CD or tape. • *n* /re-curd/ 1 a recorded account. 2 a book containing written records, a register. 3 the best performance yet known in any type of contest. 4 a disc for playing on a CD player or phonograph. 5 what is known about a person's past. 6 a criminal record.

**recorder** /'rekɔːrdər/, /ri-cauld-der/ *n* 1 a person who keeps registers or records. 2 a judge in certain cities. 3 a simple form of flute.

**recount** /,re'kaʊnt/, /ri-count/ *vb* 1 to tell in detail. 2 to count again. • *n* /ree-count/ another counting, e.g. of votes after an election.

**recoup** /rə'ku:p/, /ri-coop/ *vb* to get back all or part of a loss.

**recover** /rə'kʌvər/, /ri-cu-ver/ *vb* **1** to cover again. **2** to get back, to regain. **3** to make or become better after sickness or weakness.

**recovery** /rə'kʌvəri/, /ri-cu-vu-ree/ *n* **1** a return to health after sickness. **2** the regaining of anything after losing some or all of it.

**recreation** /rəkri'eʃən/, /rec-ree-ay-shun/ *n* **1** rest and amusement after work. **2** a sport, a pastime.

**recriminate** /rə'krɪmɪneɪt/, /ri-cri-mi-nate/ *vb* to accuse in return, to accuse your accuser.

**recrimination** /rə'krɪmɪneɪt/, /ri-cri-mi-nay-shun/ *n* the act of recriminating, a counteraccusation.

**recruit** /rə'kru:t/, /ri-croot/ *n* **1** a soldier who has just joined the army. **2** a new member. • *vb* to enlist new soldiers, employees, members. • *n* **recruitment**.

**rectangle** /'rek,tæŋgəl/, /rec-tang-gul/ *n* a four-sided figure with all its angles right angles and one pair of sides longer than the other. • *adj* **rectangular**.

**rectify** /'rekta,fai/, /rec-ti-fie/ *vb* **1** to put right, to correct. **2** (*chemistry*) to purify. • *n* **rectification**.

**rectum** /'rekta:m/, /rec-tum/ *n* the part of the large intestine that leads to the anus.

**recuperate** /rə'ku:pə,reɪt/, /ri-coo-pe-rate/ *vb* to regain health or strength after illness. • *n* **recuperation**.

**recur** /rə'kər/, /ri-cur/ *vb* (**recurred, recurring**) to happen again and again. • *n* **recurrence**.

**recurrent** /ri'kerənt/, /ri-cu-rent/ *adj* happening or appearing again and again.

**recycle** /ri:'saɪkəl/, /ri-sie-cul/ *vb* to put something through some kind of process so that it can be used again.

**red** /red/, /red/ *adj* **1** of a colour like blood. **2** of a colour that varies between a golden brown and a reddish brown. **3** (*inf*) communist or extremely left-wing. • *n* **1** the colour red. **2** a communist. • **see red** to become suddenly very angry.

**Red Cross** /red 'krɔ:s/, /red crawss/, **Red Crescent** /red cress-ent/ *n* an international organization that looks after sick and wounded people in time of war, and protects the rights of prisoners of war.

**redden** /'redən/, /re-den/ *vb* 1 to make or become red. 2 to blush.

**reddish** /'redɪʃ/, /re-dish/ *adj* slightly red.

**redeem** /rə'di:m/, /ri-deem/ *vb* 1 to buy back. 2 to buy freedom for. 3 to carry out. 4 to make up for. 5 to save from the punishment due to sin.

**redeeming** /rə'di:min/ /ri-dee-ming/ *adj* cancelling out bad by good.

**redemption** /rə'dempʃən/, /ri-dem-shun/ *n* the act of redeeming.

**red-handed** /red'hændəd/, /red-han-did/ *adj* in the very act of doing wrong.

**redhead** /'redhed/, /red-hed/ *n* a person who has reddish brown hair.

**red herring** /'red'herɪŋ/, /red herr-ing/ *n* something mentioned that takes attention away from the subject being discussed.

**redoubtable** /rɪ'daʊtbəl/, /ri-dow-ta-bul/ *adj* to be feared, deserving respect.

**red tape** /red 'teɪp/, /red tape/ *n* excessive attention to rules and regulations so that business is delayed.

**reduce** /rə'dju:s/, /ri-dooss/ *vb* 1 to make less, smaller, or less heavy. 2 to change into another, and usually worse state, form, etc. 3 to bring or force to do something less pleasant, etc, than usual. • *n* reduction.

**redundant** /rɪ'dəndənt/, /ri-dun-dant/ *adj* 1 more than is necessary. 2 no longer employed by a firm because you are no longer needed. • *n* redundancy.

**reed** /ri:d/, /reed/ *n* 1 a tall grasslike water plant with a hollow stem. 2 that part of certain wind instruments that vibrates and so causes the sound when the instrument is blown.

**reedy** /'ri:di/, /ree-dee/ *adj* 1 covered with reeds. 2 high-pitched and thin.

**reef<sup>1</sup>** /'ri:f/, /reef/ *n* 1 a ridge of rock or sand just above or just below the surface of the water. 2 a crack in a rock containing gold.

**reef<sup>2</sup>** /'ri:f/, /reef/ *n* one of the parts of a sail that can be rolled or folded up. • *vb* to roll or fold up the reefs of a sail.

**reef knot** /'ri:f nɒt/, /reef not/ *n* a symmetrically tied double knot.

**reek** /ri:k/, /reek/ *n* a strong unpleasant smell. • *vb* **1** to give off a smell, especially an unpleasant one. **2** to show or suggest strongly something bad or unpleasant.

**reel** /ri:l/, /reel/ *n* **1** a frame or roller around which string, thread, photographic film, etc, may be wound. **2** a lively Scottish dance. • *vb* **1** to wind on to a reel. **2** to stagger. • **reel off** to tell without stopping or hesitating.

**refer** /ri'fər/, /ri-fer/ *vb* (**referred**, **referring**) **1** to make mention of. **2** to advise to consult elsewhere. **3** to look up a certain item in a book. **4** to pass.

**referee** /rɛ'fəri:/, /re-fe-ree/ *n* **1** a person who is chosen to give a clear decision in case of doubt. **2** in games, a person who sees that the rules are kept. **3** a person who supplies information about the character, behaviour, etc of someone applying for a job.

**reference** /'refərəns/, /ref-renc/ *n* **1** mention. **2** directions as to where to find certain items, passages, etc, in a book. **4** a letter giving information about the character, behaviour, etc, of a person who applies for a job.

**reference book** /'refrəns bʊ:k/, /ref-renc book/ *n* a book (e.g. a dictionary like this one) that supplies information.

**refill** /ri'fil/, /ree-fill/ *vb* to fill again. • *n* /ree-fill/ **1** a replacement for the contents of a container. **2** a replacement filling. **3** an additional drink replacing one already drunk.

**refine** /rə'fain/, /ri-fine/ *vb* **1** to purify. **2** to make more polite and civilized. • *adj* **refined**.

**refinery** /rə'fainəri/, /ri-fie-ne-ree/ *n* a place for purifying sugar, oil, etc.

**reflect** /rə'flekt/, /ri-flect/ *vb* **1** (*of a mirror*) to show the image of. **2** to throw back, especially rays of light or heat. **3** to think about carefully. **4** to be a cause (of praise or blame) for.

**reflection** /rə'flekʃən/, /ri-flec-shun/ *n* **1** the image seen in a mirror, etc. **2** the act of reflecting. **3** a deep or careful thought. **4** blame.

**reflective** /rə'flektɪv/, /ri-flec-tiv/ *adj* thoughtful.

**reflector** /rə'flektər/, /ri-flec-tor/ *n* a polished surface for reflecting light or heat.

**reflex** /'ri:fleks/, /ree-fleks/ *adj* automatic. • *n* an unintentional movement of the body caused by something outside it.

**reflex angle** /'ri:fleks əngəl/, /ree-fleks ang-gel/ *n* an angle between 180 degrees and 360 degrees.

**reform** /rə'fɔrm/, /ri-fawrm/ *vb* 1 to make or become better. 2 to give up bad habits. • *n* a change for the better. • *n* **reformer**.

**reformation** /,refər'meɪʃən/, /re-fur-may-shun/ *n* 1 a thorough change for the better. 2 (cap) the religious changes that occurred in Europe in the sixteenth century that resulted in the establishment of the Protestant churches.

**refract** /rə'frækt/, /ri-fract/ *vb* to change the direction of. • *n* **refraction**.

**refrain**<sup>1</sup> /rə'freɪn/, /ri-frain/ *vb* to hold back.

**refrain**<sup>2</sup> /rə'freɪn/, /ri-frain/ *n* a line or phrase that is repeated several times in a song or poem; a chorus.

**refresh** /rə'freʃ/, /ri-fresh/ *vb* to give new strength, energy, power, etc. • *adj* **refreshing**. • *adv* **refreshingly**.

**refreshment** /ri'freʃmənt/, /ri-fresh-ment/ *n* (often *pl*) a light meal, a snack, a drink.

**refrigerate** /rə'frɪdʒə'reɪt/, /ri-fri-je-rate/ *vb* to make cold, to freeze. • *n* **refrigeration**.

**refrigerator** /rə'frɪdʒə'reɪtər/, /ri-fri-je-ray-tur/ *n* an apparatus for preserving food, etc, by keeping it cold.

**refuel** /ri'fju:əl/, /ree-fyool/ *vb* (of an aircraft or a ship) to take on more fuel.

**refuge** /rə'fju:dʒ/, /ref-yoodge/ *n* a place of shelter from danger or distress.

**refugee** /,rəfju:dʒi:/, /re-fyoo-jee/ *n* a person who is fleeing from danger, a person who leaves his or her country to seek shelter in another.

**refund** /rə'fend/, /ri-fund/ *vb* to repay. • *n* /ree-fund/ 1 the act of refunding. 2 the amount refunded.

**refurbish** /ri'fərbɪʃ/, /ri-fur-bish/ *vb* to redecorate or restore.

**refusal** /rə'fju:zəl/, /ri-fyoo-zal/ *n* act of refusing.

**refuse**<sup>1</sup> /rə'fju:z/, /ri-fyooz/ *vb* **1** not to accept. **2** to say that you will not do or give something.

**refuse**<sup>2</sup> /'refju:s/, /ref-yooss/ *n* waste material that has been thrown away; rubbish.

**refute** /rə'fju:t/, /ri-fyoot/ *vb* to prove that something is not the case. • *n* **refutation**.

**regain** /rə'geɪn/, /ri-gain/ *vb* **1** to get possession of again. **2** to reach again.

**regal** /'ri:gəl/, /ree-gal/ *adj* of or like a king, royal, magnificent.

**regale** /rə'geɪl/, /ri-gale/ *vb* **1** to supply with plenty of food and drink. **2** to entertain.

**regalia** /rə'geɪliə/, /ri-gay-lee-a/ *npl* objects worn or carried as signs of royalty (e.g. a crown, etc.) or high office.

**regard** /rə'gard/, /ri-gard/ *vb* **1** to consider. **2** (*fml*) to look at. • *n* **1** respect. **2** (*fml*) attention. • *npl* good wishes.

**regarding** /rə'gardiŋ/, /ri-gar-ding/ *prep* concerning.

**regardless** /rə'gardləs/, /ri-gard-less/ *adv* paying no attention, not caring about.

**regatta** /rə'gætə/, /ri-ga-ta/ *n* a race meeting for boats and yachts.

**regency** /'ri:dʒənsi/, /ree-jen-see/ *n* **1** rule by a regent. **2** the office of regent. **3** the period during which a regent rules.

**regenerate** /ri'dʒenə'reɪt/, /ri-je-ne-rate/ *vb* to improve after a period of worsening, to give fresh faith or energy to. • *n* **regeneration**.

**regent** /'ri:dʒənt/, /ree-jent/ *n* a person who governs during the youth, absence, or illness of a monarch.

**reggae** /'regeɪ/, /re-gay/ *n* a type of popular music of West Indian origin.

**regime** /rə'ži:m/, /ray-zheem/ *n* a method or system of government.

**regiment** /'redʒɪmənt/, /re-ji-ment/ *n* a body of soldiers commanded by a colonel, an army unit consisting of several battalions.

**regimental** /'redʒɪ'mentəl/, /re-ji-men-tal/ *adj* having to do with a regiment.

**regimentation** /,redʒɪ'mən'teɪʃən/, /re-ji-men-tay-shun/ *n* strict organization and control.

**region** /'ri:dʒən/, /ree-jun/ *n* 1 a part of a country, often a large area of land. 2 a particular part of someone's body. • **in the region of** approximately. • *adj regional*.

**register** /'redʒɪstər/, /re-ji-ster/ *n* 1 an official list. 2 a book in which records (e.g. of births, deaths, school attendance, etc) are kept. 3 the distance from the highest to the lowest note of a singing voice or musical instrument. • *vb* 1 to write down in a register. 2 to give details to an official for writing in a register. 3 to pay extra postage to ensure that a letter or parcel reaches its destination safely. 4 to show.

**register office** see **registry office**.

**registrar** /'redʒɪs,trar/, /re-ji-strar/ *n* an official who keeps a register.

**registration** /'redʒɪ'streɪʃən/, /re-ji-stray-shun/ *n* act of registering.

**registry office** /'redʒɪstri ,ofɪs/, /re-ji-stree of-is/, also **register office** /re-ji-ster of-is/, a government building where civil marriages are performed and where official records of births, deaths, marriages, etc, are kept.

**regress** /rə'gres/, /ri-gress/ *vb* to move backward. • *adj regressive*.

**regression** /rə'greʃən/, /ri-gre-shun/ *n* backward movement, a falling away.

**regret** /rə'grɛt/, /ri-gret/ *vb* (**regretted, regretting**) 1 to be sorry for what one has said or done. 2 to remember with sorrow. • *n* sorrow, grief. • *adj regretful*. • *adv regrettably*.

**regrettable** /rə'grɛtəbəl/, /ri-gre-ta-bul/ *adj* unfortunate, unwelcome. • *adv regrettably*.

**regular** /'regjulər/, /re-gyu-lar/ *adj* 1 normal, usual. 2 done always in the same way or at the same time. 3 occurring acting, etc with equal amounts of space, time, etc between. 4 belonging to the regular army. 5 the same on both or all sides. 6 ordinary, normal. • *n* 1 a habitual customer. 2 a soldier of the regular army. • *n* **regularity**. • *adv regularly*.

**regular army** /'regjulər armi/, /re-gyu-lar ar-mee/ *n* that part of the army in which people who wish to make soldiering their career are kept in training.

**regulate** /'regjuleɪt/, /re-gyu-late/ *vb* 1 to control. 2 to alter.

**regulation** /rɪgjʊ'leɪʃən/, /re-gyu-lay-shun/ *n* a rule, an order, an instruction. • *adj* as laid down in the rules.

**regulator** /'regjuleɪtər/, /re-gyu-lay-tur/ *n* 1 a lever by which you can control a machine. 2 a person who controls.

**regurgitate** /rɪ'gərdʒɪteɪt/, /ri-gur-ji-tate/ *vb* 1 to throw up again from the stomach. 2 to repeat without change.

**rehabilitate** /rɪ:hə'bilitet/, /ree-ha-bi-li-tate/ *vb* to bring back to a normal life or normal standards of behaviour by treatment or instruction. • *n* **rehabilitation**.

**rehearsal** /rɪ'hərsəl/, /ri-her-sal/ *n* a practice before a performance.

**rehearse** /rɪ'hərs/, /ri-herss/ *vb* 1 to practise, especially in preparation for public performance. 2 (*fml*) to repeat aloud, to give a list of.

**reign** /reɪn/, /rane/ *n* 1 rule. 2 the time during which a king or queen has ruled. • *vb* 1 to rule as a sovereign. 2 to exist.

**reimburse** /ri:m'bərs/, /ree-im-burse/ *vb* to repay what someone has lost or spent. • *n* **reimbursement**.

**rein** /reɪn/, /rane/ *n* 1 the strap by which a driver or rider directs a horse. 2 control. • *vb* to check or control with the rein.

**reindeer** /reɪndi:r/, /rane-deer/ *n* a deer found in northern parts of America and Europe.

**reinforce** /rim'fɔrs/, /ree-in-force/ *vb* 1 to make stronger. 2 to supply with more soldiers, helpers, etc.

**reinforcement** /ri:m'fɔrsmənt/, /ree-in-foarss-ment/ *n* the act of reinforcing. • *npl* more or fresh troops, etc.

**reinstate** /ri:m'steɪt/, /ree-in-state/ *vb* to put back in a former position. • *n* **reinstatement**.

**reiterate** /ri:'ɪtəreɪt/, /ree-i-te-rate/ *vb* to repeat again and again. • *n* **reiteration**.

**reject** /rə'dʒɛkt/, /ri-ject/ *vb* 1 to refuse to accept. 2 to throw back or away. • *n* /'ri:dʒɛkt/, /ree-ject/ someone or something that has been rejected. • *n* **rejection**.

**rejoice** /rə'dʒɔɪs/, /ri-joiss/ *vb* to be glad or joyful, to make glad, to express your joy.

**rejoicing** /rə'ðʒɔɪsɪŋ/, /ri-joy-sing/ *n* a feeling or expression of joy. • *npl* celebrations.

**rejuvenate** /rɪ'dʒu:və,nɛit/, /ri-joo-vi-nate/ *vb* to make feel young again. • *n* **rejuvenation**.

**relapse** /rɪ'læps/, /ri-lapss/ *vb* to fall back into evil or sickness after improving. • *also n* /ree-lapse/.

**relate** /rə'leɪt/, /ri-late/ *vb* 1 to show or see the connection between. 2 to tell. • *adj* **related**.

**relation** /rə'leɪʃən/, /ri-lay-shun/ *n* 1 a person who belongs to the same family by birth or marriage. 2 a connection. • *n* **relationship**.

**relative** /'relətɪv/, /re-la-tiv/ *adj* 1 considered in comparison with others. 2 having to do with. • *n* a person who belongs to the same family, by birth or marriage.

**relatively** /'relə'tɪvlɪ/, /re-la-tiv-lee/ *adv* 1 quite. 2 when compared with others.

**relative pronoun** /'relətɪv 'pro:nəʊn/, /re-la-tiv pro-noun/ (*grammar*) a pronoun, such as 'who' or 'which', referring to an earlier word in the sentence.

**relax** /rə'læks/, /ri-laks/ *vb* 1 to take a complete rest, to become less tense or worried. 2 to loosen. 3 to become or make less strict or severe.

**relaxation** /rɪ:læk'seʃən/, /ree-lak-say-shun/ *n* 1 rest, amusement after work. 2 loosening. 3 making less severe.

**relaxing** /rɪlæk'sɪŋ/, /ri-lak-sing/ *adj* 1 restful. 2 causing a feeling of tiredness.

**relay** /'ri:leɪ/, /ree-lay/ *n* 1 a supply of fresh people or horses to take over from tired ones. 2 a relay race. 3 the sending out of a radio or television signal or show that has been received from somewhere else. • *vb* /ree-lay/ to rebroadcast a radio message or show received from elsewhere.

**relay race** /'ri:leɪ ,reɪs/, /ree-lay race/ *n* a team race in which each member of a team covers part of the whole distance.

**release** /rɪ'li:s/, /ri-leess/ *vb* 1 to set free. 2 to let go. 3 to unfasten. 4 to make public. • *also n*.

**relegate** /'relə,geɪt/, /re-li-gate/ *vb* to put down to a lower position.

**relent** /rə'lənt/, /ri-lənt/ *vb* to become less severe, to give way.

**relentless** /rə'ləntləs/, /ri-lənt-less/ *adj* without pity, unmerciful, continuous. • *adv* **relentlessly**.

**relevant** /'reləvənt/, /re-li-vant/ *adj* having to do with the matter under consideration. • *n* **relevance, relevancy**.

**reliability** /rə'laiə'biliti:/, /ri-li-e-a-bi-li-tee/ *n* trustworthiness.

**reliable** /rə'laiəbəl/, /ri-li-e-a-bul/ *adj* able to be trusted. • *adv* **reliably**.

**reliance** /rə'laiəns/, /ri-li-e-anse/ *n* trust, confidence.

**reliant** /rə'laiənt/, /ri-li-e-ant/ *adj* relying on, depending on.

**relic** /'relɪk/, /re-lic/ *n* 1 something old-fashioned that still exists. 2 a part of the body or belongings of a holy person after their death.

**relief** /rə'li:f/, /ri-leef/ *n* 1 complete or partial freeing from pain or worry. 2 money, etc, given to the poor or those who have lost everything in a disaster. 3 a person who takes another's place on duty. 4 forcing an enemy to end the siege of a town. 5 a piece of sculpture in which the design stands out just beyond a flat surface. 6 a clear outline.

**relieve** /rə'lī:v/, /ri-leev/ *vb* 1 to set free from or lessen. 2 to give help to. 3 to take another's place on duty. 4 to force an enemy to end the siege of a town.

**religion** /rɪ'lɪdʒən/, /ri-li-jun/ *n* 1 belief in and worship of a god or gods. 2 a particular system of this belief and worship.

**religious** /rɪ'lɪdʒəs/, /ri-li-jus/ *adj* 1 referring to religion. 2 believing strongly in your religion and obeying its rules. 3 careful and regular. • *adv* **religiously**.

**relinquish** /rə'lɪŋkwɪʃ/, /ri-ling-kwish/ *vb* to give up.

**relish** /rə'lɪʃ/, /rel-ish/ *vb* 1 to enjoy the taste of. 2 to like or enjoy. • *n* 1 a taste, flavour. 2 enjoyment. 3 a sharp-tasting sauce.

**relive** /'ri:lɪv/, /ree-liv/ *vb* to remember (an experience) in detail as if living through it again.

**reluctant** /rə'ləktənt/, /ri-luc-tant/ *adj* unwilling. • *n* **reluctance**. • *adv* **reluctantly**.

**rely** /rə'lai/, /ri-liē/ *vb* 1 to trust in. 2 to depend on.

**remain** /rə'meɪn/, /ri-main/ *vb* 1 to stay on in a place. 2 to be left over.

3 to continue to be.

**remainder** /rə'meɪndər/, /ri-main-der/ *n* that which is left over or behind.

**remains** /rə'meɪnz/, /ri-mainz/ *npl* **1** that which is left. **2** (*fml*) a dead body.

**remand** /rə'mænd/, /ri-mand/ *vb* to send back to prison while further inquiries are being made. • *n* **1** act of remanding. **2** the state of being remanded.

**remark** /rə'mark/, /ri-mark/ *vb* **1** to say. **2** to comment. • *n* **1** something said. **2** (*fml*) notice, attention.

**remarkable** /rə'mɑ:kəbəl/, /ri-mar-ka-bul/ *adj* worthy of notice, extraordinary. • *adv* **remarkably**.

**remedial** /ri'mi:diəl/, /ri-mee-dee-al/ *adj* intended or helping to cure.

**remedy** /'remidi/, /re-mi-dee/ *n* **1** a cure. **2** a medicine. **3** any way of putting right what is wrong. • *vb* **1** to cure. **2** to put right.

**remember** /rə'membər/, /ri-mem-ber/ *vb* **1** to keep in mind. **2** to recall to the mind. **3** to give greetings from another.

**remembrance** /rə'nembrəns/, /ri-mem-brans/ *n* **1** memory. **2** a souvenir.

**remind** /rə'maɪnd/, /ri-minde/ *vb* to cause to remember.

**reminder** /rə'maɪndər/, /ri-mine-der/ *n* something that helps you to remember.

**reminisce** /'remi'nɪs/, /re-mi-niss/ *vb* to tell stories of your past.

**reminiscence** /'remi'nɪsəns/, /re-mi-ni-sense/ *n* **1** a memory of your past. **2** the remembering of the past. • *npl* stories about your past.

**reminiscent** /'remi'nɪsənt/, /re-mi-ni-sent/ *adj* **1** remembering the past. **2** tending to remind you of someone.

**remiss** /rə'mɪs/, /ri-miss/ *adj* careless, not doing your duty properly.

**remission** /rə'miʃən/, /re-mi-shun/ *n* **1** the reduction of a prison sentence. **2** a period when an illness is less severe.

**remnant** /'remnənt/, /rem-nant/ *n* a small piece or part left over, especially of fabric.

**remorse** /rə'mɔrs/, /re-mawrss/ *n* great sorrow for having done wrong. • *adj* **remorseful**. • *adv* **remorsefully**.

**remorseless** /rɪ'mɔrlsləs/, /re-mawrss-less/ *adj* feeling no remorse, pitiless. • *adv* **remorselessly**.

**remote** /rə'mo:t/, /ri-mote/ *adj* 1 distant, far away, out of the way. 2 not closely related. 3 not friendly, withdrawn. 4 slight. • *adv* **remotely**.

**remote control** /rə'mo:t kən'tro:l/, /ri-mote kən-tro:l/ *n* 1 a system that allows a device or machine to be controlled from a distance, using electrical, electronic, or radio signals. 2 *also (inf)* **remote** a handheld device that enables the user to operate a television set, etc from a distance.

**removal** /rɪ'mu:vəl/, /ri-moo-val/ *n* 1 act of removing. 2 moving house, the transfer of furniture and other belongings from one house to another.

**remove** /rɪ'mu:v/, /ri-moov/ *vb* 1 to take from its place. 2 to take off. 3 to dismiss. • *adj* **removable**.

**Renaissance** /'renə,səns, rə'neɪsəns/, /re-ni-sans, ri-nay-sans/ *n* a revival, especially of interest in arts and learning, as in the 15th century.

**render** /'rɛndər/, /ren-der/ *vb* 1 to give. 2 to perform in a certain way. 3 to translate. 4 to cause to be.

**rendering** /'rɛndərɪŋ/, /ren-drīng/ *n* 1 a translation. 2 a particular performance.

**rendezvous** /'rɒndə,vu:/, /ron-day-voo/ *n* 1 an agreed meeting place. 2 a meeting.

**rendition** /rɛn'dɪʃən/, /ren-di-shun/ *n* a particular performance.

**renew** /rɪ'nu:/, /rɪ'nju:/, /ri-noo, ri-nyoo/ *vb* 1 to make valid again for a further period. 2 to begin again. 3 to replace something old or broken. • *adj* **renewable**. • *n* **renewal**.

**renounce** /rə'nauns/, /ri-nounss/ *vb* 1 to give up. 2 to state that you will have nothing more to do with. • *n* **renunciation**.

**renovate** /rə'nə,vate/, /re-nu-vate/ *vb* to make like new, to repair and clean. • *n* **renovation**.

**renown** /rɪ'naʊn/, /ri-noun/ *n* fame, glory.

**renowned** /rɪ'naʊnd/, /ri-nound/ *adj* famous.

**rent<sup>1</sup>** /rent/, /rent/ *n* a payment made for the use of land, a house, etc. • *vb* 1 to get the use of by paying rent. 2 to let or hire out for rent.

**rent**<sup>2</sup> /rənt/, /ren/t /n (fml) a tear, a split.

**rental** /rəntəl/, /ren-tal/ /n rent, the sum paid in rent.

**repair** /ri'per/, /ri-pair/ /vb 1 to mend. 2 to put right, make up for. 3 (fml) to go. • n 1 returning to good condition, mending. 2 a mended place. 3 condition for using.

**repay** /ri'pei/, /ri-pay/ /vb 1 to pay back. 2 to treat in a like way.

**repayment** /ri'peimənt/, /ri-pay-ment/ /n 1 the act of repaying. 2 the sum repaid.

**repeal** /ri'pi:l/, /ri-peel/ /vb to withdraw, to set aside, to abolish. • also n.

**repeat** /ri'pi:t/, /ri-peet/ /vb 1 to do or say again. 2 to speak aloud something learned by heart. • n a television show that is broadcast again.

**repeatedly** /ri'pi:tidli/, /ri-pee-tid-lee/ /adv again and again.

**repel** /rə'pel/, /ri-pel/ /vb (repelled, repelling) 1 to cause dislike. 2 to drive back.

**repellent** /rə'pelənt/, /ri-pe-lent/ /adj causing dislike or disgust. • n that which is able to repel or drive away something.

**repent** /rə'pent/, /ri-pent/ /vb to feel sorry for having said or done something. • n **repentance**. • adj **repentant**.

**repertoire** /'repər'twar, ,repə'r'twar/, /re-per-twar/ /n 1 a performer's stock of musical pieces, poems, etc. 2 a company's stock of plays that are ready for acting.

**repetition** /,repə'tiʃən/, /re-pi-ti-shun/ /n 1 act of repeating. 2 saying from memory. • adj **repetitious**. • adj **repetitive** occurring again and again.

**repetitive strain injury** see **RSI**.

**replace** /ri:'pleɪs/, /ri-place/ /vb 1 to put back in place. 2 to take the place of.

**replacement** /ri:'pleisment/, /ri-place-ment/ /n 1 act of replacing. 2 a person or thing that takes the place of another.

**replenish** /rə'plenɪʃ/, /ri-ple-nish/ /vb to fill up again. • n **replenishment**.

**replica** /'replikə/, /re-pli-ca/ /n 1 an exact copy of a work of art. 2 a reproduction, especially of a smaller size.

**replicate** /'replɪkeɪt/, /re-pli-cate/ *vb* to make an exact copy of.

**reply** /rəplɔɪ/, /ri-plie/ *vb* to answer. • *n* an answer.

**report** /rə'pɔrt/, /ri-poart/ *vb* 1 to give as news or information, to tell.

2 to write an account of, especially for a newspaper. 3 to make a complaint about for having done wrong. 4 to tell someone in authority. • *n* 1 a spoken or written account of work performed (e.g. by a committee, a student). 2 an account of something that has been said or done, especially when written for a newspaper. 3 a rumour. 4 a loud noise.

**reporter** /rə'pɔrtər/, /ri-poar-ter/ *n* a person who reports for a newspaper or television/radio broadcast.

**repose** /rɪ'po:z/, /ri-poaz/ (*fml*) *vb* 1 to lay at rest, to lie at rest. 2 to place. • *n* 1 rest, sleep. 2 calmness.

**represent** /rəprɪ'zent/, /re-pri-zent/ *vb* 1 to stand for, or make to stand for, as a sign or likeness. 2 to be a picture or statue of. 3 to have the right to speak or act for. 4 to describe or declare, perhaps falsely. 5 to be, to constitute. 6 to be the representative of.

**representation** /rəprɪzen'teɪʃən/, /re-pri-zen-tay-shun/ *n* 1 the act of representing or being represented. 2 an image or likeness. 3 a protest or objection.

**representative** /rəprɪ'zəntətɪv/, /re-pri-zen-ta-tiv/ *adj* typical, standing for others of the same class. • *n* 1 a person who acts for another. 2 a person who sells goods for a business firm. 3 an elected member of the US House of Representatives.

**repress** /rɪ'pres/, /ri-press/ *vb* to keep under control, to keep down, to restrain.

**repression** /rɪ'preʃən/, /ri-pre-shun/ *n* strict control, restraint.

**repressive** /rɪ'presɪv/, /ri-pre-siv/ *adj* (*fml*) intended to keep down or restrain.

**reprieve** /rɪ'pri:v/, /ri-preev/ *vb* to let off punishment, to pardon. • *also n.*

**reprimand** /'reprɪmænd/, /re-pri-mand/ *n* a severe scolding. • *vb* to scold severely.

**reprint** /rɪ'print/, /ree-print/ *vb* to print again. • *n* /ree-print/ a new printing or edition.

**reprisal** /ri'praɪzəl/, /ri-**prie**-zal/ *n* something done by way of punishment or revenge.

**reproach** /ri'pro:tʃ/, /ri-**proach**/ *vb* to accuse and blame, to scold, usually with a suggestion of sadness or disappointment. • *n* 1 scolding, blame. 2 something that brings shame.

**reproachful** /ri'pro:tʃfəl/, /ri-**proach**-ful/ *adj* accusing, shameful.

**reproduce** /ri:p're'du:s, ,ri:p're'dju:s/, /ree-pru-**dooss**, ree-pru-**dyooss**/ *vb* 1 to cause to be heard, seen, or done again. 2 to increase by having offspring. • *n* **reproduction**. • *adj* **reproductive**.

**reptile** /'reptail/, /rep-**tile**/ *n* a class of cold-blooded animals that crawl or creep (e.g. snake, lizard).

**republic** /rə'pəblɪk/, /ri-**pub**-lic/ *n* a state entirely governed by elected persons, there being no sovereign.

**republican** /rə'pəblɪkən/, /ri-**pu**-bli-can/ *adj* having to do with a republic. • *n* a person who prefers republican government.

**Republican** /rə'pəblɪkən/, /ri-**pu**-bli-can/ *n* a member or supporter of the Republican Party of the USA. • *also adj*.

**repugnance** /rə'pəgnəns/, /ri-pug-nanse/ *n* disgust.

**repugnant** /rə'pəgnənt/, /ri-pug-nant/ *adj* very unpleasant, disgusting.

**repulse** /rə'pʌls/, /ri-pulss/ *vb* 1 to drive back, to defeat. 2 to refuse sharply. • *n* 1 a defeat. 2 a refusal.

**repulsion** /rə'pʌlʃən/, /ri-pul-shun/ *n* dislike, disgust.

**repulsive** /rə'pʌlsɪv/, /ri-pul-siv/ *adj* hateful, disgusting.

**reputable** /rə'pjū:təbəl/, /re-pyu-ta-bul/ *adj* having a good name, respectable.

**reputation** /rəpjū'teɪʃən/, /re-pyu-tay-shun/ *n* 1 your good name, your character as seen by other people. 2 fame.

**repute** /rə'pjū:t/, /ri-pyoot/ *n* reputation. • *vb* to consider to be.

**reputed** /rə'pjū:təd/, /ri-pyoo-tid/ *adj* supposed.

**reputedly** /rə'pjū:tədli:/, /ri-pyoo-tid-lee/ *adv* as is commonly supposed.

**request** /ri'kwest/, /ri-kwest/ *vb* to ask for. • *n* 1 the act of asking for something. 2 a favour asked for.

**requiem** /'rekwiəm/, /re-kwee-em/ *n* **1** a church service in which prayers are said for a dead person. **2** a musical composition for the dead.

**require** /'rɪkwair/, /ri-kwire/ *vb* **1** to need. **2** to demand by right, to order.

**requirement** /rə'kwaɪrmənt/, /ri-kwire-ment/ *n* **1** a need, something needed. **2** a necessary condition.

**rerun** /ri:'rən/, /ree-run/ *n* (*chiefly US*) a repeat of a TV show.

**rescue** /'rɛskju:/, /re-scycl/ *vb* to save from danger or evil. • *n* act of rescuing. • *n* rescuer.

**research** /'ri:sərtʃ/, /ree-search/ *n* careful study to discover new facts. • *also v.*

**resemble** /rə'zembəl/, /ri-zem-bul/ *vb* to be like. • *n* resemblance.

**resent** /rə'zent/, /ri-zent/ *vb* to be angered by, to take as an insult.

**resentful** /rə'zent/, /ri-zent-ful/ *adj* showing anger, full of annoyance. • *adv* resentfully.

**resentment** /rə'zentment/, /ri-zent-ment/ *n* anger, indignation.

**reservation** /,rezər'veɪʃən/, /re-zer-vay-shun/ *n* **1** something kept back. **2** land set aside for some special purpose (e.g. as a place for Native Americans to live). **3** a booked place or seat. **4** a feeling or expression of doubt.

**reserve** /rə'zərv/, /ri-zerv/ *vb* **1** to keep back for future use. **2** to order or book for future use. • *n* **1** something kept back for future use. **2** land set aside for some special purpose. **3** shyness, unwillingness to show your feelings. • *npl* troops kept out of battle for use where and when needed.

**reserved** /rə'zərvd/, /ri-zervd/ *adj* shy, not showing what you are thinking or feeling.

**reservoir** /'rezərvwər/, /re-zerv-war/ *n* **1** a place where the water supply of a city is stored. **2** a store.

**reside** /rə'zaɪd/, /ri-zide/ *vb* to dwell, to live (in).

**residence** /'rezɪdəns/, /re-si-dens/ *n* dwelling, house.

**residency** /'rezɪdənsi/, /re-si-den-see/ *n* the house of an official, e.g. a governor.

**resident** /'rezɪdənt/, /re-si-dent/ *n* a person who lives somewhere. • *also adj.*

**residential** /'rezɪ'denʃəl/, /re-si-den-shal/ *adj* 1 suitable for living in. 2 (*of a district*) having many dwelling houses.

**residual** /re'zɪdʒuəl/, /ri-zí-ju-wal/ *adj* (*fml*) left after the rest has been taken.

**residue** /'rezɪdu:/, /re-zí-doo/ *n* the remainder, what is left over.

**resign** /rə'zain/, /ri-zíne/ *vb* 1 to give up. 2 to give up an office or a post. 3 to accept with complaint. • *n resignation*.

**resigned** /rə'zained/, /ri-zíned/ *adj* accepting trouble without complaint; patient.

**resilient** /rə'ziljənt/, /ri-zíl-yint/ *adj* 1 able to spring back to a former position after being bent. 2 having good powers of recovery. • *n resilience*.

**resin** /'rezɪn/, /re-zín/ *n* a sticky substance that oozes from certain plants, e.g. firs, pines, etc. • *adj resinous*.

**resist** /rə'zist/, /ri-zíst/ *vb* 1 to stand against, to fight against, to oppose. 2 to face or allow yourself not to accept.

**resistance** /rə'zistəns/, /ri-zís-tanse/ *n* the act or power of resisting, opposition.

**resistant** /rə'zistənt/, /ri-zís-tant/ *adj* offering resistance.

**resolute** /'rezəlu:t/, /re-zu-loot/ *adj* determined, bold, having the mind made up. • *adv resolutely*.

**resolution** /'rezə'lju:ʃən/, /re-zu-loo-shun/ *n* 1 determination. 2 a firm intention. 3 a proposal for a meeting to vote on. 4 the decision of a meeting on a certain matter. 5 (*fml*) the act of solving.

**resolve** /rə'zolv/, /ri-zólv/ *vb* 1 to determine. 2 to break up into parts or elements. 3 to solve. • *n* 1 a fixed purpose. 2 determination.

**resonant** /'rezənənt/, /re-zu-nant/ *adj* 1 echoing. 2 deep-sounding. • *n resonance*.

**resort** /rə'zɔrt/, /ri-zawrt/ *vb* to make use of, to turn to. • *n* 1 a place to which you go frequently. 2 a place where many people go on vacation. • **as a last resort** as a last possibility.

**resound** /rə'zaund/, /ri-zound/ *vb* to echo, to give back the sound of.

**resounding** /rə'zaundiŋ/, /ri-zoun-ding/ *adj* 1 echoing. 2 very great.

**resource** /ri:'zɔrs/, /ri-zoarss/ *n* 1 a means of obtaining help, something turned to in time of need. 2 (often *pl*) a source of economic wealth, especially of a country.

**resourceful** /ri:'zɔrsful/, /ri-zoarss-ful/ *adj* full of clever plans.

**respect** /rə'spekt/, /ri-spect/ *vb* 1 to think highly of. 2 to pay attention to. • *n* 1 honour. 2 care or attention. • *npl* good wishes.

**respectability** /rə,spektə'biliti:/, /ri-spec-ta-bi-li-tee/ *n* 1 state of deserving respect. 2 decency.

**respectable** /rə'spektəbəl/, /ri-spec-ta-bul/ *adj* 1 deserving respect, decent. 3 large enough, good enough, etc. • *adv* **respectably**.

**respectful** /rə'spektful/, /ri-spect-ful/ *adj* showing respect or honour to. • *adv* **respectfully**.

**respecting** /rə'spektɪŋ/, /ri-spec-ting/ *prep (fml)* having to do with.

**respective** /rə'spektɪŋ/, /ri-spec-tiv/ *adj* each to their own, proper to each.

**respectively** /rə'spektɪvli/, /ri-spec-tiv-lee/ *adv* belonging to each in the order already mentioned.

**respiration** /rɛspə'reiʃən/, /re-spi-ray-shun/ *n (fml)* breathing.

**respirator** /rɛspə'reɪtər/, /re-spi-ray-tor/ *n* a mask with a filter worn over the nose and mouth to purify the air breathed in.

**respiratory** /'resprə'tɔri/, /resp-ra-toe-ree/ *adj* having to do with breathing.

**respond** /rə'spond/, /ri-spond/ *vb* 1 to answer. 2 to do as a reaction to something that has been done.

**respondent** /rə'spɒndənt/, /ri-spon-dent/ *n (fml)* the defendant in a lawsuit, especially in divorce.

**response** /rə'spons/, /ri-spons/ *n* 1 an answer, a reply. 2 a reaction.

**responsible** /rə'sponsəbəl/, /ri-spon-si-bul/ *adj* 1 able to be trusted. 2 having to say or explain what you have done. 3 being the cause of something. • *n* **responsibility**. • *adv* **responsibly**.

**responsive** /rə'sponsiv/, /ri-spon-siv/ *adj* quick to react.

**rest<sup>1</sup>** /rest/, /rest/ *n* 1 a pause in work. 2 inactivity. 3 sleep. 4 a support or prop. • *vb* 1 to cease from action. 2 to stop work for a time. 3 to be still or quiet. 4 to sleep or repose. 5 to be supported.

**rest<sup>2</sup>** /rest/, /rest/ *n* that which is left, the remainder.

**restaurant** /'restɒnt/, /re-strawnt/ *n* a place where one may buy and eat meals.

**restaurateur** /,restərə'tər/, /re-stu-ra-tur/ *n* a person who keeps a restaurant.

**restful** /'restful/, /rest-fuł/ *adj* peaceful, quiet.

**restive** /'restiv/, /re-stiv/ *adj* unable to keep still, impatient.

**restless** /'restləs/, /rest-liss/ *adj* 1 always on the move. 2 not restful, giving no rest.

**restore** /rə'stɔr/, /ri-store/ *vb* 1 to bring back. 2 to put back. 3 to make strong again. 4 to bring back to an earlier state or condition.  
• *n* **restoration**.

**restrain** /rə'strain/, /ri-strain/ *vb* to hold back, to check.

**restraint** /rə'straint/, /ri-restraint/ *n* 1 self-control. 2 lack of freedom.

**restrict** /rə'strɪkt/, /ri-strict/ *vb* to set limits to, to keep down.

**restriction** /rə'strɪkʃən/, /ri-stric-shun/ *n* a rule or condition that lessens freedom.

**restrictive** /rə'strɪktiv/, /ri-stric-tiv/ *adj* lessening freedom, keeping under control.

**result** /rə'zəlt/, /ri-zult/ *n* 1 that which happens as the effect of something else, the outcome. 2 the final score in a sports contest. 3 (*inf*) a favourable or successful result. • *vb* 1 to follow as the effect of a cause. 2 to end (in).

**resume** /rə'zu:m, /rə'zju:m/, /ri-zoom, ri-zyoom/ *vb* 1 to begin again. 2 (*fml*) to take back.

**résumé** /rezə'meɪ/, /re-zu-may/ *n* 1 a summary. 2 (US) a CV.

**resumption** /rezə'mʃən/, /ri-zum-shun/ *n* the act of resuming.

**resurgence** /rə'sərdʒəns/, /ri-sur-jinse/ *n* a rising again.

**resurrect** /rezə'rekt/, /re-zu-rect/ *vb* 1 to raise or bring back again. 2 to raise to life again after death.

**resurrection** /rezə'rekʃən/, /re-zu-rec-shun/ *n* 1 the act of resurrecting. 2 a rising again from the dead.

**resuscitate** /rə'səsəteɪt/, /ri-su-si-tate/ *vb* to bring back to life or consciousness. • *n* **resuscitation**.

**retail** /rə'teɪl/, /ree-tail/ *vb* **1** to sell direct to the public in small amounts. **2** to sell. • *n* the sale of goods in small quantities. • *n* **retailer**.

**retain** /rə'teɪn/, /ri-tain/ *vb* **1** to continue to use, have, remember, etc. **2** to hold back. **3** to engage someone's services by paying a fee in advance.

**retainer** /rə'teɪnər/, /ri-tay-ner/ *n* **1** (*old*) a follower. **2** an advance fee for someone's services.

**retaliate** /rə'tæli,eɪt/, /ri-ta-lee-ate/ *vb* to return like for like, to get your own back. • *n* **retaliation**.

**retard** /rə'tard/, /ri-tard/ *vb* to make slow or late, to make go more slowly, to delay. • *n* **retardation**.

**retch** /retʃ/, /retch/ *vb* to try to vomit. • *also n.*

**retention** /rə'tenʃən/, /ri-ten-shun/ *n* (*fml*) act of retaining.

**reticent** /'retɪsənt/, /re-ti-sent/ *adj* unwilling to speak to others, silent. • *n* **reticence**.

**retina** /'retɪnə/, /re-ti-na/ *n* the inner layer of the eye to which are connected the ends of the nerves that enable us to see.

**retire** /rə'taɪr/, /ri-tire/ *vb* **1** to leave your work forever because of old age, illness, etc. **2** to go to bed. **3** to go back or away.

**retired** /rə'taɪrd/, /ri-tierd/ *adj* having given up your business or profession.

**retirement** /rə'taɪrmənt/, /ri-tire-ment/ *n* **1** the act of retiring. **2** the time after you have finished your working life.

**retiring** /rə'tairɪŋ/, /ri-tie-ring/ *adj* shy, not fond of company.

**retort** /rə'tɔrt/, /ri-tawrt/ *vb* to reply quickly or sharply. • *n* **1** a quick or sharp reply. **2** a thin glass bottle with a long bent-back neck, used for heating chemicals.

**retrace** /ri:'treɪs/, /re-trace/ *vb* to go back over again.

**retract** /rə'trækt/, /ri-tract/ *vb* to say that a previous opinion was wrong, to take back what you have said. • *n* **retraction**.

**retreat** /rə'tri:t/, /ri-treet/ *vb* **1** to go back. **2** (of an army) to move back away from the enemy. • *n* **1** act of retreating. **2** a quiet, out-of-the-way place, a place of peace and safety. **3** a period of rest, meditation, prayer, etc.

**retribution** /rətrə'bju:ʃən/, /re-tri-byoo-shun/ *n* just punishment for wrong done.

**retrieve** /rə'tri:v/, /ri-treev/ *vb* **1** to find again. **2** to find and bring back. **3** to undo harm or loss undergone.

**retriever** /rə'tri:vər/, /ri-tree-ver/ *n* a dog trained to fetch birds shot by hunters.

**retro-** /'retro:/, /re-troe/ *prefix* backward.

**retro** /'retro:/, /re-troe/ *adj (inf)* involving styles or designs from the recent past.

**retrospect** /'retrə,spɛkt/, /re-troe-spect/ *n* looking back to the past.

**retrospection** /'retrə,spɛkʃən/, /re-troe-spec-shun/ *n* a looking-back to the past.

**retrospective** /,retrə'spektɪv/, /re-troe-spec-tiv/ *adj* looking back to the past.

**return** /rə'tərn/, /ri-turn/ *vb* **1** to come or go back. **2** to give or send back. • *n* **1** a coming or going back. **2** what is given or sent back. **3** profit. **4** a written statement of certain facts, expenses, figures, etc. • **return ticket** a ticket paid for a journey from one place to another and back again.

**reunion** /ri:'ju:nɪən/, /ri-yoon-yun/ *n* a meeting again of old friends or colleagues.

**reunite** /ri:'ju:nait/, /ri-yoo-nite/ *vb* to join together again.

**re-use** /ri:'ju:z/, /ree-yooz/ *vb* to use again. • *also n.* • *adj reusable.*

**rev** /rev/, /rev/ *n (inf)* revolution per minute. • *npl* revolutions per minute. • *vb (revving revved)* to increase the speed of a motor. • **rev up.**

**Rev, Rev.** /rev/, /rev/ *abbr = 1* Reverend. **2** (*Bible*) Revelation.

**reveal** /rə'veil/, /ri-veel/ *vb* **1** to show what was hidden. **2** to make known.

**reveille** /'revəli/, /re-va-lee/ *n* a morning call on the bugle, etc, to waken soldiers.

**revel** /'revəl/, /re-vul/ *n* merrymaking, a noisy feast. • *vb* **1** (*old*) to make merry. **2** to take great delight (in). • *n reveler.*

**revelation** /,revə'leɪʃən/, /re-ve-lay-shun/ *n* **1** act of making known. **2** a surprising discovery or piece of information.

**revelry** /'revəlri/, /re-vel-ree/ *n* noisy feasting or merrymaking.

**revenge** /'rəvendʒ/, /ri-venj/ *n* making someone suffer for a wrong done to another, repaying evil with evil. • *also vb.* • *adj* **revengeful**.

**revenue** /'revənju:/, /re-vi-noo/ *n* money made by a person, business, or state.

**reverberate** /ri'verbə'reit/, /ri-ver-bi-rate/ *vb* to echo. • *n reverberation.*

**revere** /rə'vi:r/, /ri-veer/ *vb* to feel great respect for.

**reverence** /'revərəns/, /rev-rense/ *n* respect and admiration.

**Reverend** /'revərənd/, /rev-rend/ *n* (*abbr = Rev, Rev.*) a title given to a member of clergy.

**reverent** /'revərənt/, /rev-rent/ *adj* showing or feeling great respect.

**reverential** /'revər'ənʃəl/, /re-ve-ren-shal/ *adj* full of reverence.

**reverse** /rə'vers/, /ri-verse/ *vb* 1 to turn back to front or upside down.

2 to go or move backward. 3 to change to the opposite. • *n* 1 a defeat. 2 a failure. 3 the opposite. 4 the back of a coin, medal, etc. • *adj* 1 opposite. 2 back.

**reversible** /rə'versəbəl/, /ri-ver-si-bul/ *adj* 1 able to be reversed. 2 that which can be turned inside out.

**revert** /rə'vert/, /ri-vert/ *vb* 1 to go back to a former condition, custom, or subject. 2 to return or be returned to the previous owner or member of his/her family.

**review** /rə'vju:/, /ri-vyoo/ *vb* 1 to look over again, to consider with a view to changing. 2 to inspect. 3 to write your opinion of. • *n* 1 a looking back on the past. 2 reconsideration or revision. 3 an article in a newspaper, magazine, etc, giving an opinion on a book, play, etc. 4 a magazine that reviews books, plays, etc.

**reviewer** /rə'vju:ər/, /ri-vyoo-er/ *n* a person who writes reviews, a critic.

**revile** /rə'veil/, /ri-vile/ *vb* to speak insultingly about or to.

**revise** /rə'veiz/, /ri-vize/ *vb* 1 to go over again and correct, improve or update. 2 to study again, usually for an exam. • *n* **reviser**.  
**revision** /ri-vi-zhun/ *n* the act of revising.

**revitalize** /ri'veitəlaiz/, /ree-vie-ta-lize/ *vb, also revitalise* to put new life or strength into.

**revival** /rɪ'vaɪvəl/, /ri-vie-val/ *n* **1** the act of reviving. **2** the arousing of fresh enthusiasm for religion.

**revivalist** /rɪ'vaɪvəlist/, /ri-vie-va-list/ *n* a person who tries to arouse fresh enthusiasm for religion.

**revive** /rɪ'vaɪv/, /ri-vive/ *vb* **1** to bring back to life, health, or consciousness. **2** to bring back to use or an active state. **3** to give new vigour or energy to. **4** to produce an old play in the theatre.

**revoke** /rɪ'vo:k/, /ri-voke/ *vb* to do away with, to withdraw. • *n* **revocation**.

**revolt** /rɪ'vo:lt/, /ri-voalt/ *vb* **1** to rebel. **2** to shock or disgust. • *n* a rebellion, a rising against the government.

**revolting** /rɪ'vo:ltɪŋ/, /ri-vole-ting/ *adj* disgusting, shocking.

**revolution** /rɛvə'lu:ʃən/, /re-vu-loo-shun/ *n* **1** one complete turn of a wheel, etc. **2** a complete change. **3** a movement or rebellion as a result of which a new method of government is introduced.

**revolutionary** /rɛvə'lu:ʃənri:/, /re-vu-loo-shun-ree/ *adj* desiring to bring about a complete change. • *n* a person who works for a complete change of government.

**revolutionize** /rɛvə'lu:ʃənaɪz/, /re-vu-loo-shu-nize/ *vb*, also **revolutionise** to bring about a complete change in.

**revolve** /rɪ'vɒlv/, /ri-volv/ *vb* **1** to turn around and around. **2** to move around a centre or axis.

**revolver** /rɪ'vɒlvər/, /ri-vol-ver/ *n* a pistol able to fire several shots without reloading.

**revue** /rɪ'vju:/, /ri-vyoo/ *n* a light theatrical entertainment with music, songs, dances, etc.

**revulsion** /rɪ'velʒən/, /ri-vul-shun/ *n* a sudden complete change of feeling, disgust.

**reward** /rɪ'wɔ:d/, /ri-wawrd/ *n* **1** something given in return for work done, good behaviour, bravery, etc. **2** a sum of money offered for finding or helping to find a criminal, lost or stolen property, etc. • *vb* to give as a reward. • *adj* **rewarding**.

**rhapsodize** /'ræpsə,dائز/, /rap-su-dize/ *vb*, also **rhapsodise** to talk in an excited, disconnected manner.

**rhapsody** /'raepsədi/, /rap-su-dee/ *n* **1** a piece of writing, music or speech full of excited feeling and therefore not following the usual rules of composition. **2** (*usually pl*) an expression of excited approval.

**rhetoric** /'retərik/, /re-tu-ric/ *n* **1** the art of speaking and writing well. **2** words that sound well but say little of importance. • *n* **rhetorician**.

**rhetorical** /ri'tɔrɪkəl/, /ri-tawr-ic-al/ *adj* high-sounding.

**rhetorical question** /ri'tɔrɪkəl 'kwɛstʃən/, /ri-tawr-ic-al kwes-chun/ *n* a question asked for effect where no answer is expected.

**rheumatism** /ru:mə,tizəm/, /roo-ma-ti-zum/, **rheumatics** /roo-matics/ *n* a disease causing painful swelling in the joints. • *adj* **rheumatic**.

**rhinoceros** /raɪ'nɒsərəs/, /rie-nos-rus/ *n* a large thick-skinned animal with a horn (or two horns) on its nose.

**rhododendron** /ro:də'dendrən/, /ro-du-den-drən/ *n* an evergreen shrub with large brightly coloured flowers.

**rhombus** /rɒmbəs/, /rom-bus/ *n* (*pl* **rhombuses** or **rhombi**) a parallelogram with equal sides but angles that are not right angles.

**rhubarb** /ru:barb/, /roo-barb/ *n* a garden plant with juicy stalks edible when cooked, and roots sometimes used in medicines.

**rhyme** /raɪm/, /rime/ *n* **1** sameness of sound at the ends of words or lines of poetry. **2** a word that rhymes with another. **3** a poem with rhymes. • *vb* **1** to find words ending in the same sound(s). **2** to end in the same sound(s) as. **3** to write poetry. • **without rhyme or reason** foolish, unreasonable.

**rhythm** /rɪðəm/, /rith-um/ *n* **1** the regular beat of words or sounds. **2** a regular repeated pattern of movements, graceful motion.

**rhythmic** /rɪðmɪk/, /rith-mic/, **rhythrical** /'rɪðmɪkəl/, /rith-mi-cal/ *adjs* having a regular beat, regular. • *adv* **rhythmically**.

**rib** /rɪb/, /rib/ *n* **1** one of the curved bones of the breast. **2** a low, narrow ridge or raised part of a material. **3** a curved piece of wood attached to the keel of a ship and going up to the deck.

**ribald** /rɪ'bəld/, /ri-bald/ *adj* coarse, indecent, vulgar.

**ribaldry** /rɪ'bəldri:/, /ri-bald-ree/ *n* coarse talk.

**ribbon** /rɪbən/, /ri-bun/ *n* a narrow decorative band of silk or other material.

**rice** /rɪs/, /rice/ *n* a white edible grain often grown in hot countries, especially in river valleys.

**rice paper** /'rɪs,peɪpər/, /rice pay-per/ *n* **1** a kind of fine paper. **2** a special form of this that can be eaten and is used in cookery.

**rich** /rɪtʃ/, /rich/ *adj* **1** having much money, wealthy. **2** fertile. **3** valuable. **4** plentiful. **5** containing much fat or sugar. **6** deep, strong. • *n richness*.

**riches** /ritʃəz/, /ri-chiz/ *npl* wealth.

**richly** /ritʃli:/, /rich-lee/ *adv* **1** in a rich manner. **2** with riches.

**rick** /rɪk/, /rick/ *n* a heap or stack of hay, etc.

**rickety** /'rɪktɪti/, /ri-ki-tee/ *adj* shaky, unsteady.

**rickshaw** /'rɪkʃəʊ/, /rik-shaw/ *n* a light two-wheeled carriage pulled by a person.

**ricochet** /'rɪkə,seɪ/, /ri-cu-shay/ *n* the skimming of a bullet off a flat surface. • *vb* to hit something and bounce away at an angle.

**rid** /rɪd/, /rid/ *vb* (**rid** or **ridded**, **ridding**) to make free from, to clear.

**ridden** /'rɪdən/, /ri-den/ *pp* of **ride**.

**riddle**<sup>1</sup> /'rɪdəl/, /ri-dul/ *n* a puzzling question.

**riddle**<sup>2</sup> /'rɪdəl/, /ri-dul/ *n* a large sieve. • *vb* **1** to sift. **2** to fill with holes.

**ride** /raɪd/, /ride/ *vb* (*pt rode*, *pp ridden*) **1** to be carried on the back of an animal or on a vehicle. **2** to be able to ride on and control a horse, bicycle, etc. • *n* a trip on an animal's back or in a vehicle.

**rider** /'raɪdər/, /rie-der/ *n* **1** a person who rides. **2** something added to what has already been said or written.

**ridge** /rɪdʒ/, /ridge/ *n* **1** a long, narrow hill. **2** the raised part between two lower parts. **3** a mountain range.

**ridicule** /'rɪdɪkju:l/, /ri-di-cyool/ *n* mockery. • *vb* to mock, to make fun of.

**ridiculous** /rɪ'dɪkjuləs/, /ri-di-cyu-lus/ *adj* deserving to be laughed at, absurd. • *adv* **ridiculously**.

**riding habit** /'raɪdɪŋ,habit/, /rie-ding ha-bit/ *n* the clothes worn for riding.

**rife** /rəif/, /rifə/ *adj* found everywhere or in large numbers or quantities, extremely common.

**rifle**<sup>1</sup> /'rɪfəl/, /ri-fəl/ *n* a handgun with a grooved barrel that makes the bullet spin in flight. • *vb* to make grooves in a gun barrel.

**rifle**<sup>2</sup> /'rɪfəl/, /ri-fəl/ *vb* to search through and steal anything valuable.

**rift** /rɪft/, /rif特/ *n* 1 a disagreement between two friends. 2 a split or crack in the ground.

**rig** /rɪg/, /rig/ *vb* 1(*inf*) to provide clothing for. 2 to provide tools or equipment. 3 to provide (*a ship*) with ropes, sails, etc. 4 to set up. 5 to arrange wrongfully to produce a desired result, often an unfair or unlawful one. • *n* the particular way in which a ship's masts, sails, etc, are arranged.

**rigging** /rɪgɪŋ/, /ri-gɪng/ *n* a ship's spars, ropes, etc.

**right** /rɪt/, /rite/ *adj* 1 correct. 2 true. 3 just, morally correct. 4 straight. 5 on the side of the right hand. 6 in good condition. 7 suitable, appropriate. 8 total, complete. • *vb* 1 to put back in position, to set in order. 2 to mend, to correct. • *n* 1 that which is correct, good, or true. 2 something to which you have a just claim. 3 the right-hand side. 4 in politics, the party or group holding the more traditional, conservative beliefs. • *adv* 1 straight. 2 exactly. 3 to the right-hand side.

**right angle** /'rɪt ,aŋgəl/, /rite ang-gul/ *n* an angle of 90 degrees.

**righteous** /'rɪtʃəs/, /ri-chus/ *adj* 1 having just cause. 2 good-living, virtuous. • *adv* **righteously**. • *n* **righteousness**.

**rightful** /'rɪtful/, /rite-ful/ *adj* lawful, just. • *adv* **rightfully**.

**right-handed** /rɪt'hændɪd/, /rite-han-ded/ *adj* better able to use the right hand than the left.

**rightly** /'rɪtli/, /rite-lee/ *adv* 1 justly. 2 correctly.

**rigid** /'rɪdʒɪd/, /ri-jid/ *adj* 1 that cannot be bent. 2 stern, strict, not willing to change. 3 not to be changed. • *n* **rigidity**. • *adv* **rigidly**.

**rigmarole** /'rɪgmə,ro:l/, /rig-ma-role/ *n* long and confused or meaningless talk.

**rigour** /'rɪgər/, /ri-gur/ *n*, also **rigor** (US) strictness, severity, harshness. • *adj* **rigorous**. • *adv* **rigorously**.

**rile** /raɪl/, /rɪlə/ *vb* to make angry.

**rim** /rɪm/, /rɪm/ *n* **1** the outer hoop of a wheel. **2** the outer edge, brim.

**rime<sup>1</sup>** /raɪm/, /rɪmə/ *n* white or hoar frost.

**rime<sup>2</sup>** /raɪm/, /rɪmə/ another spelling of **rhyme**.

**rind** /'rɪnd/, /rɪnd/ *n* **1** the skin of some fruits. **2** the skin of bacon, cheese, etc.

**ring<sup>1</sup>** /rɪŋ/, /rɪŋ/ *n* **1** a hoop of gold or other metal for the finger. **2** anything in the form of a circle. **3** a space enclosed by ropes for a boxing match. • *vb (pt, pp ringed)* to surround, to encircle.

**ring<sup>2</sup>** /rɪŋ/, /rɪŋ/ *vb (pt rang, pp rung)* **1** to make a clear sound as a bell. **2** to cause a bell to sound. **3** to echo. **4** to phone someone. • *n* **1** the sound of a bell. **2** a phone call.

**ringleader** /'rɪŋ,li:dər/, /ring-lee-der/ *n* the leader of a gang.

**ringlet** /'rɪŋlət/, /ring-let/ *n* a curl of hair.

**ringtone** /'rɪŋ,tɔ:n/, /ring-tone/ *n* the sound made by a mobile phone to show that there is an incoming call.

**rink** /rɪŋk/, /ringk/ *n* **1** a level stretch of ice for skating or curling. **2** a floor for roller-skating.

**rinse** /'rɪns/, /rinss/ *vb* **1** to wash by pouring water over. **2** to dip in water and wash lightly. **3** to put in clean water to remove soap.

**riot** /'raɪət/, /rie-ut/ *n* **1** a noisy or violent disorder caused by a crowd. **2 (inf)** something or someone that is very funny. **3** a bright and splendid show. • **read the riot act** to give clear warning that unruly behaviour must stop. • **run riot** to go wild, to go out of control.

**riotous** /'raɪətəs/, /rie-u-tuss/ *adj* noisy, disorderly.

**rip** /rɪp/, /rip/ *vb (ripped, ripping)* to tear or cut open; to strip off. • *n* a tear, a rent.

**ripe** /rɪp/, /ripe/ *adj* **1** ready to be gathered or picked, ready for eating. **2** suitable or ready for. • *n* **ripeness**.

**ripen** /rɪpən/, /rie-pin/ *vb* **1** to become ripe. **2** to cause to become ripe.

**ripple** /'rɪpəl/, /ri-pul/ *n* **1** a little wave. **2** the sound of shallow water running over stones. **3** a sound resembling this. • *vb* **1** to flow in

ripples. **2** to cause tiny waves to appear on. **3** to flow with a murmuring sound.

**rise** /raɪz/, /rīz/ *vb (pt rose, pp risen)* **1** to get up from bed. **2** to stand up. **3** to go upward. **4** to increase. **5** to rebel. **6** to move to a higher position. **7 (of a river)** to have its source or beginning. • *n* **1** an increase in number, amount, value. **2** an increase in pay. **3** an increase in power, importance or popularity. **4** upward slope. **5** a small hill. • **give rise to** to cause or bring about. • **rise to the occasion** to do all that is necessary at a difficult time. • **take a rise out of (inf)** to play a joke or trick on.

**rising** /'raɪzɪŋ/, /'rī-zɪŋ/ *n* **1** the act of rising. **2** a rebellion.

**risk** /rɪsk/, /rīsk/ *n* **1** danger. **2** possible harm or loss. • *vb* **1** to put in danger, to lay open to the possibility of loss. **2** to take the chance of something bad or unpleasant happening.

**risky** /'rɪski/, /ri-skee/ *adj* dangerous.

**risotto** /rɪ'zɒtə/, /ri-zot-o/ *n* an Italian rice dish cooked with meat, vegetables, etc.

**rite** /rəɪt/, /rīt/ *n* an order or arrangement of proceedings fixed by rule or custom.

**ritual** /'ritʃuəl/, /ri-chu-wal/ *adj* having to do with or done as a rite. • *n* **1** a set of rites. **2** ceremonies performed to worship God. • *adv* **ritually**.

**rival** /'raɪvəl/, /rie-val/ *n* **1** a person who is trying to do better than another. **2** a competitor for the same prize. • *vb* to be as good or nearly as good as. • *n* **rivalry**.

**river** /'rɪvər/, /ri-ver/ *n* a large running stream of water.

**rivet** /'rɪvət/, /ri-vit/ *n* a bolt driven through metal plates, etc, to fasten them together and then hammered flat at both ends. • *vb* **1** to fasten with rivets. **2** to fix.

**rivulet** /'rɪvjuːlət/, /ri-vyu-lit/ *n* a small stream.

**road** /ro:d/, /road/ *n* **1** a prepared public way for travelling on. **2** a street. **3** a way.

**roadhog** /'ro:d hɔ:g/, /road-hog/ *n (inf)* a dangerously reckless motorist.

**road rage** /'ro:d ,reɪdʒ/, /road rage/ *n* extreme anger, often leading to violent or dangerous behaviour, resulting from a driver's reaction to the actions of another driver or pedestrian.

**roam** /ro:m/, /roam/ *vb* to wander about.

**roar** /rɔ:/, /roar/ *vb* to give a roar. • *n* 1 a loud shout or cry. 2 the full loud cry of a large animal.

**roast** /ro:st/, /roast/ *vb* to cook before a fire or in an oven. • *n* roasted meat.

**rob** /rɒb/, /rob/ *vb* (**robbed**, **robbing**) 1 to steal from. 2 to cause someone not to get what he or she ought to get. • *n* **robber**.

**robbery** /'rɒbəri/, /rob-er-ee/ *n* the act of robbing.

**robe** /ro:b/, /robe/ *n* a long, loose-fitting garment. • *npl* **robes** clothes worn as a sign of rank or position. • *vb* to put on robes, to put robes on someone else.

**robin** /'rɒbɪn/, /rob-in/ *n* 1 a small red-breasted songbird related to the thrush. 2 a north American thrush about the size of a pigeon.

**robot** /ro:'bɒt/, /ro-bot/ *n* 1 a machine made to carry out certain tasks usually done by people. 2 a person who does his or her work mechanically without thinking or asking questions. • *adj* **robotic**.

**robust** /ro:'bɛst/, /ro-bust/ *adj* 1 healthy and strong. 2 vigorous, rough. • *adv* **robustly**. • *n* **robustness**.

**rock**<sup>1</sup> /rɒk/, /rock/ *vb* 1 to move from side to side, or backward and forward in turn. 2 to sway from side to side. • *n* a type of loud popular music with a strong beat.

**rock**<sup>2</sup> /rɒk/, /rock/ *n* 1 the hard, solid part of the earth's crust. 2 a large mass or piece of stone.

**rock and roll**, **rock 'n' roll** /,rɒk ən 'ro:l/, /rock-in-roll/ *n* a type of popular dance music that originated in the 1950s.

**rock climbing** /'rɒk ,klaimɪŋ/, /rock clime-ing/ *n* a sport that involves the climbing of steep cliffs and rock faces, usually with ropes.

**rocker** /'rɒkər/, /rock-er/ *n* a curved piece of wood fastened to the foot of a chair, cradle, etc, to enable it to rock.

**rockery** /'rɒkəri/, /rock-er-ee/ *n* part of a garden consisting of a heap of earth and large stones or small rocks with plants growing between them.

**rocket** /'rɒkət/, /rock-it/ *n* 1 a cylinder that is propelled through the air by a backward jet of gas. 2 a spacecraft launched in this way. 3 a firework that flies up into the air as it is burning out, often used as a signal.

**rocking chair** /'rɒkɪŋ seɪə/, /rock-ing chair/ *n* a chair on rockers.

**rocking horse** /'rɒkɪŋ hɔ:s/, /rock-ing hawrss/ *n* a toy horse on rockers.

**rock salt** /'rɒk sɔlt/, /rock sawlt/ *n* common salt found in solid lumps in the earth.

**rocky** /'rɒki/, /rock-ee/ *adj* 1 shaky. 2 unstable, in difficulties. 3 full of rocks. 4 hard as rock.

**rod** /rɒd/, /rod/ *n* a straight slender stick or bar.

**rode** *pt of ride*.

**rodent** /'ro:dənt/, /roe-dint/ *n* any animal that gnaws, e.g. a mouse or rat.

**rodeo** /'ro:dio:/, /roe-dee-o/ *n* a display of riding skill by cowboys.

**roe<sup>1</sup>** /ro:/, /roe/ *n* 1 a female deer. 2 a small type of deer.

**roe<sup>2</sup>** /ro:/, /roe/ *n* all the eggs in a female fish.

**roe-buck** /'ro:bʌk/, /roe-buck/ *n* a male roe deer.

**rogue** /ro:g/, /roag/ *n* 1 a dishonest person. 2 a naughty, mischievous child.

**roguish** /'ro:gɪʃ/, /roe-gish/ *adj* 1 dishonest. 2 mischievous, teasing.

**role** /ro:l/, /role/ *n* 1 the part played by an actor. 2 your actions or duties.

**role model** /'ro:l ,mɒdəl/, /role mod-el/ *n* a person whom others admire and try to copy.

**roll** /ro:l/, /role/ *vb* 1 to move by going around and around, like a wheel or ball. 2 to rock or sway from side to side. 3 to flatten with a roller. 4 to make a loud long noise. • *n* 1 paper, cloth, etc, rolled into the form of a cylinder. 2 a list of names. 3 a turning or rocking movement. 4 a long-drawn-out noise.

**roll call** /'ro:l kɔ:l/, /role cawl/ *n* the calling over of a list of names.

**roller** /rolər/, /roe-ler/ *n* 1 anything made in the form of a cylinder so that it can turn around and around easily. 2 a long swelling wave.

**Rollerblade** /'ro:lər,bleɪd/, /roe-ler-blade/ *n* (*TM*) a type of roller skate that has the wheels set in one straight line. • *n* **rollerblading**.

**roller coaster** /'ro:lər,ko:stər/, /roe-ler coe-ster/ *n* a fairground ride like an elevated railway with steep sharp curves.

**roller skate** /'ro:lər,skeɪt/, /roe-ler skate/ *n* a skate mounted on small wheels for skating on hard surfaces. • *vb* **roller-skate**.

**rollicking** /'rɒlɪkɪŋ/, /ro-li-king/ *adj* noisy and merry.

**rolling pin** /'ro:lɪŋpɪn/, /roe-ling pin/ *n* a roller for making pastry flat and thin before it is cooked.

**Roman** /'ro:mən/, /roe-man/ *adj* having to do with Rome.

**Roman Catholic** /,ro:mən 'kæθəlɪk/, /roe-man cath-lic/ *n* a member of that part of the Christian Church that is governed by the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.

**romance** /'romæns/, /roe-manss/ *n* 1 a love affair. 2 a love story. 3 a story of wonderful or fanciful events. • *adj* /roe-manss/(of a language) derived from Latin.

**Roman numerals** /,ro:mən 'nju:mnrəlz/, /roe-man nyoom-e-ralz/ *npl* numbers represented by letters (e.g. IV, V, VI for 4, 5, 6, etc.).

**romantic** /ro:'mæntɪk/, /roe-man-tic/ *adj* 1 showing feelings of love. 2 dealing with love. 3 imaginative, fanciful. • *adv* **romantically**.

**roman type** /'ro:mən ,taɪp/, /roe-man tipe/ *n* ordinary upright type (not italics).

**romp** /rɒmp/, /romp/ *vb* 1 to play roughly or noisily. 2 to do swiftly and easily. • *n* rough or noisy play.

**romper** /rɒmpər/, /rom-per/ *n* a one-piece garment for a small child.

**roof** /ru:f/, /roof/ *n* 1 the outside upper covering of a house, building, vehicle, etc. 2 the upper part of the mouth. • *vb* to cover with a roof.

**rook** /ruk/, /rook/ *n* 1 a piece in chess. 2 a black bird of the crow family. • *vb* to cheat someone.

**room** /ru:m/, /room/ *n* 1 an apartment in a house. 2 space. 3 space for free movement. 4 scope. • *npl* lodgings.

**roomy** /'ru:mi/, /roo-mee/ *adj* having plenty of space.

**roost** /ru:st/, /roost/ *n* the pole on which birds rest at night. • *vb* to rest or sleep on a roost.

**rooster** /'ru:stər/, /roo-ster/ *n* a cockerel, a cock.

**root** /ru:t/, /root/ *n* **1** the part of a plant that is fixed in the earth and draws nourishment from the soil. **2** the beginning or origin, a first cause from which other things develop. **3** a word from which other words are formed. **4** a factor of a number that when multiplied by itself gives the original number. • *vb* **1** to fix firmly. **2** to search about for.

**rope** /ro:p/, /rope/ *n* a strong thick cord, made by twisting together strands of hemp, wire, etc. • *vb* **1** to fasten with a rope. **2** to mark off with a rope.

**rosary** /'ro:zəri/, /roe-za-ree/ *n* in the Roman Catholic Church, a series of prayers, or a string of beads each of which represents a prayer in the series.

**rose<sup>1</sup>** /ro:z/, /roze/ *n* **1** a beautiful, sweet-smelling flower growing on a thorny shrub. **2** a shrub bearing roses. **3** a light red or pink colour. **4** a nozzle full of holes at the end of the spout of a watering can.

**rose<sup>2</sup>** *pt of rise.*

**rosemary** /'ro:z,meri/, /roze-me-ree/ *n* an evergreen sweet-smelling shrub used as a herb in cooking.

**rosette** /ro:'zət/, /roe-zet/ *n* **1** a badge, like a rose in shape, made of ribbon. **2** a rose-shaped ornament carved in stone, etc.

**rosewood** /'ro:zwud/, /roze-wood/ *n* a hard dark-coloured wood smelling of roses when fresh cut.

**Rosh Hashana** (or **Hashanah**) /rɒʃ ho:'zænə/, /rosh ho-za-na/ *n* the Jewish New Year festival, held in September or October.

**rosy** /'ro:zi/, /roe-zee/ *adj* **1** red, pink. **2** giving cause for hope.

**rot** /rɒt/, /rot/ *vb* (**rotted**, **rotting**) **1** to go bad from age or lack of use, to decay. **2** to cause to decay. • *n* **1** decay. **2** (*inf*) nonsense.

**rota** /ro:tə/, /roe-ta/ *n* a list which shows when each of a group of people has to do a particular task.

**rotary** /'ro:təri/, /roe-ta-ree/ *adj* turning around on an axle.

**rotate** /ro:'teɪt/, /roe-tate/ *vb* **1** to turn around a centre or axis. **2** to move like a wheel.

**rotation** /ro:tə'seɪn/, /roe-tay-shun/ *n* **1** movement around a centre or axis. **2** a regular order repeated again and again.

**rotten** /'rɒtən/, /rot-in/ *adj* **1** decaying, having gone bad. **2** (*inf*) mean.

**Rottweiler** /'rɒtwailər/, /rot-wie-ler/ *n* a breed of very large, strong dog with a black and brown coat.

**rotund** /ro:tənd/, /roe-tund/ *adj* round, fattish. • *n* **rotundity**.

**rouble** see **ruble**.

**rouge** /ru:ʒ/, /roozh/ *n* red colouring for the cheeks.

**rough** /rəf/, /ruf/ *adj* **1** not smooth, uneven. **2** wild, stormy. **3** not polite. **4** not gentle. **5** coarse, violent. **6** badly finished. **7** not exact. • *n* a violent, badly behaved person. • *adv* **roughly**. • *n* **roughness**.

**roughage** /'rəfɪdʒ/, /ru-fidge/ *n* food that contains a lot of fibre, which aids digestion.

**roughen** /'rəfən/, /ru-fin/ *vb* to make or become rough.

**roulette** /ru:'let/, /roo-let/ *n* a gambling game played on a revolving board with a ball that falls into one of a number of holes when the board ceases spinning.

**round** /raund/, /round/ *adj* like a ball or circle in shape. • *n* **1** a round object. **2** a duty visit to all the places under your care. **3** a part song in which singers join at different times and begin again when they have finished. **4** a shell or bullet for firing. **5** a division of a boxing match. **6** a complete part of a knock-out competition (e.g. in football). **7** a game of golf. **8** a spell or outburst. • *adv* **1** in the opposite direction. **2** in a circle. **3** from one person to another. **4** from place to place. • *prep* **1** on every side of. **2** with a circular movement about. • *vb* **1** to give a round shape to. **2** to go around.

**roundabout** /'raundə,bəut/, /roun-da-bout/ *n* a meeting place of roads with a central circle around which vehicles must go until they turn off. • *adj* **1** indirect. **2** using too many words.

**roundly** /'raundli/, /round-lee/ *adv* plainly.

**round trip** /'raund tripl/, /round trip/ *n* a journey to a place and back again.

**roundup** /'raundəp/, /round-up/ *n* **1** the gathering of cattle or other farm animals for market. **2** a gathering of something. **3** the

gathering together of a particular group of people.

**rouse** /raʊz/, /rouz/ *vb* 1 to awaken. 2 to stir up to action.

**rousing** /'raʊzɪŋ/, /rou-zing/ *adj* stirring, exciting.

**rout** /rəʊt/, /rout/ *vb* to defeat and put to disordered flight. • *n* 1 a disorderly and hasty retreat after a defeat. 2 a complete defeat.

**route** /rʊt/, /root/ *n* a way from one place to another.

**routine** /ru:tɪn/, /roo-teen/ *n* a regular way or order of doing things. • *adv* **routinely**.

**rove** /ro:v/, /rove/ *vb* 1 to wander about. 2 to move around.

**rover** /'ro:vər/, /roe-ver/ *n* 1 a wanderer. 2 (*old*) a pirate.

**row<sup>1</sup>** /ro:/, /roe/ *n* a line of people or things.

**row<sup>2</sup>** /ro:/, /roe/ *vb* to move a boat by means of oars. • *n* 1 a spell of rowing. 2 a trip in a boat moved by oars.

**row<sup>3</sup>** /ro:/, /row/ *n* 1 noise, disturbance. 2 a quarrel. 3 a public argument. • *vb* (*inf*) to quarrel.

**rowdy** /'raudi/, /row-dee/ *adj* noisy and quarrelsome. • *n* **rowdiness**.

• *n* **rowdyism**.

**royal** /'rɔɪəl/, /roy-al/ *adj* 1 having to do with a king or queen. 2 splendid, kingly. • *adv* **royally**.

**royalist** /'rɔɪəlist/, /roy-a-list/ *n* a supporter of a king or queen.

**royalty** /'rɔɪəlti/, /roy-al-tee/ *n* 1 a royal person or persons. 2 a share of the profits paid to authors, inventors, etc, for the use of their work.

**RSI** /'ærɛs'aɪ/, /ar-ess-eye/ *abbrev* = **repetitive strain injury**: regular pain in the hands, arms etc, caused by doing the same job, and so using the same muscles, a lot of the time.

**rub** /rəb/, /rub/ *vb* (**rubbed**, **rubbing**) to move one thing to and fro against another. • *n* act of rubbing. • **rub out** to remove or erase, especially with a rubber.

**rubber** /'rəbər/, /ru-ber/ *n* 1 a tough elastic substance made from the juice of certain tropical trees. 2 a piece of rubber used to remove marks by rubbing. • *adj* **rubbery**.

**rubbish** /'rəbɪʃ/, /ru-bish/ *n* 1 things of no value that you would throw away. 2 nonsense.

**rubble** /'rəbəl/, /ru-bul/ *n* broken pieces of bricks or stones.

**ruble** /'ru:bəl/, /roo-bul/ *n*, also **rouble** the main unit of currency of Russia, Belarus, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Transnistria.

**ruby** /'ru:bi/, /roo-bee/ *n* a red precious stone. • *adj* 1 containing rubies. 2 red.

**ruck** /rək/, /ruck/ *n* the mass of ordinary people.

**rucksack** /'ruksæk/, /ruck-sack/ *n* a bag carried on the back with straps over the shoulder to hold it in place.

**rudder** /'rədər/, /ru-der/ *n* a flat hinged plate at the stern of a ship or the tail of an aircraft, used for steering.

**rude** /ru:d/, /rood/ *adj* 1 impolite. 2 referring to sex or parts of the body in a way that some people find offensive or embarrassing. 3 sudden and unpleasant. 4 (old) uncivilized, untaught, vulgar. • *adv* rudely. • *n* rudeness.

**ruff** /rəf/, /ruff/ *n* a stiff frilled collar worn in olden times.

**ruffian** /'rəfiən/, /ru-fee-an/ *n* a rough brutal fellow, a violent lawbreaker.

**ruffle** /'rəfəl/, /ru-ful/ *vb* 1 to disturb the smoothness of, to disarrange. 2 to anger or annoy. • *n* a frill.

**rug** /rəg/, /rug/ *n* 1 a mat for the floor. 2 a thick woollen coverlet or blanket.

**rugby** /'rəgbɪ/, /rug-bee/ *n* a form of football in which the ball, oval in shape, may be carried in the hands.

**rugged** /'rəgəd/, /ru-gid/ *adj* 1 rough, uneven. 2 strongly built.

**ruin** /ru:in/, /roo-in/ *n* 1 destruction. 2 downfall, overthrow, state of having lost everything of value. 3 (often *pl*) remains of old buildings. • *vb* 1 to destroy. 2 to cause to lose everything of value.

**rule** /ru:l/, /rool/ *n* 1 government. 2 a regulation or order. 3 an official or accepted standard. 4 the usual way that something happens. • *vb* 1 to govern, to manage. 2 to give an official decision. 3 to draw a straight line with the help of a ruler.

**ruler** /'ru:lər/, /roo-ler/ *n* 1 a person who governs or reigns. 2 a flat rod for measuring length.

**ruling** /'ru:lər/, /roo-ling/ *adj* greatest, controlling. • *n* a decision.

**rum** /rəm/, /rum/ *n* spirit made from sugar cane.

**rumba** /'rʌmbə/, /rum-ba/ *n* a dance of Cuban origin.

**rumble** /'rʌmbəl/, /rum-bul/ *vb* to make a low, rolling noise. • *also n.*

**ruminant** /'ru:mənənt/, /roo-mi-nant/ *adj* chewing the cud. • *n* an animal that chews the cud.

**ruminate** /'ru:mɪneɪt/, /roo-mi-nate/ *vb* 1 to chew the cud. 2 to think deeply.

**rummage** /'remɪdʒ/, /ru-midge/ *vb* to search thoroughly but untidily. • *also n.*

**rumour** /'ru:mər/, /roo-mur/ *n*, *also rumor* (US) 1 a widely known story that may not be true. 2 common talk, gossip.

**rump** /rʌmp/, /rump/ *n* 1 the end of an animal's backbone. 2 the buttocks. 3 a piece left over from something much larger.

**rumple** /'ræmpəl/, /rum-pul/ *vb* to crease, to spoil the smoothness of.

**rumpus** /'ræmpəs/, /rum-pus/ *n* a noisy disturbance or quarrel, an uproar.

**run** /rʌn/, /run/ *vb* (*pt ran, running, pp run*) 1 to move quickly. 2 to move from one place to another. 3 to take part in a race. 4 to flow. 5 to organize or manage. 6 to smuggle. 7 to last or continue. 8 to compete in a competition or an election. • *n* 1 act of running. 2 the length of time for which something runs. 3 a widespread demand for. 4 an enclosed place for animals or fowls. • **run down** 1 to say bad things about. 2 to stop working because of lack of power (e.g. because a spring is unwound). • **run over** 1 to read or repeat quickly. 2 to knock over in a vehicle.

**runaway** /'rænəwei/, /ru-na-way/ *n* a person who runs away from their home or an institution. • *adj* 1 (of an animal or vehicle) out of control. 2 leaving home without telling anyone. 3 happening in a very fast and easy manner.

**rung<sup>1</sup>** /rʌŋ/, /rung/ *n* a step of a ladder.

**rung<sup>2</sup>** *pp of ring.*

**runner** /'rænər/, /ru-ner/ *n* 1 a person who runs. 2 a messenger. 3 a long spreading stem of a plant. 4 a long narrow cloth for a table or carpet for a stair. 5 any device on which something slips or slides along.

**runner-up** /'rʌnər ap/, /ru-nər-up/ *n* (*pl* **runners-up**) the person or team second to the winner.

**running** /'rənɪŋ/, /ru-ning/ *adj* **1** going on all the time. **2** in succession. • *n* **1** the act of moving quickly. **2** that which runs or flows. • **in the running** with a chance of success.

**running mate** /'rənɪŋ meɪt/, /ru-ning mate/ *n* in the US, a candidate for the lesser of two political posts, such as vice-president.

**runny** /'rəni/, /ru-nee/ *adj* liquid, flowing.

**runway** /'rənweɪ/, /run-way/ *n* a flat road along which an aircraft runs before taking off or after landing.

**rupee** /ru'pi:/, /roo-peel/ *n* the main unit of currency in India and Pakistan.

**rupture** /'rəptʃər/, /rup-chur/ *n* **1** a clean break. **2** a quarrel or disagreement. **3** the thrusting of part of the intestine through the muscles of the abdomen. • *vb* **1** to break or burst. **2** to quarrel. • **rupture yourself** undergo a rupture in the body.

**rural** /'rʊrəl/, /roo-ral/ *adj* having to do with the country or its way of life.

**ruise** /ru:z/, /rooz/ *n* a trick.

**rush<sup>1</sup>** /rəʃ/, /rush/ *vb* **1** to move quickly and with force. **2** to do hastily. **3** to make someone hurry. **4** to capture by a sudden quick attack. • *n* **1** hurry. **2** a fast and forceful move. **3** a sudden demand. **4** a sudden advance.

**rush<sup>2</sup>** /rəʃ/, /rush/ *n* a tall grasslike plant growing in damp or marshy ground.

**rust** /rəst/, /rust/ *n* the red coating formed on iron and steel left in a damp place. • *vb* to decay by gathering rust.

**rustic** /'rəstɪk/, /ru-stic/ *adj* having to do with the country or country people.

**rustle<sup>1</sup>** /'rəsəl/, /ru-sul/ *vb* to make a low whispering sound. • *also n.*

**rustle<sup>2</sup>** /'rəsəl/, /ru-sul/ *vb* to steal. • *n* **rustler**.

**rusty** /'resti/, /ru-steel/ *adj* **1** covered with rust. **2** out of practice.

**/rət/, /rut/ *n* a deep track made by a wheel. • **in a rut** so tied by habits and customs that you are no longer interested in new or**

better methods.

**ruthless** /'ru:θləs/, /rooth-less/ *adj* cruel, merciless, showing no pity.

• *adv ruthlessly.* • *n ruthlessness.*

**rye** /raɪ/, /rie/ *n* 1 a grain used for making bread. 2 rye bread.

**rye bread** /'raɪ bred/, /rie bred/ *n* bread made with rye flour.

**rye grass** /'raɪ græs/, /rie grass/ *n* a type of grass used as fodder for animals.

# S

**S, s** /ɛs/, /ɛsəs/ the 19th letter of the English alphabet.

**Sabbath** /'sæbəθ/, /sa-buth/ *n* 1 the seventh day of the week, Saturday, set aside for rest and worship, observed by Jews and some Christian groups. 2 Sunday.

**saber** /'seɪbər/, /say-ber/ *n* a heavy sword with a slightly curved blade.

**sable** /'seɪbəl/, /say-bul/ *n* 1 a type of weasel with dark-coloured fur. 2 its fur. • *adj* black, dark.

**sabotage** /'sæbətɑʒ/, /sa-bu-tazh/ *n* the destroying, wasting, or ruining of something on purpose. • *also vb.* • *n* **saboteur** a person who destroys, wastes, or ruins something on purpose.

**sac** /sæk/, /sac/ *n* a small bag of liquid inside an animal or plant.

**saccharine** /'sækə,rɪn/, /sa-ca-rin/ *n* a very sweet substance used instead of sugar. • *adj* **saccharine** too sweet or syrupy.

**sachet** /sæʃeɪ/, /sa-shay/ *n* a small, sealed bag or packet.

**sack<sup>1</sup>** /sæk/, /sack/ *n* a bag made of coarse cloth for holding flour, wool, etc. • *vb (inf)* to dismiss someone from his or her job.

**sack<sup>2</sup>** /sæk/, /sack/ *vb* to rob and destroy a town after capturing it. • *also n.*

**sacred** /'seɪkrəd/, /say-crɪd/ *adj* holy, set apart for the service of God.

**sacrifice** /'sækri,fɪs/, /sa-cri-fice/ *n* 1 an offering to a god or God. 2 the act of giving up something desirable. 3 something given up in this way. • *vb* 1 to make an offering to God or a god. 2 to give up something that is important to you. • *adj* **sacrificial**.

**sacrilege** /'sækrlɪdʒ/, /sa-cri-lidge/ *n* disrespectful or insulting treatment of something holy. • *adj* **sacrilegious**.

**sacrosanct** /'sækro:sæŋkt/, /sa-cro-sangt/ *adj* 1 very holy. 2 to be treated only with great respect.

**sad** /sæd/, /sad/ *adj* sorrowful, unhappy.

**sadden** /'sædən/, /sa-den/ *vb* to make sad.

**saddle** /'sædəl/, /sa-dul/ *n* **1** a seat for a rider on a horse or bicycle. **2** meat taken from an animal's back. • *vb* **1** to put a saddle on. **2** to give. • **in the saddle** in control.

**sadist** /'seɪdɪst/, /say-dist/ *n* a person who takes pleasure in giving pain to another. • *n* **sadism**. • *adj* **sadistic**.

**safari** /sə'fəri/, /sa-fa-ree/ *n* a hunting trip, especially one in Africa.

**safe** /seif/, /safe/ *adj* **1** out of harm or danger. **2** not likely to cause harm, danger, or risk. • *n* a strong box or room for valuables. • *adv* **safely**.

**safeguard** /'seɪfgard/, /safe-gard/ *n* any person or thing that protects. • *also vb*.

**safekeeping** /,seɪf'ki:pɪŋ/, /safe-kee-ping/ *n* a keeping or being kept in safety.

**safety** /'seɪfti/, /safe-tee/ *n* freedom from danger, harm, or loss.

**safety belt** /'seɪfti bɛlt/, /safe-tee belt/ *n* a belt that attaches a driver or passenger to the seat in a car, plane, etc for reasons of safety.

**safety pin** /'seɪfti pɪn/, /safe-tee pin/ a pin bent back on itself so as to cover the point when fastened.

**saffron** /'sæfrən/, /saf-ron/ *n* **1** a crocus flower. **2** the stamens of the crocus used to colour or flavour food. • *adj* deep yellow colour.

**sag** /sæg/, /sag/ *vb* (**sagged**, **sagging**) **1** to sink in the middle. **2** to droop, to hang down. • *adj* **saggy**.

**saga** /'sɔ:gə/, /sa-ga/ *n* **1** a Scandinavian story of heroes, customs, battles, etc. **2** a very long adventure story.

**sage<sup>1</sup>** /seɪdʒ/, /saydge/ *adj* wise. • *n* a wise person.

**sage<sup>2</sup>** /seɪdʒ/, /saydge/ *n* **1** a sweet-smelling plant, used as a herb in cooking. **2** a greyish green colour.

**sago** /'seɪgo:/, /say-go/ *n* a type of flour, used in certain puddings.

**said** /sed/, /sed/ *pt and pp of say*.

**sail** /seɪl/, /sale/ *n* **1** a canvas spread to catch the wind. **2** a trip in a boat moved by sails. **3** the arm of a windmill. • *vb* **1** to travel on water by way of a sail. **2** to move along without effort.

**sailboard** /'seɪlbɔːd/, /saɪlboːd/ *n* a board, used in windsurfing, similar to a surfboard with a sail attached to it.

**sailing** /'seɪlin/, /say-ling/ *n* 1 the act of a thing or person that sails. 2 the sport of managing a sailing boat, as for racing.

**sailing boat** /'seɪlin bo:t/, /say-ling boat/ *n* a boat or ship that has sails, by which it moves through the water.

**sailor** /'seɪlər/, /say-lor/ *n* a person who makes a living by sailing.

**saint** /seɪnt/, /saint/ *n* 1 a person who is very good, patient, helpful, etc. 2 a title given to an especially holy person by certain Christian churches. • *adj saintly*. • *adj sainted*.

**sainthood** /'seɪnθu:d/, /saint-hood/ *n* the status or rank of a saint.

**sake<sup>1</sup>** /seɪk/, /sake/ *n*. • **for the sake of** to get. • **for my sake** to please me.

**sake<sup>2</sup>** /sɒki/, /sah-kee/ *n* a Japanese alcoholic drink made from rice.

**salaam** /sə'lɒm/, /sa-lom/ *n* 1 a greeting, meaning peace, used among Muslims. 2 in India, a greeting made by bowing low with the palm of the right hand on the forehead.

**saleable** /'seɪləbəl/, /say-la-bul/ *adj* that can be sold.

**salacious** /sə'leɪʃəs/, /sa-lay-shus/ *adj* indecent, obscene.

**salad** /'sæləd/, /sa-lad/ *n* a dish of lettuce and other vegetables, mostly raw but sometimes cooked and sometimes including meat, fish, cheese, or fruit, usually served with a dressing.

**salamander** /'sælə,mændər/, /sa-la-man-der/ *n* a lizardlike animal that can live both on land and in water.

**salami** /sə'lɒmi/, /sa-la-mee/ *n* a highly spiced, salted sausage of pork or beef.

**salary** /'sæləri/, /sal-ree/ *n* the fixed sum of money paid to someone for work over an agreed length of time, usually a month or a year.

**sale** /seɪl/, /sale/ *n* 1 the act of selling. 2 the exchange of anything for money. 3 a selling of goods more cheaply than usual.

**salesman** /'seɪlzmən/, /saylz-man/, **saleswoman** /saylz-woo-man/, **salesperson** /saylz-per-sun/, **sales assistant** /saylz-a-sis-tant/ *n* a person engaged in selling products.

**salesmanship** /'seɪlzmənʃɪp/, /saylz-man-ship/ *n* skill in selling things.

**sales tax** /'seɪlztaeks/, /saylztaks/ a tax on things that are sold, usually a percentage.

**salient** /'seɪlɪənt/, /sale-yent/ *adj* 1 sticking outward. 2 most important. • *n* in war, a narrow strip of land jutting into enemy territory.

**saline** /'seɪlin/, /say-leen/ *adj* containing salt. • *n* a salt lake or spring.

**salinize** /'sæliːnaɪz/, /sa-lin-nize/ *vb*, also **salinise** to put salt into.

**saliva** /sə'laivə/, /sa-lie-va/ *n* the liquid that keeps the mouth moist; spittle. • *adj* **salivary**.

**salivate** /'sæliviteit/, /sa-li-vate/ *vb* to produce excess saliva.

**sallow<sup>1</sup>** /'sælo:/, /sa-lo/ *n* a type of willow tree.

**sallow<sup>2</sup>** /'sælo:/, /sa-lo/ *adj* having a slightly yellow skin.

**salmon** /'sæmən/, /sa-mun/ *n* a large fish with pinkish flesh and silver scales, greatly valued for food and sport.

**salmonella** /,sælmə'nɛlə/, /sal-mu-ne-la/ *n* a kind of bacteria that can cause sickness in people or animals.

**salon** /sə'lɒn/, /sa-lon/ *n* 1 a public room in a home, hotel, etc, where people gather. 2 a building or room used for a particular business, such as hairdressing, the selling of fashionable clothes, etc.

**saloon** /sə'lʊn/, /sa-loon/ *n* 1 a large public room in a passenger ship. 2 a kind of bar, a place where alcoholic drinks are sold and drunk.

**salsa** /'sælsə/, /sal-sa/ *n* 1 a type of Latin American dance music. 2 a spicy tomato sauce eaten with Mexican food.

**salt** /sɔlt/, /sawlt/ *n* 1 a white mineral, obtained from sea water or by mining, used to give flavour to or to preserve food. • *vb* to flavour or preserve with salt. • *adj* containing or tasting of salt. • *adj* **salty**.

**salt-and-pepper** /,sɔltən'pepər/, /sawl-tand-pe-per/ *adj* dotted or specked with black and white.

**saltcellar** /'sɔltselər/, /sawlt-se-ler/ *n* a small container for salt, often with a top that has a hole in it for shaking over food.

**saltire** /'sɔltaɪər/, /sawl-tire/ *n* a Saint Andrew's cross (X).

**saltwater** /'sɔltwɔ:tər/, /sawlt-waw-ter/ *adj* having to do with salt water or the sea.

**salutation** /sælju:təfən/, /sal-yu-tay-shun/ *n* a greeting.

**salute** /sə'lut/, /sa-loot/ *vb* 1 to greet. 2 to make a gesture of respect by raising the right hand to the forehead or cap, firing guns, etc. • *n* 1 the gesture of respect made by saluting. 2 the firing of guns as a welcome or mark of respect.

**salvage** /'sælvɪdʒ/, /sal-vidʒe/ *n* 1 the saving of a ship or its cargo from loss. 2 the saving of property from any sort of destruction. 3 property saved in this way. • *vb* to save from destruction, shipwreck, fire, etc.

**salvation** /sæl'vefən/, /sal-vay-shun/ *n* the saving or being saved from danger, evil, difficulty, destruction, etc.

**salve** /sælv/, /salv/ *n* a medicine applied to wounds, burns, etc, to soothe or heal.

**samba** /'sæmbə/, /sam-ba/ *n* 1 a South American dance of African origin. 2 music for this dance.

**same** /seim/, /same/ *adj* in no way different. • *n* the same person or thing. • *adv* in a like manner.

**sameness** /'seimnəs/, /same-ness/ *n* lack of change or variety.

**same-sex** /'seim,seks/, /same-seks/ *adj* of or relating to people of the same sex.

**sampan** /'sæmpən/, /sam-pan/ *n* a small flat-bottomed boat used in China.

**sample** /'sæmpəl/, /sam-pul/ *n* a part or piece given to show what the whole is like. • *vb* to try something to see what it is like.

**sampler** /'sæmplər/, /sam-pler/ *n* a cloth sewn with designs, words, etc, in different types of stitches to show a beginner's skill.

**samurai** /'sæmu,rai/, /sa-mu-rie/ *n* a member of the Japanese military class of people.

**sanatorium** /sænə'tɔriəm/, /sa-na-toe-ree-um/ *n*, also **sanitarium** /sa-ni-ter-ee-um/ (US) a quiet resort where people go to rest and regain their health, usually taking advantage of natural resources such as mineral springs.

**sanctify** /'sæŋktɪfaɪ/, /sang-ti-fie/ *vb* to make holy or sacred. • *n  
sanctification.*

**sanctimonious** /sæŋktɪ'mo:nɪəs/, /sang-ti-mo-nee-us/ *adj* pretending to be holy or religious. • *n sanctimony.*

**sanction** /'sæŋkʃən/, /sang-shun/ *n* 1 permission. 2 a punishment imposed to make people obey a law. • *vb* to permit.

**sanctity** /'sæŋktɪtɪ/, /sang(k)-ti-tee/ *n* holiness.

**sanctuary** /'sæŋktʃu'rei/, /sang(k)-che-wer-ee/ *n* 1 a place where a person is safe from pursuit or attack. 2 a place providing protection, such as a reserve for wildlife. 3 a holy place such as a church or temple.

**sanctum** /'sæŋktəm/, /sang(k)-tum/ *n* 1 a person's private room where he or she is not to be bothered. 2 a sacred place.

**sand** /sænd/, /sand/ *n* 1 loose, gritty pieces of tiny particles of rock, shell, etc. 2 *pl* stretches of sand on the seashore. • *vb* to rub with sandpaper to make smooth.

**sandal** /'sændəl/, /san-dal/ *n* a type of shoe to protect the sole, leaving the upper part of the foot largely uncovered except by straps, etc.

**sandalwood** /'sændəlwud/, /san-dal-wood/ *n* any of several kinds of sweet-smelling wood.

**sandbag** /'sændbæg/, /sand-bag/ *n* a bag filled with sand and used for protection against enemy attack or to protect against floods.

**sandbar** /'sændbɑ:/, /sand-bar/ *n* a ridge of sand formed in a river or along a shore by the currents or tides.

**sandpit** /'sændpɪt/, /sand-pit/ *n* an area filled with sand in which children can play.

**sander** /'sændər/, /san-der/ *n* a person or tool that sands.

**sand hopper** /'sænd,hopər/, /sand hop-er/ *n* any of the various tiny animals that jump like fleas on beaches.

**sandiness** /'sændɪnəs/, /san-dee-ness/ *n* a sandy state or quality.

**sandman** /'sændmæn/, /sand-man/ *n* a fairy-tale person who is thought to make children sleepy by dusting sand in their eyes.

**sandpaper** /'sænd,peɪpər/, /sand-pay-per/ *n* paper made rough by a coating of sand, used for smoothing and polishing.

**sandpiper** /'sænd,pəɪpər/, /sand-pie-per/ *n* a wading bird of the snipe family.

**sandstone** /'sændsto:n/, /sand-stone/ *n* a stone made up of sand pressed together.

**sandstorm** /'sændstɔ:rm/, /sand-stawrm/ *n* a windstorm in which large amounts of sand are blown about in the air near the ground.

**sandwich** /'sænwɪtʃ/, /san(d)-wich/ *n* two slices of bread with meat, cheese, salad, etc, in between them. • *vb* to fit between two other things.

**sandy** /'sændi/, /san-dee/ *adj* 1 covered with sand, full of sand. 2 the colour of sand, a reddish yellow.

**sane** /sem/, /sane/ *adj* 1 having a normal, healthy mind. 2 sensible.

**sang** *pt of sing.*

**sangria** /sæŋ'gri:ə/, /sang-gree-ya/ *n* a punch made with wine, fruit juice, pieces of fruit, and soda water.

**sanitary** /'sænɪ'teri/, /sa-ni-tree/ *adj* having to do with health or cleanliness.

**sanitary towel** /'sænɪ'teri tauəl/, /sa-ni-tree taoō-el/ *n* a cotton-filled pad worn by women during menstruation.

**sanitation** /'sæni'teɪʃən/, /sa-ni-tay-shun/ *n* 1 the process or methods of keeping places clean and healthy. 2 a drainage or sewage system.

**sanitize** /'sænə'taɪz/, /sa-ni-tize/ *vb*, also **sanitise** to make sanitary.

**sanity** /'sænɪti/, /sa-ni-tee/ *n* 1 the condition of being sane. 2 good sense.

**sank** *pt of sink.*

**sans** /sɒnz, sā/, /sanz/ *prep* without, lacking.

**Sanskrit** /'sænskrɪt/, /san-skrit/ *n* an ancient language of India. • *also adj.*

**sap** /sæp/, /sap/ *n* the juice that flows in plants, trees, etc, and feeds the various parts. • *vb* (**sapped**, **sapping**) to weaken gradually.

**sapling** /'sæplɪŋ/, /sap-ling/ *n* a young tree.

**sapphire** /'sæfərɪ/, /sa-fire/ *n* 1 a precious stone of a rich blue colour. 2 its colour. • *also adj.*

**sarcasm** /'sɑ:kæzəm/, /sar-ca-zum/ *n* a mocking remark intended to hurt another's feelings.

**sarcastic** /sɑ:kæstɪk/, /sar-ca-stic/ *adj* 1 given to sarcasm. 2 mocking, scornful.

**sarcophagus** /sɑ:kɒfəgəs/, /sar-caw-fa-gus/ *n* (*pl* **sarcophagi**) a stone coffin.

**sardine** /sar'di:n/, /sar-deen/ *n* a small fish of the herring family.

**sardonic** /sar'donik/, /sar-don-ic/ *adj* bitterly sneering, mocking.

**sari** /'sari/, /sa-ree/ *n* the dress of women in India, Pakistan, etc, consisting of a long piece of cloth wrapped around the body to form an ankle length skirt with the other end draped across the chest, over the shoulder, and sometimes over the head.

**sarong** /sə'rɔŋ/, /sa-rong/ *n* an item of clothing consisting of a length of often brightly coloured cloth worn wrapped around the waste like a skirt by both men and women.

**sarsaparilla** /,sæspə'rɪlə/, /sar-spa-ri-la/ *n* 1 any of a number of tropical, woody vines of the lily family with fragrant roots and heart-shaped leaves. 2 the dried roots of these plants, formerly used in medicine. 3 a sweetened, carbonated drink flavoured with sarsaparilla.

**sash**<sup>1</sup> /sæʃ/, /sash/ *n* a scarf worn around the waist or across the body over one shoulder.

**sash**<sup>2</sup> /sæʃ/, /sash/ *n* a window frame.

**sashay** /sæ'ʃeɪ/, /sa-shay/ *vb* to move, walk, etc. in such a way as to attract attention or show off.

**sassafras** /'sæsə,fræs/, /sa-sa-fras/ *n* 1 a small eastern North American tree having a pleasant smelling bark. 2 the dried root bark of this tree used as a flavouring.

**sat pt and pp of sit.**

**Satan** /'seɪtən/, /say-tin/ *n* in Christian belief, the enemy of humankind and of goodness, the devil.

**satanic** /sə'tænɪk/, /sa-tan-ic/ *adj* of, like, or having to do with the devil.

**Satanism** /'seɪtə,nɪzəm/, /say-ta-ni-zum/ *n* worship of Satan.

**satay** /sæ'teɪ/, 'sæteɪ/, /sa-tay, sa-tay/ *n* a dish consisting of chunks of flavoured meat broiled on sticks and dipped in a spicy peanut sauce.

**satchel** /'sætʃəl/, /sa-chel/ *n* a small bag worn on the shoulder or back for carrying books, clothes, etc.

**sate** /seɪt/, /sate/ *vb* to satisfy a want fully.

**satellite** /'sætə,ləɪt/, /sa-tu-lite/ *n* 1 a body, launched by man or there naturally, that moves through the heavens around a larger body. 2 a person who depends completely on another. 3 a country that is totally in the power of another.

**satellite dish** /'sætə,ləɪt dɪʃ/, /sa-tu-lite dish/ *n* bowl-shaped device on the outside of a building for receiving television signals sent by a satellite.

**satellite television** /'sætə,ləɪt 'teləvɪzən/, /sa-tu-lite tel-le-vizh-un/ *n* the broadcasting of television programmes via satellite rather than by television masts on land.

**satiety** /sə'taɪti/, /su-tie-i-tee/, **satiation** /say-shee-ay-shun/ *n* 1 the state of having more than enough. 2 over-fullness.

**satin** /'sætən/, /sa-tin/ *n* a silk or nylon cloth that is shiny on one side.

**satire** /'sætaɪr/, /sa-tire/ *n* a piece of writing in which persons, customs, actions, etc, are mocked and made to appear foolish. • *adj satirical*.

**satirist** /'sætərɪst/, /sa-ti-rist/ *n* a person who writes satires.

**satirize** /'sætəraɪz/, /sa-ti-rize/ *vb*, also **satirise** to make seem foolish in satire.

**satisfaction** /,sætɪs'fækʃən/, /sa-tis-fac-shun/ *n* 1 contentment. 2 the feeling of having enough.

**satisfactory** /,sætɪs'fæktəri/, /sa-tis-fac-tree/ *adj* 1 good enough. 2 quite good.

**satisfy** /'sætəs,fai/, /sa-tis-fie/ *vb* 1 to give all that is requested or expected. 2 to be enough. 3 to convince.

**sat nav** /'sæt,næv/, /sat nav/ *abbr* = **satellite navigation**: a piece of electronic equipment in a vehicle giving information via satellite as

to location and best route.

**satsuma** /'sætsumə/, /sat-soo-ma/ *n* a small, loose-skinned kind of orange.

**saturate** /'sætʃə'reit/, /sa-chu-rate/ *vb* to soak something so thoroughly that it cannot take in any more liquid. • *n* **saturation**.

**Saturday** /'sætər'deɪ/, /sa-tur-day/ *n* the seventh day of the week.

**Saturn** /'sætərn/, /sah-turn/ *n* the sixth planet away from the sun.

**satyr** /'seɪtər/, /say-tur/ *adj* a mythical creature, half man, half goat.

**sauce** /sɔ:s/, /saws/ *n* 1 a liquid poured on foods to improve or bring out the flavour. 2 (*inf*) rash or impudent talk.

**saucepan** /sɔ:spæn/, /saws-pan/ *n* a small pot with a lid and handle.

**saucer** /sɔ:sər/, /saw-ser/ *n* a small plate placed under a cup.

**saucy** /'sɔ:si/, /saw-see/ *adj* 1 rude. 2 stylish or smart.

**sauerkraut** /'sauər,kraʊt/, /sa-wer-kroud/ *n* chopped cabbage soaked in its own juice and salt.

**sauna** /'sɒnə/, /saw-na/ *n* a bath of dry, hot air produced by dropping small amounts of water onto very hot stones, usually followed by a plunge into icy cold water.

**saunter** /'sɔ:nər/, /sawn-ter/ *vb* to walk slowly, to stroll. • *also n.*

**sausage** /'sɔ:sidʒ/, /saw-sidge/ *n* a roll of minced meat and seasonings in a thin skin.

**sauté** /'sɒteɪ/, /saw-tay/ *adj* to fry quickly in a pan with a small amount of oil.

**savage** /'sævɪdʒ/, /sa-vidge/ *adj* 1 wild, untamed, or uncivilized. 2 fierce, cruel. • *n* a very cruel person.

**savagery** /'sævədʒəri/, /sa-vidge-ree/ *n* 1 cruelty. 2 the state of being wild or uncivilized.

**savanna(h)** /sə'venə/, /sa-van-a/ *n* a grassy, treeless plain.

**save** /seɪv/, /save/ *vb* 1 to rescue from danger or harm. 2 to keep for future use. 3 to keep money instead of spending it. • *prep except*.

**savings** /'seɪvɪŋz/, /say-vingz/ *npl* money put aside for future use.

**saviour** /'seɪvjər/, /save-yur/ *n*, also **savior** (US) a person who saves from danger or harm.

**savour** /'seɪvjur/, /say-vur/ *n, also savor (US)* taste, flavour. • *vb* 1 to taste. 2 to have a taste of, to suggest the idea of.

**savoury** /'seɪvəri/, /say-vu-ree/ *adj, also savory (US)* 1 salty, meaty, or sharp, rather than sweet. 2 pleasant, morally acceptable. • *n* an appetizing dish served at the beginning or end of dinner or as a snack at a party, etc.

**savoy** /'sævɔɪ/, /sa-voy/ *n* a type of cabbage with crinkled leaves.

**savvy** /'sævi/, /sa-vee/ (*inf*) *n* shrewdness, understanding, know-how.

**saw<sup>1</sup>** /sɔ:/, /saw/ *n* a tool with a toothed edge used for cutting wood, etc. • *vb* to cut with a saw.

**saw<sup>2</sup>** /sɔ:/, /saw/ *n* a wise old saying.

**saw<sup>3</sup>** /sɔ:/, /saw/ *pt of see.*

**sawdust** /'sɔdəst/, /saw-dust/ *n* small fragments of wood made by sawing.

**sawmill** /'sɔmɪl/, /saw-mill/ *n* a mill with a mechanical saw for cutting wood.

**sax** /sæks/, /saks/ *n* short for saxophone.

**saxophone** /'sæksəfɔ:n/, /sak-su-fone/ *n* a brass wind instrument with a single reed and keys.

**say** /sei/, /say/ *vb (pt said)* 1 to utter in words, to speak. 2 to state. • *n* the right to give an opinion.

**saying** /'seɪŋ/, /say-ing/ *n* a proverb, something commonly said.

**scab** /skæb/, /scab/ *n* a crust that forms over a healing sore. • *adj* scabby.

**scabbard** /'skæbərd/, /sca-bard/ *n* the case of a sword.

**scabies** /'skeɪbi:z/, /scay-beez/ *n* an itchy skin disease.

**scaffold** /'skæfɔ:ld/, /sca-foald/ *n* the platform on which people stand during the erecting, repairing, or painting of a building, etc.

**scallywag** /'skælə,wæg/, /sca-li-wag/ *n* a rascal.

**scald** /skɔ:ld/, /scawld/ *vb* to burn with hot liquid. • *n* a burn caused by hot liquid.

**scale<sup>1</sup>** /skeɪl/, /scale/ *n* one of the thin flakes or flat plates on the skin of fish, reptiles, etc. • *vb* to remove the scales from. • *adj* scaly covered with scales, like a fish.

**scale**<sup>2</sup> /skeɪl/, /skæl/ *n* a balance or weighing machine.

**scale**<sup>3</sup> /skeɪl/, /skæl/ *n* 1 a series of successive musical notes between one note and its octave. 2 the size of a map compared with the amount of area it represents. 3 a measure. 4 a system of units for measuring. 5 a system of grading. 6 size, extent. • *vb* to climb.

**scalene** /'skeɪlɪn/, /scay-leen/ *adj* (of a triangle) having unequal sides and angles.

**scallop** /'skæləp, 'skɒləp/, /ska-lup, sco-lup/ *n* 1 an edible shellfish, the shell of which has an uneven and toothed edge. 2 a series of even curves. • *vb* to cut in scallops. • *adj* **scalloped** with an edge shaped like that of the scallop shell.

**scalp** /skælp/, /scalp/ *n* the skin and hairs on top of the head. • *vb* to cut off the scalp.

**scalpel** /'skælpəl/, /scal-pul/ *n* a light, very sharp knife used by a surgeon.

**scam** /skæm/, /scam/ *n* a swindle, cheat, or fraud. • *also vb.*

**scamp** /skæmpl/, /scamp/ *n* a rascal.

**scamper** /'skæmpər/, /scam-per/ *vb* to run quickly or hurriedly, as if afraid. • *n* a quick or hurried run.

**scampi** /'skæmpi/, /scam-pee/ *n* a large shrimp broiled or fried with its tail on and served hot.

**scan** /skæn/, /scan/ *vb* (**scanned**, **scanning**) 1 to look at closely or carefully. 2 to obtain an image of an internal part (of the body) by using X-rays, ultrasonic waves, etc. • *n* a medical examination in which part of the body is scanned.

**scandal** /'skændəl/, /scan-dal/ *n* 1 widespread talk about someone's wrongdoings, real or supposed. 2 a disgrace. 3 disgraceful behaviour that gives rise to widespread talk.

**scandalize** /skændəlaɪz/, /scan-da-lize/ *vb*, *also scandalise* to shock.

**scandalous** /'skændələs/, /scan-da-luss/ *adj* disgraceful.

**scanner** /'skænər/, /sca-ner/ *n* a person or thing that scans.

**scant** /skænt/, /scant/ *adj* barely enough, very little.

**scanty** /'skænti/, /scan-tee/ *adj* barely enough, very little.

**scapegoat** /'speɪpgə:t/, /scape-goat/ *n* a person who is given the blame for wrong done by others.

**scar<sup>1</sup>** /skɑ:l/, /scar/ *n* the mark left by a healed wound. • *vb* (**scarred**, **scarring**) to leave or cause a scar.

**scar<sup>2</sup>** /skɑ:l/, /scar/ *n* a cliff.

**scarab** /'skerəb/, /sca-rab/ *n* a beetle considered sacred in ancient Egypt.

**scarce** /skɜ:s/, /scayrɔ:/ *adj* 1 few and hard to find. 2 not enough.

**scarcely** /'skɜ:sli/, /scare-slee/ *adv* hardly; surely not.

**scarcity** /'skɜ:siti/, /scare-si-tee/ *n* shortage, lack of what is necessary.

**scare** /sker/, /scare/ *vb* to frighten. • *n* a fright, panic.

**scarecrow** /'skerkrɔ:/, /scare-croel/ *n* 1 anything (e.g. a dummy man) set up to frighten away birds. 2 someone dressed in rags.

**scaremonger** /'sker,mɔŋgər/, /scare-mung-ger/ *n* a person who purposely scares people.

**scarf** /skɑ:f/, /scarf/ *n* (pl **scarfs** or **scarves**) a strip of material worn around the neck and over the shoulders.

**scarify** /'skeri,fai/, /scay-ri-fie/ *vb* to make many scratches or small cuts in the skin, as for surgery.

**scarlet** /'skarlət/, /scar-let/ *n* a bright red colour. • *also adj.*

**scarlet fever** /skarlət 'fi:və/, /scar-let fee-ver/ *n* a very infectious disease causing a red rash on the skin, sore throat, and fever.

**scarp** /skarp/, /scarp/ *n* a steep slope.

**scarves** *pl* of **scarf**.

**scary** /'skeri/, /skay-ree/ *adj* causing alarm, frightening.

**scathe** /'skeɪð/, /skathe/ *vb* to injure.

**scathing** /'skeɪðɪŋ/, /skay-thing/ *adj* hurtful, bitter, harsh.

**scatter** /'skætər/, /sca-ter/ *vb* 1 to throw about on all sides. 2 to go away or drive in different directions.

**scatterbrain** /'skætər,brein/, /sca-ter-brane/ *n* a foolish person, a person not capable of serious thinking. • *adj* **scatterbrained**.

**scatty** /'skæti/, /sca-tee/ *adj* rather silly, disorganized and forgetful.

**scavenger** /'skævəndʒər/, /sca-vin-jer/ *n* an animal or person that searches for or lives on discarded or decaying material. • *vb* **scavenge**.

**scenario** /sə'nərio:/, /si-nar-ee-yo/ *n* 1 an outline of the main incidents in a play or film. 2 an outline for any planned series of events.

**scene** /si:n/, /seen/ *n* 1 the place where something happens. 2 what a person can see from a certain viewpoint. 3 a distinct part of a play. 4 a painted background set up on the stage to represent the place of the action. 5 a quarrel or open show of strong feeling in a public place. • **behind the scenes** in private.

**scenery** /'si:nəri/, /seen-ree/ *n* 1 the painted backgrounds set up during a play to represent the places of the action. 2 the general appearance of a countryside.

**scenic** /'si:nik/, /see-nic/ *adj* 1 having to do with scenery. 2 picturesque.

**scent** /sənt/, /sent/ *n* 1 a smell, especially a pleasant one. 2 the smell of an animal left on its tracks. 3 the sense of smell. • *vb* 1 to smell. 2 to find by smelling. 3 to make something smell pleasant.

**sceptic** /'skeptik/, /skep-tik/ *adj*, also **skeptic** (US) a person who doubts things that others believe are true. • *adj* **sceptical**, also **skeptical** (US).

**sceptre** /'septər/, /sep-ter/ *n*, also **scepter** (US) the staff held by a ruler as a sign of authority.

**schedule** /'skedʒu:l, 'sedju:l/, /'sedʒu:l/, /sked-yool, she-jul/ *n* a list of details, a timetable. • *vb* to plan.

**scheme** /ski:m/, /skeem/ *n* 1 a plan of what is to be done. 2 a plot. • *vb* 1 to plan. 2 to plot. • *n* **schemer**. • *adj* **scheming** given to planning schemes.

**schism** /'skizəm/, /skism/ *n* a dispute or division between two groups.

**schizophrenia** /skɪtsə'fri:niə/, /skits-oh-free-nee-a/ *n* a severe mental disorder in which a person's thoughts and feelings are not based on reality. • *adj* **schizophrenic** relating to schizophrenia. 2 (*inf*) having opposing or contradictory elements, opinions or attitudes.

**scholar** /'skɒlər/, /skɔ:l-ər/ *n* a learned person.

**scholarly** /'skɒlərlɪ/, /skɔ:l-ər-lee/ *adj* learned.

**scholarship** /'skɒlərfɪp/, /skɔ:l-ər-ʃip/ *n* **1** learning. **2** wide knowledge. **3** a grant of money given to students to help pay for their education.

**scholastic** /skə'læstɪk/, /sku-ləs-tic/ *adj* having to do with schools or scholars.

**school<sup>1</sup>** /sku:l/, /sko:ol/ *n* **1** a place where children are educated. **2** a place where instruction is given in a particular subject. **3** a group of writers, thinkers, painters, etc, having the same or similar methods, principles, aims, etc. • *vb* to train.

**school<sup>2</sup>** /sku:l/, /sko:ol/ *n* a large number of fish of the same kind swimming together.

**schoolbook** /'sku:lbʊ:k/, /sko:ol-book/ *n* a book used for study in schools.

**schooling** /'sku:lɪŋ/, /skoo-ling/ *n* training or education.

**schoolroom** /'sku:lru:m/, /sko:ol-room/ *n* a room in which students are taught.

**schoolteacher** /'sku:l,ti:tʃər/, /sko:ol-tee-cher/ *n* a person whose job it is to teach in a school.

**schoolwork** /'sku:lwɜ:k/, /sko:ol-wɜ:k/ *n* lessons worked on in classes for school or done as homework.

**schooner** /'sku:nər/, /skoo-ner/ *n* **1** a large sailing ship with two masts. **2** a kind of large glass.

**sciatic** /saɪ'ætɪk/, /sie-ya-tic/ *adj* having to do with the hip or with the nerve (**sciatic nerve**) that goes down the back of the thigh.

**sciatica** /saɪ'ætɪkə/, /see-ya-ti-ca/ *n* pain in the hip or thigh, caused by pressure on the sciatic nerve.

**science** /'saɪəns/, /sie-ense/ *n* **1** all that is known about a subject, arranged in a systematic manner. **2** the study of the laws and principles of nature. **3** trained skill.

**science fiction** /,saɪəns 'fɪkʃən/, /sie-ense fic-shun/ *n* a form of fiction that deals with imaginary scientific developments or imaginary life on other planets, often abbreviated to **sci-fi**.

**scientific** /'saɪən'tɪfɪk/, /sie-en-ti-fic/ *adj* 1 having to do with science. 2 done in a systematic manner.

**scientist** /'saɪəntɪst/, /sie-en-tist/ *n* a person learned in one of the sciences.

**sci-fi** /'saɪfaɪ/, /sie-fie/ see **science fiction**.

**scissors** /'sɪzərs/, /si-zurz/ *n* a cutting tool consisting of two blades moving on a central pin.

**scoff** /skɒf/, /scoff/ *vb* 1 to mock (at). 2 to eat very quickly. • *n* mocking words, a jeer.

**scold** /sko:ld/, /scoald/ *vb* to find fault with angrily.

**scone** /sku:n/, /scon, scoan/ *n* a round, sweet tea bread, made of flour, butter, baking powder, eggs and milk, served with butter or cream and jam.

**scoop** /sku:p/, /scoop/ *vb* 1 to gather and lift up, as with the hands. 2 to hollow with a knife, etc. • *n* 1 a deep shovel for lifting grain, earth from a hole, etc. 2 a piece of important news known only to one newspaper.

**scoot** /sku:t/, /scoot/ *vb* to go or move quickly.

**scooter** /'skʊtər/, /scoo-ter/ *n* 1 a child's toy for riding on with a footboard, wheels at either end, and a raised handlebar for steering, moved by pushing off the ground with one foot. 2 a light motorcycle.

**scope** /sko:p/, /scope/ *n* 1 the range of matters being dealt with. 2 opportunity.

**scorch** /skɔ:tʃ/, /scawrch/ *vb* 1 to burn the outside of. 2 to singe or blacken by burning.

**scorcher** /'skɔ:tʃər/, /scawr-cher/ *n* 1 (*inf*) a very hot day.

**score** /skɔ:/, /score/ *n* 1 a set of 20. 2 a mark or line cut on the surface of. 3 a note of what is to be paid. 4 in games, the runs, goals, points, etc, made by those taking part. 5 a piece of music written down to show the parts played by different instruments. • *vb* 1 to make marks or scratches on the surface of. 2 to gain an advantage. 3 to keep the score of a game. 4 to arrange music in a score. • **score off** to get the better of. • *n* **scorer**.

**scoreboard** /'skɔrbɔrd/, /score-board/ *n* a large board for posting the score and other details of a game.

**scorekeeper** /'skɔrki:pər/, /score-kee-per/ *n* a person who keeps score at a game or contest.

**scorn** /skɔrn/, /scawrn/ *vb* 1 to feel dislike for. 2 to refuse to have anything to do with. • *n* dislike, complete lack of respect for.

**scornful** /'skɔrnful/, /scawrn-ful/ *adj* mocking, full of dislike.

**scorpion** /'skɔrpɪən/, /scawr-pe-on/ *n* a small creature related to the spider with eight legs and a lobsterlike tail containing a poisonous sting, found in warm regions.

**scoundrel** /'skaundrəl/, /scoun-drel/ *n* a thoroughly wicked person, a rascal.

**scour<sup>1</sup>** /'skaur/, /scour/ *vb* to clean or brighten by rubbing.

**scour<sup>2</sup>** /'skaur/, /scour/ *vb* to go back and forward over, searching carefully.

**scourge** /skərdʒ/, /scurdʒ/ *n* 1 a whip. 2 a cause of great trouble or suffering. • *vb* 1 to whip. 2 to make suffer greatly.

**scourings** /'skaurɪŋz/, /scou-ringz/ *n* dirt or remains removed by scouring.

**scout** /skəut/, /scout/ *n* 1 a person sent in front to see what lies ahead and bring back news. 2 a person employed to find new talent. • *vb* 1 to go out as a scout. 2 to search or explore.

**Scout** /skəut/, /scout/ *n* a member of the Scout Association, a youth organization that stress ability and skill in a wide range of activities.

**scowl** /skaul/, /scowl/ *vb* to lower the brows and wrinkle the forehead in anger or disapproval. • *also n.*

**scrabble** /'skræbəl/, /scra-bul/ *vb* 1 to scratch, scrape, or paw as though looking for something. 2 to move quickly and awkwardly.

**scraggy** /'skrægi/, /scrag-ee/ *adj* thin and bony.

**scram** /skræm/, /scram/ *vb* to leave or get out, especially in a hurry.

**scramble** /'skræmbəl/, /scram-bul/ *vb* 1 to climb using both hands and feet. 2 to move awkwardly or with difficulty. 3 to struggle to obtain. 4 to throw together randomly, to collect without any method. • *n* a pushing and struggling for something.

**scrap** /skræp/, /scræp/ *n* 1 a small piece. 2 a picture, often cut to shape, for pasting in a book. 3 *pl* what is left over. • *vb* (**scrapped**, **scrapping**) to throw away as no longer useful.

**scrapbook** /'skræpbuk/, /scræp-book/ *n* a book for keeping scraps, cuttings from newspapers, pictures, etc.

**scrape** /skreip/, /scraper/ *vb* 1 to clean by rubbing with an edged instrument. 2 to make a harsh, unpleasant sound by rubbing along. 3 to save or gather with difficulty. 4 to scratch by rubbing, as if by a fall. • *n* 1 a scratch. 2 something caused by scraping or its sound. 3 (*inf*) a small fight. 4 (*inf*) a difficult situation.

**scrap heap** /'skræphi:p/, /scræp-heep/ *n* a place for waste material, a rubbish heap.

**scraping** /'skreipɪŋ/, /scræy-ping/ *n* the act of a person or thing that scrapes; the sound of this.

**scrappy** /'skræpi/, /scra-peel/ *adj* made up of bits and pieces, incomplete.

**scratch** /skrætʃ/, /scratch/ *vb* 1 to mark or wound the surface with something pointed. 2 to rub with the fingernails to stop itching. 3 to tear with the fingernails or claws. 4 to rub out or cross off. 5 to withdraw from a competition or contest. • *n* a slight mark or wound, especially one made by scratching. • *adj* 1 without a plus or minus handicap. 2 put together hastily. • **up to scratch** as good as usual.

**scratchy** /'skrætʃi/, /scratch-ee/ *adj* that scratches, scrapes, itches, etc.

**scrawl** /skrɔ:l/, /scrawl/ *vb* to write untidily or carelessly. • *n* untidy or careless handwriting.

**scrawny** /'skrɔni/, /scraw-nee/ *adj* very thin, skinny, bony, small, etc.

**scream** /skri:m/, /screem/ *vb* to shout in a loud, high-pitched voice, to shriek. • *also n.*

**screamer** /'skri:mər/, /scree-mer/ *n* a person who screams.

**scree** /skri:/, /scree/ *n* loose stones, etc, on a slope or at the foot of a cliff.

**screech** /skri:tʃ/, /screech/ *vb* to utter a loud, high-pitched cry. • *also n.*

**screed** /skri:d/, /screed/ *n* a long and uninteresting written statement.

**screen** /skri:n/, /screen/ *n* 1 a movable piece of furniture, similar to a section of fence, that can be used to block a draught, to conceal part of a room, etc. 2 a surface on which films are shown. 3 a frame covered with mesh of wire or plastic and fixed into windows or doors so that when they are open no insects can get in. 4 the front glass surface of a television, computer, etc, on which pictures or items of information are shown. 5 a sieve for separating smaller pieces of coal, stones, etc, from larger. • *vb* 1 to protect. 2 to hide. 3 to put through a test. 4 to carry out medical tests on a large number of people to check whether they have a particular disease or not. 5 to show on film or television.

**screenplay** /'skri:npleɪ/, /screen-play/ *n* the script from which a film is produced.

**screen saver** /'skri:n,seɪvər/, /screen say-er/ *n* a program that prolongs the life of a computer monitor.

**screenwriter** /,skri:n,rəɪtər/, /screen-rie-ter/ *n* the writer of a script for a film.

**screw** /skru:/, /scroo/ *n* 1 a type of nail with a spiral thread so that it can be twisted into wood, etc, instead of hammered. 2 a twist or turn. • *vb* 1 to fasten by means of a screw. 2 to twist. 3 (*inf*) to have sex with. 4(*inf*) to cheat or swindle.

**screwdriver** /'skru:draɪvər/, /scroo-drie-ver/ *n* a tool that can fit into the slot on the head of a screw and turn it into wood, plaster, etc.

**scribble** /'skribəl/, /scri-bul/ *vb* to write carelessly or hurriedly. • *n* something written quickly or carelessly. • *n* **scribbler** a person who writes carelessly.

**scribe** /skraɪb/, /scribe/ *n* 1 a person whose job it was to copy books, pamphlets, poems, etc, by hand before the invention of the printing machine. 2 a writer or author.

**scrim** /skrɪm/, /scrim/ *n* a light, sheer, loosely woven cloth used for curtains, linings, etc.

**scrimmage** /'skrɪmɪdʒ/, /scri-midge/ *n* a confused fight or struggle.

**scrimp** /skrɪmp/, /scrimp/ *vb* to give or use too little of.

**script** /skript/, /script/ *n* **1** handwriting. **2** a printing type like handwriting. **3** a written outline of the actions, speaking, etc, in a film. **4** the text of a show, film, or play.

**scripture(s)** /'skriptʃər/, /scrip-tchur(z)/ *n* a holy book or set of writings, such as the Bible, the Koran, etc. • *adj* **scriptural**.

**scrotum** /'skro:təm/, /scro-tem/ *n* the bag that contains the testicles.

**scrounge** /skraundʒ/, /scrounj/ *vb* to try to get something for free.

**scrub<sup>1</sup>** /skrəb/, /scrub/ *vb* (**scrubbed**, **scrubbing**) **1** to clean by rubbing hard, especially with a stiff brush. **2** (*inf*) to cancel, to remove.

**scrub<sup>2</sup>** /skrəb/, /scrub/ *n* small stunted bushes or trees, brushwood.

• *adj* **scrubby**.

**scrubland** /'skreblænd/, /scrub-land/ *n* land or a region that has much scrub plant life.

**scruff** /skrəf/, /scruff/ *n* the back of the neck.

**scruffy** /'skrəfi/, /scru-fee/ *adj* shabby, untidy.

**scrumptious** /'skrʌmpʃəs/, /scrum-chus/ *adj* very pleasing, attractive, etc, especially to the taste, delicious.

**scrutinize** /'skru:tɪnaɪz/, /scroo-ti-nize/ *vb*, also **scrutinise** to look at closely or carefully. • *n* **scrutinizer**, also **scrutiniser**.

**scrutiny** /'skru:tmi/, /scroo-ti-nee/ *n* a close or careful look.

**scuba** /sku:bə/, /scoo-ba/ *abbr* = **self-contained underwater breathing apparatus**: worn by divers for breathing underwater, usually consisting of air tanks strapped to the back and connected by a hose to a mouthpiece.

**scud** /skad/, /scud/ *vb* (**scuddled**, **scudding**) to move quickly.

**scuff** /skəf/, /scuff/ *vb* **1** to scrape with the feet. **2** to wear a rough place or places on the surface of.

**scuffle** /'skəfəl/, /scu-ful/ *n* a confused or disorderly struggle.

**scull** /skəl/, /scull/ *n* one of a pair of short oars. • *vb* **1** to row with sculls. **2** to move a boat by rowing with one oar at the front.

**sculpt** /skəlp/, /sculpt/ *vb* to carve or model a figure, design, image, etc.

**sculptor** /'skəlpər/, /sculp-tur/ *n* a person skilled in sculpture.

**sculpture** /'skelptʃər/, /sculp-tchur/ *n* **1** the art of carving or modelling in wood, stone, clay, etc. **2** a work of sculpture.

**scum** /skəm/, /scum/ *n* **1** dirt and froth that gathers on the surface of liquid. **2** wicked or worthless people. • *adj* scummy.

**scurf** /skərf/, /scurf/ *n* small dry flakes of skin.

**scurrilous** /'skərɪləs/, /scu-ri-lus/ *adj* **1** using bad or indecent language. **2** very insulting.

**scurry** /'skəri/, /scur-vee/ *vb* to run hurriedly. • *also n.*

**scurvy** /'skərvɪ/, /scur-ee/ *n* a disease caused by lack of fresh fruit or vegetables. • *adj* mean, nasty.

**scuttle**<sup>1</sup> /'skətəl/, /scu-tul/ *n* a box or bucket for keeping coal at the fireside.

**scuttle**<sup>2</sup> /'skətəl/, /scu-tul/ *n* a hole with a lid in the deck or side of a ship. • *vb* to sink (a ship) by making a hole in it.

**scuttle**<sup>3</sup> /'skətəl/, /scu-tul/ *vb* to run away hurriedly.

**scythe** /saɪð/, /sythe/ *n* a tool consisting of a long, curving, very sharp blade set at an angle to a long handle, used for cutting grass, etc. • *vb* to cut with a scythe.

**sea** /si:/, /see/ *n* **1** the salt water that covers much of Earth's surface. **2** a large extent of this. **3** a large amount or extent of anything. • **at sea** confused and uncertain.

**seabed** /'si:bəd/, /see-bed/ *n* the ocean floor, especially the areas with rich mineral or oil deposits.

**seabird** /si:bird/, /see-bird/ *n* a bird living on or near the sea.

**seaboard** /'si:bɔrd/, /see-board/ *n* land or coastal region near the sea.

**seafood** /'si:fud/, /see-food/ *n* food prepared from or consisting of saltwater fish or shellfish.

**seagull** /'si:gʌl/, /see-gull/ *n* a kind of bird that lives along the seacoast.

**sea horse** /'si:hɔ:rs/, /see hawrse/ *n* a kind of small, tropical, bony fish with the head and nose looking somewhat like those of a horse.

**seal<sup>1</sup>** /si:l/, /seel/ *n* **1** wax with a design, etc, stamped on it, used to fasten shut envelopes, boxes, etc. **2** a stamp with a design, initials, etc, engraved on it. **3** a substance or thing that closes, fixes, or prevents leakage. • *vb* **1** to fasten with a seal. **2** to close firmly. **3** to make airtight. **4** to confirm.

**seal<sup>2</sup>** /si:l/, /seel/ *n* a sea animal valued for its oil and fur.

**sealant** /'si:lənt/, /see-lant/ *n* any substance used for sealing, such as wax, plastic, etc.

**sea level** /'si:ləvəl/, /see le-vəl/ *n* the level of the sea's surface at half-tide.

**sea lion** /'si:laiən/, /see lie-un/ *n* a large seal.

**sealskin** /'si:lskm/, /seel-skin/ *n* **1** the skin or pelt of the seal. **2** an article of clothing made from this.

**seam** /si:m/, /seem/ *n* the line made by two pieces of something joined together, such as the stitching joining two pieces of cloth.

**seamless** /'si:mləs/, /seem-less/ *adj* made without a seam.

**seamstress** /'si:mstrəs/, /seem-stress/ *n* a woman who makes her living by sewing.

**séance** /'səns/, /say-onss/ *n* a meeting, especially of people who believe they can call up the spirits of the dead.

**seaplane** /'si:pleɪn/, /see-plane/ *n* an aeroplane with floats that enable it to take off from or land on water.

**sear** /si:r/, /seer/ *vb* **1** to burn with sudden powerful heat. **2** to have a very strong and painful or unpleasant effect on. • *adj* dry, withered.

**search** /sərtʃ/, /serch/ *vb* to look for, to explore, to try to find. • *n* act of looking for. • *n* **searcher**.

**search engine** /'sərtʃ endʒɪn/, /serch en-jin/ *n* computer software designed to locate items on a given topic.

**searching** /'sərtʃɪŋ/, /ser-ching/ *adj* thorough, testing thoroughly.

**searchlight** /'sərtʃləɪt/, /serch-lite/ *n* a powerful electric lamp able to throw a beam of light on distant objects.

**seasick** /'si:sɪk/, /see-sick/ *adj* sick because of the rocking of a ship at sea.

**seaside** /'si:said/, /see-side/ *n* the land near or beside the sea.

**season<sup>1</sup>** /'si:zən/, /see-zun/ *n* **1** one of the four divisions of the year (e.g. winter, summer). **2** a time of the year noted for a particular activity.

**season<sup>2</sup>** /'si:zən/, /see-zun/ *vb* **1** to make (wood) hard and fit for use by drying gradually. **2** to add something to food to give it a good taste.

**seasonable** /'si:zənəbəl/, /seez-na-bul/ *adj* suitable to the season of the year.

**seasonal** /'si:zənəl/, /seez-nal/ *adj* having to do with one or all of the seasons.

**seasoning** /'si:zənɪŋ/, /seez-ning/ *n* anything added to food to bring out or improve its taste.

**season ticket** /'si:zən ,tikət/, /see-zun ti-ket/ a ticket that can be used many times over a stated period.

**seat** /sɪ:t/, /seet/ *n* **1** anything on which a person sits. **2** a piece of furniture for sitting on. **3** a place for a person to sit in a vehicle, hall, etc. **4** a parliamentary constituency. **5** a person's bottom. **6** large country house belonging to an aristocratic family. • *vb* **1** to place on a seat. **2** to have or provide seats for.

**seat belt** /sɪ:t bɛlt/, /seet belt/ *n* a belt worn across the lap and sometimes chest to keep a person in place while driving, flying, riding, etc.

**sea urchin** /sɪ:ərtʃɪn/, /see ur-chin/ *n* a sea creature living in a round prickly shell.

**seaweed** /sɪ:wɪ:d/, /see-weed/ *n* sea plants.

**secede** /sə'si:d/, /si-seed/ *vb* to break away from.

**secession** /sə'seʃən/, /si-se-shun/ *n* act of seceding. • *n*  
**secessionist** a person who favours or takes part in a secession.

**seclude** /sə'klu:d/, /si-clood/ *vb* to keep away from others, to make private or hidden.

**secluded** /sə'klu:dəd/, /si-cloo-did/ *adj* **1** out of the way. **2** private, quiet.

**seclusion** /sə'klu:ʒən/, /si-cloo-zhun/ *n* quietness and privacy.

**second<sup>1</sup>** /'sekənd/, /se-cund/ *adj* coming immediately after the first. • *n* **1** a person who comes after the first. **2** a person who supports

and assists another in a fight or duel. **3** *npl* goods that because of some flaw are sold more cheaply. • *vb* **1** to support. **2** to assist. • *vb* /**se-connected**/ to transfer from normal duties to other duties.

**second**<sup>2</sup> /'sekənd/, /**se**-cund/ *n* the 60th part of a minute.

**secondary** /'sekənd,əri/, /**se**-cun-de-ree/ *adj* **1** of less importance. **2** coming after that which is first in a series of events, states, etc.

**secondary school** /'sekəndəri ,sku:l/, /**se**-cun-de-ree skool/ *n* a school for pupils who are over the age of 11 or 12.

**second-guess** /,sekənd 'ges/, /se-cund-gess/ *vb* try to predict what is likely to happen by guesswork.

**secondhand** /,sekənd'hænd/, /se-cund hand/ *adj* not new, having been used by another.

**second hand** /'sekənd,hænd/, /**se**-cund hand/ *n* the hand on a clock or watch that times the seconds.

**second nature** /,sekənd'naytʃər/, /**se**-cund nay-chur/ *n* habits fixed so deeply that they seem a part of a person's nature.

**second-rate** /,sekənd'reɪt/, /se-cund-rate/ *adj* not of high quality.

**second sight** /,sekənd'seit/, /se-cund site/ *n* the ability to see things happening elsewhere or to foresee the future.

**second wind** /,sekənd'wind/, /**se**-cund wind/ *n* the ability to breathe smoothly again after having been out of breath.

**secrecy** /'si:kreti/, /**see**-cre-see/ *n* **1** the habit of keeping information to oneself. **2** concealment.

**secret** /'si:kret/, /**see**-cret/ *adj* **1** hidden from others. **2** known or told to few. **3** private. • *n* **1** a piece of information kept from others. **2** privacy. **3** a hidden reason or cause.

**secretarial** /'sekre,teriəl/, /sec-re-ter-ee-al/ *adj* having to do with the work of a secretary.

**secretary** /'sekre,teri/, /**sec**-re-ter-ee/ *n* **1** a person whose job it is to deal with letters and help to carry out the day-to-day business of his or her employer. **2** a high government official or minister.

**secrete** / sə'kri:t/, /si-creet/ *vb* **1** to hide away. **2** to produce a substance or fluid within the body by means of glands or other organs.

**secretion** /sə'kri:ʃən/, /si-**cree**-shun/ *n* **1** the act of secreting. **2** the substance or fluid secreted (e.g. saliva).

**secretive** /'si:kretɪv/, /**see**-cri-tiv/ *adj* **1** keeping information to oneself. **2** fond of concealing things.

**sect** /səkt/, /sect/ *n* a body of persons holding the same beliefs, especially in religion.

**sectarian** /sək'teriən/, /sec-**ter**-ee-an/ *adj* **1** having to do with a sect or sects. **2** concerned with or relating to the interests of a person's own group, etc.

**section** /'səkʃən/, /**sec**-shun/ *n* **1** a distinct part. **2** a part cut off. • *adj* **sectional**.

**sector** /'səktər/, /**sec**-tor/ *n* **1** a section of a circle. **2** one of the parts into which an area is divided. **3** part of a field of activity. • *adj* **sectorial**.

**secular** /'səkjulər/, /**se**-cyu-lar/ *adj* **1** having to do with this world, not with a faith or religion; not sacred. **2** having to do with lay, not church, affairs. • *n* **secularity** the state or quality of being secular. • *vb* **secularize**, also **secularise** to change from religious to civil ownership or use. • *n* **secularism**.

**secure** /sə'kjueər/, /si-**cyoor**/ *adj* **1** free from care or danger. **2** safe. • *vb* **1** to make safe. **2** to fasten securely. **3** to seize and hold firmly.

**security** /sə'kjuriti/, /si-**cyoo**-ri-tee/ *n* **1** safety. **2** precautions taken to protect someone or something from attack, crime, danger, etc. **3** something given as proof of a person's willingness or ability to repay a loan. **4** *pl* documents stating that a person has lent a sum of money to a business, etc, and is entitled to receive interest on it.

**sedan** /sə'dæn/, /si-**dæn**/ *n* a car with either two or four doors, a full-sized rear seat, and a hard top.

**sedate** /sə'deɪt/, /si-**date**/ *adj* calm, quiet, and relaxed. • *vb* to give someone a drug to make them calm or sleepy.

**sedation** /sə'deɪʃən/, /si-**day**-shun/ *n* the act or process of reducing excitement or nervousness.

**sedative** /'sədətɪv/, /**se**-da-tiv/ *adj* having a calming effect. • *n* a sedative drug.

**sedentary** /'sedən̩teri/, /se-den-ter-ee/ *adj* inactive, requiring much sitting.

**sediment** /'sedəmənt/, /se-di-ment/ *n* the particles of matter that sink to the bottom of liquid. • *adj* **sedimentary** of, having the nature of, or containing sediment.

**sedition** /sə'diʃən/, /se-di-shun/ *n* words or actions intended to stir up rebellion against the government. • *adj* **seditious**.

**seduce** /sə'dju:s/, /si-dooss/ *vb* 1 to persuade someone to do what is wrong or immoral. 2 to persuade to have sex. • *n* **seducer**.

**seduction** /sə'dækʃən/, /si-duc-shun/ *n* the act of seducing.

**seductive** /sə'duktəv/, /si-duc-tiv/ *adj* 1 tempting, attracting to do wrong. 2 sexually attractive.

**see<sup>1</sup>** /si:/, /see/ *vb* (*pt* **saw**, *pp* **seen**) 1 to look at with the eye. 2 to notice. 3 to understand. 4 to visit or interview. • **see about** to attend to. • **see off** 1 to go so far with a person who is leaving. 2 (*inf*) to get rid of. • **see through** 1 to keep on with to the end. 2 to understand thoroughly. • **seeing that** since, because.

**see<sup>2</sup>** /si:/, /see/ *n* the district over which a bishop has control.

**seed** /si:d/, /seed/ *n* 1 the grain or germ from which, when placed in the ground, a new plant grows. 2 the beginning of something. • *vb* to produce seed, to plant seeds. • **go to seed, run to seed** 1 (*of a plant*) to shoot up too quickly. 2 to grow careless and lazy. 3 to become weak.

**seedbed** /'si:dbed/, /seed-bed/ *n* a bed of soil, usually covered with glass, in which seedlings are grown.

**seedling** /'si:dlɪŋ/, /seed-ling/ *n* a young plant grown from a seed.

**seedly** /'si:di/, /see-dee/ *adj* 1 shabby. 2 unwell. 3 containing many seeds.

**seeing** /'si:ɪŋ/, /see-ing/ *n* the sense or power of sight, the act of using the eyes to see.

**seek** /si:k/, /seek/ *vb* (*pt, pp* **sought**) 1 to look for. 2 to try to get, to ask.

**seem** /si:m/, /seem/ *vb* to appear to be, look as if.

**seeming** /'si:minŋ/, /see-ming/ *adj* having the appearance of, apparent.

**seemly** /'si:mli/, /seem-lee/ *adj* proper, fitting, decent.

**seen** *pp of see*.

**seep** /si:p/, /seep/ *vb* to leak, drip, or flow slowly out through small openings. • *n* **seepage** the act or process of seeping, the liquid that seeps.

**seer** /'si:r/, /seer/ *n* a person who foresees the future, a prophet.

**seersucker** /'si:r,səkər/, /seer-su-ker/ *n* a crinkled fabric of linen, cotton, etc, usually with a striped pattern.

**seesaw** /'si:sɔ:/, /see-saw/ *n* 1 a plank that is balanced in the middle and on which children sit at either end so that when one end goes up the other end goes down. 2 the act of moving up and down or back and forth. • *adj* moving up and down like a seesaw. • *vb* 1 to play on a seesaw. 2 to move up and down or back and forth.

**seethe** /si:ð/, /seethe/ *vb* 1 to boil. 2 to be full of anger, excitement, etc.

**see-through** /'si:θru:/, /see-throo/ *adj* that can be seen through, more or less transparent.

**segment** /'segmənt/, /seg-ment/ *n* 1 a piece cut off. 2 part of a circle cut off by a straight line. • *vb* to cut into segments. • *adj* **segmental**.

**segmentation** /segmən'teɪʃən/, /seg-men-tay-shun/ *n* a dividing or being divided into segments.

**segregate** /'segre,geɪt/, /seg-ri-gate/ *vb* to set apart or separate from others. • *n* **segregation**.

**seismic** /saɪzmɪk/, /size-mik/ *adj* having to do with earthquakes.

**seismograph** /saɪzmə,græf/, /size-mo-graf/ *n* an instrument showing the force of an earthquake and the direction in which it has occurred.

**seismology** /saɪz'mɒlədʒi/, /size-mol-u-jee/ *n* the science of earthquakes.

**seize** /si:z/, /seez/ *vb* 1 to take by force. 2 to take firm hold of.

**seizure** /'si:ʒər/, /see-zhur/ *n* 1 act of taking by force. 2 a sudden attack of illness, especially a stroke or epileptic fit.

**seldom** /'seldəm/, /sel-dum/ *adv* rarely.

**select** /sə'lɛkt/, /se-lect/ *vb* to choose, to pick out. • *adj* specially chosen. • *n* **selector** the person or thing that selects.

**selection** /sə'lɛkʃən/, /se-lec-shun/ *n* 1 act of choosing. 2 what is chosen.

**selective** /sə'lɛktɪv/, /se-lec-tiv/ *adj* choosing carefully, rejecting what is not wanted.

**self** /self/, /self/ *n* (pl **selves**) a person's own person or interest.

**self-** /self/, /self/ *prefix* of oneself or itself.

**self-awareness** /,sɛlfə'weɪrnəs/, /self-a-wa-re-ness/ *n* awareness of oneself as an individual.

**self-centred** /sɛlf'sentərd/, /self-sen-turd/ *adj* selfish, thinking chiefly of oneself and one's interests.

**self-confident** /sɛlf'kɒnfɪdənt/, /self-con-fi-dent/ *adj* sure of oneself and one's powers.

**self-conscious** /sɛlf'kɒnʃəs/, /self-con-shus/ *adj* thinking about oneself too much, shy because one thinks others are watching.

**self-contained** /,sɛlfkən'teind/, /self-cun-taind/ *adj* 1 keeping to oneself, not showing one's feelings. 2 (of a house) complete in itself and separate from other houses.

**self-control** /,sɛlfkən'tro:l/, /self-cun-trole/ *n* the ability to control one's temper, excitement, etc.

**self-destruct** /,sɛlfde'strɛkt/, /self-di-struct/ *vb* to destroy itself automatically. • *n* **self-destruction**. • *adj* **self-destructive**.

**self-employed** /,sɛlfem'plɔɪd/, /self-im-ployd/ *adj* working for oneself, with direct control over work, services, etc.

**self-esteem** /,sɛlfɛ'sti:m/, /self-i-steem/ *n* one's opinion of oneself, self-respect.

**self-help** /sɛlf'help/, /self-help/ *n* care of or betterment of oneself by one's own efforts.

**self-important** /,sɛlfim'po:tənt/, /self-im-pore-tant/ *adj* full of one's own importance, pompous. • *n* **self-importance**.

**selfish** /'selfɪʃ/, /sel-fish/ *adj* thinking only of oneself and one's own advantage. • *n* **selfishness**.

**selfless** /'selfləs/, /self-less/ *adj* concerned about other's welfare or interests and not one's own. • *n* **selflessness**.

**self-respect** /səlfri'spekt/, /self-re-spect/ *n* proper care of one's own character and reputation.

**self-righteous** /səlf'rəɪtʃəs/, /self-rie-chus/ *adj* too aware of what one supposes to be one's own goodness.

**self-sacrificing** /səlf'sækrifaisɪŋ/, /self-sa-cri-fie-sing/ *adj* ready to give up one's own desires for the good of others.

**self-service** /səlf'sərvəs/, /self-ser-viss/ *adj* (of a shop, restaurant, etc) helping oneself. • *also n.*

**self-sufficient** /səlf'sə'fɪʃənt/, /self-su-fi-shent/ *adj* needing no help from others.

**sell** /sel/, /sell/ *vb* (pt, pp **sold**) to give in exchange for money.

**seller** /'selər/, /se-ler/ *n* a person who sells.

**sellout** /'selaut/, /se-lout/ *n* 1 a performance or sports event of some kind for which all the tickets have been sold. 2 the act of betraying someone or something, a person who betrays someone or something.

**selves** /selvz/, /selvz/ *pl of self.*

**semantic** /sə'mæntɪk/, /se-man-tic/ *adj* of or regarding meaning, especially meaning in language.

**semaphore** /'semə,fɔ:/, /sem-ah-fore/ *n* a system of conveying messages using flags.

**semblance** /'sembləns/, /sem-blans/ *n* outward appearance.

**semester** /sə'mestər/, /si-mes-ter/ *n* a college or university term of about 18 weeks.

**semen** /'si:mən/, /see-men/ *n* the white fluid produced by the reproductive organs of male mammals, also called sperm.

**semi-** /'semi, 'semə/, /se-mee, se-mie/ *prefix half.*

**semicircle** /'semi,sərkəl, 'seməi-/ , /se-mee-sir-cul, se-mie-/ *n* a half circle. • *adj semicircular.*

**semicolon** /'semi'ko:lən, 'seməi-/ , /se-mee-co-lon/ *n* a mark of punctuation (:).

**semi-detached** /,semidə'tætʃt/, /se-mee-di-tacht/ *adj* (of a house) joined to another house by a communal wall.

**semifinal** /,semi'fainəl, 'semaifainəl/, /se-mee-fie-nal, se-mie-fie-nal/ *adj* coming just before the final match, as in a tournament. • *n* such

a match.

**seminar** /'semə,nar/, /se-mi-nar/ *n* a group of students working together under the guidance of a teacher.

**seminary** /'semə,nəri/, /se-mi-ne-ree/ *n* a school or college, especially one training people to be priests, ministers, rabbis, etc.

**Semite** /'seməɪt, 'si:məɪt/, /se-mite, see-mite/ *n* 1 a member of any of the peoples who speak a Semitic language, including the Hebrews, Arabs, Assyrians, etc. 2 used loosely, a Jewish person.

**Semitic** /sə'mitɪk/, /se-mi-tic/ *adj* 1 having to do with Semites.

**senate** /'senət/, /se-nit/ *n* 1 a group of officials elected to make laws. 2 (cap) one of the two houses of the United States Congress. 3 the governing body of certain universities.

**senator** /'senətər/, /se-ni-tor/ *n* a member of a senate. • *adj* **senatorial**.

**send** /send/, /send/ *vb* (*pt, pp sent*) 1 to have taken from one place to another. 2 to order to go. • *n* **sender**.

**senile** /'si:nail, 'senail/, /see-nile, seh-nile/ *adj* weak in the mind from old age. • *n* **senility**.

**senior** /'si:njər/, /seen-yur/ *adj* 1 older. 2 higher in rank or importance. 3 for older people. • *n* 1 one who is older. 2 a senior pupil in a school. • *n* **seniority**.

**sensation** /sen'seɪʃən/, /sen-say-shun/ *n* 1 the ability to perceive through the senses, feeling. 2 a feeling that cannot be described. 3 great excitement. 4 an event that causes great excitement.

**sensational** /sen'seɪʃənəl/, /sen-say-shnal/ *adj* causing great excitement. • *vb* **sensationalize**, also **sensationalise**.

**sensationalism** /sen'seɪʃənəlɪzəm/, /sen-say-shna-li-zum/ *n* a liking for exciting news and events.

**sense** /sens/, /sens/ *n* 1 one of the five powers (sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch) by which people and animals gain knowledge of things outside themselves. 2 wisdom in everyday things. 3 understanding. 4 meaning.

**senseless** /'sensləs/, /senss-less/ *adj* 1 foolish, pointless. 2 unconscious.

**sensibility** /sensə'biliti/, /sen-si-bi-li-tee/ *n* 1 the ability to feel emotions strongly. 2 delicacy of feeling.

**sensible** /'sensəbəl/, /sen-si-bul/ *adj* 1 having or showing good judgment, wise. 2 aware. 3 practical.

**sensitive** /'sensətiv/, /sen-si-tiv/ *adj* 1 quick to feel things. 2 easily hurt or damaged. 3 able to feel emotions strongly. • *n* **sensitivity**.

**sensor** /'sensər/, /sen-sawr/ *n* a tool designed to detect, measure, or record things such as heat, temperature, pressure, etc.

**sensory** /'sensəri/, /sen-sree/ *adj* having to do with the senses.

**sensual** /'senʃuəl/, /sen-shwal/ *adj* 1 having to do with the pleasures of the body. 2 fond of the pleasures of the body. • *n* **sensuality**.

**sensuous** /'senʃuəs/, /sen-shwus/ *adj* 1 having to do with the senses. 2 pleasing to the senses.

**sent** /sEnt/, *pt and pp of send*.

**sentence** /'sentəns/, /sen-tense/ *n* 1 a group of words, containing at least a subject and a verb, that is grammatically correct and makes complete sense. 2 a judgment given in a court of law. 3 the punishment given to a wrongdoer by a judge. • *vb* to state the punishment given to a wrongdoer.

**sentient** /'senʃənt/, /sen-shent/ *adj* having the power of feeling. • *n* **sentience** ability to feel.

**sentiment** /'sentəmənt/, /sen-ti-ment/ *n* 1 what a person feels or thinks about something. 2 an expression of feeling. 3 tender or kindly feeling.

**sentimental** /'sentə'mēntəl/, /sen-ti-men-tal/ *adj* 1 showing, causing, etc, excessive tender feeling or emotion. 2 concerning the emotions rather than reason. • *n* **sentimentality**.

**sentinel** /'sentinəl/, /sen-ti-nel/ *n* a person or animal that guards a group.

**sentry** /'sentri/, /sen-tree/ *n* a soldier on guard.

**sentry box** /'sentri boks/, /sen-tree boks/ *n* a shelter for a sentry.

**separate** /'sepərət/, /sep-a-rit/ *vb* 1 to put apart. 2 to go away from. 3 to stop living together. 4 to go different ways. 5 to divide into parts. • *adj* /sep-rit/ unconnected, distinct, apart. • *adj* **separable**.

**separation** /sepə'reiʃən/, /se-pe-ray-shun/ *n* **1** act of separating. **2** an agreement by a married couple to live apart from each other.

**separatism** /'seprætɪzəm/, /se-pra-ti-zum/ *n* the condition of political, religious, or racial separation. • *n* **separatist** a person who believes in separatism.

**sepia** /'si:pɪə/, /see-pee-ya/ *n* a dark, reddish brown dye or colour made from fluid obtained from the cuttlefish.

**September** /sep'tembər/, /sep-tem-ber/ *n* the ninth month of the year.

**septic** /'septɪk/, /sep-tic/ *adj* infected and poisoned by germs.

**septic tank** /'septɪk tæŋk/, /sep-tic-tangk/ *n* an underground tank for waste matter to be stored and broken down.

**septuagenarian** /,septu:ədʒə'neriən, ,septəgə'neriən/, /sep-twa-je-ner-ee-an, sep-teh-je-ner-ee-an/ *n* one who is 70 years old or between 70 and 80.

**septuplet** /sep'teplɪt/, /sep-tu-plet/ *n* one of seven babies born at a single birth.

**sepulchral** /sep'pʌlkral/, /se-pul-crāl/ *adj* **1** having to do with a tomb. **2** (of a voice) deep and gloomy.

**sepulture** /'sepʊltʃur/, /se-pul-chur/ *n* (fm) burial.

**sequel** /'si:kwəl/, /see-kwel/ *n* **1** that which follows, a result or consequence. **2** a novel, film, etc, that continues the story of an earlier one.

**sequence** /'si:kwəns/, /see-kwense/ *n* a number of things, events, etc, following each other in a natural or correct order.

**sequential** /si'kwənʃəl/, /si-kwen-shal/ *adj* of, relating to, or forming a sequence.

**sequin** /'si:kwin/, /see-kwin/ *n* a tiny disc of bright metal sewn onto a dress for ornament, usually one of many. • *adj* **sequined** decorated with sequins.

**sequoia** /sə'kwɔɪə/, /see-kwoh-ya/ *n* a large redwood tree.

**seraph** /'səraf/, /se-raf/ *n* (pl **seraphs** or **seraphim**) an angel of the highest rank.

**seraphic** /'sərafɪk/, /se-ra-fic/ *adj* angelic, pure.

**serenade** /,sərə'neɪd/, /se-ra-nade/ *n* a musical work played outside at night, especially by a lover under the window of his sweetheart.

- *vb* to sing or play a serenade.

**serendipity** /sərən'dɪpɪti/, /se-ren-di-pi-tee/ *n* a seeming gift for finding something good accidentally.

**serene** /sə'rɪ:n/, /se-reen/ *adj* calm, undisturbed.

**serenity** /sə'renɪtɪ:/, /se-re-ni-tee/ *n* calmness, peace.

**serf** /sərf/, /serf/ *n* a slave, a person bound to his or her master's land and transferred with it to any new owner.

**serge** /sərdʒ/, /serge/ *n* a strong woollen cloth.

**sergeant** /'sardʒənt/, /sar-jint/ *n* 1 a rank in the army or air force. 2 in the police, an officer just below a captain or lieutenant.

**serial** /'si:riəl/, /see-ree-al/ *n* a story published or broadcast in parts or instalments. • *adj* 1 happening in a series. 2 in successive parts.

**series** /'si:ri:z/, /see-reez/ *n* (*pl* **series**) a number of things arranged in a definite order.

**serious** /'si:riəs/, /see-ree-us/ *adj* 1 thoughtful. 2 important. 3 likely to cause danger.

**sermon** /'sərmən/, /ser-mun/ *n* 1 a talk given by a priest, minister, or rabbi on a religious subject. 2 a talk containing advice or warning. • *vb* **sermonize**, also **sermonise**.

**serpent** /'sərpənt/, /ser-pent/ *n* a snake.

**serrate** /sə'reɪt/, /se-rate/, **serrated** /se-ray-tid/ *adj* having notches like the edge of a saw.

**serration** /sə'rɛʃən/, /se-ray-shun/ *n* the condition of being serrate.

**serum** /'sɪrəm/, /see-rum/ *n* 1 the watery part of the blood. 2 liquid taken from the blood of an animal and injected into a person's blood to protect against a disease. 3 the thin, watery part of plant fluid.

**servant** /'sərvənt/, /ser-vant/ *n* 1 a person who works for and obeys another. 2 a person employed to do tasks about the house.

**serve** /sərv/, /serv/ *vb* 1 to work for and obey. 2 to hand food to at the table. 3 to supply with. 4 to be helpful. 5 (*in tennis, volleyball, etc*) to hit the ball into play. • **serves you right** that is just what you deserve.

**server** /'sərvər/, /ser-ver/ *n* 1 a person who serves. 2 the central computer in a network to which other computers are connected so

that software and files can be shared.

**service** /'sərvɪs/, /ser-viss/ *n* 1 the work of a servant or employee. 2 time spent in the armed forces, police, etc. 3 use, help. 4 a religious ceremony. 5 a set of dishes for use at table. 6 in tennis, the hit intended to put the ball into play. 7 *pl* the armed forces. 8 *pl* service station.

**serviceable** /'sərvɪsəbəl/, /ser-vi-sa-bul/ *adj* useful.

**service station** /'sərvɪs,steɪʃən/, /ser-vis stay-shun/, **services** *n* a place that sells petrol, oils, some other car requirements and often drinks and snacks, and usually provides toilet facilities.

**servile** /'sərvail/, /ser-vul/ *adj* behaving like a slave, too ready to obey. • *n* servility.

**servitude** /'sərvɪ,tju:d, -tu:d/, /ser-vi-tyood, ser-vi-tood/ *n* slavery, the condition of being a slave, serf, etc.

**sesame** /'sɛsəmi/, /se-sa-mee/ *n* a plant whose seeds are used in cooking and from which an oil, used in cooking and salads, is obtained. • open sesame a sure means of gaining admission.

**session** /'sɛʃən/, /se-shun/ *n* a meeting of a group or sitting of a court or assembly.

**set** /set/, /set/ *vb* (**set**, **setting**) 1 to put out. 2 to fix in position. 3 to put to music. 4 to become hard or solid. 5 (*of the sun, etc.*) to sink below the horizon. • *n* 1 a number of things of the same kind. 2 a group of people with similar interests. 3 a group of games in a tennis match. • *adj* fixed, regular. • **set off**, **set out** to begin a journey. • **set upon** to attack.

**setback** /'setbæk/, /set-back/ *n* something that keeps a person from doing something or from carrying out a plan.

**set point** /'setpɔɪnt/, /set point/ *n* in a game such as tennis, when the next point scored by a player decides the winner of the set.

**settee** /se'ti:/, /se-tee/ *n* a small sofa.

**setting** /'setɪŋ/, /se-ting/ *n* 1 surroundings. 2 background. 3 music written to go with certain words.

**settle** /'setəl/, /se-tul/ *n* a bench with arms and a high back. • *vb* 1 to set up home in a certain place. 2 to come to rest on. 3 to put an

end to by giving a decision or judgment. **4** to make or become quiet or calm. **5** to pay. **6** to sink to the bottom of.

**settlement** /'setəlmənt/, /se-tul-ment/ *n* **1** a decision or judgment that ends an argument. **2** money or property given to someone under certain conditions. **3** payment of a bill. **4** a colony.

**settler** /'setlər/, /set-lər/ *n* someone who makes his or her home in a new colony or land that has not previously been occupied.

**set-to** /'set,tu:/, /set-too/ *n* a fight.

**setup** /'setəp/, /se-tup/ *n* **1** the way in which something is set up. **2** a contest or plan that is arranged to go a certain way.

**seven** /'sēvən/, /se-ven/ *n* the number between six and eight.

**sevenfold** /'sēvən,fo:lд/, /se-ven-foald/ *adj* **1** having seven parts. **2** having seven times as much or as many.

**seventeen** /'sēvən'ti:n/, /se-ven-teen/ *n* seven more than 10.

**seventeenth** /'sēvən'ti:nθ/, /se-ven-teenth/ *adj* coming after 16 others.

**seventh** /'sēvənθ/, /se-venth/ *adj* coming after six others.

**seventieth** /'sēvən,ti:əθ/, /se-ven-tee-eth/ *adj* coming after 69 others.

**seventy** /'sēvənti/, /se-ven-tee/ *n* the number between 69 and 71.

**sever** /'sēvər/, /se-ver/ *vb* **1** to cut or tear apart or off. **2** to break. • *n severance*.

**severable** /'sēvrəbəl/, /sev-ra-bul/ *adj* that can be severed.

**several** /'sēvrəl/, /sev-ral/ *adj* **1** more than two, but not very many. **2** separate, various.

**severe** /sē'vei:r/, /se-veer/ *adj* **1** strict, harsh. **2** plain and undecorated. **3** very cold. • *n severity*.

**sew** /so:/, /so/ *vb* (*pt sewed*, *pp sewn*) to join by means of needle and thread. • *n sewer* a person or thing that sews.

**sewage** /'su:idʒ/, /soo-widge/ *n* waste matter of a house or town.

**sewer** /su:wər/, /soo-wer/ *n* an underground drain to carry away water, waste matter, etc.

**sewerage** /'su:aridʒ/, /soo-ridge/ *n* a system of underground drains or sewers.

**sex** /sɛks/, /səks/ *n* **1** the state of being male or female. **2** the qualities by which an animal or plant is seen to be male or female. **3** sexual intercourse.

**sexagenarian** /sɛksədʒɪ'nærɪən/, /sek-se-je-nair-ee-an/ *n* someone who is 60 years old, or between 60 and 70.

**sexism** /'sɛksɪzəm/, /sek-si-zum/ *n* the treatment of someone in a different, often unfair way on the grounds of that person's sex, especially against women. • *adj, n sexist*.

**sextet** /sɛk'stet/, /sek-stet/ *n* **1** a piece of music written for six. **2** a group of six singers or players. **3** a set or group of six.

**sextuplet** /'sɛks'teplət/, /sek-stoo-plet/ *n* one of six babies born at a single birth.

**sexual** /'sɛkʃuəl/, /sek-shwal/ *adj* having to do with sex.

**sexual intercourse** /'sɛkʃuəl 'ɪntərkɔ:rs/, /sek-shwal in-ter-coarse/ *n* sexual contact whereby the male's penis is inserted into the female's vagina to produce an orgasm.

**sexuality** /sɛkʃu'æliti/, /sek-shu-wa-li-tee/ *n* the state or quality of being sexual.

**sexy** /'sɛksi/, /sek-see/ *adj* **1** sexually attractive. **2** sexually aroused. **3** exciting or intended to excite sexual desire. • *n sexiness n* a sexy state or quality.

**sh** /ʃ/, /sh/ *interj* used to urge or request silence.

**shabby** /'ʃæbi/, /sha-bee/ *adj* **1** untidy through much wear, threadbare, dressed in threadbare or untidy clothes. **2** mean, ungenerous. • *n shabbiness*.

**shack** /ʃæk/, /shack/ *n* a hut, small house, cabin.

**shackle** /'ʃækəl/, /sha-cul/ *vb* **1** to fasten with a chain. **2** to limit freedom of action or speech. • *npl chains for fastening the limbs*.

**shade** /ʃeɪd/, /shade/ *vb* **1** to protect from light or sun. **2** to darken. **3** to colour. • *n* **1** any device that protects from light or sun. **2** a place in a shadow cast by the sun, half-darkness. **3** a slight difference. **4** a little.

**shadiness** /'ʃeɪdinəs/, /shay-dee-ness/ *n* a shady state or quality.

**shading** /'ʃeɪdɪŋ/, /shay-ding/ *n* the effects used to suggest darkness in a picture.

**shadow** /'ʃædəʊ/, /sha-doe/ *n* 1 a dark patch on the ground caused by the breaking of rays of light by a body. 2 shade. 3 someone who follows another around. 4 a ghost. • *vb* to follow someone closely without his or her knowing it.

**shadowy** /'ʃædəʊ:i/, /sha-doe-wee/ *adj* 1 in shadow, shaded, dark. 2 dark and unclear.

**shady** /'ʃeɪdi/, /shay-dee/ *adj* 1 protected from light or sun. 2 dishonest, untrustworthy. • *adv* **shadily** in a shady manner.

**shaft** /ʃæft/, /shaft/ *n* 1 the long handle of any tool or weapon. 2 an arrow. 3 a connecting rod in a machine, one of the poles of a carriage to which a horse is tied. 4 the main part of a pillar. 5 a deep tunnel leading down to a mine. 6 a ray of light.

**shag** /ʃæg/, /shag/ *n* 1 a kind of haircut that is shorter in front and longer in back with many layers. 2 heavy, rough woollen cloth.

**shaggy** /'ʃægi/, /sha-gee/ *adj* 1 having rough, long hair. 2 rough.

**shake** /ʃeɪk/, /shake/ *vb* (*pt* **shook**, *pp* **shaken**) 1 to move quickly up and down or to and fro. 2 to tremble. 3 to make weaker or less firm. • *n* 1 trembling. 2 a sudden jerk. 3 a shock. 4 short for milk shake.

**shaker** /'ʃeɪkər/, /shay-ker/ *n* 1 a person or thing that shakes. 2 (cap) a member of the United Society of Believers, an American religious community which believes in living with simplicity.

**shaky** /'ʃeɪki/, /shay-kee/ *adj* 1 not steady. 2 weak after illness.

**shale** /ʃeɪl/, /shale/ *n* a soft rock that was formed by the hardening of clay and that breaks apart easily. • *adj* **shaly**.

**shall** /ʃæl, ʃəl/, /shall/ *aux vb, pt* **should** will; especially used in formal writing. see **will**. (**Shall** was used for the first person of the verb and **will** for second and third person. This usage has become very old fashioned.)

**shallot** /'ʃælət/, /sha-lot/ *n* a small onion.

**shallow** /'ʃælo:/, /sha-lo/ *adj* 1 not deep. 2 not thinking deeply. • *n* a place where water is not deep.

**shalom** /ʃæ'lɒm/, /sha-lom/ *n* a greeting meaning peace, used among Jewish people.

**sham** /ʃæm/, /ʃam/ *n* 1 a person pretending to be what he or she is not. 2 a thing made to look like something else. 3 a trick or fraud. • *adj* not real, pretended. • *vb* (**shammed**, **shamming**) to pretend.

**shaman** /'ʃeɪmən/, /shay-man/ *n* a priest or medicine man, especially among some Asian people, who is believed to be able to heal and to tell the future by contacting good and evil spirits.

**shamanism** /ʃeɪmənɪzəm/, /shay-ma-ni-zum/ *n* the religion of certain peoples believing in good and evil spirits that can be contacted by a shaman.

**shamble** /'ʃæmbəl/, /sham-bul/ *vb* to walk clumsily. • *also n.*

**shambles** /'ʃæmbəlz/, /sham-bulz/ *npl* a scene of great disorder and confusion.

**shame** /ʃeɪm/, /shame/ *n* a feeling of sorrow for wrongdoing or for the inability to do something; disgrace; a painful feeling of having lost the respect of others. • *vb* to make ashamed, to disgrace.

**shamefaced** /'ʃeɪmfeɪst/, /shame-faist/ *adj* showing shame or embarrassment.

**shameful** /'ʃeɪmfʊl/, /shame-ful/ *adj* disgraceful, shocking, bringing or causing shame.

**shameless** /'ʃeɪmləs/, /shame-less/ *adj* not easily made ashamed, bold.

**shampoo** /ʃæm'pu:/, /sham-poo/ *vb* to wash and rub the head and hair. • *n* 1 act of shampooing. 2 a preparation used for shampooing.

**shamrock** /'ʃæmrɒk/, /sham-rock/ *n* a small plant with three leaves on each stem, the national symbol of Ireland.

**shank** /ʃæŋk/, /shangk/ *n* 1 the leg from the knee to the ankle. 2 the long handle or shaft of certain tools.

**shanty** /'ʃænti/, /shan-tee/ *n* a poorly built hut, a shack.

**shantytown** /'ʃænti,taʊn/, /shan-tee-town/ *n* the section of a city where there are many shanties or small, rundown shacks.

**shape** /ʃeɪp/, /shape/ *n* 1 the form or outline of anything. 2 (*inf*) condition, state. • *vb* 1 to form. 2 to give a certain shape to. • **in good shape** in good condition.

**shapeless** /'ʃeɪpləs/, /shape-less/ *adj* ugly or irregular in shape.

**shapely** /'ʃeipli/, /shape-lee/ *adj* well-formed.

**shard** /ʃard/, /shard/ *n* a piece of broken pottery or glass.

**share** /ʃer/, /share/ *n* **1** part of a thing belonging to a particular person. **2** one of the equal parts of the money of a company or business, lent by persons who may then receive a part of the profits. **3** the cutting part of a plough. • *vb* **1** to divide among others. **2** to receive a part of.

**shareholder** /'ʃerho:lðər/, /share hole-der/ *n* a person who owns shares in a company or business.

**shareware** /'ʃerweər/, /share-ware/ computer software that is provided for free for a limited time, with an option to buy.

**sharia, shariah** /ʃæria/, /sha-ree-ah/ *n* the religious law of Islam.

**shark** /ʃark/, /shark/ *n* **1** a large meat-eating fish. **2** (*inf*) one ready to use unfair means to get as much money as possible.

**sharp** /ʃarp/, /sharp/ *adj* **1** having a thin edge for cutting with; having a fine point. **2** quick and intelligent. **3** hurtful, unkind. **4** stinging, keen. **5** (*mus*) higher than the correct note. **6** rather sour. • *n* a musical sign to show that a note is to be raised half a tone (#). • *adv* (*of time*) exactly. • *n* a needle.

**sharpen** /'ʃarpən/, /shar-pen/ *vb* to make sharp.

**sharper** /'ʃarpər/, /shar-per/ *n* a person who cheats, especially at cards.

**sharp-tongued** /'ʃarp,tæŋd/, /sharp-tungd/ *adj* using severe or harshly critical language.

**sharp-witted** /'ʃarp'wɪtɪd/, /sharp-wi-tid/ *adj* quick and clever.

**shatter** /'ʃætər/, /sha-ter/ *vb* **1** to break into pieces, to smash. **2** to put an end to.

**shatterproof** /'ʃætərprou:f/, /sha-ter-proof/ *adj* that will resist shattering.

**shave** /ʃeiv/, /shave/ *vb* **1** to cut off hair with a razor. **2** to cut strips off the surface. **3** to pass very close to without touching. • *n* **1** act of shaving, especially the face. **2** a close hair cut. **3** a narrow escape.

**shaven** /'ʃeivən/, /shay-ven/ *adj* closely trimmed, shaved.

**shaver** /'ʃeivər/, /shay-ver/ *n* a person or instrument that shaves.

**shaving** /'ʃeɪvɪŋ/, /ʃay-ving/ *n* a thin strip cut off the surface.

**shawl** /ʃɔ:l/, /ʃawl/ *n* a cloth folded and worn loosely over the shoulders, especially by women.

**she** /ʃi:/, /ʃe/ *pron* the woman, girl, female animal, or sometimes the thing referred to as female (as a boat) referred to.

**sheaf** /ʃi:f/, /ʃeef/ *n* (*pl* **sheaves**) a number of things in a bundle.

**shear** /ʃi:r/, /sheer/ *vb* (*pp* **shorn**) **1** to cut with shears. **2** to clip the wool from. **3** to cut or cause to break. • *npl* a pair of large scissors.

**shearer** /ʃi:rər/, /shee-rer/ *n* a person who shears.

**shearing** /ʃi:rɪŋ/, /shee-ring/ *n* the action of cutting with or as with shears.

**sheath** /ʃi:θ/, /sheeth/ *n* a close-fitting case or container.

**sheathe** /ʃi:ð/, /sheethe/ *vb* to put into a sheath.

**sheaves** *pl* of **sheaf**.

**shebang** /ʃə'bæŋ/, /shi-bang/ *n* an affair, business, thing, etc.

**shed<sup>1</sup>** /ʃed/, /shed/ *vb* (**shed, shedding**) **1** to let fall down or off. **2** to spread about.

**shed<sup>2</sup>** /ʃed/, /shed/ *n* a hut, a small building used for storage.

**sheen** /fi:n/, /sheen/ *n* brightness, shininess.

**sheep** /ʃi:p/, /sheep/ *n* (*pl* **sheep**) **1** a farm animal valued for its wool and its meat. **2** a person who follows the lead of others without question.

**sheepdog** /'ʃi:pdog/, /sheep-dawg/ *n* a dog trained to look after and herd sheep.

**sheepish** /'ʃi:pɪʃ/, /sheep-ish/ *adj* awkward or embarrassed because of having done something wrong.

**sheepskin** /'ʃi:pskɪn/, /sheep-skin/ *n* the skin of a sheep, especially one dressed with the fleece on it, as for a coat.

**sheer<sup>1</sup>** /ʃi:r/, /sheer/ *adj* **1** very steep. **2** (*of material*) very fine or transparent. **3** thorough, complete.

**sheer<sup>2</sup>** /ʃi:r/, /sheer/ *vb* to swerve, to move suddenly in another direction.

**sheet** /ʃi:t/, /sheet/ *n* **1** a broad thin piece of anything. **2** a bedcovering of linen, cotton, etc. **3** a broad stretch of water, flame,

ice, etc. **4** a rope tied to the lower corner of a sail.

**sheik(h)** /ʃi:k/, /sheek/ *n* an Arab chief of a family, tribe, or village.

**shekel** /'ʃekəl/, /shek-el/ *n* **1** *pl (inf)* money. **2** the unit of currency in Israel.

**shelf** /ʃelf/, /shelf/ *n* (*pl shelves*) **1** a board fixed to a wall or fastened in a cupboard, used for placing things on. **2** a ledge, a long flat rock or sandbank.

**shell** /ʃel/, /shell/ *n* **1** a hard outer covering. **2** a thick metal case filled with explosive and fired from a gun. • *vb* **1** to take the shell off. **2** to fire shells at.

**she'll** /ʃi:l/, /sheel/ *contraction* shortened form of *she will* or *she shall*.

**shellac** /ʃə'læk/, /sheh-lac/ *n* a type of resin used for making varnish.  
• *vb* to apply this to something.

**shellfish** /'ʃelfiʃ/, /shell-fish/ *n* a fish with a shell covering.

**shelter** /'ʃeltər/, /shel-ter/ *n* **1** a place that gives protection from the weather or safety from danger. **2** protection. • *vb* to protect, to go for protection.

**shelve** /ʃelv/, /shelv/ *vb* **1** to place on a shelf. **2** to put aside for a time. **3** to slope.

**shelves** *pl of shelf*.

**shelving** /'ʃelvɪŋ/, /shel-ving/ *n* **1** material for shelves. **2** a set of shelves.

**shepherd** /'ʃepərd/, /shep-urd/ *n* a person who looks after or herds sheep. • *f shepherdess*. • *vb* to guide a flock or group.

**shepherd's pie** /ʃepərdz 'pai/, /shep-urdz pie/ *n* a meat pie with a layer of mashed potatoes serving as a top crust.

**sherbet** /'ʃərbət/, /sher-bet/ *n* **1** a sweet consisting of fruity powder that fizzes in the mouth. **2** (US) a frozen, fruit-flavoured dessert.

**sheriff** /'ʃerif/, /sher-if/ *n* **1** in the US, the chief law officer or judge of a county. **2** in Scotland, a judge who presides over a lower court. **3** in England and Wales, a senior officer representing the king or queen in a county or some cities.

**sherry** /'ʃeri/, /sher-ee/ *n* a Spanish wine.

**shield** /ʃɪld/, /sheeld/ *n* **1** a piece of metal or strong leather held in front of the body to defend it against sword strokes, etc. **2** a protector or protection. • *vb* to defend, to protect.

**shift** /ʃift/, /shift/ *vb* **1** to change. **2** to move. **3** to remove, get rid of. • *n* **1** a change. **2** a group of workers who carry on a job for a certain time and then hand over to another group. **3** the period during which such a group works. **4** a simple dress or nightgown.

**shifty** /'ʃifti/, /shif-tee/ *adj* untrustworthy, deceitful.

**shiitake** /ʃi'taki:/, /shee-tak-ee/ *n* an edible Japanese mushroom.

**shimmer** /'ʃimər/, /shi-mer/ *vb* to shine with a flickering light. • *also n.*

**shimmy** /'ʃimi/, /shi-mee/ *n* a to move quickly, shaking your hips and shoulders.

**shin** /ʃin/, /shin/ *n* the front part of the leg below the knee. • *vb* (**shinned**, **shinning**) to climb, gripping with the legs.

**shine** /ʃain/, /shine/ *vb* (*pt, pp shone*) **1** to give off light. **2** to direct a light or lamp. **3** to polish. **4** (*inf*) to be very good at. • *n* brightness, polish.

**shingle** /'ʃɪŋgəl/, /shing-gul/ *n* **1** a thin, wedge-shaped piece of wood, slate, etc laid with others in a series of overlapping rows as a covering for roofs and the sides of houses. **2** a mass of small round pieces of stone on a beach.

**Shinto** /'ʃinto:/, /shin-toe/ *n* the native religion of Japan.

**shiny** /'ʃaimi/, /shie-nee/ *adj* bright, glossy, as if polished. • *n* shininess.

**ship** /ʃip/, /ship/ *n* a large seagoing boat. • *vb* (**shipped**, **shipping**) **1** to put or take, as on board ship. **2** to go on board a ship.

**shipbuilding** /'ʃɪpbildɪŋ/, /ship-bil-ding/ *n* the act of making ships.

**shipmate** /'ʃɪpmate/, /ship-mate/ *n* a fellow sailor on the same ship.

**shipment** /'ʃɪpmənt/, /ship-ment/ *n* **1** the sending of goods by ship. **2** the goods put on board a ship.

**shipping** /'ʃɪpɪŋ/, /shi-ping/ *n* **1** all the ships of a port, country, etc. **2** ships in general. **3** the act or business of sending goods.

**shipshape** /'ʃɪp, ʃeɪp/, /ship-shape/ *adj* in good order, neat and tidy.

**shipwreck** /'ʃɪprɛk/, /ship-reck/ *n* the loss or destruction of a ship at sea. • *also vb.*

**shipyard** /'ʃɪpjard/, /ship-yard/ *n* a place where ships are built or repaired.

**shire** /ʃaɪr/, /shire/ *n* a county.

**shirk** /ʃərk/, /shirk/ *vb* to avoid. • *n* **shirker**.

**shirt** /ʃərt/, /shurt/ *n* a kind of upper garment.

**shiva** /'ʃɪvə/, /shi-va/ *n* in Judaism, the mourning period of seven days after someone has died.

**shiver** /'ʃɪvə/, /shi-ver/ *vb* 1 to tremble. 2 to break into small pieces.

• *n* 1 a shaking or trembling. 2 a small piece.

**shivery** /'ʃɪvəri:/, /shi-ve-ree/ *adj* trembling, as with cold or fear.

**shoal<sup>1</sup>** /ʃo:l/, /shoal/ *n* 1 a shallow place in the sea, a sandbank.

**shoal<sup>2</sup>** /ʃo:l/, /shoal/ *n* 1 a large number of fish swimming together. 2 (*inf*) a crowd.

**shock<sup>1</sup>** /ʃɒk/, /shock/ *n* a mass of long untidy hair.

**shock<sup>2</sup>** /ʃɒk/, /shock/ *n* 1 the sudden violent striking of one thing against another (e.g. in a collision). 2 weakness of body or confusion of mind caused by a violent blow or collision. 3 sorrow or a state of upset caused by sudden bad news, etc. 4 an involuntary movement of the body, caused by passing electricity through it. • *vb* 1 to cause sudden pain or sorrow. 2 to horrify, to disgust.

**shocker** /'ʃɒkə/, /shock-er/ *n* a person or thing that shocks.

**shocking** /'ʃɒkɪŋ/, /shock-ing/ *adj* very bad, disgusting, indecent.

**shockproof** /'ʃækpru:f/, /shock-proof/ *adj* able to absorb shock without being damaged.

**shoddy** /'ʃɒdi/, /shod-ee/ *adj* cheap, of poor quality. • *n* cheap cloth made up from the clippings of other material.

**shoe** /su:/, /shoo/ *n* 1 a covering for the foot. 2 a U-shaped metal plate nailed to the hoof of a horse. • *vb* to fit a horse with shoes.

**shoehorn** /'ʃuhɔ:n/, /shoo-hawrn/ *n* a curved piece of horn, metal, etc, to help the foot to slip easily into a shoe.

**shoelace** /'ʃu:leɪs/, /shoo-lace/ *n* a length of cord, leather, etc, used for tying a shoe.

**shone** *pt and pp of shine*.

**shoo** /ʃu:/, /ʃoo/ *interj* go away, get out.

**shoo-in** /'ʃu:ɪn/, /ʃoo-in/ *n* a person who is expected to win easily an election, contest, etc.

**shook** *pt of shake*.

**shoot** /ʃu:t/, /shoot/ *vb (pt, pp shot)* **1** to fire a bullet from a gun. **2** to let fly. **3** to move suddenly or quickly. **4** to hit or kill with a bullet from a gun. **5** (*in games*) to kick or hit at goal. **6** to begin to grow. **7** to make a film. • *n* **1** a young branch or bud. **2** a sloping way down which water may flow or objects slide. **3** an outing for shooting and hunting.

**shooter** /ʃu:tər/, /shoo-ter/ *n* a person or thing that shoots.

**shooting** /'ʃu:tɪŋ/, /shoo-ting/ *n* the act of shooting a gun.

**shooting gallery** /'ʃu:tɪŋ ˈgæləri:/, /shoo-ting ga-lu-ree/ *n* a place where people can safely practise shooting guns at targets.

**shooting star** /ʃu:tɪŋ 'stær/, /shoo-ting star/ *n* what looks like a moving star but is really a glowing fragment of a heavenly body flying through space.

**shootout** /'ʃu:taut/, /shoo-tout/ *n* a battle with handguns.

**shop** /ʃɒp/, /shop/ *n* **1** a place where goods are sold. **2** a place where work is done with tools or machines. • *vb (shopped, shopping)* to visit shops to buy things. • **talk shop** to talk about work.

**shop assistant** /'ʃɒp ə,sɪstənt/, /shop a-sis-tant/ *n* a person who sells goods in a shop.

**shopkeeper** /'ʃɒp,ki:pər/, /shop-kee-per/ *n* a person who owns or runs a shop where goods are sold.

**shoplifter** /'ʃɒplifٹər/, /shop-lif-ter/ *n* a person who steals from the shops he or she is visiting. • *vb shoplift*.

**shopper** /'ʃɒpər/, /shop-er/ *n* a person who shops.

**shore<sup>1</sup>** /ʃɔ:r/, /shore/ *n* the land beside the sea, a river, lake, etc.

**shore<sup>2</sup>** /ʃɔ:r/, /shore/ *n* a wooden prop or support. • *vb* to prop up or support.

**shoreline** /'ʃɔ:rlaɪn/, /shore-line/ *n* the edge of a body of water.

**shorn** /ʃɔ:n/, /shawrn/ *pp of shear*.

**short** /ʃɔrt/, /ʃawrt/ *adj* 1 not long or tall. 2 not enough. 3 without enough of. 4 not lasting long. 5 quick and almost impolite. 6 (of pastry, etc.) crumbling easily. • *adv* **shortly** briefly, soon. • *npl* trousers reaching not lower than the knees. • **in short** in a few words.

**shortage** /'ʃɔrtədʒ/, /shawr-tidge/ *n* a lack of, not enough of.

**shortbread** /'ʃɔrtbred/, /shawrt-bred/ *n* a biscuit-like cake made of flour, butter, and sugar.

**shortcake** /'ʃɔrtkeɪk/, /shawrt-cake/ *n* a crisp, light cake or biscuit served with fruit and whipped cream as a dessert.

**short circuit** /ʃært'sərkɪt/, /shawrt sir-kit/ *n* the touching of two electric wires so that current passes from one to the other instead of straight on, usually accidental and causing damage.

**shortcoming** /'ʃɔrt,kəmɪŋ/, /shawrt-cu-ming/ *n* a falling short of what is needed.

**shortcut** /'ʃɔrtkæt/, /shawrt-cut/ *n* a quicker way.

**shorten** /'ʃɔrtən/, /shawr-ten/ *vb* to make less in length or time.

**shortening** /'ʃɔrtənɪŋ/, /shawrt-ning/ *n* fat for making pastry, etc.

**shorthand** /'ʃɔrthænd/, /shawrt-hand/ *n* a type of writing, featuring symbols, in which a person can write as fast as a speaker speaks.

**short-handed** /-ɪd/, /shawrt-han-did/ *adj* not having the number of helpers or workers required.

**short-lived** /ʃɔrt'lɪvd/, /shawrt-livd/ *adj* living or lasting for a short time only.

**shorts** see **short**.

**short-sighted** /ʃɔrt'sərtəd/, /shawrt-sie-tid/ *adj* 1 unable to see clearly things that are distant. 2 lacking foresight.

**short-tempered** /ʃɔrt'tempərd/, /shawrt-tem-perd/ *adj* easily angered.

**shot<sup>1</sup>** /ʃɒt/, /shot/ *vb, pt and pp of shoot*. • *n* 1 the firing of a gun, etc. 2 small lead bullets. 3 a solid metal ball fired from a gun. 4 a person able to shoot. 5 (inf) a single attempt at doing something. 6 a series of pictures of a scene taken at one time by a camera. 7 (inf) an injection.

**shot<sup>2</sup>** /ʃɒt/, /shot/ *adj* having threads of a different colour interwoven.

**shotgun** /'ʃɒtɡʌn/, /ʃɒt-gʊn/ *n* a kind of gun usually used in hunting small animals.

**shot put** /'ʃɒtpʊt/, /ʃɒt pʊt/ *n* a contest in which a heavy metal ball is thrown as far as possible from the shoulder.

**should** /ʃʊd/, /ʃhooð/ *vb* used to express duty, what a person is supposed to do.

**shoulder** /'ʃo:ldər/, /ʃhole-der/ *n* **1** the joint connecting an arm, wing, or foreleg to the body. **2** anything jutting out like a shoulder. • *vb* **1** to push with the shoulder. **2** to put on to the shoulder. **3** to bear, to accept, to take on.

**shoulder blade** /'ʃo:ldər bleɪd/, /ʃhole-der blade/ *n* the broad flat bone of the shoulder.

**shout** /ʃaʊt/, /ʃhout/ *vb* to utter a loud cry. • *n* a loud cry, a call.

**shove** /ʃəv/, /ʃuv/ *vb* (*inf*) to push. • *also n.*

**shovel** /'ʃeవəl/, /ʃhu-vel/ *n* a spade with a broad blade for lifting earth, gravel, etc. • *vb* (**shovelled**, **shovelling**; *also shoveled*, **shoveling** (US)) to move with a shovel.

**show** /ʃo:/, /ʃhow/ *vb* **1** to let be seen, to display. **2** to point out. **3** to be in sight. **4** to prove. • *n* **1** a display. **2** a performance or entertainment. **3** a gathering at which flowers, animals, etc, are displayed to the public.

**show business** /'ʃo:,bɪznəs/, /ʃhow biz-ness/ *n* the world of entertainment, e.g. theatre, films, television.

**shower** /'ʃauər/, /shou-er/ *n* **1** a short fall of rain. **2** a great number of things falling or arriving at one time. **3** a piece of bathroom equipment that produces a spray of water so that people standing underneath it can wash themselves. • *vb* **1** to give to or let fall on in large numbers. **2** to take a shower.

**showerproof** /'ʃauər,pruf/, /shou-er-proof/ *adj* waterproof against light rain only.

**showery** /'ʃauəri:/, /shau-e-ree/ *adj* rainy, marked by many showers.

**showroom** /'ʃɔ:rʊm/, /shoa-room/ *n* a room or shop in which things are on display to the public.

**shrapnel** /'ʃraepnəl/, /shrap-nel/ *n* **1** a shell packed with bullets or pieces of metal that are scattered when it explodes. **2** a fragment

of the case of a bomb or shell.

**shred** /ʃred/, /shred/ *vb (shredded, shredding)* to tear or cut into small pieces. • *n* a scrap, a rag, a piece cut or torn off. • *n* **shredder** a person or thing that shreds.

**shrew** /ʃru:/, /shroo/ *n* 1 a small mouse-like animal. 2 a bad-tempered or sharp-tongued woman.

**shrewd** /ʃru:d/, /shrood/ *adj* clever in practical matters, cunning, good at judging.

**shriek** /ʃri:k/, /shreek/ *vb* to scream. • *also n.*

**shrift** /ʃrif特/, /shrift/ *n* the confession of sins to a priest. • **short shrift** little mercy or sympathy.

**shrill** /ʃril/, /shrill/ *adj* high and piercing in sound.

**shrimp** /ʃrɪmp/, /shrimp/ *n* 1 a small edible shellfish. 2 (*inf*) a very small person. • *vb* to fish for shrimps.

**shrine** /ʃraɪn/, /shrine/ *n* 1 a box or tomb containing something connected with a holy person or thing. 2 a place revered because of a connection with a holy person or event.

**shrink** /ʃrɪŋk/, /shringk/ *vb* 1 to make or become smaller. 2 to go back in fear, horror, etc.

**shrinkage** /'ʃrɪŋkɪdʒ/, /shring-kidge/ *n* the amount by which something becomes smaller.

**shrink-wrap** /'ʃrɪŋk,ræp/, /shringk-rap/ *vb* to wrap in a tough, clear plastic material that shrinks to size when heated.

**shrive** /ʃraɪv/, /shrive/ *vb (pt shrove or shrived, pp shriven) (fml or old)* to hear the confession and forgive the sins of.

**shrivele** /'ʃrɪvəl/, /shri-vel/ *vb (shrivelled, shrivelling; also shriveled, shriveling (US))* 1 to dry up and become smaller. 2 to become wrinkled.

**shroud** /ʃraud/, /shroud/ *n* 1 a garment or covering for a dead body. 2 *p/l* the set of ropes supporting a mast of a ship. • *vb* 1 to put in a shroud. 2 to cover, to hide.

**shrub** /ʃrəb/, /shrub/ *n* a short treelike bush with a short trunk.

**shrubbery** /'ʃrəbəri/, /shru-bree/ *n* a place where many shrubs are growing close together.

**shrug** /ʃrʌg/, /ʃrʌg/ *vb (shrugged, shrugging)* to raise and drop the shoulders to express indifference.

**shrunken** /'ʃrʌŋkən/, /ʃrʌŋ-kin/ *adj* grown smaller, shriveled.

**shudder** /'ʃʌdər/, /ʃu-der/ *vb* to tremble from fear, etc, to shiver with cold. • *also n.*

**shuffle** /'ʃefəl/, /ʃu-fəl/ *vb* 1 to make a noise by moving the feet on the ground. 2 to mix cards before giving them out. • *also n.*

**shun** /ʃʌn/, /ʃun/ *vb (shunned, shunning)* to avoid; to keep away from.

**shunt** /ʃʌnt/, /ʃunt/ *vb* 1 (*of a railway engine or train*) to move on to a different track or side line. 2 to move or turn to the side, to turn the other way.

**shush** /ʃuʃ/, /ʃush/ *interj* used to tell another to be quiet.

**shut** /ʃet/, /ʃut/ *vb (shut, shutting)* to close.

**shut-eye** /-aɪ/, /ʃu-tie/ *n (inf)* sleep.

**shutter** /'ʃetər/, /ʃu-ter/ *n* a covering that can be placed or closed over a window or other opening to keep out light.

**shuttle** /'ʃetəl/, /ʃu-tul/ *n* 1 the part of a weaving or sewing machine that carries the thread to and fro. 2 a travelling back and forth over an often short route, as by train, bus, aeroplane, etc. • **space shuttle** an aircraft that can go into space and return to Earth.

**shuttlecock** /'ʃetəl,kɒk/, /ʃu-tul-cock/ *n* a cork rounded at one end and stuck with feathers, used for a ball in badminton.

**shy<sup>1</sup>** /ʃai/, /ʃie/ *adj* timid, easily frightened, keeping to oneself in front of others. • *vb* to jerk or jump to the side in fear, etc. • *n shyness.*

**shy<sup>2</sup>** /ʃai/, /ʃie/ *vb* to throw. • *n* a throw.

**sibling** /'siblɪŋ/, /sib-ling/ *n* a brother or sister.

**sibyl** /'sibəl/, /si-bul/ *n* in ancient times, a prophetess or fortune teller.

**sick** /sɪk/, /sick/ *adj* 1 (*esp US*) ill. 2 bringing up food from the stomach by vomiting, about to vomit. 3 tired of something through having too much of it .

**sickbed** /'sɪkbɛd/, /sick-bed/ *n* the bed in which a sick person stays.

**sicken** /'sɪkən/, /si-ken/ *vb* **1** to make or become sick. **2** to disgust. •

*adj* **sickening** causing sickness or nausea, disgusting or revolting.

**sickle** /'sɪkəl/, /si-cul/ *n* a knife with a curved blade for cutting corn, etc.

**sickly** /'sɪkli/, /si-clee/ *adj* **1** often ill. **2** pale. **3** oversentimental.

**sickness** /'sɪknəs/, /sick-ness/ *n* **1** illness. **2** vomiting.

**side** /saɪd/, /side/ *n* **1** one of the surfaces of a body, the part of the body between either shoulder and thigh. **2** edge, border. **3** slope. **4** one of two opposing parties or teams. • *adj* on, at, or towards the side. • *vb* to support one party against another.

**sideboard** /'saɪdbɔːrd/, /side-board/ *n* a piece of furniture for storing dishes, cutlery, linen, etc.

**sideburns** /'saɪdbɜːrnz/, /side-burnz/ *n* the hair on a man's face just in front of the ears, especially when the rest of the beard is shaved.

**side effect** /'saɪdəfekt/, /side ef-ect/ *n* a negative effect of taking medication.

**sidekick** /'saɪdkɪk/, /side-kick/ *n* a close friend, a partner.

**sideline** /s'ائڈلائن/, /side-line/ *n* an activity carried on in addition to a person's real job.

**sidelight** /'saɪdləɪt/, /side-lite/ *n* one of the two small lights next to the headlights on a car.

**sidelong** /'saɪdlɔːŋ/, /side-long/ *adj* to the side, slanting. • *also adv.*

**sideshow** /'saɪdʃo:/, /side-shoa/ *n* a less important show at a fair, circus, exhibition, etc.

**sidetrack** /'saɪdtræk/, /side-track/ *vb* to turn someone away from what he or she was about to do.

**sideways** /'saɪdwɛɪz/, /side-wayz/ *adv* on or towards one side.

**siding** /'saɪdɪŋ/, /sie-ding/ *n* **1** a covering for an outside wall of a building. **2a** a short railway track off the main line, used for shunting, etc.

**siege** /si:dʒ/, /seej/ *n* surrounding a fort, town, etc, with an army to take it or make its garrison surrender.

**sienna** /si:'enə/, /see-ye-na/ *n* an earthy colouring matter, yellowish brown in the natural state and reddish brown when burned.

**sierra** /sɪ'ərə/, /see-ye-ra/ *n* a range of mountains with pointed peaks.

**siesta** /si:ˈestə/, /see-ye-sta/ *n* a nap or rest taken after lunch, especially in Spain and some Latin American countries.

**sieve** /siv/, /siv/ *n* a container with a net bottom or a bottom full of holes, used for separating small particles of anything from larger pieces. • *vb* to pass through a sieve.

**sift** /sift/, /sift/ *vb* 1 to pass through a sieve. 2 to examine closely. • *n* sifter. • **sift out** to separate good from bad.

**sigh** /saɪ/, /sie/ *vb* a long, deep, easily heard breath expressing pain, sadness, unreturned love, etc. • *vb* 1 to draw such a breath. 2 (*lit*) to long (for).

**sight** /səɪt/, /site/ *n* 1 the power of seeing. 2 that which is seen. 3 something worth seeing. 4 the area within which things can be seen by someone. 5 (*often pl*) a device attached to a gun to make it easier to aim straight. • *vb* to see, to notice. • **out of sight** too far away to be seen.

**sighting** /'səɪtɪŋ/, /sie-ting/ *n* an observation of something rare or unusual.

**sightseeing** /'səɪt,siŋ/, /site-see-ing/ *n* going around the places of interest in a town, district, etc. • *n* **sightseer**.

**sign** /saɪn/, /sine/ *n* 1 a mark, movement, gesture, etc, representing an accepted meaning. 2 a mark by which a person or thing can be recognized. 3 a notice to give directions or advertise. • *vb* 1 to write a person's name on. 2 to convey meaning by a movement of the head, hands, etc.

**signal** /'sɪgnəl/, /sig-nal/ *n* 1 a sign to give information, orders, etc, from a distance. 2 a tool used to give such signs to drivers of railway engines. 3 a message conveyed by such signs. • *adj* notable, important. • *vb* (**signalled**, **signalling**; *also signaled*, **signaling** (US)) to make signals to. • *n* **signaller**, *also signaler* (US).

**signatory** /'sɪgnətɔri/, /sig-na-toe-ree/ *n* a person who has signed an agreement.

**signature** /'sɪgnətʃər/, /sig-ni-chur/ *n* a person's name written by him or herself.

**significance** /sig'nifɪkəns/, /sig-ni-fi-canse/ *n* meaning, importance.

**significant** /'sig'nifikənt/, /sig-ni-fi-cant/ *adj* full of meaning, important.

**signify** /'signə,fai/, /sig-ni-fie/ *vb* 1 to show by a sign. 2 to mean. 3 to be important.

**sign language** /'saɪn ,læŋgwɪdʒ/, /sine lang-gwidge/ *n* a method of communication using the hands, used especially to communicate with deaf people.

**signpost** /'saɪnpo:st/, /sine-poast/ *n* a post indicating the direction and sometimes also the distance to a place.

**Sikh** /si:k/, /seek/ *n* a member of an Indian religion called **Sikhism** /see-ki-zum/, originally connected with Hinduism, but now based on a belief that there is only one God.

**silage** /'saɪlədʒ/, /sie-lidge/ *n* green food for farm animals, kept in a silo.

**silence** /'saɪləns/, /sie-linss/ *n* lack of sound, quietness. • *vb* to cause to be quiet.

**silencer** /'saɪlənsər/, /sie-lin-ser/ *n* a device for reducing the noise of an engine, gun, etc.

**silent** /'saɪlənt/, /sie-lint/ *adj* 1 making no sound. 2 not talking, speaking little. 3 with no noise or sound.

**silhouette** /'sɪlu:'et/, /si-lu-wet/ *n* the dark outline and flat shape of an object, especially of a face from the side, as seen with a light behind it.

**silica** /'sɪləkə/, /si-li-ca/ *n* the dioxide form of silicon (SiO<sub>2</sub>), a glassy, hard, colourless mineral found as quartz or in agate, etc.

**silicon** /'sɪlikən/, /si-li-con/ *n* a chemical element found in rocks and minerals, with symbol Si.

**silk** /sɪlk/, /silk/ 1 the fine thread produced by the silkworm. 2 a soft material woven from this.

**silken** /'sɪlkən/, /sil-ken/ *adj* (*lit*) made of silk.

**silkworm** /'sɪlkwərm/, /silk-wurm/ *n* a caterpillar that spins silk thread to enclose its cocoon.

**silky** /'sɪlki/, /sil-kee/ *adj* 1 made of silk. 2 soft, smooth.

**sill** /sɪl/, /sill/ *n* the ledge of stone or wood at the foot of a window.

**silly** /'sili/, /si-lee/ *adj* foolish, unwise.

**silo** /'saɪlo:/, /sie-lo/ *n* a tower or pit in which green fodder (grass, etc) is stored until needed as food for animals.

**silt** /sɪlt/, /silt/ *n* the earth, sand, etc, deposited by a moving river. • *vb* to block or become blocked with silt. • *adj* **silty**.

**silver** /'sɪlvər/, /sil-ver/ *n* 1 a precious metal of shining white colour. 2 coins, dishes, etc, made of silver. 3 (*old*) money. • *adj* made of silver. • *vb* to coat with silver. • *adj* **silvery** 1 like silver. 2 clear in tone.

**silver wedding** /'sɪlvər 'wedɪŋ/, /sil-ver wed-ding/ *n* the twentieth-fifth anniversary of a wedding.

**silverware** /'sɪlvər,wer/, /sil-ver-ware/ *n* dishes and utensils made of silver.

**simian** /'sɪmiən/, /si-mee-an/ *adj* like a monkey or ape.

**similar** /'sɪmələr/, /si-mi-lar/ *adj* like, resembling.

**similarity** /'sɪmɪ'lærɪti/, /si-mi-la-ri-tee/ *n* likeness, resemblance.

**simile** /'sɪmɪlɪ/, /si-mi-lee/ *n* a striking comparison of one thing with another.

**simmer** /'sɪmər/, /si-mer/ *vb* to keep on boiling slowly without boiling over.

**simper** /'sɪmpər/, /sim-per/ *vb* to smile in a silly or insincere way. • *also n.*

**simple** /'sɪmpəl/, /sim-pul/ *adj* 1 unmixed, without anything added, pure. 2 not complicated. 3 plain. 4 trusting, innocent, and inexperienced. 5 foolish, easily tricked. • *n* (*old*) a herb used as medicine.

**simplicity** /'sɪm'plɪsɪti/, /sim-pli-si-tee/ *n* 1 easiness. 2 sincerity. 3 plainness. 4 innocence.

**simplification** /'simplɪfi'keɪʃən/, /sim-pli-fi-cay-shun/ *n* the act of making easier to do or understand.

**simplify** /'simplifai/, /sim-pli-fie/ *vb* to make easier to do or understand.

**simply** /'simpli/, /sim-plee/ *adv* 1 in a clear way. 2 absolutely. 3 plain. 4 just, merely.

**simulate** /'simjuleɪt/, /sim-yu-late/ *vb* (*fml*) to pretend. • *n* **simulation**.

**simultaneous** /saiməl'teiniəs/, /si-mul-tay-nee-us/ *adj* taking place at the same time.

**sin** /sɪn/, /sɪn/ *n* **1** a thought, word, or action that breaks the law of God. **2** a wicked act. • *vb* (**sinned**, **sinning**) **1** to do wrong. **2** to commit sin. • *n* **sinner**.

**since** /sɪns/, /sɪnse/ *prep* from. • *adv* ago. • *conj* **1** from the time that. **2** because.

**sincere** /sɪn'si:r/, /sin-seer/ *adj* real, genuine, meaning what is said, frank.

**sincerity** /'-sərɪti/, /sin-se-ri-tee/ *n* honesty of mind, genuineness.

**sinew** /'sɪnu:/, /sin-yoo/ *n* a tendon, a tough cordlike substance that joins muscle to bone; muscular power.

**sinewy** /'sɪnju:i/, /sin-yoo-wee/ *adj* strong, tough.

**sinful** /'sɪnfəl/, /sin-ful/ *adj* full of sin, wicked.

**sing** /sɪŋ/, /sing/ *vb* (*pt* **sang**, *pp* **sung**) to make music with the voice, with or without words. • *n* **singer**.

**singe** /sɪndʒ/, /sinj/ *vb* to burn slightly, to burn the surface or ends of. • *also n.*

**single** /'sɪŋgəl/, /sing-gul/ *adj* **1** one only, alone. **2** unmarried. • *vb* to pick out one. • *n* a ticket for a journey from place to another, but not valid for the return journey.

**single-handed** /'-hændid/, /sing-gul-han-did/ *adj* **1** having only one hand. **2** using or needing the use of only one hand. **3** without help, done or working alone.

**single-minded** /'-maɪndid/, /sing-gul-mine-did/ *adj* concentrating on one main purpose.

**singlet** /'sɪŋglət/, /sing-glet/ *n* a vest or similar garment.

**singly** /'sɪŋgli/, /sing-glee/ *adv* one by one, one at a time.

**singular** /'sɪŋjulər/, /sing-gyu-lar/ *adj* **1** (*fml*) remarkable, unusual, odd, strange. **2** (*in grammar*) referring to one only.

**singularity** /,sɪŋgju'lærɪti/, /sing-gyu-la-ri-tee/ *n* **1** peculiarity, strangeness. **2** an unusual feature.

**singularly** /'sɪŋjulərlɪ/, /sing-gyu-lar-lee/ *adv* (*fml*) strangely, remarkably.

**sinister** /'sɪnɪstər/, /si-ni-ster/ *adj* 1 evil looking. 2 threatening harm or evil.

**sink** /sɪŋk/, /singk/ *vb (pt sank, pp sunk)* 1 to go slowly down. 2 to go below the surface of water. 3 to become worse or weaker. 4 (of an idea) to be understood gradually. 5 to dig. 6 to cause to go underwater. • *n* a basin with a drainpipe leading from it, used when washing.

**sinker** /'sɪŋkər/, /sing-ker/ *n* a weight attached to a fishing line.

**sinner** /'sɪnər/, /si-ner/ *n* a person who commits a sin.

**sinus** /'saɪnəs/, /sie-nus/ *n* a small hollow in a bone, especially that connecting the nose with the skull.

**sip** /sɪp/, /sip/ *vb (sipped, sipping)* to drink in small mouthfulls. • *also n.*

**siphon** /'səfən/, /sie-fun/ *n, also syphon* 1 a bent tube for drawing liquids out of one vessel into another. 2 a bottle of aerated water in which the liquid is forced out up a tube by the pressure of the gas.

**sir** /sər/, /sur/ *n* 1 a word of respect used to men. 2 the title given to a knight or baronet.

**sire** /'saɪr/, /sire/ *n* 1 father. 2 male parent of a horse or other animal. 3 a title of respect used when addressing a king. • *vb (of animals)* to procreate.

**siren** /'saɪrən/, /sie-run/ *n* 1 a mythical creature, half-woman, half-bird, who by the beauty of her song lured sailors to destruction. 2 an attractive but dangerous woman. 3 a loud horn sounded as a time signal or as a warning of danger.

**sirloin** /'sərlɔɪn/, /sir-loin/ *n* the upper part of a loin of beef.

**sister** /'sɪstər/, /si-ster/ *n* 1 a girl or woman born of the same parents as another person. 2 nun. 3 a woman fellow member of the same race, church, profession, etc.

**sisterhood** /'sɪstərhud/, /si-ster-hood/ *n* 1 the state of being sisters. 2 a society of women, usually carrying out religious or charitable works.

**sister-in-law** /'sɪstərɪn'lɔ/, /si-ster-in-law/ *n* 1 the sister of a husband or wife. 2 the wife of a person's brother.

**sisterly** /'sɪstərli/, /si-ster-lee/ *adj* like a sister.

**sit** /sɪt/, /sɪt/ *vb (pt, pp sat; sitting)* **1** to take a rest on a seat. **2** to rest upon eggs to hatch them. **3** (*of government, courts, etc.*) to meet to do business. **4** to rest upon. **5** to take an exam in. • **sit up** **1** to sit straight. **2** to stay out of bed when it is time to sleep.

**sitar** /'sɪtar/, /sɪ-tar/ *n* an Indian stringed instrument with a long neck and gourdlike bottom.

**sit-down** /'sɪt daʊn/, /sɪt-down/ *n* a strike in which the strikers stay inside a factory, etc, refusing to leave or to work.

**site** /səɪt/, /site/ *n* the ground on which a building or number of buildings stands or is to stand. • *vb* to choose a place for.

**sit-in** /'sɪtɪn/, /sɪ-tin/ *n* a method of protesting against the government, a business, etc. in which people sit in a public place and refuse to leave.

**sitter** /'sɪtər/, /sɪ-ter/ *n* **1** a person who visits an artist to have his or her portrait done. **2** short for babysitter, a person who watches children while parents or guardians are away.

**sitting** /'sɪtɪŋ/, /sɪ-ting/ *n* **1** a single uninterrupted meeting. **2** a single visit to an artist doing one's portrait. **3** the act or position of one that sits.

**sitting room** /-ru:m/, /sɪ-ting room/ *n* the room in which a family sits when not working; a living room.

**situate** /'sɪtʃueɪt/, /sɪ-chu-wate/ *vb* to put in a certain place. • *adj* **situated** placed.

**situation** /sɪts'ueɪʃən/, /si-chu-way-shun/ *n* **1** a place or position. **2** (*fml*) a job. **3** circumstances.

**sit-up** /'sɪt,əp/, /sɪ-tup/ *n* a stomach exercise in which a person lies flat on the back and rises to a sitting position without using the hands.

**six** /sɪks/, /siks/ *adj* one more than five.

**sixfold** /'sɪksfɔ:lд/, /siks-foald/ *adj* having six parts, having six times as much or as many.

**sixteen** /sɪks'ti:n, 'sɪks-/ , /sik-steen/ *adj* six more than 10.

**sixteenth** /sɪks'ti:nθ/, /sik-steenth/ *adj* coming after 15 others.

**sixth** /sɪksθ/, /siksth/ *adj* coming after five others.

**sixtieth** /'sɪks,tiə:θ/, /sik-stee-ith/ *adj* coming after 59 others.

**sixty** /'sɪksti/, /sɪk-stee/ *adj* the number between 59 and 61.

**sizeable, sizable** /'saɪzəbəl/, /sie-za-bul/ *adj* quite large or bulky.

**size<sup>1</sup>** /saɪz/, /size/ *n* **1** bigness, bulk, the overall measurement of something. **2** a standard measurement for an item of clothing, etc.  
• *vb* to arrange in order according to size. • **size up** to form an opinion about.

**size<sup>2</sup>** /saɪz/, /size/ *n* a thin glue used as a varnish on paper, cloth, etc.

**sizzle** /'sɪzəl/, /si-zul/ *vb* to make a hissing or spluttering sound, as when frying.

**skate<sup>1</sup>** /skeɪt/, /skate/ *n* a steel blade fastened to a boot to allow a gliding movement on ice. • *vb* to move on skates or roller skates.

**skate<sup>2</sup>** /skeɪt/, /skate/ *n* a large edible flatfish.

**skateboard** /'skeɪtbɔrd/, /skate-board/ *n* a short narrow board on small wheels on which a person stands and moves rapidly or performs jumps and stunts. • *n* **skateboarding**.

**skating rink** /'skeɪtɪŋ rɪŋk/, /skay-ting ringk/ *n* an area of ice prepared for skating.

**skedaddle** /ski'dædəl/, /ski-da-dul/ *vb* (*inf*) to run off or run away, to leave in a hurry.

**skeleton** /'skelətən/, /ske-le-tun/ *n* **1** the bony framework of a body. **2** an outline of a plot or plan. • **skeleton in the closet** something in a person's past life that he or she keeps secret for fear of disgrace.

**skeleton key** /'skelətən ,ki:/, /ske-le-tun kee/ *n* a key that will open a number of different locks of a similar pattern.

**skeleton staff** /'skelətən ,stæf/, /ske-le-tun staff/ *n* the least number of people needed to keep a factory, etc, working.

**sketch** /sketʃ/, /sketch/ *n* **1** a rough drawing or painting, sometimes to be finished later. **2** an outline or short account. **3** a short amusing play. • *vb* **1** to make a quick or rough drawing. **2** to give a short account or outline of; to draw.

**sketchbook** /'sketʃbuk/, /sketch-book/ *n* a book of drawing paper for making sketches.

**sketchy** /'sketʃi/, /sket-cheel/ *adj* incomplete, leaving out details.

**skew** /skju:/, /skyoo/ *vb* to affect something in a way that makes it inaccurate, unfair, etc.

**skewer** /'skju:ər/, /skyoo-ur/ *n* a wooden or metal pin for fastening meat in shape while cooking.

**ski** /ski:/, /skee/ *n* a long strip of wood, metal, etc, fixed to the feet to allow gliding movement over snow. • *n* **skier**, **skiing**. • *also vb* to glide over snow on skis.

**skid** /skid/, /skid/ *n* 1 a sort of runner fixed to the under part of an aeroplane. 2 a sideways movement of a wheel on the ground. • *vb* (**skidded**, **skidding**) 1 to move sideways on wheels that fail to turn. 2 to stop turning by placing a block under (a wheel).

**skill** /skil/, /skill/ *n* ability gained by practice; natural cleverness at doing something.

**skilled** /skild/, /skild/ *adj* expert.

**skilful** /'skilful/, /skil-ful/ *adj*, *also skillful* (US) expert, clever. • *adv* **skilfully**, *also skillfully* (US).

**skim** /skim/, /skim/ *vb* (**skimmed**, **skimming**) 1 to remove anything floating on the surface of a liquid. 2 to pass quickly over the surface of. 3 to read quickly and without attention.

**skimmed milk** /'skimd milk/, /skimd milk/ *n*, *also skim milk* (US) **/skim milk** milk from which the cream has been removed.

**skimp** /skimp/, /skimp/ *vb* to give less than is needed, to give or use sparingly.

**skimpy** /'skimpi/, /skim-peel/ *adj* barely or not quite enough.

**skin** /skin/, /skin/ *n* 1 the natural outer covering of animals or vegetables. 2 a thin layer or covering. 3 a container made of skin. • *vb* (**skinned**, **skinning**) to take the skin off.

**skinny** /'skin/i, /skin-ee/ *adj* (*inf*) very thin.

**skintight** /'skin,təit/, /skin-tite/ *adj* clinging closely to the body.

**skip<sup>1</sup>** /skip/, /skip/ *vb*. • *n* 1 a light jump. 2 a large open container for collecting and carrying away large, heavy items of waste, such as builders' rubbish.

**skip<sup>2</sup>** /skip/, /skip/ *n* the captain of a curling or bowling team.

**skipper** /'skɪpər/, /skɪp-er/ *n* the captain of a ship or team.

**skirmish** /'skɜːrmɪʃ/, /skir-mish/ *n* 1 a fight in which the main armies are not engaged. 2 a short period of fighting or argument. • *vb* to fight in small parties.

**skirt** /skɜːrt/, /skirt/ *n* 1 the part of a garment below the waist. 2 a woman's garment stretching from the waist down. 3 the border or outer edge. • *vb* to pass along the edge or border.

**skirting board** /'skɜːrtɪŋ bɔːrd/ /skirt-ing bored/ *n* a long narrow piece of wood along the bottom of the wall of a room.

**skit** /skɪt/, /skit/ *n* a piece of writing in which persons, events, etc, are imitated in a way that makes fun of them.

**skittish** /'skɪtɪʃ/, /skit-ish/ *adj* easily excitable.

**skive** /skɪv/, /skive/ *vb* to avoid work by staying away without permission or good reason. • *n* **skiving**.

**skivvy** /'skɪvi/, /skiv-ee/ *n* a person who does all the unpleasant chores in a house.

**skulk** /skʌlk/, /skulk/ *vb* to try to keep out of sight for fear or with evil intentions.

**skull** /skʌl/, /skull/ *n* the bony case that contains the brain.

**skullcap** /'skʌlkæp/, /skull-cap/ *n* a light, close-fitting, brimless cap usually worn indoors.

**skunk** /skʌŋk/, /skungk/ *n* 1 a black-and-white animal that sprays a bad-smelling fluid when attacked. 2 (*inf*) a mean or contemptible person.

**sky** /skai/, /skie/ *n* the space around Earth as visible to our eyes.

**sky blue** /skai 'blu/, /skie bloo/ *adj* light blue, azure.

**sky dive** /'skai daɪv/, /skie dive/ *vb* to jump from a plane and fall for as long as possible without opening a parachute.

**skylark** /'skailərk/, /skie-lark/ *n* a small bird that sings as it flies upward. • *vb* to play about noisily, to play tricks.

**skylight** /'skailəɪt/, /skie-lite/ *n* a window in the roof of a building.

**skyline** /'skailaɪn/, /skie-line/ *n* the horizon.

**skyscraper** /'skai,skreɪpər/, /skie-skray-per/ *n* a very tall building.

**skywards** /'skai,werdz/, /skie-wurdz/ *adv* upward from the earth.

**slab** /slæb/, /slab/ *n* a large flat piece of anything.

**slack<sup>1</sup>** /slæk/, /slack/ *adj* **1** loose, not tight. **2** careless, lazy. **3** not busy. • *n* the loose part of a rope, etc. • *vb* **1** to work lazily or carelessly. **2** to lose speed.

**slack<sup>2</sup>** /slæk/, /slack/ *n* coal dust and tiny pieces of coal.

**slacken** /'slækən/, /sla-ken/ *vb* **1** to loosen. **2** to lose force or speed. **3** to become less.

**slacker** /'slækər/, /sla-ker/ *n* (*inf*) a person who does not work hard.

**slackness** /'slæknes/, /slack-ness/ *n* **1** looseness. **2** carelessness.

**slacks** /slæks/, /slacks/ *npl* loose-fitting trousers.

**slain** *pp* of **slay**.

**slake** /sleɪk/, /slake/ *vb* **1** to satisfy. **2** to mix lime with water.

**slalom** /'slələm/, /sla-lum/ *n* a skiing race downhill over a zigzag course marked by poles.

**slam** /slæm/, /slam/ *vb* (**slammed**, **slamming**) to shut or put down noisily. • *n* a bang.

**slander** /'slændər/, /slan-der/ *n* an untrue story written or said to injure a person's character. • *vb* to spread such a story.

**slandering** /'slændərəs/, /slan-der-uss/ *adj* harmful to the reputation.

**slang** /slæŋ/, /slang/ *n* words and phrases in common use but not accepted as good English.

**slant** /slænt/, /slant/ *n* slope. • *vb* **1** to slope or cause to slope. **2** to express or describe something in such a way as to emphasize a certain point or show favour towards a particular point of view.

**slap** /slæp/, /slap/ *n* a blow with the open hand. • *vb* (**slapped**, **slapping**) to strike with the flat of the hand or anything flat.

**slapdash** /'slæpdæʃ/, /slap-dash/ *adj* careless, done in a hurry. • *adv* carelessly.

**slapstick** /'slæpstɪk/, /slap-stick/ *adj* causing laughter by silly actions, such as falling down or bumping into things. • *also n*.

**slash** /slæʃ/, /slash/ *vb* **1** to make a sweeping cut at with a knife, etc; to make long cuts in. **2** to reduce sharply. • *n* a long cut.

**slat** /slæt/, /slat/ *n* a thin strip of wood, etc.

**slate**<sup>1</sup> /sleɪt/, /slæt/ *n* **1** a type of rock that splits easily into thin layers. **2** a shaped piece of slate for covering a roof or for writing on. • *vb* to cover with slate.

**slate**<sup>2</sup> /sleɪt/, /slæt/ *vb* to criticize severely.

**slaughter** /'slɒtər/, /slaw-ter/ *n* **1** killing in great numbers. **2** the act of killing. • *vb* **1** to kill in great numbers. **2** to kill for food.

**slaughterhouse** /'slɒtər,haʊs/, /slaw-ter-house/ *n* a place where animals are killed for food, an abattoir.

**slave** /sleɪv/, /slæv/ *n* **1** a person who is the property of another person and has to work for him or her. **2** a person who has to do the dirty or unpleasant work. • *vb* to work very hard.

**slavery** /'sleɪvəri/, /slæv-vu-ree/ *n* **1** the state of being a slave, the owning or keeping of slaves as a practice. **2** hard, unpleasant, and badly paid work. **3** lack of all freedom.

**slave trade** /'sleɪv treɪd/, /slæv trade/ *n* the buying and selling of people as slaves.

**slay** /sleɪ/, /slay/ *vb* (*pt* **slew**, *pp* **slain**) to kill.

**sleazy** /'sli:zi/, /slee-zee/ *adj* shoddy, shabby, morally low. • *n* **sleaze**.

**sledge** /slēdʒ/, /sledge/ *n*, also **sled** (US) a vehicle on runners for use in the snow. • *vb* to ride on a sledge, to carry on a sledge. • *n* **sledging** riding or carrying on a sledge.

**sledgehammer** /'slēdʒ,hæmər/, /sledge-ha-mer/ *n* a long-handled, heavy hammer usually held with two hands.

**sleek** /sli:k/, /sleek/ *adj* **1** smooth and shiny. **2** well-fed and cared for.

**sleep** /sli:p/, /sleep/ *vb*, (*pt*, *pp* **slept**) to rest the body, with the eyes shut, unaware of the surroundings. • *n* a complete rest for the body, as at night. • *adv* **sleepily** in a drowsy, sleepy manner.

**LEEPER** /'sli:pər/, /slee-per/ *n* **1** a person or animal who is asleep. **2** a long rectangular block that supports railway lines. **3** a coach on a train with bunks for sleeping passengers.

**sleeping bag** /'sli:pɪŋ bæg/, /slee-ping bag/ *n* a large, warmly lined, zippered bag in which a person can sleep, especially outdoors.

**sleeping pill** /'sli:pɪŋ pil/, /slee-ping pill/ *n* a drug that makes a person sleepy and drowsy, so as to help him or her to sleep.

**sleepless** /'sli:pələs/, /slee-p-less/ *adj* 1 unable to sleep. 2 without sleep.

**sleepover** /'sli:p,o:vər/, /sleep-oo-ver/ *n (inf)* 1 a party where (usually) children spend the night at a place other than home. 2 a night spent by children at someone else's house.

**sleepwalker** /sli:p,wɔ:kər/, /sleep-waw-ker/ *n* a person who walks about in his or her sleep. • *vb sleepwalking*.

**sleepy** /'sli:pi/, /slee-pee/ *adj* wanting to sleep, drowsy.

**sleet** /sli:t/, /sleet/ *n* falling snow mixed with rain or hail. • *adj sleety*.

**sleeve** /sli:v/, /sleev/ *n* 1 the part of a garment that covers the arm. 2 a tube or tubelike part fitting over or around another part. 3 a thin paper or plastic cover for protecting something.

**sleigh** /slei/, /slay/ *n* a vehicle on runners for use in snow, a sledge.

**sleight** /slait/, /slite/ *n* cunning or craft used to trick.

**sleight of hand** /,slait əv 'hænd/, /slite ov hand/ *n* quickness with the hands, jugglery.

**slender** /'slendər/, /slen-der/ *adj* 1 slim. 2 thin, scanty, only just enough.

**slept pt and pp of sleep**.

**sleuth** /slu:θ/, /slooth/ *n* a detective.

**slew<sup>1</sup>** /slu:/, /sloo/ *n* a large number, a group.

**slew<sup>2</sup> pt of slay**.

**slice** /sləɪs/, /slice/ *vb* 1 to cut into thin pieces. 2 to strike a ball in a glancing blow that makes it spin. • *n* 1 a thin, broad piece cut off. 2 a flat utensil for serving food.

**slick** /slik/, /slick/ *adj* 1 quick and clever. 2 smart but not trustworthy.

**slide** /slaɪd/, /slide/ *vb (pt, pp slid)* 1 to move smoothly over a surface, as of ice, to slip. 2 to become gradually lower or worse. • *n* 1 a slope or track for sliding on. 2 a small glass plate with an object to be examined through a microscope or a picture to be shown on a screen.

**slight** /sləɪt/, /slite/ *adj* 1 small, lightly built. 2 small, not great, not serious. • *n* an insult. • *vb* to treat as unimportant, to treat insultingly. • *adj slighting*.

**slim** /slɪm/, /slɪm/ *adj* 1 thin in an attractive way, lightly built. 2 slight, small. • *vb (slimmed, slimming)* to reduce weight by exercises, not eating certain foods, etc.

**slime** /slaim/, /slaim/ *n* any soft, moist, slippery, sometimes sticky matter.

**slimy** /'slaimi/, /slie-mee/ *adj* 1 covered with slime, slippery. 2 untrustworthy.

**sling** /sling/, /sling/ *vb (pt, pp slung)* 1 to throw with the outstretched arm. 2 to cause to hang from. • *n* 1 a strap or band used for hurling stones. 2 a bandage hanging from the neck to support an injured arm. 3 a band passed around something to help to lift or support it.

**slink** /slink/, /slingk/ *vb (pt, pp slunk)* to go away quietly as if ashamed.

**slinky** /'slinki/, /sling-kee/ *adj* of a dress, close-fitting so that it shows off the figure.

**slip** /slip/, /slip/ *vb (slipped, slipping)* 1 to move smoothly along. 2 to go quietly unseen. 3 to lose footing. 4 to escape (the memory). • *n* 1 the act of slipping. 2 a careless mistake. 3 a narrow piece of paper. 4 a twig. 5 a loose cover (e.g. a pillowcase). 6 a woman's undergarment or petticoat. 7 a prepared downward slope along which ships can slide into the sea. • **give the slip to** to go away from without being noticed.

**slipcase** /'slipkeɪs/, /slip-case/ *n* a boxlike container for a book or set of books, open at one end to show the spine(s) of the book(s).

**slipcover** /'slipkəvər/, /slip-cu-ver/ *n* a removable, fitted cloth cover for a chair, sofa, etc.

**slipknot** /slipnɒt/, /slip-not/ *n* a knot that can be moved.

**slippage** /'slipədʒ/, /sli-pidge/ *n* the act of slipping, the amount of slipping.

**slipper** /'slɪpər/, /sli-per/ *n* a loose shoe for wearing in the house.

**slippery** /slɪpəri/, /sli-pree/ *adj* 1 hard to stand on without sliding or falling. 2 hard to hold without the grip sliding. 3 (*inf*) untrustworthy.

**slipshod** /'slɪpʃəd/, /slip-shod/ *adj* careless, untidy.

**slit** /slɪt/, /slit/ *vb (slitted, slitting)* to make a long cut in. • *n* a long narrow cut or opening.

**slither** /'slɪðər/, /sli-ther/ *vb* to slide clumsily or without control, to slip or slide on.

**sliver** /'slɪvər/, /sli-ver/ *n* a thin piece cut off, a splinter.

**slob** /slɒb/, /slob/ *n* a lazy, untidy person.

**slobber** /'slɒbər/, /slob-er/ *vb* to let saliva run or fall from the mouth.

**slog** /slɒg/, /slog/ *vb* (**slogged**, **slogging**) **1** to hit hard. **2** to work hard. • *n* **slogger**.

**slogan** /'slo:gən/, /slo-gan/ *n* **1** a war cry. **2** a party cry or catchword.

**3** an easily memorized saying used to advertise a product or campaign.

**sloop** /slu:p/, /sloop/ *n* a small sailing boat with one mast.

**slop** /slɒp/, /slop/ *vb* (**slopped**, **slopping**) to spill through, carelessness; to overflow a little at a time. • *n* **1** a puddle of spilled liquid. **2** (*usually pl*) dirty or waste water. **3** (*usually pl*) liquid food.

**slope** /slo:p/, /slope/ *n* **1** a rise or fall from the level. **2** a slant. • *vb* **1** to rise or fall from the level. **2** to slant.

**sloppy** /'sloppi/, /slop-ee/ *adj* (*inf*) **1** wet, muddy. **2** careless and untidy. **2** foolishly sentimental.

**slosh** /slɒʃ/, /slosh/ *vb* to shake a liquid; to apply a liquid; to splash through water.

**slot** /slɒt/, /slot/ *n* a narrow opening or hole, especially one made to receive coins.

**sloth** /slɒθ/, /slawθ/ *n* **1** laziness. **2** a slow-moving South American animal that lives in trees.

**slothful** /'slɒθfʊl/, /slawθ-ful/ *adj* very lazy.

**slouch** /sləutʃ/, /slouch/ *vb* to stand, walk, or sit with bent back and head and shoulders sloping inward. • *n* a lazy, unhealthy, and improper way of standing and walking. • *adj* **slouchy**.

**slough** /sləf/, /sluf/ *n* the cast-off skin of a snake. • *vb* **1** to cast off. **2** to throw off.

**slovenly** /'sləvənli/, /slu-ven-lee/ *adj* dirty and untidy, very careless.

**slow** /slo:/, /sloə/ *adj* **1** not quick or fast. **2** taking a long time to do things. **3** not clever. **4** behind the correct time. • *vb* to go or cause to go less quickly.

**sludge** /slʌdʒ/, /sludge/ *n* soft, thick mud.

**slug<sup>1</sup>** /slʌg/, /slʌg/ *n* a shell-less snail that is harmful to plants.

**slug<sup>2</sup>** /slʌg/, /slʌg/ *vb (slugged, slugging)* **1** to shoot. **2** to hit hard. • *n* a small solid metal bullet.

**sluggish** /'slʌgɪʃ/, /slu-gish/ *adj* slow-moving.

**slum** /slʌm/, /slʌm/ *n* part of a town in which poor people live in overcrowded, dirty, and unhealthy houses.

**slumber** /'slʌmbər/, /slʌm-ber/ *vb* to sleep. • *n* sleep.

**slump** /slʌmp/, /slʌmp/ *n* a sudden fall in prices, wages, etc. • *vb* **1** to go suddenly down in price, etc. **2** to fall suddenly or heavily.

**slung** *pt and pp of sling.*

**slunk** *pt and pp of slink.*

**slur** /slər/, /slur/ *vb (slurred, slurring)* **1** to pass over quickly or without attention. **2** to make (sounds) unclear by running them together. • *n* **1** a bad point in a person's character or reputation. **2** (*mus*) a curved mark over two or more notes to be played smoothly one after the other.

**slurp** /slərp/, /slurp/ *vb* to drink or eat noisily.

**slush** /slʌʃ/, /slush/ *n* **1** half-melted snow. **2** (*inf*) foolishly sentimental writing or talk. • *adj* **slushy**.

**sly** /slai/, /sli/ *adj* cunning, tricky, doing things in a secret and untrustworthy way. • **on the sly** secretly.

**smack<sup>1</sup>** /smæk/, /smack/ *vb* **1** to hit with the flat of the hand. **2** to part the lips so as to make a sharp noise. • *n* **1** a slap. **2** a loud kiss.

**smack<sup>2</sup>** /smæk/, /smack/ *n* a taste, a flavour or suggestion of. • *vb* **1** to taste. **2** to remind of, to suggest.

**smack<sup>3</sup>** /smæk/, /smack/ *n* a small fishing boat with sails.

**small** /smɔl/, /smawl/ *adj* **1** little. **2** not much. • *n* the lower part of the back.

**small intestine** /smɔl in'testɪn/, /small in-tess-tin/ *n* the part of the digestive system where nutrients are absorbed from food and passed into the bloodstream.

**smallpox** /'smɔlpɔks/, /smawl-poks/ *n* a dangerous infectious disease that leaves little pocks on the skin.

**small talk** /'smɔltɒk/, /smɔ:l tok/ *n* conversation about unimportant matters.

**smart** /smɑ:t/, /smɑ:t/ *adj* **1** quick, clever. **2** well-dressed. • *vb* to feel or cause a quick keen pain.

**smarten** /'smɑ:tən/, /smɑ:ten/ *vb* to make smart or smarter.

**smash** /smæʃ/, /smash/ *vb* to break into pieces. • *n* **1** act of breaking into pieces. **2** the noise caused by breakage. **3** an accident involving one or more vehicles. **4** a disaster, downfall. • **smash and grab** a theft carried out by smashing a shop window and taking articles behind it.

**smear** /smi:xr/, /smeər/ *vb* **1** to spread. **2** to smudge, to make or become blurred. • *n* **1** a dirty mark, a blot. **2** a story intended to harm a person's good name. • *adj* **smeary**.

**smell** /smel/, /smell/ *n* **1** the sense that enables animals to become aware of by breathing in through the nose. **2** scent, odour. • *vb (pt, pp smelled)* **1** to perceive by smell. **2** to give off an odour. • **smell a rat** to be suspicious.

**smelly** /'smeli:/, /smel-ee/ *adj* having an unpleasant odour.

**smelt**<sup>1</sup> /smɛlt/, /smelt/ *vb* to melt metal out of rock. • *n* **smelter**.

**smelt**<sup>2</sup> /smɛlt/, /smelt/ *n* a small edible fish of the salmon family.

**smile** /smail/, /smile/ *vb* **1** to show joy, amusement, etc, by an upward movement of the lips. **2** to be favourable. • *n* a look of pleasure or amusement. • *adj* **smiley**.

**smirk** /smərk/, /smurk/ *vb* to smile in a silly or unnatural manner. • *n* a smug or scornful smile.

**smite** /smət/, /smite/ *vb (pt smote, smiting; pp smitten) (old or fml)* **1** to strike hard. **2** to cause to suffer from.

**smith** /smiθ/, /smith/ *n* a craftsman who works in metals.

**smock** /smɒk/, /smock/ *n* **1** a loose overall worn to protect a person's clothes. **2** a woman's loose dress.

**smog** /smɒg/, /smog/ *n* a smoky fog, pollution.

**smoke** /smo:k/, /smoke/ *n* the sooty vapour rising from a burning substance. • *vb* **1** to give off smoke. **2** to draw in the tobacco smoke from a cigarette, pipe, etc. **3** to preserve in smoke. **4** to drive out by smoke. • *adj* **smoky**.

**smoker** /'smo:kər/, /smo-ker/ *n* a person who smokes tobacco.

**smoke screen** /'smo:k skri:n/, /smoke screen/ *n* 1 thick clouds of smoke sent out to conceal movements. 2 something intended to conceal activities.

**smokestack** /'smo:kstæk/, /smoke-stack/ *n* the chimney of a steamer or factory.

**smote** *pt of smite.*

**smoulder** /'smo:ldər/, /smole-der/ *vb*, also **smolder** (US) to burn and smoke without flame.

**smooth** /smu:ð/, /smooth/ *adj* 1 having an even surface, not rough. 2 free from difficulties. 3 having good yet not pleasing manners. • *vb* to make smooth or level.

**smooth-tongued** /'smu:ð,tʌŋd/, /smooth-tungd/ *adj* able to speak in a very polite or flattering manner.

**smother** /'sməðər/, /smu-ther/ *vb* to kill by keeping air from.

**smudge** /smədʒ/, /smudge/ *n* a dirty mark, a stain. • *vb* 1 to make a dirty mark on. 2 to make or become blurred or smeared. • *adj* smudgy.

**smug** /smæg/, /smug/ *n* self-satisfied, too pleased with oneself.

**smuggle** /'smægəl/, /smu-gul/ *vb* 1 to bring goods into the country secretly, without paying customs duties on them. 2 to bring in or pass secretly.

**smuggler** /'smæglər/, /smu-gler/ *n* a person who smuggles goods.

**smut** /smʌt/, /smut/ *n* 1 a flake of soot. 2 a dirty mark or stain. 3 dirty or indecent talk. • *adj* smutty.

**snack** /snæk/, /snack/ *n* something small, such as a piece of fruit or biscuit, eaten between meals. • *vb* to eat between meals.

**snag** /snæg/, /snag/ *n* an unexpected difficulty. • *vb* to damage or tear something by getting it caught on something sharp.

**snail** /sneɪl/, /snail/ *n* a slow-moving soft-bodied creature with a shell on its back.

**snail mail** /snail mail/ *n* the ordinary postal service, as opposed to email.

**snake** /sneɪl/, /snake/ *n* 1 a long creature that slithers along the ground with no legs and a scaly skin, a serpent. 2 an

untrustworthy or deceitful person.

**snap** /snæp/, /snap/ *vb* (**snapped**, **snapping**) **1** to bite or seize suddenly. **2** to break with a sharp sound. **3** to speak in a quick, angry manner. **4** to take a photograph of with a hand camera. • *n* **1** a sudden bite. **2** a short, sharp sound. **3** a lock that springs shut when released. **4** a spell of weather. **5** a card game. **6** a snapshot.  
**snapdragon** /'snæp,drægən/, /snap dra-gun/ *n* a plant with a showy white, yellow, red, or purple flower.

**snappish** /'snæpiʃ/, /sna-pish/ *adj* irritable, short-tempered.

**snappy** /'snæpi/, /sna-peel *adj* **1** snappish. **2** (*inf*) quick.

**snapshot** /'snæpʃət/, /snap-shot/ *n* **1** a quick shot. **2** a photograph taken with a hand camera.

**snare** /snær/, /snare/ *n* **1** a kind of musical drum. **2** a trap for catching birds or animals, especially one made with a running noose. **3** a temptation. • *vb* to catch by a snare.

**snarl** /snarl/, /snarl/ *vb* **1** to growl angrily and show the teeth. **2** to speak rudely or angrily. • *also n.*

**snatch** /snætʃ/, /snatch/ *vb* to seize quickly or suddenly. • *n* **1** a sudden seizing. **2** a small part.

**sneak** /sni:k/, /sneek/ *vb* **1** to go quietly, as a thief. **2** to take secretly and often dishonestly or illegally. **3** to tell of another's wrongdoing to a person in authority. • *n* a tell-tale.

**sneaking** /-ɪŋ/, /snee-king/ *adj* secret.

**sneaky** /'sni:ki/, /snee-kee/ *adj* doing things in a secret, underhand way.

**sneer** /sni:r/, /sneer/ *vb* to show scorn by a look or remark. • *n* a mocking smile or remark.

**sneeze** /sni:z/, /sneez/ *vb* to expel air noisily through the nose and mouth in a sudden, explosive action. • *n* the act or sound of sneezing.

**snicker** /'snɪkər/, /sni-ker/ *vb* to laugh under the breath or secretly, to giggle nervously or unpleasantly. • *also n.*

**snide** /snaid/, /snide/ *adj* cutting, slyly mean, nasty.

**sniff** /snif/, /sniff/ *vb* **1** to breathe noisily inward. **2** to smell. • *n* **1** the act or sound of sniffing. **2** a slight smell. • **sniff at** to show scorn

for.

**sniffle** /'snɪfəl/, /sni-fəl/ *vb* to sniff repeatedly, as when a person has a cold or the flu. • *n* **the sniffles** a cold.

**snigger** /'snɪgər/, /sni-ger/ same as **snicker**.

**snip** /snɪp/, /snip/ *vb* (**snipped**, **snipping**) to cut as with scissors, to cut off with one sharp movement. • *n* **1** the act or sound of scissors closing to cut. **2** a small piece cut off. **3** (*inf*) a bargain.

**snipe**<sup>1</sup> /snæɪp/, /snipe/ *n* a game bird with a long bill, found in marshy places.

**snipe**<sup>2</sup> /snæɪp/, /snipe/ *vb* to shoot at from a hiding place. • *n* **sniper**.

**snippet** /'snɪpət/, /sni-pit/ *n* **1** a small piece cut off. **2** a short item of news.

**snivel** /'snɪvəl/, /sni-vul/ *vb* (**snivelled**, **snivelling**) **1** to run at the nose. **2** to go on crying or complaining, to whimper.

**snob** /snɒb/, /snob/ *n* a person who looks down on others because they are less wealthy or of lower rank in society. • *n* **snobbery**. • *adj* **snobby**.

**snobbish** /snɒbɪʃ/, /snob-ish/ *adj* behaving like a snob.

**snooker** /'snu:kər/, /snoo-ker/ *n* a billiards game in which players have to knock, with a white cue ball, 15 red and then, in order, six coloured balls into pockets on a table.

**snoop** /snu:p/, /snoop/ *vb* to go about secretly or stealthily to find out something. • *n* **snooper**.

**snooty** /'snu:ti/, /snoo-tee/ *adj* (*inf*) haughty, proud, distant in manner.

**snooze** /snu:z/, /snooz/ *n* (*inf*) a short, light sleep. • *vb* to take a short nap.

**snore** /snɔ:r/, /snore/ *vb* to breathe noisily while asleep, as if grunting. • *n* the noise so made.

**snorkel** /'snɔ:kəl/, /snaʊər-kul/ *n* a tube that extends above the water through which a person can breathe while swimming just below the surface of the water.

**snort** /snɔ:t/, /snaʊərt/ *vb* to blow air out noisily through the nose. • *also n.*

**snot** /snɒt/, /snot/ *n* (*inf*) the mucus of the nose.

**snout** /snaut/, /snout/ *n* 1 the long nose and mouth of an animal. 2 the nozzle of a pipe.

**snow** /sno:/, /sno/ *n* vapour frozen in the air and falling in flakes. • *vb* to fall as snow, to cover as with snow. • *adj* **snowy**.

**snowball** /'sno:bɒl/, /sno-bawl/ *n* snow pressed into a hard ball.

**snowboard** /'sno:bɔ:d/, /sno-board/ *n* a long, wide board with bindings for the feet on which people slide down slopes. • *n* **snowboarding**.

**snowdrift** /'sno:drift/, /sno-drift/ *n* snow heaped up by the wind to form a bank.

**snowdrop** /'sno:drɒp/, /sno-drop/ *n* a small white flower that grows in early spring.

**snowfall** /'sno:fɒl/, /sno-fawl/ *n* a falling of snow.

**snowflake** /'sno:fleɪk/, /sno-flake/ *n* a single piece of snow.

**snow line** /'sno:læn/, /sno-line/ *n* the level above which snow never melts.

**snowplough** /'sno:plau/, /sno-plow/ *n*, also **snowplow** (US) an implement for clearing snow from roads or railways.

**snowshoe** /'sno:ʃu:/, /sno-shoo/ *n* a light, broad frame worn on the feet for walking on snow.

**snub** /snəb/, /snub/ *vb* (**snubbed**, **snubbing**) to show dislike or disapproval of a person by taking no notice of or speaking rudely to him or her. • *n* rude lack of notice, an unfriendly act or speech. • *adj (of a nose)* short and turned up.

**snuff**<sup>1</sup> /snʌf/, /snuff/ *vb* to sniff powdered tobacco, etc, up the nose. • *n* tobacco powdered for sniffing up the nose.

**snuff**<sup>2</sup> /snʌf/, /snuff/ *vb* 1 to cut off the burnt part of the wick of a candle, to put out a candle. 2 to put an end to something. • *n* **snuffer** a tool used to put out a candle.

**snuffbox** /'snʌfbɔ:ks/, /snuff-boks/ *n* a box for carrying snuff in the pocket.

**snuffle** /'snʌfəl/, /snu-ful/ *vb* to breathe noisily through your nose, making sniffing noises.

**snug** /snʌg/, /snug/ *adj* warm and comfortable, cosy.

**snuggle** /'snʌgəl/, /snu-gul/ *vb* to lie close for warmth, to settle comfortably.

**so** /sə:/, /so/ *adv* **1** in this or that manner. **2** to that extent. **3** thus. **4** very. • *conj* therefore.

**soak** /sə:k/, /soak/ *vb* **1** to wet thoroughly. **2** to steep. **3** to suck up.

**soap** /sə:p/, /soap/ *n* **1** a substance made of oil or fat and certain chemicals, used in washing. **2** a **soap opera**. • *vb* to rub with soap. • *adj* **soapy** having to do with or containing soap.

**soapbox** /sə:pbo:k/, /soap-boks/ *n* **1** a box or crate for soap. **2** a platform used by a person making an informal speech to people on the street.

**soap opera** /'so:p ,ppræ/, /soap op-ra/ *n* a radio or television drama serial that deals with the day-to-day lives and problems of the same group of characters.

**soar** /sɔ:r/, /soar/ *vb* **1** to fly upward. **2** to tower up.

**sob** /sə:b/, /sob/ *vb* (**sobbed**, **sobbing**) to draw in the breath noisily when weeping or short of breath. • *also n.*

**sober** /'so:bər/, /so-ber/ *adj* **1** not drunk. **2** serious, quiet. **3** dark in colour.

**sobriety** /sə'briəti/, /so-brie-i-tee/ *n* the state of being sober.

**so-called** /'so:kəld/, /so-cawld/ *adj* given a name or title to which a person has no right.

**soccer** /səkər/, /sock-er/ *n* a game played with a round ball by two teams of 11 players on a field with a goal at either end, the ball being moved by kicking; football.

**sociable** /'so:ʃəbəl/, /so-sha-bul/ *adj* fond of company.

**social** /'so:ʃəl/, /so-shal/ *adj* **1** having to do with society. **2** living in an organized group.

**socialism** /'so:ʃə,lizəm/, /so-sha-li-zum/ *n* the belief that all means of producing national wealth (e.g. mines, etc.) are the property of the community and should be used for the benefit of all.

**socialist** /'so:ʃə,]ist/, /soe-sha-list/ *n* a person who believes in socialism.

**social science** /,so:ʃəl 'saɪəns/, /so-shal sie-inss/ *n* the study of people living together in groups, families, etc.

**social security** /'so:səl 'sekju:rɪti/, /so-shul si-cure-i-tee/ *n* a government programme that pays money to people who are not working or who are unable to work.

**social work** /'so:səl 'wɜ:k/, /so-shal wɜ:k/ *n* (*sometimes cap*) any service designed to improve the welfare of the community and the individual through various services.

**society** /sə'saɪti/, /suh-sie-u-tee/ *n* **1** a group of people living together in a single organized community. **2** a group of people who meet regularly for a special purpose, mixing with other people. **3** the wealthy or high-ranking members of a community.

**sociology** /'so:sɪ'ɒlədʒi/, /so-see-ol-u-jee/ *n* the study of the nature, growth, and problems of human society. • *n* **sociologist**. • *adj* **sociological**.

**sock** /sɒk/, /sock/ *n* a short stocking, a cloth covering of the foot.

**socket** /'sɒkət/, /sock-it/ *n* a hole or hollow for something to fit into or turn in.

**sod** /sɒd/, /sod/ *n* a piece of earth held together by the roots of the grass growing in it.

**soda** /'so:də/, /so-da/ *n* **1** a powder used in washing, baking, etc. **2** soda water.

**soda water** /'so:də ,wɒtər/, /so-da wa-ter/ *n* water containing soda and made fizzy by gas.

**sodden** /'sɒdən/, /sod-en/ *adj* wet through, soaking.

**sodium** /'so:diəm/, /so-dee-um/ *n* an element found in salt, with the chemical symbol Na.

**sofa** /'so:fə/, /so-fa/ *n* a couch with a cushioned seat, back, and arms.

**sofa bed** /'so:fə,bed/, /so-fa-bed/ *n* a sofa that can be opened into a bed.

**soft** /sɒft/, /soft/ *adj* **1** not hard. **2** easily reshaped by pressing. **3** not loud. **4** (*of colour*) not bright. **5** gentle. **6** not strict. **7** not alcoholic. **8** foolishly kind. • *adv* quietly, gently.

**soft drink** /sɒft'drɪŋk/, /soft drink/ a non-alcoholic drink, such as lemonade or cola.

**soften** /'sɒfən/, /sawf-en/ *vb* 1 to make or become soft. 2 to become less harsh or angry. • *n* **softener** something that softens.

**software** /sɒftwər/, /soft-ware/ *n* the programs used in computers.

**soggy** /'sɒgi/, /sog-ee/ *adj* soft and wet.

**soil** /sɔɪl/, /soil/ *n* the ground, earth, especially that in which plants are grown. • *vb* to dirty, to spoil.

**solace** /'sɒləs/, /sol-iss/ *vb* to cheer, to comfort. • *n* that which gives cheer or comfort.

**solar** /so:lər/, /so-lar/ *adj* having to do with the sun.

**solarium** /sə'ləriəm/, /su-lay-ree-um/ *n* a glassed-in porch, roof, etc, where people sun themselves, as in treating illness.

**solar system** /'so:lər,sistəm/, /so-lar sis-tem/ *n* the sun and the planets that move around it.

**sold** /so:ld/, /soald/ *pt and pp of sell.*

**solder** /'sɒdər/, /sole-dur/ *n* a metal alloy that when melted can be used for cementing together pieces of metal. • *vb* to join with solder.

**soldier** /'so:ldʒər/, /sole-jur/ *n* a person serving in an army. • *n* **soldiery** a group of soldiers, the profession of being a soldier.

**sole<sup>1</sup>** /so:l/, /sole/ *n* the underside of the foot, stocking, or shoe. • *vb* to put a sole on.

**sole<sup>2</sup>** /so:l/, /sole/ *n* a small flatfish.

**sole<sup>3</sup>** /so:l/, /sole/ *adj* only, single. • *adv* **solely**.

**solemn** /'sɒləm/, /sol-um/ *adj* 1 serious in manner or appearance. 2 slow, stately.

**solemnity** /sə'ləmniti/, /su-lem-ni-tee/ *n* seriousness.

**sol-fa** /so:l'fə/, /sole-fa/ *n* the use of the sounds *doh, ray, me, fah, soh, lah, te* in singing the scale. • *also adj.*

**solicit** /sə'lɪsɪt/, /su-li-sit/ *vb* to ask earnestly or repeatedly. • *n* **solicitation**.

**solid** /'sɒlid/, /sol-id/ *adj* 1 not hollow, consisting of hard matter throughout. 2 not liquid or gaseous. 3 firm. 4 reliable. • *n* a body consisting of hard matter throughout.

**solidarity** /sɒlɪ'deriti/, /sol-i-da-ri-tee/ *n* sameness of interests, complete unity.

**solidify** /sə'lɪdɪfaɪ/, /su-li-di-fie/ *vb* to make or become solid.

**soliloquy** /sə'lɪləkwi/, /su-li-lu-kwee/ *n (fml)* a speaking to oneself.

**solitaire** /'sɒli'ter/, /sol-i-tair/ *n* 1 a single diamond or other gem set by itself in a ring. 2 a game of cards for one player, patience.

**solitary** /'sɒlitəri/, /sol-i-tree/ *adj* 1 alone, without companions. 2 living or being alone by habit or preference. 3 single. • *n* a person who lives alone and away from others.

**solitude** /'sɒlɪtu:d, -tju:d/, /sol-i-tyood/ *n* loneliness, being alone, a lonely place.

**solo** /'so:lo:/, /so-lo/ *n* 1 a piece of music for a single performer. 2 a performance by one person. 3 a single person's unaccompanied flight in an aeroplane. • *adv* unaccompanied, alone.

**soloist** /'so:lo:/, /so-lo-ist/ *n* a solo singer or performer.

**solstice** /'sɒlstɪs/, /sol-stiss/ *n* the time when the sun is farthest north (June 21) or south (December 21), giving in the Northern Hemisphere the longest and shortest days, respectively.

**soluble** /'sɒljubəl/, /sol-yu-bul/ *adj* 1 able to be melted or dissolved in liquid. 2 (*fml*) to which an answer or solution can be found. • *n* **solubility**.

**solution** /sə'lju:ʃən/, /su-loo-shun/ *n* 1 a liquid containing another substance dissolved in it. 2 the answer to or explanation of a problem, etc.

**solvable** /'sɒlvəbəl/, /sol-va-bul/ *adj* that can be solved.

**solve** /sɒlv/, /solv/ *vb* to find the right answer to or explanation of.

**solvent** /'sɒlvənt/, /sol-vent/ *adj* 1 able to pay your debts. 2 able to dissolve. • *n* a liquid able to dissolve another substance.

**sombre** /'sɔmbər/, /som-bur/ *adj*, also  **somber** (*US*) dark, gloomy, cheerless.

**sombrero** /sɒm'brero:/, /sum-bre-ro/ *n* a broad-brimmed felt or straw hat.

**some** /səm/, /sum/ *adj* a certain number or amount. • *pron* 1 certain people. 2 a little. • *n and pron* **someone**, **something**.

**somebody** /'səm'bədi/, /sum-bod-ee/ *n* and *pron* **1** some person. **2** a person of importance.

**somewhat** /sə'mhau/, /sum-how/ *adv* in some way or other.

**somersault** /'səmər,sɔlt/, /su-mer-sawlt/ *n* a leap or roll in which the heels turn completely over the head.

**sometime** /səmtaim/, /sum-time/ *adj (fml)* former.

**sometimes** /səmtaimz/, /sum-tiemz/ *adv* now and then.

**somewhat** /səm'wɔt/, /sum-what/ *adv* in some degree, a little.

**somewhere** /səmwer/, /sum-whare/ *adv* in some place.

**son** /sən/, /sun/ *n* a male child.

**sonar** /'so:nar/, /so-nar/ *n* a machine that finds objects underwater by reflecting sound waves.

**sonata** /sə'nɔtə/, /su-na-ta/ *n* a piece of music in several movements, usually for a solo instrument.

**song** /sɔŋ/, /song/ *n* **1** words set to music for the voice. **2** the sounds uttered by a bird. **3** a short poem, poetry.

**songbird** /'sɔŋbərd/, /song-burd/ *n* a bird that sings or a woman who sings.

**songbook** /'sɔŋbu:k/, /song-book/ *n* a book containing a collection of songs, both the words and the notes.

**sonic** /'sɔnik/, /son-ic/ *adj* of or having to do with sound.

**son-in-law** /'sənɪnlə/, /sun-in-law/ *n* the man married to a person's daughter.

**sonnet** /'sənət/, /son-et/ *n* a poem of 14 lines, usually following fixed rhyming patterns. • *n* **sonneteer** a person who writes sonnets.

**soon** /su:n/, /soon/ *adv* **1** in a short time. **2** early. **3** willingly.

**soot** /sut/, /soot/ *n* black particles that rise with the smoke from burning matter. • *adj* **sooty** **1** like soot. **2** black.

**sooth** /su:θ/, /sooth/ *adj* true or real, fact.

**soothe** /su:ð/, /soothe/ *vb* to calm, to comfort.

**sophisticated** /sə'fistəkeɪtəd/, /su-fi-sti-cay-tid/ *adj* **1** (*fml*) not natural, complicated. **2** having a great deal of experience and wordly wisdom, knowledge of how to dress elegantly, etc. • *n* **sophistication**. • *vb* **sophisticate**.

**soporific** /sɒpə'rɪfɪk/, /sop-u-rif-ic/ *adj (fml)* causing sleep. • *n* a drug that causes sleep.

**soggy** /'sɒpi/, /sop-ee/ *adj* foolishly sentimental.

**soprano** /sə'prænəʊ/, /su-pran-o/ *n* 1 the highest female or boy's singing voice. 2 a singer with such a voice.

**sorbet** /sɔr'bɛt/, 'sɔrbət/, /sawr-bay/ *n* a tart ice, as of fruit juice, served as a dessert or sometimes between meals.

**sorcerer** /'sɔrsərər/, /sore-su-rer/ *n* a person who works magic. • *f* **sorceress**.

**sorcery** /-ri/, /sore-su-ree/ *n* magic, witchcraft.

**sordid** /'sɔrdɪd/, /sawr-did/ *adj* mean, dirty, disgusting.

**sore** /sɔr/, /sore/ *adj* painful, hurtful. • *n* a painful cut or growth on the body.

**sorely** /'sɔrlɪ/, /sore-lee/ *adv* 1 very much. 2 painfully.

**sorority** /sə'rɔriti/, /su-raw-ri-tee/ *n* a group of women or girls joined together by common interests, for fellowship, etc.

**sorrel** /'sarəl/, /saw-rel/ *n* 1 a plant with sour-tasting leaves. 2 a reddish brown colour. 3 a horse of that colour.

**sorrow** /'soro:/, /sor-o/ *n* sadness caused by loss or suffering, grief. • *vb* to mourn, to grieve. • *adj* **sorrowful**.

**sorry** /'sɔri/, /sor-ee/ *adj* 1 feeling pity or regret, sad because of wrongdoing. 2 wretched.

**sort** /sɔrt/, /sawrt/ *n* a kind, class, or set. • *vb* to arrange in classes or sets. • **out of sorts** not well.

**soufflé** /'su:fleɪ/, /soo-flay/ *n* a light dish made from beaten egg whites.

**sought** /sɔt/, /sawt/ *pt and pp of seek*.

**soul** /so:l/, /sole/ *n* 1 the spiritual part of a person. 2 (*inf*) a person. 3 a kind of rhythm-and-blues music.

**soulful** /'so:lful/, /sole-ful/ *adj* full of feeling.

**soulless** /'so:ləs/, /sole-less/ *adj* 1 without soul; without spirit. 2 mean-spirited.

**soul mate** /'so:lmeɪt/, /sole-mate/ *n* a person with whom a person has a deeply personal relationship.

**sound<sup>1</sup>** /saʊnd/, /soud/ **adj** 1 healthy. 2 strong. 3 without serious error or weakness. • **adv** completely.

**sound<sup>2</sup>** /saʊnd/, /soud/ **n** 1 a noise. 2 that which is heard. • **vb** 1 to make a noise. 2 to touch or strike so as to cause a noise.

**sound<sup>3</sup>** /saʊnd/, /soud/ **n** a long narrow piece of water between two land masses, a strait. • **vb** 1 to find depth by lowering a lead weight on a cord. 2 to try to discover someone's opinion by questioning.

**soundproof** /'saʊndpru:f/, /soud-proof/ **adj** that keeps sound from coming through.

**soundtrack** /'saʊndtræk/, /soud-track/ **n** the part of a film on which sounds are recorded.

**sound wave** /'saʊnd weɪv/, /soud wavel **n** a vibration that carries a sound through a substance, for example, the air.

**soup** /su:p/, /soop/ **n** a liquid food made by boiling meat, vegetables, etc. together. • **adj** soupy.

**sour** /'saur/, /sour/ **adj** 1 sharp or bitter in taste. 2 ill-tempered and hard to please. • **vb** to make sour.

**source** /sɔ:s/, /soarss/ **n** 1 that from which anything begins. 2 the spring from which a river flows. 3 origin or cause.

**sousaphone** /'su:zæfə:n/, /soo-za-foan/ **n** a brass instrument of the tuba family.

**south** /səuθ/, /south/ **n** 1 one of the points of the compass, opposite north. • **adj** being in the south, facing south. • **also adv.** • **adj and adv southward, southbound.**

**southeast** /səuθ'i:st/, /sou-theest/ **n** the point midway between south and east. • **also adj.** • **adj southeasterly, southeastern, southeastward.**

**southerly** /'səðərli/, /su-ther-lee/ **adj** lying towards or coming from the south.

**southern** /'səðərn/, /su-thern/ **adj** in or of the south. • **n Southerner** a person living in or coming from the South.

**Southern Hemisphere** /,səðərn 'hemisfi:r/, /su-thern hem-iss-feer/ **n** the half of the earth south of the equator.

**southernmost** /'səðərnmo:st/, /su-thern-moast/ **adj** farthest south.

**South Pole** /'saʊθ po:l/, /south pole/ *n* the place on Earth that is the absolutely farthest south.

**southwest** /'saʊθwɛst/, /south-west/ *n* the point midway between south and west. • *also adj.* • *adj southwesterly, southwestern, southwestward.*

**souvenir** /su've'nɪər/, /soo-vin-ir/ *n* an object kept to remind a person of another person or past event.

**sovereign** /'sɒvriən/, /sov-rin/ *adj* above all others, chief. • *n ruler, a king or queen.*

**sovereignty** /'sɒvrənti:/, /sov-rin-tee/ *n* supreme power.

**sow<sup>1</sup>** /sau/, /sou/ *n* a female pig.

**sow<sup>2</sup>** /so:/, /soe/ *vb (pp sown)* **1** to scatter. **2** to plant with seeds.

**soya bean** /'soɪbi:n/, /soy-uh been/ *n*, *also soybean /soy-been/ (US)* a type of bean used for making flour or oil, as fodder for cattle, and in food that is free of meat or dairy products, such as **soya milk /soy-uh milk/**.

**soy sauce** /'soɪsɔ:s/, /soy sawss/ *n* a dark, salty sauce made from soya beans and generally used in Chinese and Japanese dishes.

**spa** /spɑ:/, /spa/ *n* **1** a place at which natural mineral waters may be drunk or bathed in for better health, a health resort at a mineral spring. **2** a place where people go for health and beauty treatments.

**space** /speɪs/, /space/ *n* **1** the whole extent of the universe not occupied by solid bodies. **2** the distance between one body or object and another. **3** the place occupied by a person or thing. **4** a length of time. • *vb to arrange with intervals between.*

**spacecraft** /'speɪskraeft/, /space-craft/ *n* a vehicle used for space travel.

**spaceship** /'speɪsʃɪp/, /space-ship/ *n* a spacecraft in which people travel.

**spacing** /'speɪsɪŋ/, /spay-sing/ *n* the arrangement of spaces.

**spacious** /'speɪʃəs/, /spay-shus/ *adj* roomy, having or giving more than enough room.

**spade** /speɪd/, /spade/ *n* **1** a tool with a broad blade, used for digging. **2 pl** a suit of playing cards. • **call a spade a spade** to say

exactly what a person thinks.

**spadework** /'speɪdwɜːk/, /spa-de-wurk/ *n* the hard work needed to start an enterprise.

**spaghetti** /spə'gɛti/, /spa-ge-tee/ *n* long thin strings of pasta.

**spam** /spæm/, /spam/ *n* 1 a kind of tinned meat product, containing ham. 2 unsolicited, and often unwanted, email or text messages.

**span** /spæn/, /span/ *n* 1 the distance between the tip of the thumb and the little finger fully extended. 2 the spread of an arch. 3 the distance from end to end of a bridge. 4 a space of time. 5 a number of horses or oxen yoked together to draw a cart, etc. • *vb* (**spanned**, **spanning**) 1 to extend from one point in space or time to another. 2 to measure with outstretched fingers.

**spangle** /'spæŋgəl/, /spang-gul/ *n* a small, glittering metal ornament.

**spaniel** /'spænjəl/, /span-yul/ *n* a sporting or pet dog with long silky hair and drooping ears.

**Spanish** /'spæniʃ/, /span-ish/ *n* the language of Spain, Mexico and countries of South and Central America • *adj* relating to Spain, the country, the language and the people.

**spank** /spæŋk/, /spangk/ *vb* 1 to slap with the hand. 2 to move along quickly.

**spanner** /'spænər/, /span-ner/ *n* a tool fitted to the head of a nut and used for tightening or loosening it.

**spar<sup>1</sup>** /spar/, /spar/ *n* 1 a long piece of wood. 2 a pole attached to the mast, used for holding sails in position.

**spar<sup>2</sup>** /spar/, /spar/ *vb* (**sparred**, **sparring**) to box, to fight with the fists, to argue.

**spare** /spær/, /spare/ *adj* 1 scarce. 2 thin. 3 more than is needed, kept in reserve. • *vb* 1 to let off punishment or suffering, to show mercy to. 2 to do without. 3 to use up slowly and carefully. • *n* an item kept in case another like it gets broken, lost, etc.

**spare ribs** /'sper ribz/, /spare ribz/ *n* a cut of meat, especially pork, consisting of the thin end of the ribs with most of the meat cut away.

**spark** /spark/, /spark/ *n* 1 a tiny piece of burning matter. 2 a tiny flash made by electricity passing from one wire to another. 3 a

small amount of something. • *vb* to give off sparks. • *adj* **sparky**.

**sparkle** /'sparkəl/, /spar-kul/ *vb* 1 to throw off sparks, to gleam or shine in flashes, to glitter or glisten. 2 to be lively and intelligent. • *also n.* • *n* **sparkler** 1 someone or something that sparkles. 2 a kind of hand-held firework.

**spark plug** /'spark plæg/, /spark plug/ a device for causing an electric spark to ignite the gas that drives an engine.

**sparrow** /'spæro:/, /spa-ro/ *n* a common small bird.

**sparse** /spars/, /sparse/ *adj* 1 thinly scattered. 2 scanty, scarcely enough. • *n* **sparsity**.

**spasm** /'spæzəm/, /spa-zum/ *n* 1 a sudden movement of the body not done on purpose, caused by a tightening of muscles, as in a cramp; a fit. 2 a feeling or activity that does not last long.

**spasmodic** /'spæzmɒdɪk/, /spaz-mod-ic/ *adj* done occasionally for short periods.

**spat** /spæt/, /spat/ *n* a brief, petty quarrel.

**spatial** /'speɪʃəl/, /spay-shal/ *adj* (*fml*) having to do with space.

**spatter** /'spætər/, /spa-ter/ *vb* to throw or scatter.

**spatula** /'spætʃulə/, /spa-chu-la/ *n* a broad thin blade used in spreading or scraping plaster, paint, ointment, food, etc.

**spawn** /spɒn/, /spawn/ *n* the eggs of fish, frogs, etc. • *vb* 1 to produce spawn. 2 to produce, usually in large numbers.

**speak** /spi:k/, /speek/ *vb* (*pt spoke, pp spoken*) 1 to utter words, to talk. 2 to make a speech. 3 to pronounce.

**speaker** /'spi:kər/, /spee-ker/ *n* 1 a person who speaks. 2 an official who controls debates and discussion in parliament. 3 loudspeaker.

**spear** /spi:r/, /speer/ *n* a weapon with a long straight handle and a pointed metal head. • *vb* to pierce with a spear.

**spearhead** /'spi:rhed/, /speer-hed/ *n* 1 the pointed head of a spear. 2 the leading person in a military attack.

**special** /'speʃəl/, /spe-shal/ *adj* 1 having to do with one particular thing, person, or occasion. 2 not common or usual, distinctive. • *n* **speciality**, *also specialty* (*US*). • *adv* **specially** in a special manner.

**specialist** /'speʃəlist/, /spe-shlist/ *n* a person who makes a particular study of one subject or of one branch of a subject.

**speciality** /,speʃɪ'ælɪti/, /spesh-i-al-i-tee/ *n*, also **specialty** (US) **1** a type of food or dish for which a restaurant or person is well-known. **2** a field of work or study that you have a lot of knowledge about and experience in.

**specialty** /'speʃəlti/, /spesh-ul-tee/ *n* **1** (US) speciality. **2** a branch of medicine.

**specialize** /'speʃəlaɪz/, /spe-sha-lize/ *vb*, also **specialise** to make a particular study of.

**species** /'spi:si:z, 'spi:f-/ , /spee-sheez/ *n* kind, sort, a group of things (e.g. plants, animals) with certain features in common.

**specific** /spə'sifik/, /spe-si-fic/ *adj* **1** definite. **2** exact. **3** particular. • *n* a remedy for a particular disease.

**specification** /,spesɪfi'keʃən/, /spe-si-fi-cay-shun/ *n* an exact statement of the details of a piece of work to be done.

**specify** /'spesi,fai/, /spe-si-fie/ *vb* to state exactly or in detail.

**specimen** /'spesimən/, /spe-si-men/ *n* a sample, a part taken as an example of the whole.

**speck** /spæk/, /speck/ *n* a tiny particle, spot, or stain.

**speckle** /'spækəl/, /spe-cull/ *n* a small spot on a differently coloured background.

**speckled** /'spækəld/, /spe-culd/ *adj* marked with speckles.

**specs** /spəks/, /specs/ *n* (inf) spectacles, glasses.

**spectacle** /'spektəkəl/, /spec-ta-cul/ *n* **1** something worth looking at, a wonderful or magnificent sight. **2** *pl* glasses worn in front of the eyes to assist the eyesight.

**spectacular** /spæk'tækjulər/, /spec-ta-cyu-lar/ *adj* **1** magnificent, wonderful, or splendid to look at. **2** impressive, dramatic.

**spectator** /'spæk,tətər/, /spec-tay-tur/ *n* a person who looks on. • *vb* **spectate** to be a spectator at an event.

**spectral** /'spæktrəl/, /spec-tral/ *adj* ghostly.

**spectre** /'spektər/, /spec-ter/ *n*, also **specter** (US) a ghost.

**spectrum** /'spæktrəm/, /spec-trum/ *n* **1** band of colours, as in a rainbow, produced by passing light through a prism. **2** a range of

radio or sound waves. **3** a wide range of opinions, attitudes, beliefs etc, going from one extreme to the other.

**speculate** /'spekjʊleɪt/, /spe-cyū-late/ *vb* **1** to think about, to guess without having the necessary facts. **2** to buy shares in the hope of selling them later at a profit.

**speculation** /'spekjʊleɪʃən/, /spec-cyū-lay-shun/ *n* **1** act of speculating. **2** a guess or theory.

**speculative** /'spekjʊlətɪv/, /spec-yū-la-tiv/ *adj* **1** risky. **2** hesitant, uncertain. **3** given to trying to think out the reasons for things.

**speculator** /'spekjʊleɪtər/, /spec-yū-lay-tur/ *n* a person who buys things (especially of uncertain value) in the hope of making a large profit on them.

**sped** *pt and pp of speed.*

**speech** /spɪtʃ/, /speech/ *n* **1** the ability to speak. **2** a talk given in public.

**speechless** /'spi:tʃləs/, /speech-less/ *adj* unable to speak for love, surprise, fear, etc.

**speed** /spi:d/, /speed/ *n* **1** quickness of movement. **2** haste. • *vb (pt, pp sped)* **1** to go fast. **2** to drive a car, truck, etc very fast, often illegally fast. **3** to succeed or make succeed.

**speedboat** /'spi:d,bo:t/, /speed-boat/ *n* a motorboat built for speed.

**speedometer** /spə'dɒmətər/, /spi-dom-i-ter/ *n* a tool to show how fast a car, motorcycle, etc, is travelling.

**speedwell** /'spi:dweɪl/, /speed-well/ *n* a plant with small blue flowers.

**speedy** /'spi:di/, /spee-dee/ *adj* fast, quick-moving.

**spell<sup>1</sup>** /spel/, /spell/ *vb (pt, pp spelt or spelled)* to say or write the letters of a word in order. • *n* **speller** a person who spells words. • *n* **spelling** the act of a person who spells.

**spell<sup>2</sup>** /spel/, /spell/ *n* certain words uttered in order to make something happen by magic; a charm, a strange or magical power.

**spell<sup>3</sup>** /spel/, /spell/ *n* **1** a length of time. **2** a turn at doing work.

**spellbound** /'spelbaund/, /spell-bound/ *adj* fascinated, made still by wonder or magic. • *vb spellbind*.

**spell-checker** /'spel,tʃekər/, /spell-che-cker/ *n* a computer program that checks a document for misspelled words.

**spelling bee** /'spelɪŋ bi:/, /spe-ling bee/ *n* a spelling contest.

**spelunk** /spi'ləŋk/, /spi-lungk/ *v* exploring caves as a hobby. • *n*  
**spelunker** /spi'ləŋkər/, /spi-lung-ker/ a person who explores caves. • *n* **spelunking**.

**spelt** *pt an pp of spell*.

**spend** /spend/, /spend/ *vb (pt, pp spent)* **1** to pay out. **2** to use or use up. **3** to pass.

**spender** /'spendər/, /spen-der/ *n* a person who spends, especially someone who spends too much.

**spendthrift** /'spendθrɪft/, /spend-thrift/ *n* a person who spends money wastefully and carelessly.

**spent<sup>1</sup>** /spɛnt/, /spent/ *adj* **1** tired out. **2** used up.

**spent<sup>2</sup>** /spent/, /spent/ *pt and pp of spend*.

**sperm** /spərm/, /sperm/ *n* **1** a male reproductive cell. **2** semen.

**spew** /spju:/, /spyoo/ *vb* **1** (*inf*) to vomit. **2** to come out in a flood.

**sphere** /sfɪ:r/, /sfeer/ *n* **1** a ball. **2** a sun, star, or planet. **3** the extent of a person's work, knowledge, influence, etc.

**spherical** /'sfērikəl/, /sfe-ri-cal/ *adj* round like a sphere.

**sphinx** /sfɪŋks/, /sfinks/ *n* a winged mythical monster, half-woman, half-lion.

**spice** /spə:s/, /spice/ *n* **1** a sharp-tasting substance used to flavour food. **2** something exciting or interesting. • *vb* to flavour with spice, etc.

**spicy** /'spəisi/, /spie-see/ *adj* **1** sharp-tasting. **2** lively and witty.

**spider** /'spaɪdər/, /spie-der/ *n* an eight-legged creature that spins a web to catch insects for food.

**spidery** /'spaɪdəri/, /spie-de-ree/ *adj* like a spider, long and thin like a spider's legs.

**spike** /spə:k/, /spike/ *n* **1** a short piece of pointed metal, a large nail. **2** an ear of corn. **3** many small flowers forming a single head along a stalk. • *vb* **1** to fasten with spikes. **2** to pierce with a spike. **3** to put a gun out of action by driving a spike into it.

**spiky** /'spəki:/, /spie-kee/ *adj* having spikes, shaped like a spike.

**spill**<sup>1</sup> /spɪl/, /spill/ *vb (pt, pp spilled or spilt)* to let run out or overflow. • *n 1* a fall. *2* something spilled.

**spill**<sup>2</sup> /spɪl/, /spill/ *n* a thin strip of wood or twisted paper for lighting cigarettes, candles, etc.

**spillage** /'spɪlədʒ/, /spi-ledge/ *n* the thing that is spilled.

**spillover** /'spɪləvər/, /spi-lo-ver/ *n* the act of spilling over.

**spin** /spɪn/, /spin/ *vb (spun, spinning)* **1** to draw out (wool, cotton, etc) and twist into threads. **2** to turn quickly around one point. **3** (*inf*) to make up. • *n 1* a short or rapid trip. *2* a dive made by an aeroplane as it turns around at the same time. *3* the presenting of information in such a way that it seems favourable or acceptable.

**spinach** /'spɪnɪtʃ/, /spi-nich/ *n* a vegetable whose leaves are eaten as food.

**spinal** /'spɪnəl/, /spie-nal/ *adj* having to do with the spine.

**spinal cord** /'spɪnəl kɔrd/, /spie-nal cawrd/ *n* the thick cord of nerves that runs down the spine.

**spindle** /'spɪndəl/, /spin-dul/ *n* in a spinning machine, the bar onto which the newly made thread is wound.

**spindly** /'spɪndlɪ/, /spin-dlee/ *adj* very long and thin.

**spin doctor** /'spɪn,dəktər/, /spin doc-tor/ *n* someone employed, particularly by the government, to put a favourable interpretation on something that has happened.

**spine** /spain/, /spine/ *n 1* the backbone. *2* a pointed spike on an animal or fish. *3* a thorn.

**spineless** /'spainləs/, /spine-less/ *adj 1* having no spine. *2* weak, lacking courage or willpower.

**spine-tingling** /'spain,tinglɪŋ/, /spine-ting-gling/ *adj* very moving, thrilling, or terrifying.

**spinning** /'spɪnɪŋ/, /spi-ning/ *n 1* the act of making thread or yarn. *2* the act of fishing with a certain kind of rod. • *adj* that spins or used in spinning.

**spinning wheel** /'spɪnɪŋ,wi:l/, /spi-ning-wheel/ *n* a home spinning machine operated by a wheel driven by a pedal.

**spinster** /'spɪnstər/, /spin-ster/ *n* a woman who has never been married.

**spiny** /'spaini/, /spie-nee/ *adj* full of prickles or thorns.

**spiral** /'spairel/, /spie-ral/ *adj* winding around like the thread of a screw. • *also n.*

**spire** /'spair/, /spire/ *n* a tall tower, tapering to a pointed top.

**spirit** /'spirɪt/, /spi-rit/ *n* 1 the soul. 2 a ghost. 3 courage, liveliness. 4 mood. 5 the intention. 6 *pl* strong alcoholic liquor. • *vb* to remove in a mysterious way.

**spirited** /'spɪrtɪd/, /spi-ri-tid/ *adj* 1 lively. 2 showing courage.

**spiritless** /'spɪrtləs/, /spi-rit-less/ *adj* without courage or liveliness.

**spirit level** /'spɪrit ˈlevəl/, /spi-rit le-vul/ *n* a tool for making surfaces level consisting of a sealed tube filled with alcohol and containing an air bubble that is stationary in the middle of the tube when it is level.

**spiritual** /'spɪritʃuəl/, /spi-ri-chu-wal/ *adj* 1 having to do with the soul or spirit. 2 religious, holy. • *n* an American religious song, originating among Southern blacks in the 18th and 19th centuries, combining African and European styles of music.

**spiritualism** /'spɪritʃuəlɪzəm/, /spi-ri-chu-wa-li-zum/ *n* the belief that only the soul or spirit has real existence, the belief that it is possible to communicate with the souls of the dead. • *n* **spiritualist**.

**spirituality** /'spɪritʃu:alɪti/, /spi-ri-chu-wa-li-tee/ *n* concern with religion and matters of the soul.

**spit<sup>1</sup>** /spit/, /spit/ *n* 1 a long, thick pin on which meat is roasted over a fire. 2 a long piece of lowland running out into the sea. • *vb* (**spitted, spitting**) to put on a spit, to pierce.

**spit<sup>2</sup>** /spit/, /spit/ *vb* (**spat, spitting**) 1 to blow from the mouth. 2 to put saliva, etc, out of the mouth. • *n* a quantity of saliva put out of the mouth.

**spite** /spɛɪt/, /spite/ *n* ill-feeling against another, a desire to hurt or harm another. • *vb* to do something to hurt or harm another. • **in spite of** without paying attention to.

**spiteful** /'spɛɪtfəl/, /spite-ful/ *adj* desiring or intended to hurt or harm another.

**spitfire** /'spɪtfair/, /spit-fire/ *n* a quick-tempered person.

**spittle** /'spɪtəl/, /spit-əl/ *n* saliva.

**splash** /splæʃ/, /splash/ *vb* to throw or scatter drops of mud or liquid onto. • *n* 1 act of splashing. 2 the sound made by a body striking water. 3 a spot of mud or liquid.

**splashdown** /'splæʃdaʊn/, /splash-down/ *n* a spacecraft's soft landing in the sea.

**splat** /splæt/, /splat/ *n* a wet, slapping sound.

**splatter** /'splætər/, /spla-ter/ *n* spatter or splash of a sticky or thick liquid. • *also vb.*

**splay** /spleɪ/, /splay/ *vb* to slope or turn outward. • *adj (of feet)* turned outwards and flat.

**spleen** /spli:n/, /spleen/ *n* 1 an organ near the stomach that helps purify the blood. 2 ill-temper, gloom.

**splendid** /'splendid/, /splen-did/ *adj* 1 bright, shining, brilliant. 2 excellent.

**splendour** /'splendər/, /splen-dur/ *n*, *also splendor (US)* brightness, magnificence.

**splice** /spləs/, /splice/ *vb* 1 to join the ends of two ropes together by interweaving their strands. 2 to fit one piece of wood into another so as to join them. • *n* a joint so made.

**splint** /splɪnt/, /splint/ *n* a piece of wood to keep a broken bone in position.

**splinter** /'splɪntər/, /splin-ter/ *n* a sharp-edged or pointed piece of glass, wood, metal, etc, broken off a larger piece. • *vb* to break into small pieces.

**split** /split/, /split/ *vb (split, splitting)* 1 to cut or break from end to end. 2 to separate into parts or smaller groups. • *n* 1 a long break or crack. 2 a division. 3 *pl* the trick of going down upright on the ground with the legs spread out at each side at right angles to the body.

**splurge** /splərdʒ/, /splurge/ *vb* an excessive spending, spending by way of treating oneself.

**splutter** /'splɛtər/, /splu-ter/ *vb* 1 to utter confused, indistinct sounds. 2 to make a spitting noise. • *also n.*

**spoil** /spɔɪl/, /spoɪl/ *vb (pt, pp spoiled or spoilt)* **1** to make or become useless or unpleasant. **2** make something less pleasant or enjoyable. **3** to harm someone's character by always allowing him or her his or her own way. • *n* things stolen or taken by force.

**spoilsport** /'spɔɪlsport/, /spoil-spoart/ *n* a person who spoils the pleasure of others.

**spoke<sup>1</sup>** /spo:k/, /spoke/ *pt of speak.* • *pp spoken.*

**spoke<sup>2</sup>** /spo:k/, /spoke/ *n* one of the bars running from the hub to the rim of a wheel.

**spokesman** /'spo:ksmən/, /spoaks-man/, **spokeswoman** /spoaks-woo-man/, **spokesperson** /spoaks-per-sun/ *n* a person who speaks for others.

**sponge** /spɒndʒ/, /spunge/ *n* **1** a type of sea animal. **2** a kind of light, absorbent washcloth made from or to be like the soft frame of a sponge. **3** one who lives on the money or favours of another. • *vb* **1** to wipe with a sponge. **2** to live on the money or favours of another.

**spongy** /spɒndʒi/, /spun-jee/ *adj* soft and absorbent; soft, squishy.

**sponsor** /'spɒnsər/, /spon-sur/ *n* **1** a person who introduces someone or something and takes responsibility for it. **2** a business that pays for an event, show, etc, in return for advertising. **3** a person who agrees to pay someone money for charity if he or she completes a specified activity. • *vb* **1** to put forward and support. **2** act as a sponsor.

**spontaneous** /spɒn'teɪniəs/, /spon-tay-nee-us/ *adj* **1** done willingly. **2** not caused by an outside agency. **3** done without previous thought. • *n* **spontaneity**.

**spoof** /spu:f/, /spoof/ *n (inf)* a humorous imitation of a serious, book, film, etc.

**spook** /spu:k/, /spook/ *n (inf)* a ghost.

**spooky** /'spu:ki/, /spoo-kee/ *adj* of, like, or suggesting a spook; eerie; easily fearful.

**spool** /spu:l/, /spool/ *n* a reel on which thread, film, etc, may be wound.

**spoon** /spu:n/, /spoon/ *n* 1 a domestic tool consisting of a shallow bowl and a handle, used in cooking, eating, or feeding. 2 a wooden golf club. • *vb* to lift or scoop with a spoon.

**spoonful** /'spu:nful/, /spoon-ful/ *n* the amount that a spoon contains.

**spore** /spo:r/, /spore/ *n* the seed of a flowerless plant.

**sport** /spɔ:t/, /spoart/ *n* 1 outdoor or athletic indoor games in which certain rules are obeyed. 2 one of these games. 3 (*fml*) something done for fun or amusement. 4 (*fml*) a person fond of fun or amusement. • *vb* to play, to have fun.

**sporting** /'sportɪŋ/, /spore-ting/ *adj* 1 fond of sports. 2 used in sport. 3 fair-minded and generous, especially in sports.

**sportsman** /'spɔ:tsmən/, /spoarts-man/, **sportswoman** /spoarts-woo-man/, **sportsperson** /spoarts-per-sun/ *n* 1 a person who takes part in a sport. 2 a person who likes to see every person or group given an equal chance of success. • *adj* **sportsmanlike**.

**sportsmanship** /'spɔ:tsmənʃɪp/, /spoarts-man-ship/ *n* the spirit of fair play.

**sportswear** /'spɔ:tsweɪr/, /spoarts-ware/ *n* the clothing made for and worn while playing sports.

**spot** /spɒt/, /spot/ *n* 1 a small mark, stain, or blot. 2 a tiny piece. 3 the exact place where something happened. 4 a pimple. • *vb* (**spotted**, **spotting**) 1 to stain. 2 to see or catch sight of.

**spotless** /'spɒtləs/, /spot-less/ *adj* unmarked, very clean.

**spotlight** /'spɒtləɪt/, /spot-lite/ *n* a strong beam of light shone on a particular person or place.

**spotty** /'spɒti/, /spot-ee/ *adj* 1 covered with spots. 2 irregular, uneven.

**spouse** /spaus/, /spouss/ *n* a husband or wife.

**spout** /spaut/, /spout/ *n* 1 a long tube sticking out from a pot, jug, pipe, etc, through which liquid can flow. 2 a jet or gush of liquid. • *vb* 1 to gush or make to gush in a jet. 2 (*inf*) to talk at length.

**sprain** /spreɪn/, /sprain/ *n* the painful twisting of a joint in the body, causing damage to muscles or ligaments. • *vb* to twist a joint in such a way.

**sprang** *pt of spring.*

**sprawl** /sprɔ:l/, /sprɔ:l/ *vb* **1** to sit or lie with the limbs spread out awkwardly. **2** to be spread out untidily.

**spray**<sup>1</sup> /spreɪ/, /spray/ *n* **1** a twig or stem with several leaves or flowers growing out from it. **2** an arrangement of flowers.

**spray**<sup>2</sup> /spray/ *n* **1** a cloud of small drops of liquid moving through the air. **2** liquid to be sprayed under pressure. **3** a can or container holding this. • *vb* to sprinkle with fine drops of liquid.

**spread** /spred/, /spred/ *vb* (*pt, pp spread*) **1** to lay out over an area. **2** to grow bigger, so covering more space. **3** to make or become more widely known or believed. **4** to affect more people. • *n* **1** an area covered, extent. **2** a good meal, a feast.

**spreadsheet** /'spredʃɪ:t/, /spred-sheet/ *n* a computer program that organizes information.

**spree** /spri:/, /spree/ *n* **1** a lively activity. **2** a period of drinking. • **spending spree** a period of reckless spending of money.

**sprig** /sprɪg/, /sprig/ *n* **1** a small shoot or twig. **2** a small nail without a head.

**sprightly** /'sprɔ:tli/, /sprite-lee/ *adj* lively. • *n* **sprightliness**.

**spring** /sprɪŋ/, /spring/ *vb* (*pt sprang, pp sprung*) **1** to jump. **2** to flow up from under the ground. **3** to be caused by. **4** to suddenly appear or develop. **5** to cause (a mine) to explode. • *n* **1** a jump. **2** a piece, or coil, of metal that, after being compressed, returns to its earlier shape or position. **3** water flowing up from under the ground. **4** the season following winter when plants begin to grow again. • **spring a leak** to have a hole through which water can come in. • **spring a surprise** to give a surprise.

**springboard** /'sprɪŋbɔ:d/, /spring-board/ *n* a springy board for jumping or diving from.

**spring-cleaning** /'sprɪŋ 'kli:nɪŋ/, /spring-clee-ning/ *n* a thorough cleaning of the entire house, as is sometimes done in the spring.

**spring onion** /'sprɪŋ 'ənjm/, /spring un-yun/ *n* a type of onion with a small white round part and a long green stem, usually eaten raw in salads.

**springtime** /'sprɪntaɪm/, /spring-time/ *n* the season of spring.

**spring tide** /'sprɪŋ taid/, /spring tide/ the high tide at new and full moon.

**springy** /'sprɪŋi/, /spring-ee/ *adj* 1 having elasticity, having a light bounciness. 2 light on the feet.

**sprinkle** /'sprɪŋkəl/, /spring-kul/ *vb* to scatter in small drops or tiny pieces.

**sprinkler** /'sprɪŋklər/, /spring-kler/ *n* a person or thing that sprinkles.

**sprinkling** /'sprɪŋklɪŋ/, /spring-kling/ *n* a very small number or quantity.

**sprint** /sprint/, /sprint/ *vb* to run as fast as possible for a short distance. • *n* 1 a short foot race. 2 a short fast run.

**sprite** /sprəɪt/, /sprite/ *n* an elf or fairy.

**spritzer** /'sprɪtsər/, /sprit-ser/ *n* a drink made of wine and soda water.

**sprout** /sprəut/, /sprout/ *vb* to begin to grow, to bud. • *n* a young plant, a shoot of a plant.

**spruce**<sup>1</sup> /spru:s/, /sprooss/ *adj* neat, smart and tidy.

**spruce**<sup>2</sup> /spru:s/, /sprooss/ *n* a type of fir tree, valued for its white timber.

**sprung** *pp of spring*.

**spume** /spju:m/, /spyoom/ *n* froth, foam.

**spunk** /spʌŋk/, /spungk/ *n* (*inf*) courage, spirit, liveliness. • *adj* spunky.

**spur** /spər/, /spur/ *n* 1 a pointed instrument or spiked wheel attached to a horse-rider's heel and dug into the horse's side to make it move more quickly. 2 anything that urges on to greater effort. 3 the sharp point on the back of the legs of certain birds. 4 a ridge or line of hills running out at an angle from a larger hill or hills. • *vb* (**spurred, spurring**) 1 to prick with a spur. 2 to urge to greater effort. • **on the spur of the moment** without previous thought.

**spurious** /'spjʊər/, /spyoo-ree-us/ *adj* false.

**spurn** /spərn/, /spurn/ *vb* 1 to push away, as with the foot. 2 to refuse with scorn.

**spurt** /spərt/, /spurt/ *vb* to burst out in a jet. • *n* 1 a gush of liquid. 2 a special effort. 3 a sudden short burst of extra speed.

**sputter** /'spʌtər/, /spu-tter/ *vb* 1 to spit when speaking. 2 to throw out small drops of liquid. 3 to make spitting and hissing noises.

**spy** /spaɪ/, /spie/ *n* 1 a person who tries to obtain secret information about a country on behalf of an enemy country. 2 a person who tries to find out another's secrets. • *vb* 1 to catch sight of. 2 to act as a spy.

**spyglass** /'spaɪglæs/, /spie-glass/ *n* a small telescope.

**squabble** /'skwɒbəl/, /skwob-ul/ *vb* to quarrel noisily over unimportant matters. • *also n.*

**squad** /skwɒd/, /skwod/ *n* a small party of soldiers or workers.

**squadron** /'skwɒdrən/, /skwod-run/ *n* a military force consisting of a group of aircraft or ships.

**squalid** /'skwɒlid/, /skwol-id/ *adj* dirty and unpleasant, wretched.

**squall** /skwɒl/, /skwol/ *vb* to scream loudly. • *n* 1 a loud scream. 2 a sudden violent gust of wind, a brief, violent windstorm.

**squally** /'skwɒli:/, /skwol-ee/ *adj* gusty, stormy and windy.

**squalour** /'skwɒlər/, /skwol-ur/ *n*, *also squalor* (*US*) excessive dirt, filth, the condition of being squalid.

**squander** /'skwɒndər/, /skwon-der/ *vb* to spend wastefully, to use up needlessly.

**square** /skwær/, /skware/ *adj* 1 having four equal sides and four right angles. 2 forming a right angle. 3 just, fair. 4 even, equal. • *n* 1 a square figure. 2 an open space in a town with buildings on its four sides. 3 the number obtained when a number is multiplied by itself. 4 an L- or T-shaped instrument for drawing right angles. • *vb* 1 to make square. 2 to pay money due. 3 to bribe. 4 to multiply (a number) by itself. 5 to agree with.

**square dance** /'skwær,dæns/, /skware-danse/ *n* a lively dance with various steps, figures, etc in which the couples are grouped in a particular form.

**square root** /'skwær'ru:t/, /skware root/ *n* the number that must be multiplied by itself to obtain a given number.

**squash<sup>1</sup>** /skwɒʃ/, /skwosh/ *vb* 1 to crush, to press or squeeze into pulp. 2 to speak sharply or rudely to someone to silence him or

her. • *n* 1 a crowd, a crush. 2 a indoor game similar to tennis played with a rubber ball.

**squash<sup>2</sup>** /skwɒʃ/, /skwɔʃ/ *n* a fruit of the gourd family eated as a vegetable.

**squat** /skwɒt/, /skwot/ *vb* (**squatted**, **squatting**) 1 to sit down on the heels. 2 to make one's home on a piece of land or in a building to which one has no legal right. • *adj* short and broad. • *n* 1 a squatting position. 2 a building occupied by squatters.

**squatter** /'skwɒtər/, /skwot-er/ *n* a person who settles on land or in a building without legal right to do so.

**squawk** /skwɒk/, /skwawk/ *vb* to utter a harsh cry. • *also n.*

**squeak** /skwi:k/, /skweek/ *vb* to utter a short, high-pitched sound. • *also n.*

**squeal** /skwi:l/, /skweel/ *vb* to cry with a sharp shrill voice. • *also n.*

**squeamish** /'skwi:mɪʃ/, /skwee-mish/ *adj* 1 easily made sick, feeling sick. 2 easily shocked or upset.

**squeeze** /skwi:z/, /skweez/ *vb* 1 to press from more than one side. 2 to hug. 3 to push through a narrow space. • *n* 1 the act of squeezing. 2 a hug. 3 a tight fit.

**squelch** /skwɛltʃ/, /skwelch/ *vb* to make a sucking noise, as when walking over sodden ground. • *also n.*

**squib** /skwib/, /skwib/ *n* a small firework.

**squid** /skwid/, /skwid/ *n* a cuttlefish, a long slender sea creatures with eight arms and two tentacles.

**squint** /skwɪnt/, /skwint/ *vb* 1 to look or peer with the eyes partly closed, as when the light is too strong. 2 to look sideways without turning the head. 3 to be cross-eyed. • *n* 1 the act of looking with eyes partly closed. 2 eyes looking in different directions. 3 (*inf*) a quick look.

**squirm** /skwɜrm/, /skwirm/ *vb* to wriggle about, to move by wriggling.

**squirrel** /'skwərəl/, /skwurl/ *n* a small bushy-tailed animal living in trees.

**squirt** /skwɜrt/, /skwurt/ *vb* to force or be forced out in a thin, fast stream. • *n* 1 a jet. 2 an instrument for throwing out a jet of liquid.

**squish** /skwɪʃ/, /skwɪʃ/ *vb* to squash. • *n* the sound of something being squashed.

**squishy** /'skwɪʃi:/, /skwi-shee/ *adj* making a squishing sound.

**stab** /stæb/, /stab/ *vb* (**stabbed**, **stabbing**) to wound with a pointed weapon. • *n* 1 a wound made with a pointed weapon. 2 a thrust with a dagger or pointed knife. 3 a sharp feeling.

**stability** /stæ'biliti/, /sta-bi-li-tee/ *n* steadiness, security.

**stabilize** /'steɪbɪlaɪz/, /stay-bu-lize/ *vb*, also **stabilise** to make firm or steady. • *n* **stabilizer** also **stabiliser** a thing that makes something firm or steady.

**stable**<sup>1</sup> /'steɪbəl/, /stay-bul/ *n* a building or shelter for horses, cattle, etc. • *vb* to keep in a stable.

**stable**<sup>2</sup> /'steɪbəl/, /stay-bul/ *adj* 1 firm, secure, not easily moved, upset, or changed. 2 likely to behave reasonably.

**stablemate** /'steɪbəlmēɪt/, /stay-bul-mate/ *n* any of the horses sharing a stable.

**stabling** /'steɪbəlɪŋ/, /stay-bling/ *n* buildings available as stables.

**staccato** /stə'kæto:, -'kəto:/, /stu-ca-toe/ *adj* (mus) having each note sounded clearly and distinctly. • *also n*.

**stack** /stæk/, /stack/ *n* 1 a large orderly pile of hay, wood, papers, etc. 2 a group of chimneys built in together. 3 a very tall chimney. • *vb* to pile together.

**stadium** /'steɪdiəm/, /stay-dee-um/ *n* (pl **stadia** or **stadiums**) a large ground for sports and athletics.

**staff** /stæf/, /staff/ *n* 1 a stick or rod used as a support. 2 a stick as a sign of office. 3 the set of five parallel lines on and between which musical notes are written. 4 a group of officers chosen to assist a general. 5 any body of employees. • *vb* to provide with workers or employees.

**staff officer** /'stæf əfɪsər/, /staff-of-i-ser/ *n* a member of a general's staff.

**stag** /stæg/, /stag/ *n* a male red deer.

**stage** /steɪdʒ/, /stage/ *n* 1 a raised platform for actors, performers, speakers, etc. 2 the theatre. 3 a halting place. 4 the distance that

may be travelled after paying a certain fare. **5** a certain point in development or progress. • *vb* to produce.

**stagecoach** /'steɪdʒko:tʃ/, /**stage**-coach/ *n* formerly, a horse-drawn coach providing a regular service for passengers.

**stage fright** /'stæg freɪt/, /**stage** frite/ *n* the nervousness felt on appearing on the stage in public.

**stagger** /'stægər/, /**sta**-ger/ *vb* **1** to walk unsteadily, to lurch to the side, to reel. **2** to amaze. **3** to arrange breaks, holidays, etc, so that they do not begin and end at the same times as those of others. • *adj* **staggering**.

**stagnant** /'stægnənt/, /**stag**-nant/ *adj* **1** not flowing and often dirty. **2** not developing or growing, inactive.

**stagnate** /'stægneɪt/, /**stag**-nate/ *vb* **1** to cease to flow. **2** to cease to develop or make progress. **3** to become dull. • *n* **stagnation**.

**stag night** /'stæg naɪt/, /**stag** nite/ *n* a party held before a man's wedding which is attended by his male friends and relatives.

**staid** /steɪd/, /**staid**/ *adj* serious, steady, unwilling to move with the times.

**stain** /steɪn/, /**stain**/ *vb* **1** to make dirty. **2** to change the colour of. **3** to make marks of a different colour on. **4** to spoil, to disgrace. • *n* **1** a dirty mark or discolouration that cannot be removed. **2** a paint or dye. **3** disgrace.

**stained glass** /steɪnd 'glæs/, /**stain**ded glass/ *n* coloured glass, held together by lead strips, used for church windows, decorations, lamp shades, etc.

**stainless** /'steɪnləs/, /**stain**-less/ *adj* **1** not easily stained or rusted. **2** without fault or disgrace.

**stair** /ster/, /**stare**/, **staircase** /stare-case/, **stairway** /stEr/, /**stare**-way/ *n* a series of connected steps, usually with a railing, leading from one place to another on a different level.

**stairwell** /'stærwel/, /**stare**-well/ *n* a vertical shaft in a building that contains a staircase.

**stake**<sup>1</sup> /steɪk/, /**stake**/ *n* **1** a stout piece of wood pointed at one end for driving into the ground. **2** formerly, the post to which was tied a person condemned to death by burning. • *vb* to mark with stakes.

**stake**<sup>2</sup> /steɪk/, /stake/ *n* the amount of money, or anything else of value, bet or risked. • *vb* to bet (money), to risk. • *at stake* able to be lost.

**stalactite** /'stælæk,tɪt/, /sta-lac-tite/ *n* a mass of mineral matter hanging like an icicle from the roof of a cave.

**stalagmite** /'stælæg,mɪt/, /sta-lag-mite/ *n* a mass of mineral matter rising like a spike from the floor of a cave.

**stale** /steɪl/, /stale/ *adj* 1 not fresh. 2 not new. 3 uninteresting.

**stalemate** /'steɪlmert/, /stale-mate/ *n* 1 in chess, a position from which neither player can win. 2 a situation or argument in which neither side can gain an advantage over the other.

**stalk**<sup>1</sup> /stɒk/, /stock/ *n* 1 the stem of a plant. 2 a tall chimney. • *adj* stalky.

**stalk**<sup>2</sup> /stɒk/, /stock/ *vb* 1 to walk holding oneself stiffly upright. 2 to approach an animal quietly and without being seen when hunting it. • *n* stalking, stalker.

**stall** /stɒl/, /stawl/ *n* 1 a division of a stable in which one animal is kept. 2 a counter on which goods are laid out for sale. 3 a small, sometimes temporary, shop set up in an open place. 4 a ground-floor seat in a theatre. 5 a seat in the choir of a church. • *vb* 1 (of an aeroplane) to lose speed and get out of control. 2 (of a motor car engine) to stop working. 3 to avoid giving a direct answer.

**stallion** /'stæljən/, /stal-yun/ *n* a male horse, especially one kept for breeding.

**stamen** /'steɪmən/, /stay-men/ *n* one of the little pollen-bearing stalks in the middle of a flower.

**stamina** /'stæmɪnə/, /sta-mi-na/ *n* staying power, ability to endure.

**stammer** /'stæmər/, /sta-mer/ *vb* to have difficulty in uttering the sounds at the beginning of words, sometimes attempting them several times before succeeding. • *n* such difficulty in speaking.

**stamp** /stæmp/, /stamp/ *vb* 1 to strike the foot forcefully or noisily downward. 2 to print a mark on. 3 to put a postage stamp on. • *n* 1 a forceful or noisy downward movement of the foot. 2 a mark or paper affixed to a letter or package to show that postage has been paid. 3 a mark consisting of letters, numbers, a pattern, etc,

printed on paper, cloth, coins, etc. **4** a machine for making such a mark.

**stampede** /stæm'pi:d/, /stam-peed/ *n* a sudden panic-stricken rush of many people or animals. • *vb* to take sudden flight.

**stance** /stæns/, /stanse/ *n* the way a person or animal stands.

**stand** /stænd/, /stand/ *vb* (*pt, pp stood*) **1** to be upright on the feet, legs, or end. **2** to rise up. **3** to set upright. **4** to stop moving. **5** to stay motionless. **6** to be in a certain place. **7** to bear, to put up with. **8** to become a candidate for election. • *n* **1** a halt. **2** a small table, rack, etc, on which things may be placed or hung. **3** a structure with seats arranged in tiers for spectators. **4** a base or support on which an object may be placed upright. **5** resistance to an attack. • **stand by** to support, to be ready to help. • **stand down** to withdraw. • **stand fast** to remain firm. • **stand out** **1** to be prominent or noticeable. **2** to refuse to give in. • **stand up** to get to the feet. • **stand up for** to defend. • **stand up to** to resist.

**standard** /'stændərd/, /stan-dard/ *n* **1** a fixed measure. **2** an average level of accomplishment with which other work is compared. **3** an upright post, etc. used for support. • *adj* **1** fixed. **2** fixed by rule. **3** usual. **4** standing upright.

**standardize** /'stændərdaɪz/, /stan-dar-dize/ *vb*, also **standardise** to see that all things are made or done in the same way.

**standard lamp** /'stændərd lamp/, /stan-dard lamp/ *n* a tall lamp that is placed on the floor.

**standby** /'stændbaɪ/, /stand-bie/ *n* a person or thing that can always be depended on and ready to be put into service when needed.

**standing** /'stændɪŋ/, /stan-ding/ *n* rank, position, reputation. • *adj* **1** upright. **2** not flowing. **3** permanent, fixed.

**standpoint** /'stændpɔɪnt/, /stand-point/ *n* a point of view.

**standstill** /'stændstɪl/, /stand-still/ *n* a stoppage.

**stank<sup>1</sup>** *pt of stink.*

**stank<sup>2</sup>** /stæŋk/, /stank/ *n* **1** a drain (*dial, Scot*). **2** a pool.

**stanza** /'stænzə/, /stan-za/ *n* in poetry, a number of lines arranged in a certain pattern that is repeated throughout the poem.

**staple** /'steɪpəl/, /stay-pul/ *n* **1** a U-shaped nail or pin. **2** a principal product or article of trade. **3** a main item. • *adj* chief, principal.

**stapler** /'steɪplər/, /stay-pler/ *n* a tool used to drive staples into papers, wood, etc. to bind them or attach them.

**star** /star/, /star/ *n* **1** a heavenly body seen as a twinkling point of light in the night sky. **2** any object like a twinkling star in shape. **3** an asterisk (\*). **4** a leading actor or actress. • *vb* to have a leading part in a play or a film. • *adj* **starry** full of stars; like stars.

**starboard** /'starbɔrd/, /star-board/ *n* the right-hand side of a ship as one faces the bows. • *also adj.*

**starch** /startʃ/, /starch/ *n* **1** a vegetable substance found in potatoes, cereals, etc. **2** a white powder mixed with water and used to make cloth stiff.

**starchy** /startʃi:/, /star-chee/ *adj* **1** containing starch. **2** stiff with starch. **3** stiff or unfriendly in manner.

**stardom** /'stardəm/, /star-dum/ *n* fame as an entertainer, sportsman, etc.

**stardust** /'stardəst/, /star-dust/ *n* a cluster of stars too far away to be seen separately with the naked eye.

**stare** /ster/, /stare/ *vb* to look at fixedly, to look at with wide-open eyes. • *also n.*

**starfish** /'starfiʃ/, /star-fish/ *n* a star-shaped sea creature.

**stark** /stark/, /stark/ *adj* **1** bare or simple, often in a severe way. **2** utter, complete. • *adv* completely.

**starless** /'starles/, /star-less/ *adj* with no stars visible.

**starlet** /'starlət/, /star-let/ *n* **1** a small star. **2** a young actress being promoted as a future star.

**starlight** /'starleɪt/, /star-lite/ *n* the light given off by stars.

**starling** /'starlɪŋ/, /star-ling/ *n* a bird, with black-brown feathers, of the crow family.

**start** /start/, /start/ *vb* **1** to begin. **2** to set in motion. **3** to jump or make a sudden movement. • *n* **1** a beginning. **2** a sudden sharp movement. **3** the distance certain runners are allowed to start a race in front of the others.

**starter** /'stɑ:tər/, /star-ter/ *n* **1** a device for starting a motor engine. **2** a person who gives the signal to begin. **3** a person who takes part in a race. **4** a small amount of food eaten as the first course of a meal.

**startle** /'stɑ:təl/, /star-tul/ *vb* to frighten, to give a sudden surprise to.

**starve** /stɑ:v/, /starv/ *vb* **1** to die of hunger, to suffer greatly from hunger. **2** to keep without food. **3** to suffer for want of something necessary. • *n* **starvation**.

**state** /steɪt/, /state/ *n* **1** condition, circumstances, situation. **2** the people of a country organized under a form of government. **3** the governmental institutions of a country. **4** (*fml*) pomp or ceremonious display. • *adj* **1** having to do with the government. **2** public. • *vb* **1** to say as a fact. **2** to put clearly into words, spoken or written.

**stately** /'steɪtlɪ/, /state-lee/ *adj* dignified, grand in manner or behaviour.

**statement** /'steɪtmənt/, /state-ment/ *n* **1** a clear spoken or written account of facts. **2** an account of money due or held.

**state-of-the-art** /steɪt əv θɪ 'art/, /state-ov-thi-art/ *adj* using the most modern, advanced methods.

**statesman** /'steɪtsmən/, /stayts-man/, **stateswoman** /stayts-woo-man/ *n* **1** a person skilled in the art of government. **2** a person who has held high political office.

**static** /'stætɪk/, /sta-tic/ *adj* motionless, at rest.

**station** /'steɪʃən/, /stay-shun/ *n* **1** (*old*) position, rank. **2** a regular stopping place for trains, buses, etc. **3** a headquarters from which a public service is operated. • *vb* to put in or send to a certain place.

**stationary** /'steɪʃən,əri/, /stay-shu-ne-ree/ *adj* fixed, not moving.

**stationer** /'steɪʃənər/, /stay-shu-ner/ *n* a person who sells stationery.

**stationery** /'steɪʃən,əri/, /stay-shu-ne-ree/ *n* paper, pens, and all other writing materials.

**station wagon** /'steɪʃən wagən/, /stay-shun wag-on/ *n* a car with a large storage area where the trunk (boot) would usually be.

**statistician** /'stætɪstɪʃn/, /sta-ti-**sti**-shun/ *n* a person who compiles or studies statistics.

**statistics** /stə'tɪstɪks/, /sta-**tis**-tcs/ *n* 1 the science of turning facts into figures and then classifying them. 2 the study of figures to deduce facts. 3 figures giving information about something.

**statue** /'stætʃu:/, /sta-choo/ *n* the carved or moulded figure of a person or animal in stone, etc.

**statuesque** /,stætsju:'esk/, /sta-choo-**esk**/ *adj* 1 like a statue. 2 motionless, not showing changes in expression.

**statuette** /,stætsju:'et/, /sta-choo-**et**/ *n* a small statue.

**stature** /'stætʃər/, /sta-**chur**/ *n* 1 height of the body. 2 importance, reputation.

**status** /'stætəs, 'steɪt-/ , /sta-tus, **stay**-tus/ *n* rank, social position.

**status quo** /,stætəs 'kwo:, 'steɪt-/ , /sta-tus kwoe, **stay**-tus-kwoe/ *n* an unchanged state of affairs.

**status symbol** /,stætəs sɪmbəl/, /stay-tus **sim**-bul/ *n* a possession that seems to mark a higher social position.

**statute** /'stætʃu:t/, /sta-choo/ *n* a law.

**statutory** /'statʃətɔri, 'statʃu:tɔri/, /sta-chu-toe-ree/ *adj* required by law or statute.

**staunch<sup>1</sup>** /stɒntʃ/, /staʊnch/ *adj* loyal, firm, reliable. • *vb* see **staunch<sup>2</sup>**.

**staunch<sup>2</sup>** /,stætəs 'kwo:/, /staʊnch/, **stanch** /stanch/ *vb* to stop blood flowing from a cut, etc.

**stave** /steɪv/, /stave/ *n* 1 one of the strips of wood forming the sides of a barrel. 2 the set of five parallel lines on and between which musical notes are written. 3 a verse of a song, a stanza. • *vb* to break inward. • **stave off** to keep away, to put off.

**stay** /steɪ/, /stay/ *vb* 1 to remain. 2 to live in a place for a time. 3 (*frm*) to delay, to stop. • *n* 1 time spent in a place. 2 a delay. 3 one of the ropes supporting the mast in its upright position.

**steadfast** /'stɛdfæst, 'stɛdfəst/, /sted-**fast**/ *adj* loyal, firm, unmoving.

**steady** /'stedi/, /ste-dee/ *adj* 1 firm. 2 not easily changing. 3 regular. 4 reliable, sensible. • *n* **steadiness**.

**steak** /steɪk/, /stake/ *n* a slice of meat or fish for cooking.

**steakhouse** /'steɪkhaʊs/, /stake-house/ *n* a restaurant that specializes in beef steaks.

**steal** /sti:l/, /steel/ *vb* (*pt* **stole**, *pp* **stolen**) **1** to take what belongs to another. **2** to move slowly and quietly.

**stealth** /stelθ/, /stelθ/ *n* **1** secrecy. **2** acting quietly or slyly so as not to be seen or heard.

**stealthy** /'stelθi/, /stel-thee/ *adj* quiet, sly, secretive.

**steam** /sti:m/, /steem/ *n* the vapour of hot liquid, especially water. • *vb* **1** to give off steam. **2** to cook in steam. **3** to move driven by steam power. • *adj* **steamy** of or like steam, covered or filled with steam.

**steamboat** /'sti:mbo:t/, /steem-boat/, **steamer** /stee-mer/, **steamship** /steem-ship/ *n* a ship driven by steam power.

**steam engine** /'stɪm,ɛndʒɪn/, /steem en-jin/ *n* an engine driven by steam power.

**steamroller** /'sti:m,ro:lər/, /steem-ro-ler/ *n* a steam-driven vehicle with wide, heavy wheels, used for flattening road surfaces.

**steed** /sti:d/, /steed/ *n* (*old*) a horse.

**steel** /sti:l/, /steel/ *n* **1** an alloy consisting of iron hardened by carbon. **2** a steel bar on which knives may be sharpened. • *adj* made of steel. • *vb* to harden, to strengthen.

**steely** /'sti:li/, /stee-lee/ *adj* hard, unsympathetic.

**steep<sup>1</sup>** /sti:p/, /steep/ *adj* having a rapid slope up or down. • *n* a cliff or precipice.

**steep<sup>2</sup>** sti:p/, /steep/ *vb* to soak, to leave in water for a time.

**steeple** /'sti:pəl/, /stee-pul/ *n* a tall church tower, sometimes tapering to a point.

**steeplechase** /'sti:pəl,tʃeɪs/, /stee-pul-chase/ *n* a cross-country race over obstacles for horses or runners.

**steeplejack** /'sti:pəl,dʒæk/, /stee-pul-jack/ *n* a person who climbs steeples, tall chimneys, etc, to repair them.

**steer<sup>1</sup>** /sti:r/, /steer/ *n* a bullock.

**steer**<sup>2</sup> /sti:r/, /steer/ *vb* to keep a moving object pointed in the right direction; to guide or control.

**stegosaurus** /,stegə'sɔrəs/, /ste-gu-saw-rus/ *n* a kind of dinosaur that has a small head and bony plates and sharp spikes down the backbone.

**stellar** /'stelər/, /ste-lar/ *adj* having to do with the stars.

**stellular** /'steljulər/, /stel-yu-lar/ *adj* shaped like a star; covered with small stars or starlike spots.

**stem**<sup>1</sup> /stem/, /stem/ *n* 1 the trunk of a tree, the stalk of a flower, leaf, etc. 2 the front part of a ship. 3 the main unchanging part of a word, prefixes and suffixes left out. • *adj* **stemmed** referring objects that have a stem or stemlike object, such as a goblet.

**stem**<sup>2</sup> /stem/, /stem/ *vb* (**stemmed**, **stemming**) to check, to delay, to stop (something) flowing.

**stench** /stentʃ/, /stench/ *n* a foul smell.

**stencil** /'stensəl/, /sten-sil/ *n* 1 a thin plate or card with a design cut through it so that patterned markings can be painted or printed on a surface beneath. 2 a waxed paper from which copies of typewritten material can be printed. • *vb* (**stenciled**, **stenciling**) to make a design or copy by using a stencil.

**step** /stɛp/, /step/ *n* 1 a pace taken by one foot. 2 the distance covered by such a pace. 3 a footprint. 4 the sound of a footfall. 5 a complete series of steps in a dance. 6 one of a series of rungs or small graded platforms that allow a person to climb or walk from one level to another. 7 *pl* a flight of stairs. 8 *pl* a stepladder. • *vb* (**stepped**, **stepping**) to walk. • **out of step** 1 out of time with others in performing a regular movement. 2 behaving or thinking differently from others• **step out** to move boldly or quickly forward. • **step up** to increase. • **take steps** to take action.

**stepchild** /'steptʃaɪld/, /step-childe/ *n* the child of a husband or wife by a previous marriage. • also **stepdaughter**, **stepfather**, **stepmother**, **stepson**, **stepfamily**.

**stepladder** /'stɛplædər/, /step-la-der/ *n* a portable self-supporting ladder.

**steppe** /stɛp/, /steɪp/ *n* in Russia or Asia, a vast treeless uncultivated plain.

**stereo** /'stɛrɪə/, /steɪ-ree-o/ *n* a device used to play music in stereoscopic sound. • *also adj.*

**stereoscopic sound** /stɛrɪɔ:, skæpɪk 'saʊnd/, /steɪ-ree-o-scop-ic sound/ *n* sound relayed from two transmitters so that it seems to come from an area and not one point.

**stereotype** /'stɛrɪɔ:tɪp/, /steɪ-ree-o-tipe/ *n* 1 a metal plate on which type is reproduced so that it may be reprinted over and over again. 2 an idea, image, etc, that has become fixed and unchanging.

**stereotyped** /'stɛrɪɔ:tɪpd/, /steɪ-ree-o-tiped/ *adj* fixed and unchanging.

**sterile** /'stɛrɪl/, /stɛrɪl/ *adj* 1 bearing no fruit or children, barren. 2 germ-free. • *n sterility.*

**sterilize** /'stɛrɪlaɪz/, /steɪ-ri-lize/ *vb*, *also sterilise* 1 to make sterile. 2 to get rid of germs.

**sterling** /'stɛrlɪŋ/, /ster-ling/ *adj* genuine, of worth.

**stern<sup>1</sup>** /stɛrn/, /stɛrn/ *adj* severe, strict, harsh.

**stern<sup>2</sup>** /stɛrn/, /stɛrn/ *n* the back part of a ship.

**sternum** /'stɛrnəm/, /ster-num/ *n* a thin, flat bone to which most of the ribs are attached in the front of the chest.

**stethoscope** /'stɛθɔ:sko:p/, /steɪ-thu-scoop/ *n* an instrument by means of which a person can listen to the sound of another's breathing or heartbeats.

**stew** /stu:, stju:/, /stoo/ *vb* to boil slowly in little liquid in a closed vessel. • *n* 1 stewed meat and vegetables. 2 (*inf*) a state of anxiety. • *adj stewed* cooked by stewing.

**steward** /'stu:ərd/, /stoo-wurd/ *n* 1 a person paid to manage another's land or property. 2 a manservant on a ship or aeroplane. 3 an official at a concert, race, meeting, show, etc. • *f stewardess.*

**stick<sup>1</sup>** /stɪk/, /stick/ *vb* (*pt, pp stuck*) 1 to pierce or stab. 2 to fasten or be fastened to, as with glue. 3 to be unable to move.

**stick<sup>2</sup>** /stɪk/, /stick/ *n* 1 a rod, a long, thin piece of wood, especially one carried when walking. 2 something shaped like a stick.

**stickball** /'stɪkbɔl/, /stick-bawl/ *n* a game like baseball played by children in city streets with a stick, such as a broom handle, and a soft rubber ball.

**sticker** /'stɪkər/, /sti-ker/ *n* a small piece of paper with an illustration that sticks on to a surface.

**stickler** /'stɪklər/, /sti-kler/ *n* a person who is fussy about details or unimportant matters.

**sticky** /'stɪki/, /sti-kee/ *adj* 1 smeared with glue, etc, for fixing to other things. 2 tending to fasten on by sticking. 3 (*inf*) difficult.

**stiff** /stɪf/, /stiff/ *adj* 1 hard to bend. 2 firm. 3 unable to move easily. 4 cold and severe in manner.

**stiffen** /stɪfən/, /sti-fen/ *vb* to make or become stiff.

**stifle** /'stɪflə/, /stie-ful/ *vb* 1 to smother, to choke, to cut off the supply of air. 2 to prevent from expressing. 3 to keep down by force. • *also adj.*

**stigma** /'stɪgmə/, /stig-ma/ *n* (*pl* **stigmas**) 1 a mark of shame or disgrace. 2 the part of a flower that receives the pollen. 3 (*pl* **stigmata**) marks like those of the wounds on Jesus's body.

**stigmatic** /'stɪgmətɪk/, /stig-ma-tic/ *adj* of, like, or having a stigma.

**stigmatize** /'stɪgmətaɪz/, /stig-ma-tize/ *vb*, *also stigmatise* to blame as being shameful or disgraceful.

**stile** /stail/, /stile/ *n* a set of steps over a fence or wall.

**stiletto** /str'leto:/, /sti-le-toe/ *n* 1 a small dagger. 2 a small, sharp tool used for making small holes in cloth. 3 a type of heel on a ladies' shoe.

**still<sup>1</sup>** /stɪl/, /still/ *adj* 1 at rest, motionless. 2 calm, silent. 3 not carbonated. • *n* a single photograph out of a series taken by a moving camera. • *vb* to make still. • *adj* 1 even so. 2 up to this moment.

**still<sup>2</sup>** /stɪl/, /still/ *n* a device for distilling spirits, or making alcoholic drinks.

**stillbirth** /'stɪlbərθ/, /still-burth/ *n* the birth of a stillborn baby.

**stillborn** /'stɪlbɔrn/, /still-bawrn/ *adj* born dead.

**still life** /'stɪlllaɪf/, /still-life/ *n* (*pl* **still lifes**) nonliving objects (e.g. fruit, ornaments, etc.) as subjects for painting; paintings of such

objects.

**stilt** /stilt/, /stilt/ *n* one of a pair of poles with footrests so that a person can walk some height above the ground.

**stilted** /'stiltid/, /stil-tid/ *adj* 1 unnatural or pompous in manner. 2 awkwardly expressed.

**stimulant** /'stimjulənt/, /sti-myu-lant/ *n* something that increases energy for a time. • *also adj.*

**stimulate** /'stimjuleɪt/, /sti-myu-late/ *vb* 1 to rouse or make more alert, active, etc. 2 to stir up, cause. • *adj stimulating.*

**stimulus** /'stimjuləs/, /sti-myu-lus/ *n* (*pl stimuli*) something that arouses a person's feelings or excites a person to action.

**sting** /stɪŋ/, /sting/ *n* 1 a sharp-pointed defensive organ of certain animals or insects by means of which they can inject poison into an attacker. 2 in plants, a hair containing poison. 3 the pain caused by a sting. 4 any sharp pain. • *vb (pt, pp stung).* 1 to pierce or wound with a sting. 2 to pierce painfully with a sharp point. 3 to drive or provoke.

**stingray** /'stɪŋreɪ/, /sting-ray/ *n* a kind of flat fish that has a long, whiplike tale that can sting its enemies.

**stingy** /stɪndʒi/, /stin-jee/ *adj* mean, unwilling to spend or give money.

**stink** /stɪŋk/, /stingk/ *vb (pt stank or stunk, pp stunk)* to give an unpleasant smell. • *n* an unpleasant smell.

**stint** /stɪnt/, /stint/ *vb* to give or allow only a small amount of. • *n* limit, a set amount of work.

**stipple** /'stɪpəl/, /sti-pul/ *vb* to paint or draw in very small dots instead of lines.

**stipulate** /'stɪpjʊ'lɪt/, /sti-pyu-late/ *vb* to lay down conditions in advance.

**stipulation** /,stɪpjʊ'lɪʃən/, /sti-pyu-lay-shun/ *n* conditions demanded as part of an agreement.

**stir** /stər/, /stir/ *vb (stirred, stirring)* 1 to move or set in motion. 2 to arouse. • *n* excitement, noisy movement, a sensation.

**stir-fry** /'stər,fraɪ/, /stir-frie/ *vb* to fry very quickly in a wok with a little oil while stirring constantly. • *n* a dish prepared this way.

**stirring** /'stərɪŋ/, /sti-riŋ/ *adj* rousing, exciting.

**stirrup** /'stərəp/, /sti-rup/ *n* a metal foot support hung from the saddle for a horse-rider.

**stitch** /stɪtʃ/, /stitch/ *n* 1 a single complete movement of the needle in knitting, sewing, etc. 2 the thread, wool, etc, used in such a movement. 3 a sharp pain in the side as a result of running, etc. • *vb* to join by stitches.

**stock** /stɒk/, /stock/ *n* 1 the main stem of a plant, the trunk of a tree. 2 the wooden handle of a gun. 3 the families from which a person is descended. 4 goods kept for selling. 5 shares in a business. 6 the animals of a farm. 7 a liquid made from the boiling of bones, vegetables, herbs and spices in water, which is subsequently used in soups and sauces. 8 a sweet-smelling garden flower. 9 *pl* (*old*) a frame with holes for the hands and feet into which lawbreakers could be fastened for punishment. 10 *pl* the wooden frame on which a ship rests while being built. • *adj* always in use or ready for use. • *vb* to provide with necessary goods, to keep a store of. • **take stock** 1 to list and check goods. 2 to consider all the aspects of a situation.

**stockade** /stɒ'keɪd/, /stock-ade/ *n* a fence of strong posts built for defence.

**stockbroker** /'stɒk,bro:kər/, /stock-bro-ker/ *n* a person who buys and sells shares in business companies on behalf of others.

**stock car** /'stɒk,kær/, /stock car/ *n* a normal automobile adapted for racing with.

**stock exchange** /'stɒk,ekstʃeɪndʒ/, /stock eks-change/, **stock market** /stock mar-kit/ *n* a place where shares are bought and sold.

**stockholder** /'stɒk,ho:ldər/, /stock-hole-der/ *n* a person owning stock in a given company.

**stocking** /'stɒkɪŋ/, /stock-ing/ *n* a close-fitting covering for the foot and leg.

**stockist** /'stɒkɪst/, /stock-ist/ *n* a person or establishment that keeps something to sell.

**stockpile** /'stɒkpail/, /stock-pile/ *n* a supply of goods for use in case of a shortage.

**stocktaking** /'stɒk,teɪkɪŋ/, /stock-tay-king/ *n* the checking of all the goods held in a store.

**stocky** /'stɒki/, /stock-ee/ *adj* short and broad.

**stodgy** /'stɒdʒi/, /stodge-ee/ *adj* 1 dull. 2 (of food) heavy or hard to digest.

**stoic** /'sto:ik/, /stoe-ic/ *n* a person who accepts good and bad, pleasure and pain without excitement or complaint. • *adj stoical*. • *n stoicism*.

**stoke** /sto:k/, /stoke/ *vb* to put fuel on a fire.

**stole<sup>1</sup>** /sto:l/, /stole/ *n* 1 a band of cloth worn around the neck by a clergyman during services. 2 a long scarf worn around the shoulders by women.

**stole<sup>2</sup>** /sto:l/, /stole/ *pt of steal*.

**stolen** /'sto:lən/, /sto-len/ *pp of steal*. • *also adj*.

**stomach** /'stəmək/, /stuh-mac/ *n* 1 the baglike bodily organ that receives and digests food. 2 courage. • *vb* to bear with, to put up with.

**stomp** /stɒmp/, /stomp/ *n* a jazz tune with a lively rhythm and a strong beat. • *vb* to dance to this music.

**stone** /sto:n/, /stone/ *n* 1 a hard mass of rock. 2 a piece of rock, a pebble. 3 the hard centre of some fruits. 4 a piece of hard matter that forms in the body in certain diseases. 5 a precious stone or gem. 6 an imperial unit of weight made up of 14 lbs. • *adj* made of stone. • *vb* 1 to throw stones at. 2 to remove the stones from. • **leave no stone unturned** to do everything possible.

**Stone Age** /'sto:neɪdʒ/, /stoe nayj/ *n* an early period in history during which humans made tools, weapons, etc, of stone.

**stonemason** /'sto:n meɪsən/, /stone-may-sun/ *n* a person who cuts stone to shape and uses it to make walls, buildings, etc.

**stoneware** /'sto:nwɛər/, /stone-ware/ *n* a coarse pottery with a glazed finish.

**stonewashed** /'sto:nwɔ:sd/, /stone-wawsht/ *adj (usually of material)* washed with rough stones to cause fading and make softer.

**stonework** /'sto:nwɔ:sd/, /stone-wurk/ *n* the art or process of working in stone, as in masonry or jewellery.

**stony** /'sto:nɪ/, /stoe-nee/ *adj* **1** like stone. **2** covered with stones. **3** hard, unsympathetic.

**stood** /stu:d/, /stooed/ *pt and pp of stand*.

**stooge** /stu:dʒ/, /stooj/ *n* **1** a person made a fool of. **2** a person who does unpleasant work for another, a person who takes the blame due to others.

**stool** /stu:l/, /stooł/ *n* a low, backless seat.

**stoop** /stu:p/, /stoop/ *vb* **1** to bend forward and downward. **2** to agree to do something unworthy, to give in. • *n* a downward bending of the head and shoulders.

**stop** /stɒp/, /stop/ *vb (stopped, stopping)* **1** to cease or prevent from moving or doing something. **2** to come to or bring to a standstill. **3** to block or close up. • *n* **1** a pause. **2** a place where a bus, etc, halts to pick up passengers. **3** time spent standing still or doing nothing. **4** one of the knobs controlling the flow of air in the pipes of an organ, thereby regulating the sounds produced.

**stopper** /'stɒpər/, /stop-er/ *n* something closing a small hole (e.g. in the neck of a bottle).

**stopwatch** /'stɒpwɒtʃ/, /stop-wach/ *n* a watch, used for timing events, that can be started or stopped at will.

**storage** /'stɔ:rɪdʒ/, /sto-ridge/ *n* **1** the putting of goods in warehouses, etc, until they are required. **2** the charge for storing goods.

**store** /stɔ:r/, /store/ *n* **1** a large quantity. **2** a supply of goods that can be drawn on when necessary. **3** a room or building where such goods are kept. **4** a shop selling many different kinds of articles. • *vb* **1** to keep for future use. **2** to put in warehouses, etc. • **set store by** to regard as valuable.

**storey** /'stɔ:ri/, /sto-ree/ *n*, also **story** (US) a level of a building.

**stork** /stɔ:k/, /stawrk/ *n* a white wading bird of the heron family, with long legs and bill.

**storm** /stɔ:rm/, /stawrm/ *n* **1** a spell of very bad weather (e.g. rain, wind, snow, etc.). **2** a display of violent emotion; public anger. • *vb* **1** to make a sudden violent attack on a defended place. **2** to rage. • **take by storm** to capture by sudden violent attack.

**stormy** /stɔrmɪ/, /stɔwr-mee/ *adj* 1 of, like, or troubled by storms. 2 violent, marked by angry feelings.

**story** /'stɔri/, /sto-ree/ *n* 1 an account of events, real or imagined. 2 (*inf*) a lie.

**storybook** /'stɔri,bu:k/, /sto-ree-book/ *n* a book of stories, especially those for children.

**storyteller** /'stɔri,telər/, /sto-ree-te-ler/ *n* a person who tells stories.

**stout** /stœut/, /stout/ *adj* 1 strong or thick. 2 fat. 3 brave. • *n* a strong dark beer.

**stove** /sto:v/, /stove/ *n* a closed-in fireplace or metal device for warming a room, cooking, etc.

**stow** /sto:/, /stoe/ *vb* to put away, to pack tightly.

**stowaway** /'sto:ə,wei/, /stoe-a-way/ *n* a person who hides on a ship, etc, so as to travel without paying the fare.

**straddle** /'strædəl/, /stra-dul/ *vb* 1 to spread the legs wide apart. 2 to sit or stand with a leg on either side of.

**straggle** /'strægəl/, /stra-gul/ *vb* 1 to move in widely scattered formation. 2 to fall behind the main body.

**straggler** /'stræglər/, /stra-gler/ *n* a person who wanders from the main body.

**straggly** /'stræglər/, /stra-glee/ *adj* spread out in an irregular way.

**straight** /streɪt/, /strate/ *adj* 1 not curving or crooked. 2 honest. • *adv* directly, at once. • *vb* **straighten** to make straight.

**straightaway** /streɪtə,wei/, /stray-ta-way/ *adv* at once.

**straightforward** /streɪt'fɔrwərd/, /strate-fawr-ward/ *adj* 1 simple, easy to understand. 2 honest.

**strain<sup>1</sup>** /streɪn/, /strain/ *vb* 1 to stretch tightly. 2 to make the utmost effort. 3 to harm by trying to do too much with. 4 to put in a sieve to draw liquid off. • *n* 1 violent effort. 2 harm caused to muscles, etc, by straining them. 3 manner or style of speaking or writing. 4 a tune.

**strain<sup>2</sup>** /streɪn/, /strain/ *n* 1 breed, stock. 2 an element of character. 3 a tune.

**strained** /streɪnd/, /straind/ *adj* 1 stretched too far. 2 not natural.

**strainer** /'streɪnər/, /stray-ner/ *n* a small sieve or filter.

**strait** /streɪt/, /strait/ *adj* narrow, strict. • *n* 1 a narrow strip of water between two land masses. 2 *pl* distress, difficulties.

**strait-jacket** /'streɪt jækət/, /strait-ja-ket/ *n* a strong, tightly fitting garment that can be laced onto violent persons to make them helpless or to people with a back injury for support.

**strait-laced** /'streɪt,leɪsd/, /strait-layst/ *adj* having strict rules of behaviour for oneself and others.

**strand<sup>1</sup>** /strænd/, /strand/ *n* (*fml*) the shore. • *vb* 1 to run aground. 2 (*usually passive*) to leave helpless without money, friends, etc.

**strand<sup>2</sup>** /strænd/, /strand/ *n* one of the threads of a rope or string.

**strange** /streɪndʒ/, /straynj/ *adj* 1 unusual, odd. 2 unfamiliar. 3 (*lit*) foreign. 4 peculiar, uncomfortable, unwell.

**strangeness** /streɪndʒnəs/, /straynj-ness/ *n* the state or quality of being strange.

**stranger** /'streɪndʒər/, /strane- jer/ *n* 1 a person previously unknown. 2 a new arrival to a place, town, etc. 3 a person who is unfamiliar with or ignorant of something.

**strangle** /'stræŋgəl/, /strang-gul/ *vb* to kill by pressing the throat tightly, to choke.

**strap** /stræp/, /strap/ *n* 1 a narrow band of leather or other material. 2 a leather belt. • *vb* (**strapped, strapping**) 1 to fasten with a strap. 2 to beat with a strap.

**strapless** /'stræpləs/, /strap-less/ *adj* having no strap.

**strapping** /'stræpɪŋ/, /stra-ping/ *adj* tall and strong.

**strata** /strætə/, *pl of stratum*.

**stratagem** /'strætədʒəm/, /stra-ta-jum/ *n* a trick intended to deceive.

**strategic(al)** /strə'tɪ:dʒɪk/, /stra-tee-jic(-al)/ *adj* having to do with strategy.

**strategist** /'strætə,dʒɪst/, /stra-te-jist/ *n* a person skilled in strategy.

**strategy** /'strætədʒi/, /stra-te-jee/ *n* 1 the art of dealing with a situation in such a way as to gain from it the greatest advantage possible. 2 in war, the planning of a campaign.

**stratify** /'strætɪfaɪ/, /stra-ti-fie/ *vb* to form into or set out in layers. • *n stratification.*

**stratosphere** /'strætəsfi:r/, /stra-tu-sfeer/ *n* a layer of Earth's atmosphere (5–10 miles up) in which temperature does not become lower as a person goes higher.

**stratum** /'strætəm/, /stra-tum/ *n* (*pl strata*) **1** a layer of rock, earth, etc, forming part of Earth's surface. **2** a level.

**straw** /strɔ:/, /straw/ *n* **1** the dried stalks of corn, etc. **2** one such stalk or something resembling it. **3** something of no worth.

**strawberry** /'strɔ:bəri, -bəri/, /straw-ber-ee/ *n* **1** a wild or garden plant. **2** the juicy red fruit it bears.

**stray** /streɪ/, /stray/ *vb* to wander, to lose the way. • *adj* **1** lost, off the right path. **2** occasional. • *n* a lost or wandering person, animal, or thing.

**streak** /stri:k/, /streek/ *n* **1** a long, narrow mark or stain, a stripe, a narrow band. **2** part of a person's character. • *vb* to mark with streaks.

**streaky** /'stri:ki/, /stree-kee/ *adj* consisting of or marked with streaks.

**stream** /stri:m/, /streem/ *n* **1** a current of any liquid or gas. **2** a small river. **3** a succession of people moving in one direction. • *vb* **1** to move in a stream. **2** to flow freely.

**streamer** /'stri:mər/, /stree-mer/ *n* **1** a long, narrow flag. **2** a narrow strip of ribbon or coloured paper for flying in the wind.

**streamline** /'stri:mlain/, /streem-line/ *vb* **1** to build so as to offer minimum resistance to air or water. **2** to make more efficient.

**street** /stri:t/, /street/ *n* a public road lined with buildings in a city or town.

**streetlight** /'stri:tlaɪt/, /street-lite/ *n* a light mounted on a tall pole used to light up a street.

**streetwise** /'stri:twaɪz/, /street-wise/ *adj* knowing how to cope with difficulties and trouble common in some cities and large towns.

**strength** /streŋθ, strenθ/, /strength, strength/ *n* **1** bodily power. **2** might, force. **3** the number of persons of a class, army, etc, present or on the roll.

**strengthen** /'strenθən, 'strenθəm/, /streng-then/ *vb* to make or become stronger.

**strenuous** /'strenjuəs/, /stren-yu-wus/ *adj* requiring much energy.

**stress** /stres/, /stress/ *vb* 1 to point out the importance of. 2 to emphasize with the voice. • *n* 1 importance. 2 strain, pressure. 3 the special emphasis given to particular syllables, words, etc, when speaking.

**stressed** /strest/, /strest/, **stressed-out** /strest-out/ *adj* tired, nervous, or depressed as a result of overwork, pressure, etc.

**stretch** /stretʃ/, /stretch/ *vb* 1 to make or become longer or broader by pulling. 2 to draw out to the fullest extent. 3 to reach out. 4 to exaggerate, to make seem more important, bigger, etc, than in actuality. • *n* a full length of time or space.

**stretcher** /'stretʃər/, /stret-cher/ *n* a light frame for carrying a sick or wounded person.

**stretchy** /'stretʃi/, /stret-chee/ *adj* that can be stretched.

**strew** /stru:/, /stroo/ *vb* (*pp* **strown**) to scatter about, to spread at intervals over.

**stricken** /'striken/, /stri-ken/ *adj* affected by.

**strict** /strikt/, /strict/ *adj* 1 severe. 2 demanding that others obey the rules.

**stricture** /'striktʃər/, /stric-chur/ *n* 1 blame, unfavourable criticism of a person. 2 limit.

**stride** /straɪd/, /stride/ *vb* (*pt* **strode**) to walk with long steps. • *n* a long step.

**strident** /'straɪdənt/, /strie-dent/ *adj* loud and harsh in sound.

**strife** /strɔɪf/, /strife/ *n* open disagreement, arguing, fighting.

**strike** /strɔɪk/, /strike/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **struck**) 1 to hit. 2 (*of a clock*) to sound the hours or quarters. 3 to stop work to try to make employers grant better pay or conditions. 4 to come suddenly to mind. 5 to make and stamp. 6 to take down. 7 to light. • *n* a stopping of work.

**striking** /'strɔɪkɪŋ/, /strie-king/ *adj* attracting attention because of being fine or unusual.

**string** /strɪŋ/, /strɪŋ/ *n* **1** a cord or strong thread. **2** the cord or wire of a musical instrument. **3** a number of persons or things, one following the other. • *vb* **1** to put on a string. **2** to put a string into.

**string bean** /'strɪŋ bi:n/, /strɪng been/ *n* a long, thin, green, edible bean pod.

**stringent** /'strɪndʒənt/, /strɪn-jent/ *adj* **1** severe, strict, laying down exact rules to be obeyed. **2** marked by severe lack of money or by firm control. • *n* **stringency**.

**stringy** /'strɪŋji/, /string-ee/ *adj* **1** like string. **2** thin and muscular.

**strip** /stri:p/, /strip/ *vb*. **3** to take everything from. • *n* a long, narrow piece.

**stripe** /strəɪp/, /stripe/ *n* **1** a band or streak of different colour from those on either side of it. **2** a stroke from a whip, rod, etc. • *adj* **stripy, striped** marked with stripes.

**strive** /straɪv/, /strive/ *vb* (*pt strove or strived, pp striven*) to try as hard as possible, to struggle.

**strobe light** /'stro:blaɪt/, /strobe-lite/ *n* a light that gives off very bright, rapid flashes.

**stroke<sup>1</sup>** /stro:k/, /stroke/ *n* **1** a blow. **2** a sudden turn of luck, good or bad. **3** a sudden attack of illness, especially one affecting arteries in the brain. **4** a line made by a pen, pencil, etc. **5** one sound from a bell. **6** in a boat, the oarsman with whom the others keep time when rowing.

**stroke<sup>2</sup>** /stro:k/, /stroke/ *vb* to rub gently with the hand in one direction.

**stroll** /stro:l/, /strole/ *vb* to walk in a leisurely way. • *n* a short leisurely walk.

**stroller** /'stro:lər/, /stroa-ler/ *n* **1** a person who strolls. **2** a baby pushchair.

**strong** /strɔŋ/, /strong/ *adj* **1** powerful. **2** healthy. **3** possessing bodily power.

**stronghold** /'strɔŋho:ld/, /strong-hoald/ *n* **1** a fort. **2** a place difficult to capture by attack.

**strode** *pt of strive*.

**struck** *pt and pp of strike*.

**structure** /'strəktʃər/, /struc-cher/ *n* 1 a building. 2 anything consisting of parts put together according to a plan. 3 the way in which a thing is put together. • *adj structural*.

**struggle** /'strægəl/, /stru-gul/ *vb* 1 to try hard. 2 to fight. • *n* 1 a hard effort. 2 a fight.

**strum** /strəm/, /strum/ *vb (strummed, strumming)* 1 to play a tune carelessly. 2 to play on a stringed instrument by plucking the strings.

**strut<sup>1</sup>** /strət/, /strut/ *vb (strutted, strutting)* to walk stiffly, as if trying to look important. • *also n.*

**strut<sup>2</sup>** /strət/, /strut/ *n* a supporting bar, a prop or support.

**strychnine** /'striknam, -ni:n/, /-nm/, /stric-neen/ *n* a highly poisonous drug.

**stub** /stəb/, /stub/ *n* 1 a short piece left when the rest is cut off or used up. 2 the retained section of a ticket, etc. • *vb (stabbed, stabbing)* to strike (the toes) against something by accident.

**stubble** /'stəbəl/, /stu-bul/ *n* 1 the stumps of the corn stalks left in the ground after reaping. 2 the short bristly hairs that grow after a person has shaved.

**stubborn** /'stəbərn/, /stu-burn/ *adj* unwilling to change point of view, not ready to give in.

**stubby** /'stəbi/, /stu-bee/ *adj* short and broad, short and thick.

**stuck** /stek/, *pt and pp of stick<sup>1</sup>*.

**stud<sup>1</sup>** /stəd/, /stud/ *n* 1 a nail with a large head or knob. 2 a fastener with a head at each end for linking two buttonholes. 3 one of the supporting wooden beams in a wall. • *vb (studded, studding)* 1 to decorate with many small ornaments. 2 to cover with. • *adj* covered with studs.

**stud<sup>2</sup>** /stəd/, /stud/ *n* a number of horses kept for breeding.

**student** /'stü:dənt, 'stju:-/, /stoo-dent, styoo-dent/ *n* a person who studies, a person who goes to school.

**studied** /'stədi:d/, /stu-deed/ *adj* done with care, deliberate.

**studio** /'stü:diə/, 'stju:-/, /stoo-dee-o, styoo-dee-o/ *n* 1 the room in which a painter, sculptor, photographer, etc, works. 2 a building in

which films are made. **3** a workshop in which records are made or from which programmes are broadcast. **4** a one-room apartment.

**studious** /'stu:dɪəs, 'stju:-/, /stoo-dee-us, styoo-dee-us/ *adj* of, given to, or engaged in study.

**study** /'stədi/, /stu-dee/ *vb* **1** to read about or look at to obtain knowledge. **2** to examine closely, to think deeply about. • *n* **1** the obtaining of information, especially by reading. **2** a subject studied. **3** an office, a room set aside for reading and learning. **4** a work of art done to improve a person's skill.

**stuff** /stəf/, /stuff/ *n* **1** the material or substance of which something is made. **2** anything said, done, written, composed, etc. **3** cloth. • *vb* **1** to fill full or tightly. **2** to fill something hollow with another material.

**stuffing** /'stəfiŋ/, /stu-fing/ *n* **1** material used to stuff something hollow. **2** a mixture of breadcrumbs, seasoning, etc, put inside chickens, etc, when cooking.

**stuffy** /'stəfi/, /stu-fee/ *adj* hot and airless.

**stumble** /'stʌmbəl/, /stum-bul/ *vb* **1** to trip and nearly fall. **2** to make an error, to do wrong. **3** to come upon by chance. • *n* a trip, a false step when walking, nearly causing a person to fall.

**stump** /stʌmp/, /stump/ *n* **1** the part of a tree left above ground when the rest is cut down. **2** the part of a limb left after the rest has been amputated. • *vb* **1** to walk heavily. **2** to ask someone a question that he or she is unable to answer.

**stumpy** /'stʌmpi/, /stum-pee/ *adj* short and thick, short and broad.

**stun** /stən/, /stun/ *vb* (**stunned**, **stunning**) **1** to knock senseless. **2** to amaze. • *n* **stunner** a person or thing that is extremely attractive. • *adj* **stunning** extremely attractive.

**stung** *pt and pp of sting*.

**stunk** *pt and pp of stink*.

**stunt<sup>1</sup>** /stənt/, /stunt/ *vb* to prevent the full growth of.

**stunt<sup>2</sup>** /stənt/, /stunt/ *n* **1** a trick to display special skill or daring. **2** anything done to attract attention or gain publicity.

**stunted** /'stəntəd/, /stun-tid/ *adj* undersized.

**stupefaction** /styoo-pi-fac-shun/ *n* (*fml*) amazement.

**stupefy** /'stju:pəfaɪ/, /styoo-pi-fie/ *vb* **1** to make stupid, to make the senses less acute. **2** to amaze.

**stupendous** /stu:pəndəs, 'stju:-/, /stoo-pen-dus , styoo-pen-dus/ *adj* extraordinary, so large or powerful that it amazes.

**stupid** /'stupɪd, 'stju:-/, / stoo-pid, styoo-pid/ *adj* foolish, not intelligent, slow to understand. • *n* **stupidity**.

**stupor** /'stupər, 'stju:-/, /stoo-per, styoo-pur/ *n* temporary inability to think clearly, confusion of mind.

**sturdy** /'stɜrdi/, /stur-dee/ *adj* strong, well-built.

**sturgeon** /'stɜrdʒən/, /stur-jin/ *n* a large fish from whose eggs caviar is made.

**stutter** /'stʌtər/, /stu-ter/ *vb* to repeat the first sound of a word several times before saying the whole word. • *n* a stammer.

**sty<sup>1</sup>** /staɪ/, /stie/ *n* an enclosure or a pen in which pigs are kept.

**sty<sup>2</sup>, stye** /staɪ/, /stie/ *n* a swelling on the edge of the eyelid.

**style** /staɪl/, /stile/ *n* **1** manner of doing anything. **2** a way of writing, painting, etc, by which works of art can be recognized as the work of a particular artist, school, or period. **3** a fashion. **4** elegance.

**stylish** /'staɪlɪʃ/, /stie-lish/ *adj* well-dressed, smart, fashionable.

**stylist** /'staɪlist/, /stie-list/ *n* a person who designs, creates, or advises on current styles of clothing, hair, etc.

**stylistic** /staɪ'listɪk/, /stie-li-stick/ *adj* having to do with style.

**stylistics** /staɪ'listɪks/, /stie-li-sticks/ *n* the study of style as a way of figuring out meaning.

**stylize** /'staɪlaɪz/, /stie-lize/ *vb*, also **stylise** to make part of one particular style.

**suave** /swəv/, /swav/ *adj* agreeable in manner, especially in an insincere way. • *n* **suavity**.

**sub-** /səb, səb/, /sub/ *prefix* under, below.

**subconscious** /səb'kɒnʃəs/, /sub-con-shus/ *adj* not fully aware of what one is doing. • *n* mental processes that go on without a person being fully aware of them.

**subdivide** /səbdi'veɪd/, /sub-di-vide/ *vb* to divide into smaller parts or groups. • *n* **subdivision**.

**subdue** /səb'dju:ʃ/, /sub-dyoo/ *vb* to conquer, to force to be tame or obedient.

**subdued** /səb'dju:d/, /sub-dyood/ *adj* not bright, not loud.

**subject** /'səbdʒəkt/, /sub-jikt/ *adj* 1 ruled by another. 2 liable to. • *n* 1 a person who owes loyalty to a ruler or government. 2 that about which something is said or written. 3 something studied. 4 in a clause or sentence, the word with which the verb agrees grammatically. • *vb* /sub-ject/ 1 to bring under the power of. 2 to expose to.

**subjection** /'səbdʒəkʃn/, /sub-jec-shun/ *n* control, the state of being under another's rule or power.

**subjective** /səb'dʒɛktɪv/, /sub-jec-tiv/ *adj* having to do with a person's own ideas and feelings rather than with objects outside.

**sublet** /səb'lɛt/, /sub-let/ *vb* to rent to another what one is already paying rent for. • *also n.*

**sublime** /sə'blaim/, /su-blime/ *adj* noble, awe-inspiring, grand and lofty.

**subliminal** /səb'lɪmənəl/, /su-bli-mi-nal/ *adj* not quite at a conscious level.

**sublimity** /səb'lɪmiti/, /su-bli-mi-tee/ *n* greatness of feeling or expression.

**submarine** /səb'me'reɪn, 'səb-/ , /sub-ma-reen/ *adj* under the surface of the sea. • *n* a ship that can travel under the surface of the sea.

**submerge** /səb'mərdʒ/, /sub-merj/ *vb* to put or sink under water. • *n* **submergence**.

**submersion** /səb'mərʒən/, /sub-mer-shun/ *n* the act of putting or sinking under water.

**submission** /səb'miʃən/, /sub-mi-shun/ *n* 1 surrender, obedience, the act of giving in or yielding. 2 a proposal or opinion.

**submissive** /səb'misɪv/, /sub-mi-siv/ *adj* willing to accept orders, ready to give in without fighting back.

**submit** /səb'mit/, /sub-mit/ *vb* (**submitted**, **submitting**) 1 to give in. 2 to put forward for consideration.

**subordinate** /sə'bɔrdənət/, /su-bawr-di-nit/ *adj* 1 less important. 2 of lower rank. • *n* a person who is lower in rank, a person who is

working under the orders of another. • *vb /su-bawr-di-nate/ 1* to place in a lower rank, to put under the command of. *2* to regard as less important. • *n subordination*.

**subpoena** /sə'pi:nə/, /su-pee-na/ *n* an order to appear as a witness in a court of law.

**subscribe** /səb'skraib/, /sub-scribe/ *vb* **1** to sign the name under. **2** to agree with. **3** to give or promise to give money to a fund or collection. **4** to give money to receive a weekly, monthly, etc, magazine, newspaper, etc. • *n subscriber*.

**subscription** /səb'skrɪpʃən/, /sub-scrip-shun/ *n* a sum of money given to a fund, collection, magazine, newspaper, etc.

**subsequent** /'səbsəkwənt/, /sub-si-kwent/ *adj* following, later.

**subservient** /səb'sərvɪənt/, /sub-ser-vee-ant/ *adj* ready to do all one is told to gain favour.

**subside** /səb'saɪd/, /sub-side/ *vb* **1** to sink gradually down. **2** to become less, to disappear gradually.

**subsidence** /səb'saɪdəns/, /sub-sie-dense/ *n* a gradual sinking down, especially of land.

**subsidiary** /səb'sɪdieri, səb'sɪdʒəri/, /sub-si-dee-a-ree/ *adj* of less importance.

**subsidize** /'səbsɪdaɪz/, /sub-si-dize/ *vb*, also **subsidise** to pay a subsidy to.

**subsidy** /'səbsidi/, /sub-si-dee/ *n* money paid by the government to certain groups, trades, etc, to enable them to provide the public with necessary services without losing money.

**subsist** /səb'sist/, /sub-sist/ *vb* to live or exist, to have the means of living.

**subsistence** /səb'sistəns/, /sub-si-stense/ *n* existence, being, that which is necessary to support life.

**substance** /'səbstəns/, /sub-stanse/ *n* **1** the material of which a thing is made. **2** that which really exists (not what is imagined). **3** the chief ideas in a speech or written work. **4** (*frm*) wealth.

**substantial** /səb'stænʃəl/, /sub-stan-shal/ *adj* **1** really existing. **2** solid. **3** fairly large or important.

**substantiate** /səb'stænʃi,erit/, /sub-**stan**-shee-ate/ *vb* to prove the truth of.

**substitute** /'səbsti,tu:t, -tju:t/, /**sub**-sti-toot/ *vb* to put in place of. • *n* a person or thing put in the place of another. • *also adj.* • *n* **substitution**.

**subterranean** /'səbtə'reniən/, /sub-tu-ray-nee-an/ *adj* underground.

**subtitle** /'səb,təɪtəl/, /**sub**-tie-tul/ *n* 1 a second, less important, title of a book. 2 explanatory comments, etc, printed on silent or foreign-language films.

**subtle** /'sətəl/, /**su**-tul/ *adj* 1 cunning, clever, not obvious. 2 difficult to understand completely. 3 faint or delicate.

**subtlety** /'sətəlti/, /**su**-tul-tee/ *n* 1 skill, cleverness. 2 refinement.

**subtract** /səb'trækət/, /sub-tract/ *vb* to take (one number) from another. • *n* **subtraction**.

**suburb** /'səbərb/, /**su**-burb/ *n* an outlying part of a city. • *adj* **suburban**.

**subversive** /səb'versiv/, /sub-**ver**-siv/ *adj* intended or likely to overthrow or destroy, directed against the government, management, organization, etc.

**subvert** /səb'vert/, /sub-**vert**/ *vb* (*fml*) to overthrow, to try to destroy. • *n* **subversion**.

**subway** /'səbwei/, /**sub**-way/ *n* 1 an underground passage. 2 an underground railway.

**succeed** /sək'si:d/, /suc-**seed**/ *vb* 1 to do what a person has attempted or desired to do. 2 to come after, to follow in order and take the place of.

**success** /sək'ses/, /suc-**sess**/ *n* 1 the doing of what a person has attempted or desired to do. 2 a favourable result or outcome. 3 a person or thing that does as well as was hoped or expected. • *adj* **successful**.

**succession** /sək'seʃən/, /suc-**se**-shun/ *n* 1 a number of persons or things following one another in order. 2 the order in which people may inherit a title when it becomes available.

**successive** /sək'sesiv/, /suc-**se**-siv/ *adj* coming in order, following one after another.

**successor** /sək'sesər/, /suc-**se**-sur/ *n* a person who comes after or takes the place of another.

**succinct** /sə'sistkt, sək-/ , /suc-**sinct**/ *adj* short and to the point, concise.

**succour** /sə'kər/, /su-cur/ *vb*, also **succor** (US) (*fml*) to help when in difficulty. • *n* aid, help.

**succulent** /'səkjulent/, /su-cyu-lent/ *adj* juicy.

**succumb** /sə'kəm/, /su-cum/ *vb* 1 to give way to, to be overcome. 2 to die.

**such** /sətʃ/, /such/ *adj* 1 of a like kind or degree, similar. 2 so extreme, so much, so great, etc. • *adv* to so great a degree.

**suck** /sək/, /suck/ *vb* 1 to draw into or in with the mouth. 2 to draw the liquid from the mouth or something in it with the tongue. • *also n.*

**sucker** /'səkər/, /su-ker/ *n* (inf) 1 a foolish or gullible person. 2 a cup-shaped rubber item that sticks to things by suction.

**suckle** /'səkəl/, /su-cul/ *vb* to allow to suck milk from the breast.

**suckling** /'səklɪŋ/, /su-cling/ *n* a baby or animal still feeding from its mother's breast.

**suction** /'səkʃən/, /suc-shun/ *n* the act of sucking, the drawing up of a fluid into a tube, etc, by expelling the air so that the fluid fills where the air once was.

**sudden** /'sədən/, /su-den/ *adj* happening without warning, unexpected, hurried.

**sudden infant death syndrome or SIDS** /'sədən ɪnfənt dəθ sindro:m/, /su-den in-fant deth sin-drome/ *n* a sudden unexplained death of a baby in its sleep; familiarly known as cot death.

**suds** /səds/, /sudz/ *npl* the froth on soapy water. • *adj* **sudsy**.

**sue** /su:/, /soo/ *vb* 1 to bring a case against in a court of law. 2 (*fml*) to beg for.

**suede** /swi:d/, /swade/ *n* a soft kind of leather that is brushed and buffed so that it has a soft, furry feel. • *also adj*.

**suet** /'su:ət/, /soo-it/ *n* a hard fat from cattle and sheep, used in cooking.

**suffer** /'səfər/, /su-fer/ *vb* 1 to undergo pain or great anxiety. 2 to experience or undergo. 3 to put up with. • *n* **suffering** the bearing of pain, distress, etc.

**suffice** /sə'fɪs/, /su-fise/ *vb (fml)* to be enough.

**sufficiency** /sə'fɪʃənsi/, /su-fi-shen-see/ *n* a big enough supply.

**sufficient** /sə'fɪʃənsi/, /su-fi-shent/ *adj* enough.

**suffix** /'səfiks/, /su-fiks/ *n* a syllable added to the end of a word (e.g. -ness, -ly) to change its use or meaning.

**suffocate** /'səfəkeɪt/, /su-fu-cate/ *vb* 1 to choke for lack of air. 2 to kill by preventing from breathing. • *n* **suffocation**.

**suffrage** /'səfrɪdʒ/, /su-fridge/ *n (fml)* the right to vote in elections. • *n* **suffragist** a person who believes in giving people the right to vote.

**suffragette** /'səfrɪ,dʒet/, /su-fri-jet/ *n* in the 19th century, a woman who claimed and obtained the right for women to vote.

**suffuse** /sə'fju:z/, /su-fyooz/ *vb (fml)* to spread over. • *n* **suffusion**.

**sugar** /'sugər/, /shoo-gar/ *n* a sweet substance manufactured from sugar cane, beets, etc. • *vb* 1 to sweeten with sugar. • *adj* **sugary**.

**sugar beet** /'sugər bi:t/, /shoo-gar beet/ *n* a plant with a root from which sugar is obtained.

**sugar cane** /'sugər keɪn/, /shoo-gar cane/ *n* a tall, stiff reed from which sugar is obtained.

**suggest** /sə'dʒest/, /su-jest/ *vb* 1 to put forward. 2 to hint. 3 to cause an idea to come into the mind.

**suggestion** /sə'dʒestʃən/, /su-jes-chun/ *n* 1 a proposal. 2 a hint.

**suggestive** /sə'dʒestɪv/, /su-jes-tiv/ *adj* 1 putting ideas into the mind. 2 rather indecent.

**suicide** /'su:i,said/, /soo-i-side/ *n* 1 the killing of oneself on purpose. 2 a person who kills himself or herself on purpose. • *adj* **suicidal**.

**suit** /su:t/, /soot/ *vb* 1 to please or satisfy. 2 to go well with. 3 to look good or attractive on. • *n* 1 a set of clothes of the same material. 2 attentions paid to a lady with the intention of marrying her. 3 one of the four sets of playing cards.

**suitable** /'su:təbəl/, /soo-ta-bul/ *adj* what is wanted for the purpose, fitting the occasion.

**suitcase** /-keɪs/, /soot-case/ *n* a travelling bag for clothes.

**suite** /swi:t/, /sweet/ *n* **1** a set of rooms or furniture. **2** all the attendants who wait upon a certain person. **3** a series of connected pieces of music. **4** a group of connected rooms.

**suitor** /'su:tər/, /soo-tur/ *n* **1** a person making a request or asking for a favour. **2** a man paying attention to a lady with the intention of marrying her.

**sulk** /səlk/, /sulk/ *vb* to behave in an ill-humoured, unfriendly way, to refuse to speak to others because of ill-temper.

**sulky** /'səlki/, /sul-kee/ *adj* ill-natured, not mixing with others because of ill-humour.

**sullen** /'sələn/, /su-len/ *adj* ill-natured, silently bad-tempered, gloomy, sad.

**sulphate** /'səlfet/, /sul-fate/ *n*, also **sulfate** (*US*) a salt of sulphuric acid.

**sulphur** /'səlfər/, /sul-fur/ *n*, also **sulfur** (*US*) a yellow non-metallic element.

**sulphuric** /səl'fju:rɪk/, /sul-few-ric/ *adj*, also **sulfuric** (*US*) having to do with or containing sulphur.

**sulphurous** /səlfərəs/, /sul-fur-uss/ *adj*, also **sulfurous** (*US*) having to do with or like sulphur.

**sultan** /'səltən/, /sul-tan/ *n* the ruler of a Muslim country, especially of the former Ottoman Empire.

**sultana** /səl'tænə/, /sul-ta-na/ *n* **1** the wife of a sultan. **2** a kind of seedless raisin used in baking.

**sultry** /'səltri/, /sul-tree/ *adj* very hot and close.

**sum** /səm/, /sum/ *n* **1** the answer obtained by adding several numbers together. **2** the total or entire amount, especially of money. **3** a problem in arithmetic. • *vb* (**summed**, **summing**) to add up. • **sum up** to summarize.

**summarize** /'səmwəraɪz/, /su-ma-rize/ *vb*, also **summarise** to give a brief account of the main points.

**summary** /'səməri/, /su-ma-ree/ *n* a brief account of the main points.

• *adj* **1** short. **2** done quickly or by a short method.

**summation** /sə'meɪʃən/, /su-may-shun/ *n* the act or process of summing up or of finding a total.

**summer** /'sʌmər/, /su-mer/ *n* the warmest season of the year, in the Northern Hemisphere, generally June, July, and August. • *adj* **summery** of or like summer.

**summit** /'səmit/, /su-mit/ *n* 1 the highest point, the top. 2 a meeting of heads of government, or other high-ranking officials, of several countries to discuss matters of great importance.

**summon** /'səmən/, /su-mun/ *vb* 1 to call upon to appear before an official. 2 to call upon to do something.

**summons** /'səmənz/, /su-munz/ *n* an order to appear for trial by a court of law. • *vb* to present with such an order.

**sumo wrestling** /'su:mo ˌreslɪŋ/, /soo-mo ress-ling/ *n* a Japanese form of wrestling, performed by very large men. • *n* **sumo wrestler**.

**sump** /səmp/, /sump/ *n* a hole or hollow in which liquid collects (e.g. an oil sump in an engine).

**sumptuous** /'səmpʃu:əs/, /sum-shu-wus/ *adj* splendid, very expensive, luxurious.

**sun** /sʌn/, /sun/ *n* 1 (*often cap*) the heavenly body that gives light and heat to the Earth and other planets in the same solar system. 2 the warmth or light given by the sun.

**sunbathe** /'sənbetə/, /sun-bathe/ *vb* to lie out in the sun.

**sunblock** /'sənblk/, /sun-block/ *n* sunscreen.

**sunburn** /'sənbərn/, /sun-burn/ *n* a reddening of the skin's colour caused by exposure to the sun. • *also vb*.

**suncream** /'sənkrim/, /sun-creem/ *n* sunscreen.

**sundae** /'səndeɪ/, /sun-day/ *n* ice cream served with fruit, nuts, syrup, etc.

**Sunday** /'səndeɪ/, /sun-day/ *n* the first day of the week.

**sundial** /'səndɪl/, /sun-dile/ *n* an instrument that tells the time by casting the shadow of an indicator on a face marked with the hours.

**sun-dried** /'səndraɪd/, /sun-dried/ *adj* dried by the sun.

**sunflower** /'sənflaʊər/, /sun-flour/ *n* a tall plant with a large yellow flower.

**sung** *pp of sing.*

**sunglasses** /'sʌŋglæsəz/, /sun-gla-siz/ *n* tinted glasses to shade the eyes from the brightness of the sun.

**sunk** *pp of sink.*

**sunlight** /'sʌnlait/, /sun-lite/ *n* the light of the sun. • *adj sunlit.*

**sunny** /'sʌni/, /su-nee/ *adj* 1 brightly lit by the sun. 2 cheerful, happy.

**sunrise** /'sʌnraɪz/, /sun-riize/ *n* the appearance of the sun above the horizon in the morning.

**sunscreen** /'sʌnskrɪ:n/, /sun-screen/ *n* a cream or oily substance worn on the skin to protect it from the sun's rays.

**sunset** /'sʌnset/, /sun-set/ *n* the disappearance of the sun below the horizon in the evening.

**sunshine** /'sʌnʃaɪn/, /sun-shine/ *n* 1 the light or warmth of the sun. 2 cheerfulness.

**sunstroke** /'sʌnstro:k/, /sun-stroke/ *n* a severe illness caused by the effect of the sun's heat on the body.

**suntan** /'sʌntæn/, /sun-tan/ *n* a darkening of the skin caused by the sun.

**sunward** /'sʌnwərd/, /sun-ward/ *adj* facing the sun.

**sup** /səp/, /sup/ *vb (supped, supping)* 1 (*old*) to take supper. 2 to eat or drink in small mouthfuls. • *n* a small mouthful.

**super** /su:pər/, /soo-per/ *adj* outstanding, great, wonderful.

**super-** /su:pər/, /soo-per/ *prefix* above, over.

**superb** /su:pərb/, /soo-perb/ *adj* magnificent, excellent.

**superbug** /'su:pər,bʌg/, /soo-per-bug/ *n* (*inf*) a bacterium that is resistant to most antibiotics.

**supercilious** /,su:pər'siliəs/, /soo-per-si-lee-us/ *adj* 1 overproud, having a scornful manner, looking down on others. 2 disdainful, scornful.

**superficial** /,su:pər'fiʃəl/, /soo-per-fi-shal/ *adj* 1 on the surface. 2 not deeply felt or thought about. 3 shallow, incapable of deep thought or feeling. • *n superficiality.*

**superfluous** /su:'pərfluəs/, /soo-per-floo-us/ *adj* more than enough, unnecessary. • *n superfluity.*

**superhero** /'su:pər,hi:ro/, /soo-per-hee-ro/ *n* an all-powerful hero of a kind found in comic books.

**superhuman** /su:pər'hju:mən/, /soo-per-hyoo-man/ *adj* more than human, extraordinary, divine.

**superimpose** /su:pərɪm'po:z/, /soo-per-im-poaz/ *vb* to lay on top of something else.

**superintend** /su:pərɪn'tənd/ *vb* to manage something.

**superintendent** /su:pərɪn'tendənt/, /soo-per-in-ten-dent/ *n* 1 one who superintends. 2 a person in charge of a department, group, school, etc.

**superior** /su:'pi:riər/, /soo-pir-ee-ur/ *adj* 1 higher in rank. 2 better. • *n* 1 a person higher in rank. 2 a person better than others. 3 the head of a monastery or convent. • *n* **superiority**.

**superlative** /su:'pərlətɪv/, /soo-per-la-tiv/ *adj* 1 excellent, above all others in quality. 2 expressing the highest degree.

**superman** /'su:pər,mæn/, /soo-per-man/ *n* a man of extraordinary powers, the imagined perfect human being of the future.

**supermarket** /,su:pər'markət/, /soo-per-mar-kit/ *n* a large store selling (usually by self-service) food and household goods.

**supernatural** /su:pər'nætʃərəl/, /soo-per-nach-ral/ *adj* 1 not to be explained by natural causes. 2 caused by direct divine intervention in human affairs.

**supernova** /su:pər'no:və/, /soo-per noe-vah/ *n* an exploding star giving off millions of times more light than the sun.

**supersede** /,su:pər'si:d/, /soo-per-seed/ *vb* to take the place of, to put another in the place of.

**supersonic** /,su:pər'sɔnɪk/, /soo-per-son-ic/ *adj* faster than sound.

**superstition** /,su:pər'stiʃən/, /soo-per-sti-shun/ *n* 1 a tendency to believe that certain human beings or objects have more than natural powers. 2 belief in magic, luck, etc. • *adj* **superstitious**.

**supervise** /su:pər'veɪz/, /soo-per-vize/ *vb* 1 to watch others to see that they do their work properly. 2 to be in charge of. • *n* **supervision**. • *n* **supervisor**.

**supper** /'səpər/, /su-per/ *n* a light evening meal.

**supple** /'səpəl/, /su-pul/ *adj* 1 (*frm*) easily bent. 2 bending or moving easily and gracefully.

**supplement** /'səpləmənt/, /su-pli-mint/ *n* 1 something added to make up what is lacking. 2 an addition. • *vb* to make additions to.

**supplementary** /,səplə'məntəri/, /su-pli-men-ta-ree/ *adj* given in addition, given to make up what is lacking.

**suppliant** /sə'plaɪənt/, /su-plie-ant/ *adj (fml)* begging for as a favour. • *n (fml)* a person humbly asking for a favour.

**supply** /'səplai/, /su-ple/ *vb* to provide what is needed. • *n 1* a store of what is needed. 2 *pl* stores.

**support** /sə'pɔrt/, /su-poart/ *vb* 1 to help to hold up. 2 to give help or encouragement to. 3 to provide the necessities of life for. 4 to put up with. • *n 1* a prop. 2 assistance, encouragement. 3 a person or thing that supports. • *adj supportive*.

**supporter** /sə'pɔrter/, /su-poar-ter/ *n* a person who helps or encourages.

**suppose** /sə'po:z/, /su-poaz/ *vb* 1 to believe to be true without sure evidence. 2 to imagine. 3 to think probable. • *adv supposedly* according to what is, was, or may be supposed.

**supposition** /səpə'zis̩ən/, /su-pu-zí-shun/ *n* 1 a guess. 2 something taken as true or imagined.

**suppress** /sə'pres/, /su-press/ *vb* 1 to put down, to crush. 2 to prevent from being known. • *n suppression*.

**suppressant** /sə'presənt/, /su-press-ant/ *n* something, especially a drug, that suppresses an action, condition, etc.

**supremacist** /sə'preməsist/, /suh-prem-a-sist/ *n* a person who believes that one group is superior to others.

**supremacy** /sə'preməsist/, /soo-prem-a-see/ *n* the highest power or authority.

**supreme** /su:pri:m/, /soo-preem/ *adj* 1 highest in power or authority. 2 greatest.

**surcharge** /sər'tʃardʒ/, /sur-charge/ *n* an extra charge.

**sure** /ʃur/, /shoor/ *adj* 1 certain. 2 convinced of. 3 unfailing.

**surely** /'ʃurli/, /shoor-lee/ *adv* without doubt.

**surf** /sərf/, /surf/ *n* the foamy water caused by waves breaking on a sloping shore.

**surfboard** see **surfing**.

**surface** /'sɜːfəs/, /sʊr-fɪs/ *n* **1** the outside or top part of anything. **2** outside appearance. • *vb* to rise to the surface.

**surfeit** /'sɜːfɪ:t/, /sʊr-fɪt/ *n* too much of anything. • *vb* to overfeed.

**surfing** /'sɜːfɪŋ/, /sʊr-fɪŋ/ *n* **1** the sport of riding on the crest of large waves while standing on a long, narrow board with a rounded or pointed front end, called a **surfboard** /sʊrf-bo:də/. **2** the act of moving from site to site on the Internet looking for something interesting. • *vb* **surf**.

**surge** /sɜːdʒ/, /sɜːrɡ/ *n* the rising of a wave, the up-and-down movement of the surface of the sea. • *vb* to rise, to well up, as a wave.

**surgeon** /'sɜːdʒən/, /sʊr-dʒɪn/ *n* a doctor skilled in surgery.

**surgery** /'sɜːdʒəri/, /sʊr-dʒəri/ *n* **1** the art or science of curing disease by cutting the body open to fix whatever is wrong. **2** a place where a doctor sees patients.

**surgical** /'sɜːdʒɪkəl/, /sʊr-dʒɪ-kəl/ *adj* having to do with surgery.

**surly** /'sɜːli/, /sʊr-lee/ *adj* gloomy and ill-humoured. • *n* **surliness**.

**surname** /sɜː'nneɪm/, /sʊr-næm/ *n* a person's family name, last name.

**surpass** /sɜː'pæs/, /sʊr-pæs/ *vb* to do better than.

**surpassing** /-ɪŋ/, /sʊr-pa-sɪŋ/ *adj* excellent.

**surplus** /sɜːpləs/, /sʊr-pləs/ *n* the amount by which anything is more than is required.

**surprise** /'sɜːpraɪz/, /sʊr-prɪz/ *n* **1** the feeling caused by what is sudden or unexpected. **2** a sudden or unexpected event, gift, piece of news, etc. • *vb* **1** to come upon when not expected. **2** to take unawares, to startle, to astonish. • *adj* **surprising**.

**surreal** /sə'rɪəl/, /su-reel/ *adj* bizarre, strange, of or related to surrealism.

**surrealism** /sə'rɪəlɪzəm/, /su-reel-ɪz-əm/ *n* an artistic style that focuses on the unconscious mind, dreams, and fantastic, irrational subject material. • *adj* **surrealistic**.

**surrender** /sə'rendər/, /su-ren-der/ *vb* **1** to stop fighting and accept the enemy's terms, to give up. **2** to hand over. • *also n.*

**surrey** /'səri/, /su-ree/ *n* a light, four-wheeled carriage of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**surrogate** /'sərəgət/, /su-ru-gate/ *n* **1** a substitute. **2** a woman who, by agreement, has the baby of another woman who cannot for some reason bear the child. • *also adj.* • *n surrogacy* the fact or condition of being a surrogate.

**surround** /sə'raund/, /su-round/ *vb* to go, put, or be on all sides of.

**surroundings** /-ɪŋz/, /su-round-dingz/ *npl* the objects or country around a person or place.

**surveillance** /sər'veiləns/, /sur-vay-lans/ *n* a careful watch.

**survey** /'sɜːveɪ/, /sur-vay/ *vb* **1** to look over. **2** to look at carefully. **3** to measure an area of land and make a plan of it. **4** to examine and report on the condition of a building. • *n /sur-vay/ 1* a general view. **2** the measuring of a piece of land. **3** a plan made of a piece of land. **4** a report on the condition of a building.

**surveyor** /sər'veɪər/, /sur-vay-ur/ *n* a person who surveys land or who reports on the condition of a building.

**survival** /sər'veɪvəl/, /sur-vie-val/ *n* **1** act of surviving. **2** a person or thing that has lived on from a past age. • **survival of the fittest** the belief that only those kinds of plants, animals, etc, live on that are adapted to their surroundings.

**survivalist** /sər'veɪvəlist/, /sur-vie-va-list/ *n* a person who is determined to survive.

**survive** /sər'veaɪv/, /sur-vive/ *vb* **1** to live on after. **2** to continue to live or exist.

**survivor** /sər'veɪvər/, /sur-vie-vur/ *n* a person who has lived on, especially after a disaster.

**susceptible** /sə'septəbəl/, /su-sep-ti-bul/ *adj* easily influenced or affected by. • *n susceptibility*.

**sushi** /'su:ʃi/, /soo-shee/ *n* a Japanese dish of small cakes of cold rice served with raw or cooked fish, vegetables, etc.

**suspect** /sə'spekt/, /su-spect/ *vb* **1** to think something is the case but have no proof. **2** to mistrust, to doubt the truth of. **3** to believe to be guilty. • *n /sus-pect/ a person who is suspected. • adj /sus-pect/ doubtful, not worthy of trust.*

**suspend** /sə'spend/, /su-spend/ *vb* **1** to hang from. **2** to cause to stop for a time.

**suspenders** /sə'spendərs/, /su-**spen**-derz/ *n pl* a pair of straps attached to a belt and fastened to the tops of stockings to keep them up.

**suspense** /sə'spəns/, /su-**sپن**-səns/ *n* uncertainty or anxiety about what may happen in the future.

**suspension** /sə'spənʃən/, /su-**sپن**-shun/ *n* the state of being suspended.

**suspension bridge** /sə'spənʃən/, /su-**sپن**-shun bridge/ *n* a bridge suspended by chains or steel ropes from towers or arches.

**suspicion** /sə'spiʃən/, /su-**spi**-shun/ *n* a feeling of doubt or mistrust.

**suspicious** /sə'spiʃəs/, /su-**spi**-shus/ *adj* doubtful, mistrustful.

**suss** /səs/, /sus/ *vb (inf)* to discover or understand the truth about something.

**sustain** /sə'stein/, /su-**stane**/ *vb* 1 to keep up, to support. 2 to give strength to. 3 to keep in existence over a long period. 4 to undergo.

**sustainable** /sə'steinəbəl/, /su-**stay**-na-bul/ 1 able to continue for a long time. 2 able to continue without causing damage to the environment.

**sustenance** /'səstənəns/, /su-sti-nans/ *n* food, nourishment.

**suture** /'sütʃər/, /soo-chur/ *n* the act of joining together as by sewing.

• *vb* to join together by sewing.

**svelte** /svəlt/, /svelt/ *adj* slender and graceful, polished, sophisticated.

**swab** /swəb/, /swob/ *n* 1 a pad of cotton (sometimes wrapped around a stick) used for cleansing wounds, applying medicines, etc. 2 a mop for cleaning decks, etc. • *vb (swabbed, swabbing)* to clean with a swab.

**swagger** /'swægər/, /swa-ger/ *vb* to walk proudly, to behave boastfully. • *also n.*

**swallow<sup>1</sup>** /'swəlo:/, /swaw-loe/ *vb* 1 to draw down the throat and into the stomach. 2 to enclose in the middle of something bigger. 3 to believe without question. • *n* the act of swallowing.

**swallow<sup>2</sup>** /'swəlo:/, /swaw-loe/ *n* a bird with long wings and a forked tail.

**swamp** /swæmp/, /swomp/ *n* wet, marshy ground. • *vb* 1 to flood. 2 to overwhelm by greater numbers or strength.

**swampy** /'swæmpi/, /swom-peel/ *adj* soft and wet, marshy.

**swan** /swən/, /swon/ *n* a long-necked bird of the duck family.

**swank** /swæŋk/, /swangk/ *n* a stylish display of dress, behaviour, etc. • *adj* swanky.

**swap** /swɒpl/, /swopl/ *vb* (**swapped**, **swapping**) to exchange.

**swarm** /swɔrm/, /swawrm/ *n* 1 a large number of insects (e.g. bees) moving as a group. 2 a large, closely packed crowd. • *vb* 1 to come together in large numbers. 2 (of bees, etc) to leave the hive in a body.

**swarthy** /swɔrði/, /swawr-thee/ *adj* dark-skinned.

**swastika** /swəs'ti:kə, 'swəstɪkə/, /swos-ti-ca/ *n* an ancient symbol of a cross with four equal arms each bent at right angles. Found throughout history, but during the 20th century it was used to symbolize Nazi Germany and Nazi beliefs.

**swat** /swɒt/, /swot/ *vb* (**swatted**, **swatting**) to hit sharply, to crush.

**swatch** /swɒtʃ/, /swotʃ/ *n* a sample piece of cloth.

**swathe** /swəθ, sweið/, /swatħe/ *vb* to wrap up in bandages or clothing. • *n* **swathe** or **swath**.

**sway** /swei/, /sway/ *vb* 1 to move with a rocking motion from side to side or backward and forward. 2 to rule, to have influence over. • *n* 1 a rocking movement. 2 control, rule.

**swear** /swær/, /sware/ *vb* (*pt* **swore**, *pp* **sworn**) 1 to promise to tell the truth. 2 to declare something is true. 3 to use bad words or bad language, to use words that are considered offensive and socially unacceptable.

**sweat** /swet/, /swet/ *n* the moisture that oozes from the body when it is overheated, perspiration. • *vb* 1 to perspire. 2 to work very hard. 3 (*inf*) to be very anxious or worried about something.

**sweater** /'swetər/, /swe-ter/ *n* a jumper.

**sweaty** /'sweti/, /swe-tee/ *adj* (*inf*) damp with perspiration.

**sweep** /swi:p/, /sweep/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **swept**) 1 to clean with a brush or broom. 2 to move over swiftly and smoothly. 3 to remove with an extensive or curving movement. • *n* 1 an extensive or curving

movement. **2** a quick look over. **3** a person who cleans chimneys. •

**sweep the board** to win everything offered or at stake.

**sweeping** /'swi:pɪŋ/, /swee-ping/ *adj* **1** wide, extensive. **2** not taking sufficient account of exceptions.

**sweet** /swi:t/, /sweet/ *adj* **1** tasting like honey or sugar. **2** having a pleasing smell. **3** pleasing to the senses. **4** gentle and likable. **5** pretty. • *n* **1** a candy. **2** a dessert, a pudding. • *adv* **sweetly**. • **have a sweet tooth** to like eating sweet-tasting things.

**sweeten** /'swi:tən/, /swee-ten/ *vb* to make or become sweet. • *n* **sweetener** a thing that makes something sweet. • *n* **sweetening** the process of making something sweet.

**sweetcorn** /'swi:tkɔrn/, /sweet-cawrn/ *n* **1** a type of maize consisting of juicy yellow kernels growing on thick stems. **2** the kernels eaten as a vegetable.

**sweetheart** /'swi:θɑ:t/, /sweet-hart/ *n* a person dearly loved, a lover.

**sweet pea** /'swi:tpi:/, /sweet pee/ *n* a garden plant with sweet-smelling flowers.

**sweet potato** /'swi:tpe'teɪto:/, /sweet pu-tay-toe/ *n* a plant whose orange-coloured root is used as a vegetable.

**swell** /swɛl/, /swell/ *vb* (*pp swollen*) **1** to grow larger. **2** to make or become louder. **3** to bulge out. **4** (*of the sea*) to rise and fall in large waves that do not break. • *n* **1** movement of the sea in large waves that do not break. **2** (*inf*) a very well-dressed person.

**swelling** /'swɛlɪŋ/, /swe-ling/ *n* a lump raised for a time on the body by a bruise, infected cut, etc.

**swelter** /'sweltər/, /swel-ter/ *vb* to be very hot, to be uncomfortable because of great heat. • *adj* **sweltering**.

**swept** *pt and pp of sweep*.

**swerve** /swɜrv/, /swerv/ *vb* to turn or move suddenly to one side. • *also n.*

**swift** /swif特/, /swift/ *adj* quick-moving, speedy.

**swig** /swɪg/, /swig/ *vb* (**swigged, swigging**) to drink in large mouthfuls • *n* (*inf*) a large mouthful.

**swim** /swɪm/, /swim/ *vb* (**swam, swimming, pp swum**) **1** to move through the water by moving the arms and legs. **2** to float in or on

top of. **3** to be dizzy. • *n* act of swimming. • *n* **swimmer**. • **in the swim** knowing what is going on, knowing important people.

**swimmingly** /'swɪmɪŋli/, /swi-ming-lee/ *adv* smoothly, with great success.

**swimsuit** /'swɪmsu:t/, /swim-soot/ *n* a bathing suit, garment worn for swimming.

**swimwear** /'swɪmweər/, /swim-ware/ *n* garments worn for swimming.

**swindle** /'swɪndəl/, /swin-dul/ *vb* to cheat. • *n* a deception intended to cheat people, a fraud.

**swindler** /'swɪndlər/, /swin-dler/ *n* a cheat, a person who tricks people out of money.

**swine** /swaɪn/, /swine/ *n* (*pl swine*) **1** a pig. **2** (*inf*) a very nasty person.

**swing** /swɪŋ/, /swing/ *vb* (*pt, pp swung*) **1** to move to and fro, especially when suspended from above. **2** to whirl around. **3** to turn around when at anchor. **4** to walk quickly with a swaying movement. • *n* **1** a seat suspended by ropes, etc, on which a person can swing to and fro. **2** a swinging movement. **3** a type of jazz music. **4** a long-range blow given with a curved arm. • **in full swing** in progress.

**swingeing** /'swɪndʒɪŋ/, /swinj-ing/ *adj* extreme, severe.

**swinging** /'swɪŋɪŋ/, /swing-ing/ *adj* **1** moving to and fro. **2** done with a swing; lively, fashionable.

**swipe** /swaɪp/, /swipe/ *vb* **1** to hit hard with a swinging movement. **2** (*inf*) to steal. • *n* a hard, sweeping blow.

**swipe card** /'swaɪp kærd/, /swipe card/ *n* a small plastic card containing coded information which is passed through an electronic device which reads this information.

**swirl** /swɜ:l/, /swirl/ *vb* to flow or move with a circular motion. • *n* a circular motion of water.

**swish** /swiʃ/, /swish/ *n* the sound made by a light or thin object moving through the air. • *vb* to move through the air with a swish. • *adj* smart and expensive.

**switch** /swɪtʃ/, /switch/ *n* **1** an easily bent stick. **2** a small lever for turning on and off electric current. • *vb* **1** to hit with a switch. **2** to

turn electric current on or off. **3** to change suddenly.

**switchboard** /'swɪtʃbɔːd/, /switʃ-board/ *n* a board at which connection can be made between one telephone line and another.

**swivel** /'swɪvəl/, /swi-vul/ *n* a ring that turns freely around a stable pin. • *vb* (**swivelled**, **swivelling**; *also swiveled*, **swiveling** (US)) to turn around, as on a swivel.

**swollen** *pp of swell*.

**swoon** /swu:n/, /swoon/ *vb* to faint. • *n* a fainting spell.

**swoop** /swu:p/, /swoop/ *vb* **1** to fly down upon with a sudden swift movement. **2** to come upon swiftly and suddenly. • *n* **1** a sudden downward rush. **2** a sudden attack.

**sword** /sɔːd/, /sawrd/ *n* a weapon with a long blade and sharp point for cutting or thrusting.

**swordfish** /'sɔːdfiʃ/, /sawrd-fish/ *n* a large fish whose upper jaw sticks out and comes to a point like a sword.

**swore** *pt of swear*.

**sworn** *pp of swear*.

**swot** /swɒt/, /swot/ *vb* to study hard. • *n* someone who spends a great deal of time studying.

**swung** *pt and pp of swing*.

**sycamore** /'sɪkə,mɔːr/, /si-ca-more/ *n* a large tree, of the same family as the maple and fig tree.

**sycophant** /'sɪkə,fænt, 'saɪk-/ , /-fənt/, /si-cu-fant/ *n* a person who flatters another to gain his or her favour. • *adj* **sycophantic**.

**syllable** /'sɪləbəl/, /si-la-bul/ *n* a part of a word or a word containing one vowel sound. • *adj* **syllabic**.

**syllabus** /'sɪləbəs/, /si-la-bus/ *n* a plan for a course of study, giving subjects to be studied, times of classes, etc.

**symbol** /'sɪmbəl/, /sim-bul/ *n* **1** an emblem or sign made to stand for or represent something else. **2** a sign that all recognize as bearing a certain meaning.

**symbolic** /sim'bɒlɪk/, /sim-bol-ic/ *adj* standing for or representing something else. • *adv* **symbolically**.

**symbolism** /'symbəlɪzəm/, /sim-bu-li-zum/ *n* the use of symbols.

**symbolize** /'simbə'lائز/, /sim-bu-lize/ *vb, also symbolise* to stand as a sign for.

**symmetrical** /sɪ'metrikl/, /si-met-ri-cal/ *adj* 1 having a balanced or regular design. 2 graceful because the parts are in pleasing proportion to one another and to the whole.

**symmetry** /'simetri/, /si-mi-tree/ *n* 1 sameness between the two halves of a design. 2 a pleasing similarity or contrast between parts, beauty resulting from graceful proportions.

**sympathetic** /,sɪmpə'θetɪk/, /sim-pa-thet-ic/ *adj* showing or feeling understanding or pity.

**sympathize** /'simpə,θaɪz/, /sim-pa-thize/ *vb, also sympathise* 1 to feel with and for another. 2 to be in agreement with.

**sympathy** /'simpəθi/, /sim-pa-thee/ *n* 1 understanding of the sorrow or distress of another, pity. 2 agreement with the opinion of another.

**symphony** /'simfəni/, /sim-fu-nee/ *n* 1 a piece of music written for a full orchestra. 2 (*lit*) a pleasant unison of sounds, colours, etc. • *adj symphonic*.

**symptom** /'simptəm/, /sim(p)-tum/ *n* 1 a sign or mark by which something can be recognized. 2 one of the signs by which a doctor is able to recognize the disease affecting a patient. • *adj symptomatic*.

**synagogue** /'sɪnəgɒg/, /si-nu-gog/ *n* a place where Jewish people go to worship.

**synchronize** /'sɪŋkrənaɪz/, /sing-cru-nize/ *vb, also synchronise* 1 to happen or cause to happen at the same time. 2 to set to exactly the same time.

**syncopate** /'sɪŋkəpeɪt/, /sing-cu-pate/ *vb* to change the rhythm of music by beginning or ending notes slightly sooner or later than expected. • *n syncopation*.

**syndicate** /'sɪndɪkət/, /sin-di-kit/ *n* 1 a group of persons or companies who are working together for business reasons or financial gain. • *vb /sin-di-cate/* 1 to join together in a syndicate. 2 to sell for publication in more than one journal, newspaper, etc.

**syndrome** /'sɪndrəʊm, -drəm/, /sin-drome/ *n* a number of symptoms occurring together making up a specific disease or condition.

**synonym** /'sɪnənɪm/, /si-nu-nim/ *n* a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word.

**synonymous** /sɪ'nɒnɪməs/, /si-non-im-us/ *adj* having the same meaning.

**synopsis** /sɪ'nɒpsɪs/, /si-nop-sis/ *n* a summary; a short account of the main happenings or ideas in a book.

**syntax** /'sɪntæks/, /sin-taks/ *n* the putting of words in a sentence in order and in the correct relation to each other. • *adjs syntactic(al)*.

**synthesis** /'sɪnθəsɪs/, /sin-thi-sis/ *n* the putting together of parts to make a whole.

**synthetic** /sɪn'θɛtɪk/, /sini-thet-ic/ *adj* made or put together by artificial means, not naturally.

**syphon** /'səɪfən/, /sie-fun/ *n* same as **siphon**.

**syringe** /sɪ'rɪndʒ/, /si-rinj/ *n* a tube filled with a piston by means of which fluid can be drawn up or squirted out. • *vb* to squirt or spray with a syringe.

**syrup** /'sɪrəp/, /si-rup/ *n* 1 any thick, sweet-tasting liquid. 2 the thick liquid obtained when refining cane sugar.

**system** /'sɪstəm/, /si-stum/ *n* 1 a method by which a number of parts of different kinds are made to work together as a unified whole. 2 a regular method of doing things. 3 a plan.

**systematic** /sɪstə'mætɪk/, /si-stu-mat-ic/ *adj* methodical, arranged in an orderly or reasonable manner, following a pre-arranged plan.

**systematize** /sɪstəmə'taɪz/, /si-stu-ma-tize/ *vb*, also **systematise** to reduce to a system.

# T

**T, t** /ti:/, /tee/ the 20th letter of the English alphabet.

**tab** /tæb/, /tab/ *n* a small piece of paper, fabric, etc, sticking out from something larger, a small flap.

**tabby** /'tæbi/, /ta-bee/ *n* a grey or brown striped cat.

**tabernacle** /'tæbər,naekəl/, /ta-ber-na-cul/ *n* a place of worship.

**table** /'teɪbəl/, /tay-bul/ *n* 1 an article of furniture with legs and a flat top, used for placing or resting things on. 2 a list of figures, names, facts, etc, arranged in columns. • *vb* to put forward for discussion.  
• **turn the tables on** to begin doing to another what he or she has been doing to you.

**tableau** /'tæblo:/, /ta-blo/ *n* (*pl* **tableaux**) a scene in which people stand motionless as if figures in a picture.

**tablecloth** /'teɪbəl,kloth/, /tay-bul cloth/ *n* a piece of material that is spread over a dining table.

**table manners** /'teɪbəl mænərz/, /tay-bul man-ers/ *npl* good behaviour while at the dinner table.

**tablespoon** /'teɪbəl,spu:n/, /tay-bul-spoon/ *n* a large spoon used for serving at the table or as a measure in cooking.

**tablet** /'teɪblət/, /ta-blet/ *n* 1 a piece of cardboard or flat piece of metal or stone with some writing or signs on it. 2 a small flat slab. 3 a pill.

**table tennis** /'teɪbəl tɛnis/, /tay-bul te-nis/ *n* a game like tennis, played with paddles and a light plastic ball on a table with a net across the middle.

**tabloid** /'tæblɔɪd/, /ta-bloid/ *n* a small-format newspaper, usually with emphasis on photographs and news in condensed form.

**taboo, tabu** /tə'bū:, tæ-/ , /ta-boo/ *adj* set apart so as not to be touched or used, forbidden for religious reasons or because it is against social custom. • *n* an order not to touch or use something.

**tabular** /'tæbjʊlər/, /ta-byu-lar/ *adj* set out in columns or tables.

**tabulate** /'tæbjju,leɪt/, /tab-yoo-late/ *vb* to arrange in columns or tables in a systematic way. • *n tabulation, tabulator.*

**tacit** /'tæsɪt/, /ta-sit/ *adj* thought or intended, but not spoken.

**taciturn** /'tæsɪ,tərn/, /ta-si-turn/ *adj* speaking little, silent by nature. • *n taciturnity.*

**tack** /tæk/, /tack/ *n* 1 a small sharp nail with a broad head. 2 a long, loose stitch. 3 the zigzag course of a sailing ship when sailing against the wind. • *vb* 1 to nail with tacks. 2 to sew with long, loose stitches. 3 (*of a sailing ship*) to change course to catch the wind. 4 to add on. • **on the wrong tack** on the wrong trail.

**tackle** /'tækəl/, /ta-cul/ *n* 1 all the equipment needed for some sport or game. 2 all the things necessary for a task. 3 a series of ropes, pulleys, etc, for raising weights, sails, etc. • *vb* 1 to struggle with, to seize and pull down. 2 (*in football*) to prevent from advancing with the ball. 3 to try to do. 4 to speak to or put questions to.

**tacky<sup>1</sup>** /'tæki/, /ta-kee/ *adj* sticky. • *n tackiness.*

**tacky<sup>2</sup>** /'tæki/, /ta-kee/ *adj (inf)* cheap, in bad taste. • *n tackiness.*

**tact** /tækt/, /tact/ *n* the ability to speak or behave without hurting the feelings of others, consideration. • *adj tactful, tactless.* • *adv tactfully, tactlessly.*

**tactical** /'tæktrɪkəl/, /tac-ti-cul/ *adj* having to do with tactics. • *adv tactically.*

**tactician** /'tæktɪʃən/, /tac-ti-shun/ *n* 1 a person who is skilled in tactics. 2 a person who is quick to see a possible advantage.

**tactics** /'tæktɪks/, /tac-tics/ *npl* 1 the art of moving armies or other warlike forces during battle. 2 any actions intended to gain an immediate advantage.

**tactile** /'tæktail/, /tac-tile/ *adj* having to do with the sense of touch.

**tadpole** /'tædpo:l/, /tad-pole/ *n* the young of a frog, toad, etc, just after it has come out of the egg.

**taffeta** /'tæfətə/, /ta-fi-ta/ *n* a shiny silk material.

**tag<sup>1</sup>** /tæg/, /tag/ *n* 1 the metal point at the end of a shoe-lace. 2 an address label. 3 a common quotation or saying. • *vb (tagged, tagging)* to fasten on.

**tag<sup>2</sup>** /tæg/, /tag/ *n*, also **tig** a children's game in which one person chases the others, tapping on the shoulder the first one caught, who then becomes the chaser.

**tail** /teɪl/, /tail/ *n* 1 a long hanging part of an animal's body, situated at the end of the spine. 2 the back part of anything.

**tailcoat** /'teɪl ko:t/, /tail-coat/ *n* a man's coat, short in front, long and divided down the middle at the back.

**tail end** /'teɪl end/, /tail end/ *n* the last or back part.

**tailgate** /'teɪlgeɪt/, /tail-gate/ *n* a board for closing the back of a cart or truck. • *vb* to drive too closely to another vehicle.

**tail light** /'teɪl laɪt/, /tail lite/ *n* the light at the back of a vehicle.

**tailor** /'teɪlər/, /tay-lor/ *n* a person who makes clothing, especially for men. • *vb* to make clothing.

**tails** /'teɪlz/, /tailz/ *np* 1 the reverse side of a coin. 2 a tailcoat.

**taint** /teɪnt/, /taɪnt/ *vb* to spoil or make bad. • *n* 1 a stain, an evil element that spoils the rest. 2 a mark of shame or disgrace.

**take** /teɪk/, /take/ *vb* (*pt took*, *pp taken*) 1 to seize or grasp. 2 to receive or accept. 3 to capture. 4 to carry. 5 to travel by. 6 to eat. 7 to require. • **take after** to be like. • **take down** to write. • **take for** to think to be. • **take heart** to become braver. • **take in** 1 to deceive. 2 to understand. 3 to make. • **take on** to agree to play or fight against. • **take over** to get control of. • **take place** to happen. • **take to** to begin to like. • **take up** to begin to do or study. • **take up with** to begin to go about with.

**take-away** /'teɪk əwei/, /tayk-a-way/ *n* 1 ready-cooked food bought from a restaurant or store to be eaten elsewhere. 2 a restaurant selling such food.

**taken** *pp of take*.

**takeover** /'teɪko:vər/, /take-oa-ver/ *n* an instance of getting control of something, especially a business.

**talc** /tælk/, /talc/ *n* 1 a glasslike mineral. 2 a fine powder for the skin made from this.

**talcum powder** /'tælkəm/, /tal-cum pow-der/ *n* a fine, perfumed powder made from talc.

**tale** /teɪl/, /tale/ *n* a story.

**talent** /'tælənt/, /ta-lent/ *n* special ability or skill.

**talented** /'tæləntəd/, /ta-len-tid/ *adj* very clever.

**talisman** /'tælɪzmən, 'tælis-/ , /ta-liz-man/ *n* (*pl* **talismans**) an object, word or words supposed to possess magic powers.

**talk** /tɔk/, /tawk/ *vb* to speak. • *n* **1** a conversation. **2** a lecture. **3** gossip. • **talk over** to discuss. • **talk (someone) around** to convince. • **talk to** to scold.

**talkative** /'tɔkətiv/, /taw-ka-tiv/ *adj* fond of talking.

**tall** /tɔl/, /tawl/ *adj* **1** high. **2** above the usual height.

**tallow** /'tælo:/, /ta-lo/ *n* the melted fat of animals.

**tally** /'tæli/, /ta-lee/ *n* **1** an account. **2** a score or count. • *vb* to agree with, to fit.

**Talmud** /'tælmud, -məd/, /tal-mood/ *n* the Jewish system of law.

**talon** /'tælən/, /ta-lon/ *n* the claw of a bird of prey.

**tambourine** /tæmbər'i:n/, /tam-bu-reen/ *n* a small one-sided drum with rattling metal discs around its sides, played by hand.

**tame** /teim/, /tame/ *adj* **1** not wild. **2** trained to be obedient. **3** not exciting, dull. • *vb* to make tame.

**tamper** /'tæmpər/, /tam-per/ *vb* to meddle with, to interfere with dishonestly or unlawfully.

**tampon** /'tæmpən/, /tam-pon/ *n* a plug of absorbent material inserted in the vagina during menstruation.

**tan** /tæn/, /tan/ **1** bark of trees crushed for use in preparing leather. **2** a light brown colour. **3** suntan. • *vb (tanned, tanning)* **1** to treat animal skins so as to turn them into leather. **2** to make or become brown from exposure to the sun. • *adj* light brown in colour.

**tandem** /'tændəm/, /tan-dem/ *adj* one behind the other. • *n* a bicycle for two persons, one sitting behind the other.

**tandoori** /tæn'duri/, /tan-doo-ree/ *n* an Indian way of cooking meat in a clay pot.

**tang** /taŋ/, /tang/ **1** a sharp taste. **2** a characteristic flavour.

**tangent** /'tændʒənt/, /tan-jent/ *n* a straight line touching a circle but not cutting it. • **go off at a tangent** to begin talking about something quite different.

**tangible** /'tændʒəbəl/, /tan-ji-bul/ *adj* 1 able to be touched. 2 real, actual. • *adv* tangibly.

**tangle** /'tæŋgəl/, /tang-gul/ *vb* 1 to interweave in a confused way that is difficult to undo. 2 to muddle. • *n* 1 a mass of confusedly interwoven thread, string, etc. 2 a muddle, a complication.

**tango** /'tæŋgo/, /tang-go/ *n* a South American dance.

**tank** /tæŋk/, /tangk/ *n* 1 a large container for storing water, oil, etc. 2 a fighting vehicle protected by thick metal plates and moving on caterpillar tracks.

**tankard** /'tæŋkərd/, /tang-kard/ *n* a large metal drinking mug.

**tanker** /'tæŋkər/, /tang-ker/ *n* a cargo ship with tanks for carrying oil.

**tanned** /tænd/, /tand/ *adj* 1 made brown by the sun. 2 made into leather.

**tannery** /'tænəri/, /ta-ne-ree/ *n* a place where leather is made.

**tannic** /'tænik/, /ta-nic/ *adj* having to do with tannin.

**tannin** /'tænɪn/, /ta-nin/ *n* a substance found in the bark of the oak and certain other trees, used in tanning leather.

**tantalize** /'tæntəlaɪz/, /tan-ta-lize/ *vb*, also **tantalise** to torment by raising false hopes.

**tantrum** /'tæntrəm/, /tan-trum/ *n* a fit of bad temper or ill-humour.

**tap<sup>1</sup>** /tæp/, /tap/ *n* 1 a stopper. 2 a device for regulating the flow of a liquid from a pipe. • *vb* (**tapped**, **tapping**) 1 to fit with a tap. 2 to draw liquid out of. 3 to obtain information from.

**tap<sup>2</sup>** /tæp/, /tap/ *vb* (**tapped**, **tapping**) 1 to strike lightly. 2 to knock gently. • *also n*.

**tap-dance** /'taepdæns/, /tap-danse/ *vb* to dance with shoes with metal plates on the soles, making elaborate tapping sounds on the floor. • *n* **tap-dancer**, **tap-dancing**.

**tape** /teɪp/, /tape/ *n* 1 a long, narrow strip of cloth, paper, or sticky material. 2 a sensitized strip for recording and transmitting sound or pictures. • *also vb*.

**tape measure** /'teɪp meʒər/, /tape-me-zhur/ *n* a strong tape of cloth, metal, etc, used for measuring.

**taper** /'teɪpər/, /tay-per/ *n* a long wick coated with wax, like a thin candle. • *vb* to become narrow or thinner at one end.

**tape recorder** /'teɪp rɪkɔːrdər/, /tape ri-cor-der/ *n* a machine for recording and transmitting sounds on magnetic tape. • *n* **tape-recording**.

**tapestry** /'tæpəstri/, /ta-pe-stree/ *n* a large piece of cloth in which different coloured threads are worked together to make a picture, sometimes hung on walls as a decoration.

**tapeworm** /'teɪpwərm/, /tape-wurm/ *n* a long tapelike worm sometimes found in the intestines.

**tapioca** /,tæpi'o:kə/, /ta-pee-yo-ca/ *n* 1 an edible grain obtained from a West Indian plant. 2 a pudding made from it.

**tapir** /'teɪpər, -pi:xr/, /tay-pir/ *n* a piglike animal of South America.

**tar** /tar/, /tar/ *n* 1 a thick, black, sticky substance obtained from wood or coal. 2 (*old*) a sailor. • *vb* (**tarred**, **tarring**) to coat with tar.

**tarantula** /tə'ræntʃʊlə/, /ta-ran-chu-la/ *n* a large poisonous spider.

**tardy** /'tardi/, /tar-dee/ *adj* (*old*) slow, late. • *n* **tardiness**.

**target** /'tɑ:gət/, /tar-git/ *n* 1 something set up for aiming or shooting at. 2 a goal or result that you hope to achieve. • *vb* to make someone the object or focus of something.

**tariff** /'terif, 'tærif/, /ta-rif/ *n* 1 the tax to be paid on an imported commodity. 2 a list of the taxes to be paid on imported goods. 3 a list of charges.

**tarnish** /'tarnɪʃ/, /tar-nish/ *vb* 1 to make less bright, to discolour. 2 to spoil.

**tarpaulin** /tar'pɔ:lɪn/, /tar-paw-lin/ *n* strong cloth or canvas covered with tar to make it waterproof.

**tarragon** /'terə,gɒn/, /ta-ra-gon/ *n* a plant with leaves that are used to add flavour in cooking.

**tarry**<sup>1</sup> /'teri/, /tahr-ee/ *adj* coated with tar.

**tarry**<sup>2</sup> /'tæri/, /tar-ee/ *vb* (*old* or *lit*) to stay, to delay, to wait behind.

**tart**<sup>1</sup> /tart/, /tart/ *n* a pastry containing jam or fruit.

**tart**<sup>2</sup> /tart/, /tart/ *adj* 1 sharp-tasting. 2 sour, biting, sarcastic.

**tartan** /'tɑ:tən/, /tar-tan/ *n* a cloth with stripes and squares of different colours, especially when worn as part of Scottish Highland dress.

**tartar** /'tɑ:tər/, /tar-tar/ *n* **1** a crust of lime left by wine in a barrel. **2** a hard substance that forms on the teeth. **3** a hot-tempered person, a person who is hard to manage.

**task** /tæsk/, /task/ *n* a piece of work to be done. • *vb* to lay upon as a burden.

**task force** /'tæsk fo:rs/, /task-foarss/ *n* a group of people brought together to deal with a particular problem.

**taskmaster** /'tæsk,mæstər/, /task-ma-ster/ *n* (*old*) a person who sets work to be done and sees that it is done properly.

**tassel** /'tesəl/, /ta-sel/ *n* an ornamental knot with loose threads hanging down from it.

**taste** /teist/, /tayst/ *n* **1** the sense by which you judge whether food is pleasant or unpleasant. **2** the ability to distinguish what is fine, beautiful, or correct from what is not so. **3** the flavour of food when eaten. **4** a small portion of food for testing. • *vb* **1** to eat to see whether pleasant or unpleasant. **2** to have a flavour.

**tasteful** /'teistful/, /tayst-ful/ *adj* showing good taste or judgment. • *adv* **tastefully**.

**tasteless** /'teistləs/, /tayst-less/ *adj* **1** having no flavour. **2** showing bad taste or judgment.

**tasty** /'teisti/, /tay-stee/ *adj* having a pleasing flavour.

**tattered** /'tætərd/, /ta-terd/ *adj* ragged.

**tatters** /'tætərz/, /ta-terz/ *npl* ragged clothing.

**tattoo<sup>1</sup>** /tæ'tu:/, /ta-too/ *vb* to make a coloured design on the skin by pricking holes in it and filling them with coloured matter. • *also n.*

**tattoo<sup>2</sup>** /tæ'tu:/, /ta-too/ *n* **1** beating of a drum, blowing of a bugle, etc, to recall soldiers to camp at night. **2** a night display of military drill, exercises, etc, to music.

**tatty** /'tæti/, /ta-tee/ *adj* shabby, worn.

**taught** /tɔ:t/, /tawt/ *pt of teach*.

**taunt** /tɔ:nt/, /tawnt/ *vb* to make fun of in order to hurt; to mock, to sneer at. • *n* a mocking or hurtful remark.

**taut** /tɔ:t/, /tawt/ *adj* stretched tight.

**tautology** /tɔ:tələdʒi/, /taw-tol-o-jee/ *n* saying the same thing again in different words. • *adj tautological*.

**tavern** /'tævərn/, /ta-vern/ *n* (*old*) an inn, a pub.

**tawdry** /'tɔ:dri/, /taw-dree/ *adj* showy but cheap or of bad quality. • *n tawdriness*.

**tawny** /'tɔ:ni/, /taw-nee/ *adj* yellowish brown.

**tax** /tæks/, /taks/ *n* money paid to the government to help pay for public services. • *vb 1* to raise a tax. *2* to charge a tax on. *3* to accuse. *4* to be a hard test for. • *adj taxable*.

**taxation** /tæk'seɪʃən/, /tak-say-shun/ *n* **1** all the taxes paid. **2** the charging of taxes.

**taxi** /'tæksi/, /tak-see/ *n* a car with driver for hire, especially one fitted with a machine (**taximeter**) showing the amount to be paid as a fare. • *also taxicab*. • *vb (of an aeroplane)* to run along the ground.

**taxidermist** /'tæksi,dərmɪst/, /tak-si-der-mist/ *n* a person who is skilled in taxidermy.

**taxidermy** /'tæksi,dərmi/, /tak-si-der-mee/ *n* the art of stuffing the skins of dead animals to make them look like living animals.

**tea** /ti:/, /tee/ *n* **1** a shrub found in India and China. **2** its leaves, dried. **3** a drink made by pouring boiling water on dried tea leaves. **4** a light afternoon or evening meal.

**teach** /ti:tʃ/, /teech/ *vb (pt, pp taught)* **1** to give information about. **2** to show how to do something. **3** to give lessons to. • *n teaching*.

**teacher** /'ti:tʃər/, /tee-cher/ *n* **1** a person who teaches. **2** a person who teaches in a school.

**teak** /tik/, /teek/ *n* an Indian tree producing very hard wood.

**teal** /ti:l/, /teel/ *n* a small freshwater wild duck.

**team** /ti:m/, /teem/ *n* **1** a number of persons working together for the same purpose. **2** a set of players on one side in a game. **3** a number of horses, oxen, etc, harnessed together.

**teamwork** /'ti:mwɜ:k/, /teem-wurk/ *n* united effort for the common good.

**tear<sup>1</sup>** /ter/, /tear/ *n* a drop of water appearing in or falling from the eyes.

**tear**<sup>2</sup> /tər/, /tare/ *vb* (*pt tore, pp torn*) **1** to pull apart or into pieces. **2** to pull with violence. **3** (*inf*) to rush. • *n* a hole or division made by tearing.

**tearful** /'ti:rful/, /teer-ful/ *adj* weeping. • *adv* **tearfully**.

**tear gas** /'ti:r gas/, /teer gas/ *n* a gas that makes your eyes water, sometimes used to disperse a crowd.

**tease** /ti:z/, /teez/ *vb* **1** to annoy by making fun of. **2** to pull apart wool, etc, into separate strands. **3** to comb wool or hair to give it a hairy surface. • *n* a person who annoys another by teasing.

**teaser** /'ti:zər/, /tee-zer/ *n* a difficult problem.

**teaspoon** /'ti:spu:n/, /tee-spoon/ *n* a small spoon for use with tea or as a measure in cooking.

**teat** /ti:t, tit/, /teet/ *n* **1** the part of the breast from which milk may be sucked or drawn. **2** a rubber attachment through which a baby sucks milk from a bottle.

**technical** /'teknikəl/, /tec-ni-cal/ *adj* having to do with a particular art, science, or craft.

**technicality** /'teknikæliti/, /tec-ni-ca-li-tee/ *n* **1** a technical word or phrase. **2** a small detail or rule.

**technically** /'teknikli:/, /tek-nic-lee/ *adv* strictly speaking.

**technician** /tek'nijən/, /tek-ni-shan/ *n* a person who is skilled in a particular art or craft.

**technique** /tek'ni:k/, /tek-neek/ *n* the method of doing something that requires skill.

**technology** /tek'nɒlədʒi/, /tek-nol-o-jee/ *n* the use of practical sciences to change and improve human environments such as solve problems, manufacture, develop communications, etc. • *adj* **technological**. • *n* **technologist**.

**teddy** /'tedi/, /te-dee/, **teddy bear** /te-dee bare/ *n* a child's toy bear.

**tedious** /'ti:diəs/, /tee-dee-us/ *adj* long and boring, tiresome.

**tedium** /'ti:diəm/, /tee-dee-um/ *n* boredom; long, drawn-out dullness.

**tee** /ti:/, /tee/ *n* **1** the starting place for each 'hole' in golf. **2** a peg or small mound on which the ball may be placed for the first shot at each hole in golf.

**teem** /ti:m/, /teem/ *vb* to be full of.

**teenager** /'ti:nɪədʒər/, /tee-nay-jer/ *n* a person who is between the ages of 13 and 19. • *adj teenage*.

**teens** /ti:nz/, /teenz/ *npl* the ages from 13 to 19.

**teepee** see **tepee**.

**teeth** *pl* of **tooth**.

**teethe** /ti:ð/, /teethee/ *vb* to grow your first teeth.

**teetotal** /ti:'to:təl/, /tee-toe-tal/ *adj* taking no alcoholic drinks. • *n teetotaller*, also **teetotaler** (US).

**tele-** /'teli/, /te-lee/ *prefix* far, at, or to a distance.

**telecommunications** /telɪkəmju:nɪ'keɪʃəns/, /te-li-cu-myoo-ni-cay-shunz/ *n* the technology or industry involved in transmitting information electronically over long distances by means of wires, radio signals, satellite, etc.

**telegram** /'telə,græm/, /te-li-gram/ *n* a message sent by telegraph.

**telegraph** /'telə,græf/, /te-li-graf/ *n* an apparatus for sending messages over a distance, especially by means of electricity. • *vb to send by telegraph*. • *adj telegraphic*. • *n telegraphy*.

**telepathy** /tə'lɛpəθi/, /ti-le-pa-thee/ *n* the power to pass thoughts to or receive them from another, without the use of words or signs.

**telephone** /'telə,fo:n/, /te-li-foan/ *n* (*abbr = phone*) an apparatus by means of which you may speak with a person at a distance. • *vb to speak with or communicate by telephone*.

**telephonist** /tə'lefənist/, /te-le-fu-nist/ *n* a person who operates a telephone switchboard; **operator**.

**telephoto lens** /,telə'fo:to:ləns/, /tel-uh-foe-toe-lens/ *n* a lens on a camera enabling it to take pictures from a great distance.

**telescope** /'telə,sko:p/, /te-le-scope/ *n* an instrument consisting of lenses set in a tube or tubes that, when looked through, makes distant objects appear larger. • *vb 1 to slide together, one section fitting into another, as with a telescope. 2 to become shorter by one part sliding over the other*.

**telescopic** /,telə'skɒpɪk/, /te-le-scop-ic/ *adj* 1 having to do with a telescope. 2 able to be seen only by means of a telescope. 3 something that telescopes.

**televise** /'telə,vائز/, /te-le-vize/ *vb* to transmit by television.

**television** /'telə,vizən/, /te-le-vi-zhun/ *n* the transmitting of pictures by sound waves so as to reproduce them on a screen.

**tell** /tel/, /tell/ *vb (pt, pp told)* **1** to give an account of. **2** to let another know of by speaking. **3** to count. **4** to have an effect.

**teller** /'telər/, /tel-er/ *n* **1** a bank clerk who receives and pays out cash. **2** a person who is appointed to count votes.

**telling** /'telɪŋ/, /te-ing/ *adj* very effective.

**telltale** /'telteɪl/, /tel-tale/ *adj* **1** giving information. **2** revealing what was meant to be secret. • *n* a person who tells what another has done to get him or her into trouble.

**temerity** /tə'meriti/, /te-mer-i-tee/ *n* boldness, rashness.

**temper** /'tempər/, /tem-per/ *n* **1** anger. **2** mood, state of mind. **3** the correct hardness of metal. • *vb* **1** to make less severe. **2** to harden. **3** to mix in proper proportions.

**temperament** /'temprəmənt, -pərəmənt/, /tem-pra-mənt/ *n* **1** your character. **2** the usual state of your mind or feelings.

**temperamental** /,temp'rə'mentəl/, /tem-pra-men-tal/ *adj* easily excited, changing mood quickly. • *adv* **temperamentally**.

**temperate** /'tempərət/, /tem-per-it/ *adj* **1** taking neither too much nor too little. **2** neither too hot nor too cold.

**temperature** /'temprətʃər, -pərtʃər/, /tem-pri-chur/ *n* degree of heat or cold. • **take your temperature** to find the degree of heat of your body.

**tempest** /'tempəst/, /tem-pest/ *n* a violent storm.

**tempestuous** /tem'pestʃuəs/, /tem-pes-chu-wus/ *adj* **1** very stormy. **2** violent.

**template** /'templeɪt, -plət/, /tem-plit/ *n* a pattern or mould used as a guide for shaping things.

**temple<sup>1</sup>** /'tempəl/, /tem-pul/ *n* **1** a place of worship. **2** a church.

**temple<sup>2</sup>** /'tempəl/, /tem-pul/ *n* the side of the head above the end of the cheekbone and between the ear and the forehead.

**tempo** /'tempo:/, /tem-po/ *n* (*pl* **tempos** or **tempi**) the speed at which a piece of music is played.

**temporal** /'tempərəl/, /tem-pral/ *adj* 1 (*fml*) having to do with time. 2 worldly. 3 having to do with life on earth.

**temporary** /'tempərəri/, /tem-pra-ree/ *adj* lasting for a time only, not permanent. • *adv temporarily*.

**tempt** /tempt/, /tem(p)t/ *vb* 1 to try to get someone to do what he or she ought not to do. 2 to arouse desire in. • *n tempter, temptress*.

**temptation** /temp'teɪʃən/, /tem(p)-tay-shun/ *n* attraction to what is wrong or forbidden.

**tempting** /'temptɪŋ/, /tem(p)-ting/ *adj* 1 attractive. 2 arousing desire.

**ten** /ten/, /ten/ *n, adj* the number 10. • **tenth** *adj and n*.

**tenacious** /tə'neɪʃəs/, /ti-nay-shus/ *adj* 1 holding on firmly. 2 not giving in easily, stubborn. • *adv tenaciously*. • *n tenacity*.

**tenancy** /'tenənsi/, /te-nan-see/ *n* 1 the renting of property. 2 property for which a rent is paid. 3 the time during which you rent property.

**tenant** /'tenənt/, /te-nant/ *n* a person who occupies rented property.

**tend<sup>1</sup>** /tend/, /tend/ *vb* 1 to incline to. 2 to have a leaning towards.

**tend<sup>2</sup>** /tend/, /tend/ *vb* to care for, to look after.

**tendency** /'tendənsi/, /ten-den-see/ *n* a leaning towards, an inclination, liability to do certain things more than others.

**tender<sup>1</sup>** /'tendər/, /ten-der/ *adj* 1 soft, gentle, and loving. 2 easily hurt.

• *adv tenderly*. • *n tenderness*.

**tender<sup>2</sup>** /'tendər/, /ten-der/ *vb* (*fml*) to offer or present. • *n* an offer, especially one to do work at a certain price.

**tender<sup>3</sup>** /'tendər/, /ten-der/ *n* 1 a small boat carrying stores, etc, to a larger one. 2 a wagon or truck attached to a locomotive to carry coal, water, etc, for it.

**tendon** /'tendən/, /ten-don/ *n* a strong cord-like band joining a muscle to a bone.

**tendril** /'tendrɪl/, /ten-dril/ *n* 1 a slender curling shoot by which some plants cling to supports when climbing. 2 a wispy curl of hair.

**tenement** /'tenəmənt/, /te-ni-ment/ *n* a large old building divided into flats, especially one in a city.

**tennis** /'tenɪs/, /te-nis/ *n* a game played across a net by striking a ball to and fro with rackets.

**tenor** /'tenər/, /te-nor/ *n* 1 the higher men's singing voices in the ordinary range. 2 the general meaning.

**tense<sup>1</sup>** /tens/, /tense/ *n* a set of forms of the verb that indicate time.

**tense<sup>2</sup>** /tens/, /tense/ *adj* 1 stretched tight. 2 strained. 3 excited from expectation. • *adv tensely*.

**tension** /'tenʃən/, /ten-shun/ *n* 1 act of stretching. 2 tightness, strain. 3 excitement due to expectation.

**tent** /tent/, /tent/ *n* a portable shelter of canvas, supported by a pole or poles and stretched and held in position by cords.

**tentacle** /'tentəkəl/, /ten-ta-cul/ *n* a slender boneless limb of various creatures, used for feeling, gripping, or moving.

**tentative** /'tentətiv/, /ten-ta-tiv/ *adj* done as an experiment or trial. • *adv tentatively*.

**tenterhooks** /'tentəruks/, /ten-ter-hooks/ *npl* hooks used to hold cloth taught on a frame. • **on tenterhooks** anxious or excited because of doubt or suspense.

**tenth** see **ten**.

**tenuous** /'tenjus/, /ten-yu-wus/ *adj* thin, slender.

**tenure** /'tenjər/, /ten-yur/ *n* the holding or conditions of holding land, office, etc.

**tepee** (see 1) /'ti:pɪ/, /tee-peel/, also **teepee** and **tipi** *n* a cone-shaped Native American tent made of skins.

**tepid** /'tepid/, /te-pid/ *adj* lukewarm.

**term** /tərm/, /term/ *n* 1 a limited period of time. 2 a word or phrase used in a particular study. 3 a time when law courts are dealing with cases. 4 a division of the school year. • *vb* to name, to call. • *npl* conditions, charge, price. • **come to terms** to make an agreement. • **on good terms** friendly.

**terminal** /'tərmɪnəl/, /ter-mi-nal/ *adj* having to do with the end or last part. • *n* 1 the station at the end of a railway line or route. 2 an airport building where passengers arrive and depart from. 3 one of the screws to which an electric wire is attached to make a connection. 4 a computer monitor and keyboard for entering data. • *adv terminally*.

**terminate** /'tərmɪneɪt/, /ter-mi-nate/ *vb* to bring or come to an end.

**termination** /tərmɪ'neɪʃən/, /ter-mi-nay-shun/ *n* **1** end, ending. **2** a medical procedure to end a pregnancy at an early stage; an abortion.

**terminology** /tərmɪ'nɒlədʒi/, /ter-mi-nol-o-jee/ *n* the words, phrases, etc, special to a particular branch of study.

**termite** /tərmɪt/, /ter-mite/ *n* a white ant.

**tern** /tərn/, /tern/ *n* a sea bird like a gull, but smaller.

**terrace** /'terəs/, /te-riss/ *n* **1** a raised bank of earth with a flat area on top. **2** a row of houses.

**terraced** /'terəst/, /te-rist/ *adj* having terraces.

**terracotta** /tərə'kɒtə/, /te-ra-cot-a/ *n* **1** a reddish brown pottery. **2** its colour. • *also adj.*

**terrain** /tə'reɪn/, /te-rain/ *n* a stretch of country.

**terrapin** /'terəpɪn/, /te-ra-pin/ *n* a type of tortoise.

**terrestrial** /tə'restriəl/, /te-re-stree-al/ *adj* having to do with the Earth.

**terrible** /'terɪbəl/, /te-ri-bul/ *adj* **1** frightening, causing dread. **2** very bad. • *adv terribly.*

**terrier** /'teriər/, /te-ree-er/ *n* a small dog that is good at hunting.

**terrific** /tə'rɪfɪk/, /te-ri-fic/ *adj* **1** exceptionally good. **2** frightening, causing dread. • *adv terrifically.*

**terrify** /'terɪfaɪ/, /te-ri-fie/ *vb* to make very frightened.

**territorial** /,tərə'tɔriəl/, /te-ri-toe-ree-al/ *adj* having to do with a certain district or piece of land.

**territory** /'terətɔri/, /te-ri-toe-ree/ *n* a district or piece of land, especially one that belongs to a person, a nation, etc.

**terror** /'terər/, /te-ror/ *n* **1** great fear, dread. **2** terrorism.

**terrorism** /'terərɪzəm/, /te-ror-i-zum/ *n* the use of, or the threat of, extreme violence for political purposes.

**terrorist** /'terərɪst/, /te-ror-ist/ *n* a person who uses, or threatens to use, extreme violence for political purposes.

**terrorize** /'terəraɪz/, /te-ror-ize/ *vb, also terrorise* **1** to make very frightened. **2** to make do what is desired by causing fear.

**terror-stricken** /'terərɪstrikən/, /te-ror-stri-ken/ *adj* full of fear or dread.

**terse** /tərs/, /terss/ *adj* short and to the point. • *adv* **tersely**. • *n* **terseness**.

**test** /təst/, /test/ *n* an examination or trial intended to reveal quality, ability, progress, etc. • *vb* 1 to try the quality of. 2 to examine.

**testament** /'testəmənt/, /tes-ta-ment/ *n* 1 in law, a person's will. 2 one of the two main divisions of the Bible.

**testator** /tə'steɪtər/, /tes-tay-tor/ *n* a person who leaves a will at death. • *f* **testatrix**.

**testicle** /'təstɪkl/, /tes-ti-kl/ *n* either of the two male reproductive glands that produce semen.

**testify** /'testə,fai/, /te-sti-fie/ *vb* 1 to give evidence. 2 to say publicly what you believe to be true.

**testimonial** /,təstə'mɔ:nɪəl/, /te-sti-moe-nee-al/ *n* 1 a letter stating a person's good qualities and abilities. 2 a gift presented as a sign of respect.

**testimony** /'təstə,mɔ:ni/, /te-sti-mo-nee/ *n* evidence, a public statement of belief.

**test pilot** /'təst ,pailət/, /test pie-lot/ *n* a person who tests an aircraft by making it perform difficult manoeuvres.

**test tube** /'təst ,tju:b/, /test-tyoob/ *n* a glass tube open at one end, used for scientific experiments.

**testy** /'testi/, /te-stee/ *adj* irritable, easily angered.

**tetanus** /'tetnəs, 'tətənəs/, /tet-nus/ *n* a disease causing cramp in the muscles and making the jaw so stiff that it cannot move.

**tête-à-tête** /,tetæ'tet/, /te-ta-tet/ *n* a private talk between two people.

**tether** /'teðər/, /te-ther/ *vb* to tie an animal by a rope to a stake or peg. • *n* a stake, etc. • **at the end of your tether** at the end of your strength or endurance.

**tetra-** /'tetrə/, /te-tra/ *prefix* four.

**tetragon** /'tetrəgən/, /te-tra-gon/ *n* a four-sided figure.

**tetrahedron** /'tetrə,gō:n/, /,tetrə'hi:drən, -'hedrən/, /te-tra-hee-dron/ *n* a solid figure with four sides shaped like a pyramid.

**text** /tekst/, /tekst/ *n* 1 the words actually written by the author (not including notes, drawings, etc.). 2 a short passage from the Bible. 3 subject, topic. 4 a text message. • *vb* to send a text message to.

**textbook** /'tekstbuk/, /tekst-book/ *n* a book about a subject written for those studying it.

**textile** /'tekstail/, /tek-stile/ *n* a fabric made by weaving. • *adj* having to do with or made by weaving.

**text message** /'tekst ,mesidʒ/, /tekst meh-sidge/ *n* a message typed into a mobile phone and sent to another mobile phone. • *also SMS* = short message service.

**texture** /'tekstʃər/, /teks-chur/ *n* 1 the way in which a fabric or cloth, etc, is woven. 2 the quality of woven cloth.

**than** /ðən, ðæn/, /than/ *conj* compared with.

**thank** /θæŋk/, /thangk/ *vb* to express pleasure to another for something done, etc, to express gratitude.

**thankful** /θæŋkfəl/, /thangk-ful/ *adj* grateful, full of gratitude. • *adv* **thankfully**.

**thankless** /'θæŋkləs/, /thangk-less/ *adj* ungrateful, for which you will receive no thanks.

**thanks** /θæŋks/, /thangks/ *npl* an expression of gratitude.

**thanksgiving** /θæŋks'givɪŋ/, /thangks-gi-ving/ *n* 1 the act of giving thanks, especially to God at harvest time. 2 (*cap*) a national holiday in the US (November) and Canada (October) for giving thanks to God for health and harvest.

**that** /ðæt, ðət/, /that/ *adj, pron, pl* **those** being the person or thing there. • *pron* who or which. • *conj* introduces a statement, a wish, etc.

**thatch** /θætʃ/, /thatch/ *n* straw used as a cover for the roof of a house. • *vb* to put thatch on. • *n* **thatcher**.

**thaw** /θəʊ/, /thaw/ *vb* 1 to melt. 2 to become more friendly. • *n* a state or time of thawing.

**the** /ði/, /thi/, /thee/ *definite article* referring to a particular person or thing.

**theatre** /'θiətər/, /thee-a-tor/ *n, also theater (US)* 1 a building or hall in which plays are acted. 2 a lecture hall. 3 a scene of action. 4 a room in a hospital where surgeons perform operations.

**theatrical** /θi:'ætrɪkəl/, /thee-a-tri-cal/ *adj* 1 having to do with plays or the theatre. 2 behaving as if acting in a play. • *adv* **theatrically**.

**theatricals** /θi:'ætrikəlz/, /thee-a-tri-calz/ *npl* dramatic performances.

**thee** /ði:/, /**thee**/ *pron (old)* you.

**theft** /θeft/, /**theft**/ *n* act of stealing.

**their** /ðer/, /**thayr**/, **theirs** /thayrz/ *poss adj and pron* belonging to them.

**theism** /'θi:izəm/, /**thee**-iz-um/ *n* belief in the existence of God. • *n theist*.

**them** /ðem, ðəm/, /**them**/ *n* the form of ‘they’ used when the object of a sentence.

**theme** /θi:m/, /**theem**/ *n* 1 subject, topic. 2 a set of notes played several times in a piece of music.

**theme park** /'θi:m pærk/, /**theem** park/ *n* an amusement park based around a particular theme.

**themselves** /ðəm'selvz/, /them-selvz/ *pron* the reflexive form of ‘they’.

**then** /ðen/, /**then**/ *adv* 1 at that time. 2 after that. 3 therefore.

**thence** /ðens/, /**thenss**/ *adv* 1 from that time or place. 2 for that reason.

**theologian** /θiə'lɒ:dʒən/, /thee-ol-oaj-ee-an/ *n* an expert in or a student of theology.

**theological** /θiə'lɒdʒɪkəl/, /thee-ol-odgə-ic-al/ *adj* having to do with theology.

**theology** /θi'ɒlədʒi/, /thee-ol-odge-ee/ *n* the study of the existence of God and people’s beliefs about God.

**theorem** /'θi:xəm, 'θi:ərəm/, /**thee**-ur-em/ *n* an idea that can be proved true by reasoning.

**theoretical** /θiə'retɪkəl/, /thee-ur-et-i-cal/ *adj* based on ideas, not on practice. • *adv theoretically*.

**theorize** /'θi:əraɪz, 'θi:raɪz/, /**thee**-ur-ize/ *vb, also theorise* 1 to suggest explanations. 2 to put forward theories.

**theory** /'θi:ri, θi:əri/, /**thee**-ur-ee/ *n* 1 an explanation that seems satisfactory but has not been proved true. 2 a set of ideas or rules on how something should be done.

**therapeutic** /θerə'pjoo:tɪk/, /ther-a-pyoo-tic/ *adj* having to do with therapy.

**therapy** /'θerəpi/, /ther-a-pee/ *n* the treatment and cure of disease. •

*n therapist.*

**there** /ðer/, /thare/ *adv* in that place.

**thereafter** /ðer'æftər/, /thay-raf-ter/ *adv* after that.

**thereby** /'ðerbai/, /thare-bie/ *adv* by that means.

**therefore** /'ðerfɔr/, /thare-fore/ *adv* for this or that reason.

**thermal** /'θərməl/, /ther-mal/ *adj* having to do with heat, hot.

**thermodynamics** /θərmə'dai'næmiks/, /ther-mo-die-na-mics/ *n* the study of heat as a source of power.

**thermometer** /θər'mɒmɪtər/, /ther-mom-e-ter/ *n* an instrument for measuring degree of heat.

**Thermos bottle** /'θərmɒs/, /ther-mus/ *n* (TM) a flask for keeping hot liquid hot or cold liquid cold.

**thermostat** /'θərməstæt/, /ther-mu-stat/ *n* an instrument that mechanically controls temperature and keeps it steady.

**thesaurus** /θə'sɔrəs/, /thi-sawr-us/ *n* a reference book containing synonyms and antonyms.

**these** /ði:z/, /theez/ *pl of this.*

**thesis** /'θi:sɪs/, /thee-sis/ *n* 1 an opinion to be defended in writing or discussion. 2 an essay on a subject submitted for a higher university degree.

**they** /ðei/, /thay/ *pron* the people or things already mentioned.

**they'd** /ðeɪd/, /thayd/ *contraction* they had.

**they'll** /ðeɪl, ðəl/, /thayl/ *contraction* they will.

**they're** /ðer/, /thayr/ *contraction* they are.

**they've** /ðeɪv/, /thayv/ *contraction* they have.

**thick** /θɪk/, /thick/ *adj* 1 broad. 2 fat. 3 not easily seen through. 4 slow to understand. • *n* the most crowded part. • *adv* **thickly**. • *n thickness.*

**thicken** /'θɪkən/, /thi-ken/ *vb* to make or become thicker.

**thicket** /'θɪkət/, /thi-ket/ *n* a group of trees, shrubs, etc, growing close together.

**thick-skinned** /'θɪk'skɪnd/, /thick-skind/ *adj* slow to feel or resent insults.

**thief** /θi:f/, /theef/ *n* (*pl* **thieves**) a person who steals.

**thieve** /θi:v/, /theev/ *vb* to steal things.

**thigh** /θai/, /thie/ *n* the part of the leg above the knee.

**thimble** /'θimbəl/, /thim-bul/ *n* a metal or plastic cap to protect the finger in sewing.

**thin** /θin/, /thin/ *adj* **1** not thick. **2** not fat; lean, skinny, slim. **3** not crowded. **4** not convincing. • *vb* to make or become thin. • *adv* **thinly**. • *n* **thinness**.

**thing** /θɪŋ/, /thing/ *n* **1** any single existing object. **2** whatever may be thought of or spoken about. **3** a happening. • *npl* your belongings.

**think** /θɪŋk/, /thingk/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **thought**, **thinking**) **1** to form ideas in the mind, to consider. **2** to believe, to hold as an opinion.

**thinker** /θɪŋkər/, /thing-ker/ *n* **1** a person who thinks. **2** a person who tries to work out an explanation of life, etc, for himself or herself.

**thinking** /'θɪŋkɪŋ/, /thing-king/ *adj* able to think or reason.

**thin-skinned** /'θin'skɪnd/, /thin-skind/ *adj* quick to feel or resent insults, easily upset.

**third** /θɜːrd/, /thurd/ *adj* coming after second. • *n* one of three equal parts.

**thirst** /θɜːrst/, /thurst/ *n* **1** the need or desire to drink. **2** a strong desire for anything. • *vb* **1** to feel thirsty. **2** to desire strongly.

**thirsty** /'θɜːsti/, /thur-steel/ *adj* **1** wanting or needing a drink. **2** dry. **3** causing thirst. • *adv* **thirstily**.

**thirteen** /θɜː'tiːn/, /thur-teen/ *n, adj* the number 13. • *adj and n thirteenth*.

**thirty** /'θɜːti/, /thur-tee/ *n, adj* the number 30. • *adj and n thirtieth*.

**this** /ðɪs/, /this/ *adj, pron, pl* **these** being the person or thing here.

**thistle** /'θɪsəl/, /thi-sul/ *n* a prickly plant with a purple head, the national emblem of Scotland.

**thong** /θɒŋ/, /thong/ *n* **1** a strap of hide or leather. **2** a sandal consisting of a sole and straps from either side that pass between the first and second toe. **3** a woman's undergarment for the lower body that leaves the buttocks uncovered.

**thorn** /θɔːrn/, /thawrn/ *n* **1** a prickle on the stem of a plant. **2** a bush or plant with prickles. • **thorn in the flesh** a cause of trouble or

difficulty.

**thorny** /'θɔrnɪ/, /thawr-neel/ *adj* 1 prickly. 2 difficult, troublesome.

**thorough** /'θəro:/, 'θəro:/, /'θərə/, /thu-ro/ *adj* 1 complete. 2 doing work with great care. • *adv* **thoroughly**. • *n* **thoroughness**.

**thoroughfare** /'θəro:fər/, 'θəro:-/, /'θərə-/, /thu-ro-fare/ *n* a road open to the public and to traffic.

**those** /ðo:z/, /thoaz/ *pl of that*.

**though** /ðo:/, /thoa/ *prep* despite the fact that.

**thought** /θɒt/, /thawt/ *pt of think*. • *n* 1 the power or act of thinking. 2 what you think, an idea.

**thoughtful** /'θɒtfʊl/, /thawt-ful/ *adj* 1 given to thinking. 2 considerate, thinking of others. • *adv* **thoughtfully**. • *n* **thoughtfulness**.

**thoughtless** /'θɒtləs/, /thawt-less/ *adj* 1 not thinking before acting. 2 inconsiderate, not thinking of others. • *adv* **thoughtlessly**. • *n* **thoughtlessness**.

**thousand** /'θauzənd/, /thou-zand/ *adj and n* ten hundred.

**thrash** /θræʃ/, /thrash/ *vb* 1 to beat hard, to flog. 2 to move around in an uncontrolled way.

**thrashing** /-ɪŋ/, /thra-shing/ *n* a hard beating, a flogging.

**thread** /θred/, /thred/ *n* 1 a fine strand of any substance (e.g. cotton, wool, etc.) drawn out and twisted to make a cord. 2 the spiral ridge running around a screw, etc. 3 the main connected points running through an argument. • *vb* 1 to pass thread or fine cord through. 2 to make your way through.

**threadbare** /'θredber/, /thred-bare/ *adj (of clothing)* having the fluffy surface worn off, shabby, frequently used, and so no longer fresh or new.

**threat** /θret/, /thret/ *n* 1 a promise to hurt or punish another in future. 2 a warning of harm to come.

**threaten** /'θretən/, /thre-ten/ *vb* 1 to make threats to. 2 to be a sign of coming harm, evil, etc. • *adj* **threatening**. • *adv* **threateningly**.

**three** /θri:/, /three/ *adj and n* the number 3.

**thresh** /θresʃ/, /thresh/ *vb* to separate grains from the rest of the plant by beating it or putting it through a machine.

**threshing machine** /'θreſɪŋ mæʃɪ:n/ /thre-shing-ma-sheen/ *n* a machine that separates seed from straw.

**threshold** /'θreſ,ho:ld/, /thresh-hoald/ *n* 1 the plank or stone you cross when passing through a door. 2 the beginning.

**threw** /θru:/, /throo/ *pt of throw*.

**thrice** /θrəɪs/, /thrice/ *adv* three times.

**thrift** /θrift/, /thrift/ *n* care in spending or using up, the habit of saving and not wasting.

**thrifty** /'θrifti:/, /thrif-tee/ *adj* careful in spending, saving. • *adv* **thriftily**.

**thrill** /θrɪl/, /thrill/ *n* a sudden feeling of excitement or emotion. • *vb* to excite, to cause a thrill in.

**thriller** /'θrɪlər/, /thri-ler/ *n* a story written to excite or horrify.

**thrilling** /'θrɪlɪŋ/, /thri-ling/ *adj* very exciting.

**thrive** /θraɪv/, /thrive/ *vb* 1 to do well. 2 to be or become strong or successful.

**throat** /θro:t/, /throat/ *n* 1 the front of the neck. 2 the opening downward at the back of the mouth and the pipe leading down from it.

**throb** /θrɒb/, /throb/ *vb* 1 to beat, as the heart. 2 (*of pain*) to increase and decrease at short regular intervals. • *also n*.

**throne** /θro:n/, /throan/ *n* the chair occupied by a monarch or bishop.

**throng** /θrɒŋ/, /throng/ *n* a crowd. • *vb* to go in crowds, to crowd together.

**throttle** /'θrɒtl/, /throt-ul/ *n* 1 the throat or windpipe. 2 a lever working a valve that controls the supply of steam, petrol, etc, to an engine. • *vb* 1 to choke or strangle. 2 to cut down the supply of steam, etc, by using a throttle.

**through** /θru:/, /throo/ *prep* 1 from end to end. 2 from beginning to end. 3 by means of. 4 because of. • *adv* from end to end. • *adj* going all the way without requiring changes.

**throughout** /θru:'eut/, /throo-out/ *adv* in every way or part. • *prep* all the way through.

**throw** /θro:/, /thro/ *vb* (*pt threw, pp thrown*) 1 to fling or cast. 2 to make to fall on the ground (e.g. in wrestling). • *n* 1 act of throwing.

**2** the distance to which something can move or be flung through the air.

**thrum** /θrəm/, /thrʌm/ *vb* (**thrummed**, **thrumming**) **1** to play (a musical instrument) carelessly. **2** to play by pulling the strings of.

**thrush<sup>1</sup>** /θreʃ/, /thrʌʃ/ *n* a songbird.

**thrush<sup>2</sup>** /θreʃ/, /thrʌʃ/ *n* a fungal infection that can affect the mouth, throat and genitals.

**thrust** /θrəst/, /thrəst/ *vb* **1** to push with force. **2** to stab at or into. **3** to push forward. • *n* **1** a sudden or violent push. **2** a stab.

**thud** /θəd/, /thʌd/ *n* a low dull sound, as of a muffled blow. • *also vb.*

**thug** /θəg/, /thʌg/ *n* a ruffian.

**thumb** /θəm/, /thʌm/ *n* the shortest and thickest of the fingers. • *vb* to turn over pages with your thumb. • **rule of thumb** a rough rule based on practice. • **thumb a lift** to signal with the thumb that you would like a lift in a passing vehicle. • **under someone's thumb** under the control or influence of someone.

**thump** /θəmp/, /thʌmp/ *n* a dull heavy blow. • *vb* to beat heavily.

**thunder** /'θəndər/, /thuŋ-der/ *n* **1** the sound that follows lightning. **2** any loud rumbling noise. • *vb* **1** to make thunder. **2** to make a loud noise. • *adj* **thundery** (*of weather*) hot and close, as before a thunderstorm.

**thunderbolt** /'θəndərbo:lt/, /thuŋ-der-boalt/ *n* a flash of lightning.

**thunderclap** /'θəndər,klæp/, /thuŋ-der-clap/ *n* a peal of thunder.

**thunderous** /'θəndərəs/, /thuŋ-der-us/ *adj* like thunder, very loud.

**thunderstorm** /'θəndər,stɔrm/, /thuŋ-der-stawrm/ *n* a spell of thunder, lightning, and heavy rain.

**thunderstruck** /'θəndər,stræk/, /thuŋ-der-struck/ *adj* amazed, astonished.

**Thursday** /'θərzdeɪ/, /thurz-day/ *n* the fifth day of the week.

**thus** /ðəs/, /thu:z/ *adv* in this way.

**thwack** /θwæk/, /thwack/ *vb* to beat hard. • *n* a heavy blow.

**thwart** /θwɔrt/, /thwawrt/ *vb* to prevent from succeeding.

**thyme** /taɪm/, /taim/ *n* a herb with sweet-smelling leaves, used in cooking.

**tiara** /tɪ'ərə, -'ɑːrə/, /tee-ya-ra/ *n* a jeweled band, like a small crown, worn on the head by ladies.

**tibia** /'tibiə/, /ti-bee-ya/ *n* the shin bone.

**tic** /tɪk/, /tic/ *n* an involuntary movement of a muscle, especially in the face.

**tick<sup>1</sup>** /tɪk/, /tick/ *n* **1** the sound made by a watch or clock. **2** a mark made when checking or correcting. • *also vb.*

**tick<sup>2</sup>** tɪk/, /tick/ *n* a small blood-sucking insect.

**ticket** /'tɪkət/, /ti-ket/ *n* **1** a marked card giving its possessor the right to do something (e.g. travel by train, enter a theatre, etc). **2** a label.

**tickle** /'tɪkəl/, /ti-cul/ *vb* **1** to cause discomfort or make laugh by touching or prodding lightly a sensitive part of the body. **2** (*inf*) to please, to amuse.

**ticklish** /'tɪklɪʃ/, /ti-clish/ *adj* **1** easily tickled. **2** difficult, requiring careful management.

**tidal** /'taɪdəl/, /tie-dal/ *adj* having to do with tides.

**tidal wave** /'taɪdəl weɪv/, /tie-dal-wave/ *n* a **tsunami**.

**tide** /taɪd/, /tide/ *n* **1** the regular rise and fall, or ebb and flow, of the sea. **2** time, season.

**tidings** /'taɪdɪŋz/, /tie-dingz/ *npl* (*old or fml*) news.

**tidy** /'taɪdi/, /tie-dee/ *adj* neatly arranged, orderly. • *vb* to arrange neatly. • *adv* **tidily**. • *n* **tidiness**.

**tie** /taɪ/, /tie/ *vb* **1** to fasten with cord, rope, etc. **2** to make a knot in. **3** (*in a game or contest*) to be equal (with). • *n* **1** a connection, bond. **2** a draw. **3** a match in a knockout competition. **4** a narrow band of coloured cloth worn round the neck, mostly by men, but also by women and children as part of a uniform.

**tie breaker** /'taɪ breɪkər/, /tie brake-ur/ *n* an extra game played to decide between participants in a game that has resulted in a **tie**, sense **3**.

**tier** /tɪər/, /teer/ *n* one of a series of rows, of seats, e.g., arranged on a slope, so that each row is slightly higher than the one below it.

**tiff** /tɪf/, /tiff/ *n* a slight quarrel.

**tig** see **tag<sup>2</sup>**.

**tiger** /'taɪgər/, /tie-ger/ *n* a large fierce striped animal of the cat family.

• *f tigress.*

**tiger lily** /'taɪgər,lɪli:/, /tie-ger li-lee/ *n* a lily with spotted orange flowers.

**tight** /tɪt/, /tite/ *adj* 1 close-fitting. 2 closely packed. 3 (*inf*) difficult, especially because of shortage of money. 4 (*inf*) drunk.

**tighten** /tɪtən/, /tie-ten/ *vb* to make or become tight. • *adv* **ightly**. • *n* **tightness**.

**tightrope** /'tɪtrop/, /tite-rope/ *n* a tightly stretched rope on which an acrobat walks and performs tricks.

**tights** /tɪts/, /tites/ *npl* a light, close-fitting garment covering the lower trunk and legs.

**tigress** see **tiger**.

**tile** /taɪl/, /tile/ *n* a thin slab of baked clay or other suitable material for covering roofs, floors, etc. • *vb* to cover with tiles.

**till<sup>1</sup>** /tɪl/, /till/ *prep* up to the time of. • *conj* up to the time when.

**till<sup>2</sup>** /tɪl/, /till/ *n* in a store, a drawer for money.

**till<sup>3</sup>** /tɪl/, /till/ *vb* to plough and prepare for seed.

**tiller** /'tɪlər/, /ti-ler/ *n* the handle of a rudder, a blade at the back of a boat by means of which it is steered.

**tilt** /tɪlt/, /tilt/ *vb* to make to slope to one side, to lean. • *n* a slant, a sloping position.

**timber** /'tɪmbər/, /tim-ber/ *n* 1 wood for building, carpentry, etc. 2 trees from which such wood can be obtained. 3 a wooden beam used in the framework of a house or ship.

**time** /taɪm/, /time/ *n* 1 the measure of the passage of past, present, and future. 2 the moment of the hour, day, year, etc. 3 a season. 4 an occasion. 5 the rhythm of a piece of music. • *vb* 1 to see how long something lasts. 2 to see that something happens at the right moment. • **for the time being** meanwhile.

**timekeeper** /'taɪm,ki:pər/, /time-kee-per/ *n* a person who notes the times at which something begins and ends.

**timely** /'taɪmlɪ/, /time-lee/ *adj* (*inf*) happening at the right time.

**timepiece** /'taimpɪ:s/, /**time-peess**/ *n* (old) a watch or clock.

**timer** /'taɪmər/, /**tie-mer**/ *n* a device used for timing something.

**times** /'taɪmz/, /**tiemz**/ *prep* multiplied by.

**timetable** /'taɪm,teɪbəl/, /**time-tay-bul**/ *n* 1 a list of classes, giving times when they begin and end. 2 a list giving the times of arrival and departure of trains, buses, etc.

**timid** /'tɪmɪd/, /**ti-mid**/ *adj* easily made afraid, shy. • *adv* **timidly**. • *n* **timidity**.

**timorous** /'tɪmərəs/, /**ti-mu-russ**/ same as **timid**.

**timpani** /'tɪmpəni/, /**tim-pa-nee**/ *npl* kettledrums.

**tin** /tɪn/, /**tin**/ *n* 1 a soft, light white metal. 2 a small metal container. • *adj* **tinned** preserved in a tin.

**tincture** /'tɪŋktʃər/, /**tinc-chur**/ *n* 1 a shade of colour. 2 a slight taste or flavour of something. 3 a drug dissolved in alcohol.

**tinder** /'tɪndər/, /**tin-der**/ *n* an easily lit substance that catches light from a spark.

**tinge** /'tɪndʒ/, /**tinge**/ *vb* 1 to colour slightly. 2 to have a slight effect on. • *n* 1 a shade, a slight colour. 2 a small amount.

**tingle** /'tɪŋgəl/, /**ting-gul**/ *vb* to feel a prickly or thrilling sensation.

**tinker** /'tɪŋkər/, /**ting-ker**/ *n* 1 a person who goes from door to door, mending pots, kettles, etc. 2 a vagabond. • *vb* 1 to mend roughly. 2 to work at unskillfully.

**tinkle** /'tɪŋkəl/, /**ting-kul**/ *vb* to make soft, bell-like sounds. • *also n.*

**tinned** see **tin**.

**tinny** /'tini/, /**ti-nee**/ *adj* sharp and harsh in sound.

**tin-opener** /'tɪn,o:pner/, /**tin-o-pe-ner**/ a device for opening tins of food etc.

**tinsel** /'tɪnsəl/, /**tin-sel**/ *n* 1 thin strips, threads, discs, etc, of shiny metal, used for decoration. 2 anything showy but of little value.

**tint** /'tɪnt/, /**tint**/ *n* 1 a shade of colour. 2 a faint colour. • *vb* to colour slightly.

**tiny** /'tæmi/, /**tie-nee**/ *adj* very small.

**tip** /tɪp/, /**tip**/ *n* 1 a narrow end or point. 2 a light blow. 3 money given as a present or for special help. 4 a helpful hint. 5 a place where

rubbish is left. **6** a very dirty or untidy place. • *vb (tipped, tipping)*  
**1** to put a tip on. **2** to make to tilt. **3** to give a money tip to. **4** to give a useful hint to. **5** to throw out.

**tipi** see **tepee (see 1)**.

**tipple** /'tipəl/, /ti-pul/ *vb (inf)* to make a habit of taking strong liquor, to drink alcohol often. • *n* a small amount of alcohol.

**tipsy** /'tipsi/, /tip-see/ *adj* slightly drunk.

**tiptoe** /'tipto:/, /tip-toe/ *n* the point of the toe. • *vb* **1** to walk on the points of the toes. **2** to walk very quietly.

**tiptop** /'tiptɒp/, /tip-top/ *adj* splendid, excellent.

**tirade** /'taɪreɪd/, /tie-rade/ *n* a long, angry speech, a violently critical speech.

**tire** /taɪr/, /tire/ *vb* to make or become weary. • *adj* **tiring**. • *n* US variant of **tyre**.

**tired** /taɪrd/, /tierd/ *adj* weary.

**tireless** /'taɪrləs/, /tire-less/ *adj* not easily wearied, having much energy. • *adv* **tirelessly**.

**tiresome** /'taɪrsəm/, /tire-sum/ *adj* boring, annoying.

**tiring** see **tire<sup>1</sup>**.

**tissue** /'tɪʃu:/, /ti-shoo/ *n* **1** any fine woven material. **2** substance (fat, muscle, etc.) of which the parts of animals and plants are made. **3** a complete connected set. **4** a paper handkerchief.

**tissue paper** /'tɪʃu: ,peɪpər/, /ti-shoo pay-per/ *n* thin soft paper for wrapping.

**tit<sup>1</sup>** /tɪt/, /tit/ *n* a small bird.

**tit<sup>2</sup>** /tɪt/, /tit/ *n* (*s/l*) the female breast.

**titanic** /taɪ'tænɪk/, /tie-ta-nic/ *adj* huge, gigantic.

**titanium** /taɪ'teɪniəm, tɪ-/ , /tie-tay-nee-yum/ *n* a silver-grey metal that is used to make alloys.

**titbit** /'tɪtbɪt/, /tit-bit/ *n* a tasty piece of food.

**titillate** /'tɪtə,leɪt/, /ti-ti-late/ *vb* **1** to tickle. **2** to give pleasure to. • *n* **titillation**.

**titivate** /'tɪtɪ,vɪt/, /ti-ti-vate/ *vb* to make neat or smart.

**title** /'tɪtəl/, /tie-tul/ *n* **1** the name of a book, piece of writing or music, picture, etc. **2** a name or word used in addressing someone, to indicate rank, office, etc. **3** a claim to ownership, a right.

**titled** /'tɪtəld/, /tie-tuld/ *adj* being a member of the nobility.

**title role** /'tɪtəl ,rɔ:l/, /tie-tul role/ *n* the part of a character in a play whose name is the same as that of the play, e.g. Macbeth in *Macbeth*.

**titter** /'tɪtər/, /ti-ter/ *vb* to giggle. • *also n.*

**tittle-tattle** /'tɪtəl,tætəl/, /ti-tul-ta-tul/ *n* gossip, foolish talk.

**titular** /'tɪtjʊlər/, /ti-chu-lar/ *adj* **1** relating to a title. **2** having rank or title but no powers.

**to** /tu:/, /too/ *prep* used to show movement towards.

**toad** /to:d/, /toad/ *n* a froglike animal that lives both on land and in water.

**toadstool** /'to:dstu:l/, /toad-stool/ *n* a poisonous fungus, like a mushroom in shape.

**toady** /'to:di/, /toa-dee/ *n* (*inf*) a person who flatters another in order to gain his or her favour. • *vb* to flatter or try to please in order to gain favour.

**toast** /to:st/, /toast/ *vb* **1** to dry and brown by heat. **2** to warm at the fire. **3** to drink the health of. • *n* **1** sliced bread browned by heat. **2** an act of raising glasses at a social gathering and drinking in honour of a person. **3** person whose health is drunk. **4** a sentiment or thing to which you drink.

**toaster** /'to:stər/, /toa-ster/ *n* an electrical appliance for toasting bread.

**tobacco** /tə'bæko:/, /tu-ba-co/ *n* the dried leaves of the tobacco plant, used for smoking or taken as snuff.

**tobacconist** /tə'bækənist/, /tu-ba-cu-nist/ *n* a person who sells tobacco, cigarettes, etc.

**toboggan** /tə'bɒgən/, /tu-bog-an/ *n* a narrow sledge for sliding down snow-covered slopes. • *vb* (**tobogganed**, **tobogganing**) to go on a toboggan.

**today** /tə'deɪ/, /to-day/ *adv* on this day.

**toddle** /'tɒdəl/, /tod-əl/ *vb* to walk with short unsteady steps, as a small child.

**toddler** /'tɒdlər/, /tod-ələr/ *n* a small child just beginning to walk.

**toddy** /'tɒdi/, /tod-ee/ *n* a mixture of spirits, sugar, and hot water.

**toe** /to:/, /toe/ *n* one of the five fingerlike members at the end of the foot. • **toe the line** to behave as you are told.

**toffee** /'tɒfi/, /taw-fee/ *n* a kind of sweet made of sugar and butter.

**toga** /'tɔ:gə/, /toe-ga/ *n* in ancient times, the garment of a Roman citizen.

**together** /tə'geðər/, /to-ge-ther/ *adv* with another or others, in company.

**toil** /tɔɪl/, /toil/ *vb* to work hard. • *n* hard work. • *n* **toiler**.

**toilet** /'tɔɪlət/, /toi-let/ *n* 1 (*old*) the act of making yourself clean and tidy. 2 a large bowl in which people urinate or defecate before the waste matter is flushed away. 3 a room with such a bowl, a lavatory. • **toilet soap** *n* soap for washing the body.

**token** /'tokən/, /toe-ken/ *n* 1 a mark or sign. 2 an object used to help to remember. 3 something used instead of money.

**told** /tɔ:l/, /toald/ *pt and pp of tell*.

**tolerable** /'tolərəbəl/, /tol-ra-bul/ *adj* able to be put up with. • *adv* **tolerably**.

**tolerance** /'tolərəns/, /tol-er-anse/, **toleration** /tol-er-ay-shun/ *n* 1 patience. 2 readiness to allow what is displeasing, strange, or different to continue to exist.

**tolerant** /'tolərənt/, /tol-er-ant/ *adj* ready to tolerate, broad-minded.

**tolerate** /'tolə'reit/, /tol-er-ate/ *vb* 1 to put up with. 2 to allow.

**toll<sup>1</sup>** /to:l/, /tole/ *n* a tax charged for the use of a bridge, road, etc.

**toll<sup>2</sup>** /to:l/, /tole/ *vb* to ring slowly, as a bell at a funeral. • *n* a single stroke of a large bell.

**tomahawk** /'tɒmə,hɒk/, /tom-a-hawk/ *n* an axe once used as a tool or a weapon by Native American peoples.

**tomato** /tə'meɪto:, -'mæto:/, /tom-a-toe/ *n* (*pl* **tomatoes**) 1 a plant with a soft edible fruit. 2 the fruit of the tomato.

**tomb** /tu:m/, /toom/ *n* 1 a grave. 2 a cellar in which dead bodies are placed.

**tomboy** /'tɒmbɔɪ/, /tom-boy/ *n* an energetic girl who is fond of boyish games and sports.

**tombstone** /'tu:msto:n/, /toom-stone/ *n* a stone placed over a grave giving the name, etc, of the person buried underneath.

**tome** /to:m/, /tome/ *n* a large, heavy book.

**tommy gun** /'tɒmi: ,gʌn/, /tom-ee gun/ *n* a small machine gun.

**tomorrow** /tə'moro:/, /to-mor-ow/ *adv* the day after today.

**ton** /tən/, /tun/ *n* 1 an imperial measure of weight (= 20 hundredweight, 2000 lbs). 2 a metric tonne = 1000 kg.

**tone** /to:n/, /tone/ *n* 1 a sound. 2 the quality or pitch of a voice or sound. 3 the prevailing spirit or atmosphere. 4 a shade of colour. • *vb* to fit in with. • **tone down** to soften, to make less harsh. • *adj* **tonal**.

**tongs** /'tɒŋgz/, /tongz/ *npl* an instrument with two arms between which things can be gripped for moving.

**tongue** /tʌŋ/, /tung/ *n* 1 an organ in the mouth with the help of which you speak or taste. 2 anything shaped like a tongue (e.g. a leather flap in a shoe). 3 a language. 4 the clapper of a bell. • **hold your tongue** to remain silent.

**tongue-tied** /'tʌŋtaid/, /tung-tied/ *adj* unable to speak because of excitement or nervousness.

**tongue-twister** /'tʌŋ.twɪstər/, /tung-twi-ster/ *n* a group of words that it is difficult to pronounce quickly.

**tonic** /'tɒnɪk/, /ton-ic/ *adj* 1 strengthening, giving vigour or health. 2 having to do with musical tones. 3 a soft drink. • *n* a strengthening medicine.

**tonight** /tə'nait/, /to-nite/ *adv* on this night.

**tonnage** /'tənɪdʒ/, /tu-nidge/ *n* the weight of goods a ship can carry.

**tonne** /tən/, /tun/ *n* a metric ton (=2204.6 lbs, 1000 kg).

**tonsil** /'tɒnsɪl/, /ton-sil/ *n* one of the two glands at the back of the mouth.

**tonsillitis** /'tɒns'lætɪs/, /ton-si-lie-tis/ *n* a disease causing the tonsils to become swollen and sore.

**too** /tu:/, /tʊ/ *adv* **1** also. **2** excessively.

**took** /tuk/, /tʊk/ *pt of take*.

**tool** /tu:l/, /tʊl/ *n* **1** an instrument for working with. **2** a person who does exactly what another wants him or her to do.

**toot** /tu:t/, /tʊt/ *n* the sound of a horn. • *also vb.*

**tooth** /tu:θ/, /tʊθ/ *n* (*pl teeth*) **1** one of the bony projections rooted in the jaw, used for biting or chewing. **2** any tooth-shaped projection, as on a saw, comb, etc. • **have a sweet tooth** to like eating sweet things. • **long in the tooth** (*inf*) old. • **tooth and nail** with great violence or fury.

**toothache** /'tu:θeɪk/, /tʊθ-eɪk/ *n* a pain in a tooth.

**toothbrush** /-brəʃ/, /tʊθ-brəʃ/ *n* a brush for cleaning the teeth.

**toothpaste** /-peɪst/, /tʊθ-peɪst/ *n* a paste for cleaning the teeth.

**toothpick** /-pɪk/, /tʊθ-pɪk/ *n* a small stick used for removing anything stuck in or between the teeth.

**toothy** /'tu:θi/, /tʊθ-i/ *adj* having or showing large or sticking-out teeth.

**top** /tɒp/, /tɔp/ *n* **1** the highest part or place. **2** the summit. **3** a toy for spinning. **4** a garment worn on the upper body, e.g. a sweater or a T-shirt. • *adj* **1** highest. **2** most important. • *vb (topped, topping)* **1** to be at the top of. **2** to hit the top of. **3** to do better than.

**topaz** /'to:pæz/, /tɔ-pæz/ *n* a precious stone.

**top hat** /'tɒp hæt/, /tɔp-hæt/ *n* a tall cylindrical hat covered with silk.

**top-heavy** /'tɒp hæt/, /tɔp-he-vee/ *adj* so heavy at the top that it may fall over.

**topic** /'tɒpɪk/, /tɔp-ɪk/ *n* a subject of discussion.

**topical** /'tɒpɪkəl/, /tɔp-ɪk-al/ *adj* having to do with events of the present day.

**topmost** /mo:st/, /tɒp-moast/ *adj* highest.

**topping** /'tɒpɪŋ/, /tɔp-ɪŋ/ *n* a sauce or garnish that is put on the top of a hamburger, ice cream, etc.

**topple** /'tɒpəl/, /tɔp-əl/ *vb* **1** to fall over, to overbalance. **2** to cause to fall.

**topsy-turvy** /'təpsi,tərvi/, /top-see-tur-vee/ *adj* confused, upside-down.

**torch** /tɔrtʃ/, /tawrчh/ *n* 1 (*old*) a piece of blazing wood carried or stuck up to give light. 2 a small electric lamp for carrying in the hand.

**tore** /tɔr/, /tore/ *pt of tear.*

**toreador** /'tɔriə,dɔr/, /taw-ree-ya-dore/ *n* a Spanish bullfighter.

**torment** /'tɔrmənt/, /tawr-ment/ *n* 1 great suffering or agony. 2 great anxiety. • *vb* /tor-ment/ 1 to cause distress or suffering to, to torture. 2 to tease. • *n* **tormentor**.

**torn** /tɔrn/, /toarn/ *pp of tear.*

**tornado** /tɔr'nεido:/, /tor-nay-doe/ *n* (*pl* **tornadoes**) a violent swirling wind or hurricane.

**torpedo** /tɔr'pi:do:/, /tor-peه-doe/ *n* (*pl* **torpedoes**) a long fish-shaped shell that can be fired through the water to hit another ship and explode on touching it. • *vb* to hit or damage with a torpedo.

**torpid** /'tɔrpид/, /tawr-pid/ *adj* lacking energy, numb, inactive, dull.

**torrent** /'tɔrənt/, /taww-rent/ *n* 1 a rushing stream. 2 a heavy downpour.

**torrential** /tɔ'rənʃəl/, /taww-ren-shal/ *adj* flowing with great violence, falling heavily and steadily.

**torrid** /'tɔrid/, /taww-rid/ *adj* 1 extremely hot. 2 dried up by heat.

**torso** /'tɔrso:/, /tawr-so/ *n* the body not including the head or limbs.

**tortilla** /tɔr'ti:ə/, /tawr-tee-ya/ *n* a thin pancake made with cornmeal or wheat flour and wrapped around a filling, used in Mexican cooking.

**tortoise** /'tɔrtəs/, /tawr-toyz/ a four-limbed reptile almost entirely covered in a hard shell. • see also **turtle**.

**tortoiseshell** /'tɔrtəs,ʃəl/, /tawr-tus-shell/ *n* the shell of a type of sea turtle used to make combs, rims of spectacles, etc, coloured brown and yellow.

**tortuous** /'tɔrtʃəs/, /tawr-choo-wus/ *adj* crooked, twisting.

**torture** /'tɔrtʃər/, /tawr-chur/ *vb* 1 to cause great suffering or anxiety to. 2 to cause pain to as a punishment or in order to obtain information from. • *n* extreme pain or anxiety. • *adj* **torturous**.

**toss** /tɒs/, /tawss/ *vb* 1 to throw upward, to jerk upward. 2 (of a ship) to roll about in rough seas. 3 to drink. • *n* a throw. • **toss up** to throw up a coin to decide something by chance.

**tot** /tɒt/, /tot/ *n* a small child.

**total** /'to:təl/, /toe-tal/ *adj* 1 whole. 2 complete. • *n* 1 the whole amount. 2 the result when everything has been added up. • *vb* 1 to add up. 2 to add up to. • *adv* **totally**.

**totalitarian** /to:tælɪ'terɪən/, /toe-ta-li-tay-ree-un/ *adj* allowing only one political party.

**totality** /to:tælɪti/, /toe-ta-litv/ *n* the complete amount.

**totem** /'to:təm/, /toe-tem/ *n* an animal or plant taken by a tribe as an emblem and regarded as mysteriously connected with the tribe. • **totem pole** /toe-tem pole/ *n* a pole on which the totem or symbols of it are carried.

**totter** /'tɒtər/, /tot-er/ *vb* to stand or walk unsteadily, to stagger.

**toucan** /'tu:kən/, /too-can/ *n* a South American bird with a huge bill.

**touch** /tətʃ/, /tuch/ *vb* 1 to come to rest against any part of the body, especially the hand. 2 to be in contact. 3 to cause to feel emotion. 4 to make a difference to, to concern. • *n* 1 act of coming against or being in contact with. 2 the ability to do really well something requiring skill. 3 the sense of feeling. 4 (*in football*) the ground at the side of the marked field of play. • **touch on** to mention briefly. • **touch up** to improve by making small changes.

**touching** /'tətʃɪŋ/, /tu-ching/ *adj* moving the feelings, causing pity.

**touchline** /'tətʃlaɪn/, /tuch-line/ *n* (*in sports*) the side lines of the marked field of play.

**touchstone** /'tətʃsto:n/, /tuch-stone/ *n* something by comparison with which you judge other things, ideas, etc.

**touchy** /'tətʃi/, /tu-cheel/ *adj* easily angered or hurt. • *n* **touchiness**.

**tough** /təf/, /tuff/ *adj* 1 hard to cut, tear, or chew. 2 hardy and strong. 3 rough-mannered. 4 difficult to deal with. • *n* a street ruffian.

**toughen** /tu-fen/ *vb* 1 to make tough. 2 to make better able to resist.

**tour** /tur/, /toor/ *n* a journey, made for pleasure, to various places, usually ending up at the starting point. • *vb* to go for a tour, to travel here and there.

**tourism** /'tʊrɪzəm/, /too-ri-zum/ *n* the providing of hotels, routes, etc, for tourists.

**tourist** /'tʊrɪzəm/, /too-rist/ *n* a person who travels for pleasure, a sightseer.

**tournament** /'tɔːnəmənt, 'tur-/ , /toor-na-ment/ *n* 1 a series of games between different competitors to see which is the best player or team. 2 (old) a display of fighting on horseback in which the warriors carried blunted arms.

**tourniquet** /'tɔːnɪkət, 'tur-/ , /-,keɪ/, /-,ki:/, /toor-ni-ket/ *n* a bandage twisted tightly around a limb to prevent the flow of blood from a cut artery.

**tousle** /'tauzəl/, /tou-zel/ *vb* to disarrange, to make untidy, especially the hair.

**tout** /'taʊt/, /tout/ *vb* to go about looking for customers or buyers. • *n* a person who touts.

**tow**<sup>1</sup> /taʊ/, /toe/ *vb* to pull along with a rope, chain, etc. • *n* the act of towing.

**tow**<sup>2</sup> /taʊ/, /toe/ *n* fibres of flax or hemp.

**towards** /tə'wɔːrdz/, /toow-ords/ *prep* in the direction of.

**towel** /'taʊəl/, /taoo-el/ *n* a cloth for drying the body. • *vb* to rub with a towel.

**tower** /'taʊər/, /taoo-wer/ *n* 1 a building much higher than it is broad. 2 a high part of another building, projecting above it. 3 a fortress. • *vb* to rise high into the air.

**towering** /'taʊərɪŋ/, /taoo-wer-ing/ *adj* 1 very high or tall. 2 very great.

**town** /taʊn/, /taoon/ *n* a group of houses, stores, etc, larger than a village but smaller than a city.

**toxic** /'tɒksɪk/, /tok-sic/ *adj* poisonous. • *n* **toxicity**.

**toxicology** /tɒksi'kɒlədʒi/, /tok-si-col-o-jee/ *n* the study of poisons. • *n* **toxicologist**.

**toxin** /'tɒksɪn/, /tok-sin/ *n* a poison.

**toy** /tɔɪ/, /toy/ *n* a plaything. • *vb* to play with.

**trace** /treɪs/, /trace/ *n* 1 a mark left behind. 2 a footprint. 3 a sign of something that has happened or existed. • *vb* 1 to copy a drawing

on to transparent paper laid on top of it. **2** to follow the tracks of. • *adj traceable*.

**tracery** /'treɪsəri/, /tray-se-ree/ *n* stone carved to form an open design, as in the windows of old churches.

**tracing** /'treɪsɪŋ/, /tray-sing/ *n* a drawing made by copying another drawing on to transparent paper laid on top of it.

**track** /træk/, /track/ *n* **1** a footprint. **2** the mark or rut left by a wheel. **3** a path made by coming and going. **4** a railway line. **5** a course for races. • *vb* **1** to follow the marks left by. **2** to pursue or search for someone or something until found.

**track-and-field** /trækən'fi:lד/, /track-and-feeld/ *adj* of sports events, referring to sports such as running and jumping. • *n* athletics.

**tract** /trækt/, /tract/ *n* **1** a wide area of land. **2** a short booklet, especially one about religion.

**traction** /'trækʃən/, /trac-shun/ *n* **1** the drawing of vehicles. **2** treatment of an injured limb by pulling on it gently with a device using weights and pulleys.

**traction engine** /'trækʃən ˌɛndʒɪn/, /trac-shun en-jin/ *n* a steam engine for dragging loads on roads.

**tractor** /'trækter/, /trac-tor/ *n* a heavy motor vehicle used for drawing other vehicles or farm implements.

**trade** /treɪd/, /trade/ *n* **1** the buying and selling of goods. **2** the exchanging of goods in large quantities. • *vb* **1** to buy and sell. **2** to exchange in large quantities.

**trademark** /'treɪdmɑ:k/, /trade-mark/ *n* an officially registered mark or name of manufactured goods to protect their ownership and use. Often shown by the symbols ® and ™.

**trader** /'treɪdər/, /tray-der/ *n* a person who buys and sells goods, a merchant.

**tradesman** /'treɪdzmən/, /traydz-man/, **tradesperson** /traydz-per-sun/ *n* **1** a skilled manual worker. **2** a shopkeeper.

**tradition** /trə'dɪʃən/, /tra-di-shun/ *n* **1** the handing down of knowledge, customs, etc, from age to age by word of mouth. **2** any story, custom, etc, so handed down.

**traditional** /trə'dɪʃnəl/, /tra-di-shnal/ *adj* according to or handed down by tradition. • *adv traditionally.*

**traffic** /'træfɪk/, /tra-fic/ *n* 1 the coming and going of persons, vehicles, etc, between places. 2 trade. 3 the carrying of goods or persons in vehicles, etc. 4 all the vehicles on the roads. • *vb (trafficked, trafficking)* to trade.

**tragedy** /'trædʒədi/, /tra-je-dee/ *n* 1 a sad event, a disaster. 2 a play showing the suffering caused by man's inability to overcome evil.

**tragic** /'trædʒɪk/, /tra-jic/ *adj* 1 having to do with tragedy. 2 very sad. • *adv tragically.*

**trail** /treɪl/, /trail/ *n* 1 the track or scent left by a moving creature. 2 a path or track made by coming and going. • *vb* 1 to drag along the ground. 2 to draw along behind. 3 to walk wearily. 4 to follow the tracks of.

**trailer** /'treɪlər/, /tray-ler/ *n* 1 a vehicle without an engine towed by another. 2 a short part of a film shown in advance advertisement. 3 a climbing plant.

**train** /treɪn/, /train/ *vb* 1 to prepare or make to prepare by constant practice or teaching. 2 to aim. 3 to make to grow in a particular direction. • *n* 1 railway carriages or wagons drawn by an engine. 2 part of a dress that trails behind the wearer. 3 a series. • *n* **trainee**.

**trainer** /'treɪnər/, /tray-ner/ *n* a person who teaches animals or people to do something, often a sport, well.

**training** /'treɪnɪŋ/, /tray-ning/ *n* education, practice.

**trait** /treɪt/, /trate/ *n* a special characteristic by which you may know a person.

**traitor** /'treɪtər/, /tray-tor/ *n* a person who helps an enemy against his or her own country friends. • *adj traitorous.*

**trajectory** /trə'dʒektrəri/, /tra-jec-tree/ *n* the path of a moving body (e.g. a bullet, a comet, etc.).

**tram** /træm/, /tram/, **tramcar** /tram-car/ a vehicle running on rails laid in the street.

**tramp** /træmp/, /tramp/ *vb* to walk with heavy steps. • *n* 1 a long or difficult journey on foot. 2 a person who has no home and walks

about the countryside begging. **3** the sound of heavy steps or many steps together.

**trample** /'træmpəl/, /tram-pul/ *vb* to walk heavily on top of.

**trampoline** /,træmpə'lī:n/, /tram-pu-leen/ *n* a large piece of canvas or strong nylon joined to a metal frame by springs, used for jumping on.

**trance** /træns/, /transs/ *n* a state in which you are unconscious of your surroundings.

**tranquil** /'træŋkwil/, /tran-kwil/ *adj* **1** calm, peaceful. **2** still. • *n* **tranquillity**, also **tranquility** (US).

**tranquilize** /'træŋkwɪlaɪz/, /tran-kwi-lize/ *vb*, also **tranquilise** to calm (someone) down.

**tranquilizer** /'træŋkwɪ'laɪzər/, /tran-kwi-lie-zer/ *n*, also **tranquilliser** anything (e.g. a pill) that calms a person down.

**transact** /træn'zækt/, /tran-zact/ *vb (fml)* to carry on or put through.

**transaction** /træn'zækʃən/, /tran-zac-shun/ *n* a piece of business. • *npl* a written record of the doings of a society.

**transatlantic** /trænzət'læntɪk/, /tran-zat-lan-tic/ *adj* across or crossing the Atlantic.

**transcend** /træn'send/, /tran-send/ *vb* **1** to rise above. **2** to be superior to.

**transcendent** /træn'sendənt/, /tran-sen-dent/ *adj* marvellous.

**transcendental** /trænsen'dentəl/, /tran-sen-den-tal/ *adj* beyond human understanding, supernatural.

**transcribe** /træn'skraɪb/, /tran-scribe/ *vb* to copy in writing.

**transcript** /træn'skript/, /tran-script/ *n* a written copy.

**transept** /træn'sept/, /tran-sept/ *n* one of the two parts representing the arms in a cross-shaped church.

**transfer** /'trænsfər/, /tran-sfer/ *vb (transferred, transferring)* to send or remove from place or owner to another. • *n* /tran-sfer/ **1** the act of transferring. **2** a design that can be pressed from one surface onto another.

**transferable** /,træns'fərəbəl/, /tran-sfe-ra-bul/ *adj* that can be transferred.

**transference** /'trænsfərəns/, /tranz-fe-rence/ *n* act of transferring.

**transfigure** /'trænsfigər/, /tranz-fi-gyur/ *vb* **1** to change in form, shape, or appearance. **2** to make more beautiful or splendid. • *n transfiguration.*

**transfix** /'trænsfiks/, /tranz-fiks/ *vb* **1** to pierce through. **2** to cause to be unable to move.

**transform** /'trænsfɔrm/, /tranz-fawrm/ *vb* **1** to change the form of. **2** to change completely. • *n transformation.*

**transformer** /trænsfɔrmər/, /tranz-fawr-mer/ *n* a machine for changing the voltage of an electric current.

**transfuse** /traens'fju:z/, /trans-fyooz/ *vb* to transfer from one thing to another (e.g. by pouring).

**transfusion** /traens'fju:ʒən/, /trans-fyoo-zhun/ *n* **1** the act of transfusing. **2** the passing of the blood of one person into another.

**transient** /'trænziənt/, /tran-zee-ent/ *adj* **1** not lasting for long, passing quickly. **2** not staying for long. • *n transience.*

**transistor** /'trænzistər/, /tran-zis-tor/ *n* a simple radio receiving set in which the current is produced by sensitive wires in contact with a crystal. • *adj transistorized, also transistorised.*

**transit** /'trænzit/, /tran-zit/ *n* **1** going or being moved from one place to another. **2** the passing of a planet between the sun and the earth.

**transition** /træn'ziʃən/, /tran-zi-shun/ *n* changing from one state or condition to another. • *adj transitional.*

**transitive** /'trænzitiv/, /tran-si-tiv/ *adj (gram)* describing a verb taking a direct object. • *compare with intransitive.*

**transitory** /'trænzi,tɔri/, /tran-zi-toe-ree/ *adj* passing quickly, not lasting for long.

**translate** /'trænzleɪt/, /tranz-late/ *vb* to give the meaning of what is said or written in one language in another language. • *n translator.*

**translation** /trænz'leɪʃən/, /tranz-lay-shun/ *n* a turning from one language into another.

**translucent** /trænz'lusənt/, /tranz-loo-sent/ *adj* allowing light to pass through.

**transmission** /trænz'miʃən/, /tranz-mi-shun/ *n* **1** the act of sending messages, etc. **2** a radio or television broadcast.

**transmit** /trænz'mit/, /tranz-mit/ *vb* (**transmitted**, **transmitting**) **1** to send (a message, news, etc.). **2** to send by radio or television. **3** to send or pass from one person to another.

**transmitter** /trænz'mɪtər/, /tranz-mi-ter/ *n* a radio apparatus able to send messages or make broadcasts.

**transmute** /trænz'mju:t/, /tranz-myoot/ *vb* (*fml*) to change from one form into another. • *n* **transmutation**.

**transom** /'trænsəm/, /tran-sum/ *n* a window over a door.

**transparent** /træns'pərənt/, /tran-spa-rent/ *adj* **1** that can be clearly seen through. **2** obvious. • *n* **transparence**, **transparency**.

**transpire** /traen'spair/, /tran-spire/ *vb* **1** to become known. **2** to happen. **3** to exhale.

**transplant** /'trænzplænt/, /tran-splant/ *vb* **1** to uproot and plant in another place. **2** to replace an organ of the body by one belonging to someone else. • *n* **transplant**, **transplantation** /tran-splan-tay-shun/.

**transport** /'trænsport/, /tran-sport/ *vb* **1** to carry from one place to another. **2** (*old*) to convey to another country as a punishment. **3** (*fml*) to fill with emotions, anger, etc. • *n* /tran-spoart/ **1** any means of carrying persons or goods from one place to another. **2** a ship for carrying troops. **3** (*fml*) great delight, ecstasy. • *n* **transportation**.

**transpose** /træn'spo:z/, /tran-spoaz/ *vb* **1** to interchange the places of. **2** to change the order of. • *n* **transposition**.

**transverse** /trænz'vers/, /tranz-verse/ *adj* lying across.

**trap** /træp/, /trap/ *n* **1** an instrument or device for catching wild animals and holding them alive or dead. **2** any device that, by its appearance, deceives you into advancing or progressing into unseen difficulties. **3** an S-shaped bend in drainpipes to prevent foul air rising. **4** a light two-wheeled horse carriage. • *vb* (**trapped**, **trapping**) **1** to catch in a trap or snare. **2** to deceive.

**trapdoor** /'træpdo:r/, /trap-dore/ *n* a door in a floor, ceiling, or roof.

**trapeze** /trə'pi:z/, /tra-pēz/ *n* a bar suspended from two swinging ropes, some distance above the ground, and used in gymnastic or acrobatic exercises.

**trapezium** /trə'pi:ziəm/, /tra-pē-zee-um/ *n* a four-sided figure of which two sides are parallel and unequal in length.

**trapper** /'træpər/, /tra-per/ *n* a person who traps animals, especially for their furs.

**trappings** /'træpɪŋz/, /tra-pingz/ *npl* **1** finery, decoration. **2** an ornamental harness for a horse.

**trash** /træʃ/, /trash/ *n* **1** (esp US) rubbish, waste material. **2** nonsense. **2 (inf)** something of very poor quality. • *vb (inf)* to cause a lot of damage, to destroy something. • *adj (inf)* **trashy** very poor quality.

**trauma** /'trəʊmə/, /traw-ma/ *n* a shock that has a long-lasting effect. • *adj* **traumatic**. • *adv* **traumatically**.

**travel** /'trævəl/, /tra-vəl/ *vb* **1** to make a journey. **2** to move on your way. • *also n.* • *vb, adj* **travelled**, **travelling**; *also traveled*, **traveling** (US).

**travel agent** /'trævəl ,eɪdʒənt/, /tra-vəl-ay-jent/ *n* a person who makes travel arrangements for customers. • *n* **travel agency**.

**traveller** /'trævələr/, /trav-ler/ *n*, *also traveler* (US), *also travelling salesman* **1** a person who journeys. **2** a person who goes from place to place trying to obtain orders for a business firm.

**traverse** /trə'vers, 'trævərs/, /tra-verse/ *vb* to go across.

**travesty** /'trævəsti/, /tra-ve-stee/ *vb* to imitate in such a way as to make appear ridiculous. • *n* a silly imitation.

**trawl** /trɔ:l/, /trawl/ *n* a large wide-mouthed net for deep-sea fishing. • *vb* to fish by drawing a trawl through the water.

**trawler** /-ər/, /traw-ler/ *n* a fishing boat using a trawl.

**tray** /treɪ/, /tray/ *n* a flat piece of wood, metal, etc, with a rim, used for carrying dishes, etc.

**treacherous** /'tretʃərəs/, /tre-che-rus/ *adj* **1** faithless, disloyal, deceitful. **2** dangerous, but seeming safe.

**treachery** /'tretʃəri/, /tre-che-ree/ *n* unfaithfulness to those who have placed trust in you; disloyalty.

**treacle** /'tri:kəl/, /tree-kul/ *n* a dark-coloured syrup obtained when refining sugar.

**tread** /tri:d/, /tred/ *vb* (*pt trod, pp trodden or trod*) **1** to step or walk. **2** to walk heavily on. • *n* **1** a step. **2** your way of walking. **3** the sound of walking. **4** the flat part of the step of a stair. **5** the part of a tire that touches the ground.

**treadle** /'tri:dəl/, /tre-dul/ *n* a pedal used for operating a machine.

**treadmill** /'tredmɪl/, /tred-mill/ *n* **1** a millwheel turned by persons treading on steps sticking out from it. **2** an exercise machine with an endless belt on which you walk or run.

**treason** /'tri:zən/, /tree-zun/ *n* disloyalty to your country or ruler.

**treasonable** /'tri:zənə,bəl/, /tree-zu-na-bul/ *adj* having to do with treason.

**treasure** /'treʒər/, /tre-zhur/ *n* **1** something greatly valued. **2** a store of great wealth. • *vb* to value greatly.

**treasurer** /'treʒərər/, /tre-zhu-rer/ *n* a person who is in charge of the money of a society, business firm, etc.

**treasure trove** /'treʒər tro:v/, /tre-zhur trove/ *n* treasure found hidden and ownerless.

**treasury** /'treʒəri/, /trezh-ree/ *n* **1** (*cap*) the government department in charge of a nation's finances. **2** a place where valuable objects or money is kept. **3** (*old*) a book containing a collection of facts, poems, etc.

**treat** /tri:t/, /treet/ *vb* **1** to deal with. **2** to act towards. **3** to talk or write about. **4** to try to cure by certain remedies. **5** to pay for another's entertainment. **6** to discuss conditions for an agreement. • *n* **1** an entertainment. **2** something that gives great pleasure.

**treatise** /'tri:tɪs/, /tree-tiss/ *n* a piece of writing giving information on a certain subject.

**treatment** /'tri:tment/, /treet-ment/ *n* the way of treating anything.

**treaty** /'tri:ti/, /tree-tee/ *n* an agreement between two nations.

**treble** /'trəbəl/, /tre-bul/ *adj* threefold, three times. • *vb* to multiply by three. • *n* the highest part in singing; soprano.

**tree** /tri:/, /tree/ *n* a plant with a trunk and branches of wood.

**trek** /træk/, /trek/ *vb* (**trekked**, **trekking**) to journey on foot, often wearily. • *also n.*

**trellis** /'trɛlɪs/, /tre-liss/ *n* a light framework of crisscrossing bars of wood or metal for supporting climbing plants.

**tremble** /'trɛmbl/, /trem-bul/ *vb* **1** to shake with fear, cold, fever, etc. **2** to feel great fear.

**tremendous** /tri'mendəs/, /tri-men-dus/ *adj* **1** huge. **2** very great, impressive. • *adv* **tremendously**.

**tremor** /'trɛmər/, /tre-mur/ *n* a slight shaking or shivering.

**trench** /trentʃ/, /trench/ *n* a long, narrow hole or ditch dug in the ground, especially one to shelter soldiers from enemy gunfire.

**trenchant** /'trɛntʃənt/, /tren-chant/ *adj* (of remarks) sharp and forceful.

**trend** /trend/, /trend/ *n* **1** a tendency. **2** a general inclination towards.

**trendy** /'trɛndi/, /tren-dee/ *adj* (inf) very fashionable.

**trepidation** /,trɛpɪ'deɪʃən/, /tre-pi-day-shun/ *n* fear.

**trespass** /'trespəs/, /tress-pass/ *vb* **1** to go unlawfully on another's land. **2** (old) to sin. • *also n.* • *n* **trespasser**.

**tress** /tres/, /tress/ *n* a lock of hair. • *npl* **tresses** long hair worn loose.

**trestle** /'tresəl/, /tre-sul/ *n* a frame that supports a bridge or railway track.

**tri-** /traɪ/, /trie/ *prefix* three.

**trial** /traɪəl/, /trie-al/ *n* **1** the examining of a prisoner in a court of law. **2** a test. **3** hardship or distress undergone.

**triangle** /'traɪ,æŋgəl/, /trie-ang-gul/ *n* **1** a figure with three sides and three angles. **2** a musical instrument consisting of a triangle-shaped steel rod, played by striking it with a small rod.

**triangular** /,traɪ'æŋgju:lər/, /trie-ang-gyu-lar/ *adj* having three sides and three angles.

**triathlon** /traɪ'æθlən/, /trie-ath-lon/ *n* an athletic contest consisting of three events, usually swimming, cycling, and running.

**tribe** /traɪb/, /tribe/ *n* a group of people or families living together under the rule of a chief. • *adj* **tribal**. • *n* **tribesman**.

**tribulation** /'trɪbjuleɪʃən/, /tri-byoo-lay-shun/ *n* great suffering or trouble.

**tribunal** /traɪ'bju:nəl, tri-/ , /trie-**byoo**-nal/ *n* **1** a court of justice. **2** a body appointed to look into and report on a matter of public interest.

**tribune** /tri'bju:n/, /tri-byoon/ *n* a Roman magistrate chosen by the people.

**tributary** /tri'bju:təri/, /tri-byu-ta-ree/ *n* a stream that flows into a larger stream or river

**tribute** /tri'bju:t/, /tri-byoot/ *n* **1** deserved praise. **2** money paid by a defeated nation to its conquerors.

**trice** /traɪs/, /trice/ *n*. • **in a trice** in a moment.

**trick** /trɪk/, /trick/ *n* **1** something said or done in order to deceive. **2** something done quickly and skilfully in order to amuse. **3** a special way of doing something. **4** cards played and won in a round. • *vb* to deceive, to cheat.

**trickery** /'trɪkəri/, /trik-ree/ *n* cheating, deceitful conduct.

**trickle** /'trɪkəl/, /tri-cul/ *vb* to flow very slowly. • *n* a thin stream of liquid.

**tricky** /'trɪki/, /tri-kee/ *adj* **1** cunning, crafty. **2** requiring skill. **3** difficult.

**tricycle** /trəɪ'seɪkəl/, /trie-si-cul/ *n* a three-wheeled cycle.

**trident** /'traɪdənt/, /trie-dent/ *n* a spear with three prongs.

**tried** /traɪd/, /tried/ *pt, pp of try*. • *adj* reliable, proved good.

**trifle** /'traɪfəl/, /trie-ful/ *n* **1** a thing of little value or importance. **2** a small amount. **3** a pudding consisting of sponge cake, fruit, and cream. • *vb* **1** to treat without seriousness. **2** to idle.

**trifling** /'traɪflɪŋ/, /trie-fling/ *adj* **1** of no value or importance. **2** very small.

**trigger** /'trɪgər/, /tri-ger/ *n* a small lever that when pulled fires a gun. • *vb* to cause something to happen.

**trigonometry** /,trɪgə'nɒmətri/, /tri-gu-nom-et-ree/ *n* the science dealing with the measurement of triangles, and the relation between their sides and angles.

**trillion** /'trɪljən/, /trill-yun/ *n* **1** a million million ( $10^{12}$ ; 1,000,000,000,000) **2** (*inf*) a very large number.

**trilogy** /'trɪlədʒi/, /tri-lo-jee/ *n* a series of three connected plays, novels, etc.

**trim** /trim/, /trim/ *vb* (**trimmed**, **trimming**) **1** to make neat, especially by cutting. **2** to decorate. **3** to rearrange cargo so that a ship is properly balanced. **4** to make ready for sailing. • *adj* neat, tidy. • **in good trim** **1** in good condition. **2** well-prepared.

**trimester** /'trai,mɛstər, traɪ'mɛstər/, /trie-mes-ter/ *n* **1** an academic term. **2** three months. **3** one third of the length of a human pregnancy.

**trimming** /trimɪŋ/, /tri-ming/ *n* something added as an ornament.

**trinity** /'trɪnɪti/, /tri-ni-tee/ *n* a union of three in one. • **the Trinity** the Christian belief that in one God there are three persons – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**trinket** /'trɪŋkət/, /tring-ket/ *n* an ornament of little value, a piece of cheap jewellery.

**trio** /'tri:o:/, /tree-yo/ *n* **1** a set of three, especially three musicians who play together. **2** a piece of music for three performers.

**trip** /'trip/, /trip/ *vb* (**tripped**, **tripping**) **1** to stumble or fall over. **2** to cause to stumble or fall. **3** (*fml*) to move with quick light steps. • *n* **1** a stumble. **2** a short journey or outing.

**tripe** /trəɪp/, /tripe/ *n* **1** part of the stomach of a sheep, cow, etc, prepared as food. **2** (*inf*) nonsense, rubbish.

**triple** /'trɪpəl/, /tri-pul/ *adj* made up of three parts, threefold. • *vb* to make or become three times as large or as many.

**triplet** /'trɪplət/, /tri-plit/ *n* one of three children born at one birth.

**triplicate** /'trɪplɪkət/, /tri-pli-kit/ *adj* threefold. • *n*: **in triplicate** with three copies.

**tripod** /'trɪpəd/, /trie-pod/ *n* a three-legged stand or support (e.g. for a camera).

**tripper** /'trɪpər/, /tri-per/ *n* (*old inf*) a person who is on holiday or on an outing for pleasure.

**trite** /trɪt/, /trite/ *adj* often used, commonplace.

**triumph** /'traɪəmf/, /trie-yumf/ *n* 1 joy at success or victory. 2 a great success or victory. • *vb* to gain a great success or victory.

**triumphant** /'traɪəmfənt/, /trie-yum-fant/ *adj* having to do with a victory.

**triumphant** /traɪ'əmfənt/, /trie-yum-fant/ *adj* 1 successful, victorious.

2 extremely pleased at success or victory. • *adv* **triumphantly**.

**triumvirate** /traɪ'əmvərət/, /trie-yum-vi-rit/ *n* a group of three people sharing the power of government.

**trivet** /'trɪvət/, /tri-vet/ *n* a three-legged stand for a pot, kettle, etc.

**trivia** /'trɪviə/, /tri-vee-ya/ *npl* (*now often regarded as a singular noun*) facts of small importance.

**trivial** /'trɪviəl/, /tri-vee-yal/ *adj* of small importance, trifling. • *n* **triviality**.

**trod** *pt and pp of tread* (*pp also trodden*).

**troglodyte** /'trəglədəɪt/, /trog-la-dite/ *n* a cave-dweller.

**troll** /trol/, /trole/ *n* a dwarfish elf or goblin.

**trolley** /'trəli/, /trol-ee/ *n* (*pl trolleys*) 1 a kind of large metal basket on wheels for transporting goods in a supermarket or baggage at an airport. 2 a small table on wheels for serving food.

**trombone** /trəm'bɔ:n/, /trom-bone/ *n* a deep-toned type of trumpet with a sliding tube moved in and out when it is being played.

**troop** /tru:p/, /troop/ *n* 1 a collection or group of people or animals. 2 an organized group of soldiers, scouts, etc. • *vb* to move or gather in large numbers. • *npl* soldiers.

**trooper** /tru:pər/, /troo-per/ *n* a cavalryman, see **cavalry**.

**trophy** /'tro:fi/, /troe-fee/ *n* something given or kept as a reward for or reminder of success or victory.

**tropic** /'trəpɪk/, /trop-ic/ *n* one of two imaginary lines around the earth marking the farthest distance north and south of the equator at which the sun rises and sets during the year. • *npl* the hot regions north and south of the equator.

**tropical** /'trəpɪkəl/, /trop-ic-al/ *adj* 1 having to do with the tropics. 2 very hot.

**trot** /trət/, /trot/ *vb* (**trotted, trotting**) 1 (*of a horse*) to go at a pace between a walk and a gallop. 2 to run with short steps. • *n* a medium pace.

**troth** /trɒθ/, /troθ/ *n.* • **plight your troth** (*old*) to promise to marry.

**trotter** /'trɒtər/, /trot-er/ *n* the foot of a pig or sheep.

**trouble** /'trʌbəl/, /tru-bl/ *vb* 1 to cause anxiety, difficulty, or distress to. 2 to disturb. • *n* 1 worry, anxiety, distress. 2 difficulty.

**troublesome** /'trʌbəl-səm/, /tru-bl-sum/ *adj* causing trouble.

**trough** /trɔf/, /troff/ *n* 1 a long, narrow vessel to hold water or food for animals. 2 a hollow (e.g. between two waves).

**trounce** /traʊns/, /trounss/ *vb* to beat severely.

**troupe** /tru:p/, /troop/ *n* a company of actors or other performers.

**trousers** /'trauzərz/, /trou-zers/ *npl* a garment with two tube-shaped pieces of material joined at the top, worn to cover the legs.

**trousseau** /'tru:so:, tru:'so:/, /troo-so/ *n* (*pl* **trousseaux** or **trousseaus**) a bride's outfit.

**trout** /trɔut/, /trout/ *n* an edible freshwater fish.

**trowel** /'trauəl/, /trow-el/ *n* 1 a tool with a flat blade used for spreading mortar, plaster, etc. 2 a tool with a curved blade used in gardening.

**troy** /trɔɪ/, /troy/, **troy weight** *n* a system of measures used in weighing precious metals or gems.

**truant** /'tru:ənt/, /troo-ant/ *n* a child who stays off school without leave. • **play truant** to stay off school without leave. • *n* **truancy**.

**truce** /tru:s/, /trooss/ *n* an agreement to stop fighting for a time.

**truck<sup>1</sup>** /træk/, /truck/ *n* a large motor vehicle for carrying goods, a lorry.

**truck<sup>2</sup>** /træk/, /truck/ *n* dealings.

**truculent** /'trækjulənt/, /tru-cyu-lent/ *adj* quarrelsome, trying to find a cause for quarrelling or fighting. • *n* **truculence**.

**trudge** /trædʒ/, /trudge/ *vb* to walk, especially with heavy steps, to walk in a tired manner. • *also n.*

**true** /tru:/, /troo/ *adj* 1 in agreement with fact, not false. 2 genuine. 3 honest. 4 faithful, loyal. 5 exact, close. • *adv* **truly**.

**truffle** /'træfəl/, /tru-ful/ *n* 1 an edible fungus that grows underground.

2 a soft creamy chocolate sweet.

**truism** /'tru:izəm/, /troo-i-zum/ *n* a remark that is obviously true and therefore unnecessary.

**trump** /trəmp/, /trump/ *n* one of a suit of cards that, in a particular hand, beats a card of any other suit. • *vb* to play a trump on a card of another suit. • **trump up** to make up, to invent.

**trump card** /'trəmp kærd/, /trump card/ *n* a means of ensuring success.

**trumpet** /'trəmpət/, /trum-pet/ *n* a metal wind instrument. • *vb* 1 to make known far and wide. 2 to make a noise, as e.g. an elephant.

**trumpeter** 'trəmpetər/, /trum-pe-ter/ *n* a person who plays the trumpet.

**truncate** /'trəŋkeɪt, trəŋ'keɪt/, /trung-cate/ *vb* to cut off, to cut short.

**truncheon** /'trəntʃən/, /trun-chun/ *n* 1 a club carried by a police officer. 2 a short staff carried as a sign of authority.

**trundle** /'trəndəl/, /trun-dul/ *vb* to roll, push, or bowl along.

**trunk** /trəŋk/, /trungk/ *n* 1 the main stem of a tree. 2 the body not including the head or limbs. 3 the long tubelike nose of an elephant. 4 a box or chest for clothing, etc. 5 the storage place for luggage at the back of an automobile.

**trunks** /trəŋks/, /trungks/ *npl* men's shorts worn for swimming or other sports.

**truss** /trəs/, /truss/ *n* 1 a bundle of hay or straw. 2 a supporting bandage. • *vb* 1 to tie. 2 to tie up (a fowl) for cooking.

**trust** /trəst/, /trust/ *n* 1 a firm belief that another person or a thing is what it claims or is claimed to be; confidence. 2 a union of several firms to advance their business interests. 3 the holding and controlling of money or property for the advantage of someone. 4 care or responsibility. • *vb* 1 to rely upon, to have faith in. 2 to hope. • **take on trust** to accept without examination.

**trustee** /trəst'i:/, /tru-stee/ *n* a person who is appointed to hold and look after property on behalf of another. • *n* **trusteeship**.

**trustful** /'trəstfʊl/, /trust-ful/, **trusting** /trəst-ing/ *adj* ready to trust.

**trustworthy** /'trəst,wərði/, /trust-wur-thee/ *adj* deserving trust or confidence, reliable.

**trusty** /'trəsti/, /tru-stee/ *adj (fml)* that can be trusted, reliable.

**truth** /tru:θ/, /trooth/ *n* that which is true. • *adj* **truthful**. • *adv* **truthfully**.

**try** /trai/, /trie/ *vb* (*pt and pp tried, trying*). **1** to attempt. **2** to test. **3** to examine and judge in a court of law.

**trying** /'traɪɪŋ/, /trie-ing/ *adj* difficult, worrying, annoying.

**tsar**, **tsar** see **czar**.

**tsetse** /'tetsi:/, /tset-see/ *n* an African fly whose bite is fatal to horses, cattle, etc, and which carries the disease of sleeping sickness.

**T-shirt** /ti:ʃərt/, /tee-shirt/ *n* a short-sleeved collarless shirt or vest.

**tsunami** /su:'næmi:/, /(t)soo-na-mee/ *n* a huge sea wave produced by an underwater earthquake.

**tub** /təb/, /tub/ **1** a large open container used for bathing, washing clothing, growing things, etc. **2** a bathtub.

**tuba** /tu:bə, 'tju:bə/, /too-bal/ *n* a low-pitched brass wind instrument.

**tubby** /təbi/, /tu-bee/ *adj* (*inf*) round and fat.

**tube** /tu:b, 'tju:b/, /tyoob/ **1** a pipe. **2** a hollow cylinder.

**tuber** /tu:bər, 'tju:bər/, /tyoo-ber/ *n* a swelling on the root of a plant (e.g. a potato).

**tuberculosis** /tu:bərkjʊ'lɔ:sɪs/, /tyoo-ber-cyu-lo-sis/ *n* a wasting disease caused by the growth of tubercles on the lungs or other organs; consumption. • *adj* **tubercular**.

**tubing** /tju:bɪŋ/, /tyoo-bing/ **1** a length of tube. **2** a series of tubes.

**tubular** /tju:bju:lər/, /tyoo-byu-lar/ *adj* **1** like a tube. **2** consisting of tubes.

**tuck** /tək/, /tuck/ *vb* **1** to push, to stuff. **2** to put in a secure or private place. • *n* a fold in a garment. • **tuck in** **1** to cover up comfortably. **2** (*inf*) to eat hungrily.

**Tuesday** /'tu:zdeɪ/, /tyooz-day/ *n* the third day of the week.

**tuft** /təft/, /tuft/ **1** a bunch or clump of grass, hair, etc, growing together. **2** a bunch of threads, etc, held together.

**tufty** /'təfti/, /tuf-tee/ *adj* growing in tufts.

**tug** /təg/, /tug/ *vb* (**tugged, tugging**) **1** to pull with effort. **2** to pull sharply. • *n* **1** a strong sharp pull. **2** a small boat used to pull larger ones.

**tug-of-war** /tʌgəv'wɔ:/, /tu-guv-wawr/ *n* a contest in which two teams pull opposite ways on a rope until one is pulled across a mark.

**tuition** /tju:'ɪʃən/, /tyoo-wi-shun/ *n* teaching.

**tulip** /'tju:lɪp/, /tyoo-lip/ *n* a plant growing from a bulb and having a single brightly coloured flower.

**tumble** /'tʌmbəl/, /tum-bul/ *vb* 1 to fall. 2 to move in an uncontrolled, headlong way. 3 to decrease rapidly in amount or value. • *n* a fall.

**tumbler** /'tæmblər/, /tum-blər/ *n* 1 a drinking glass. 2 (*old*) an acrobat.

**tumbleweed** /'tæmbəl, wi:d/, /tum-bul-weed/ *n* a plant broken away from its roots in the autumn and rolled about by the wind.

**tummy** /'təmi/, /tu-mee/ *n* (*inf*) a stomach.

**tumour** /'tju:mər/, /tyoo-mur/ *n*, also **tumor** /too-mur/ (US) a mass of diseased cells in the body causing swelling.

**tumult** /'tju:məlt/, /təməlt/, /tyoo-mult/ *n* 1 noisy confusion, uproar. 2 disorderly behaviour by a crowd.

**tumultuous** /tju:'məltʃuəs/, /tyoo-mul-chu-wus/ *adj* noisy and disorderly.

**tuna** /'tu:nə, tʃu:nə/, /too-na, choo-na/ *n* a large edible fish of the mackerel family.

**tundra** /'təndrə/, /tun-dra/ *n* a wide plain of frozen marshy land in northern Siberia or North America.

**tune** /tu:n, tju:n/, /toon, tyoon/ *n* 1 the melody or air of a piece of music. 2 a short pleasing piece of music. 3 the correct relation of one musical note to others. • *vb* 1 to ensure that an instrument is adjusted to play the correct notes. 2 to adjust a radio, etc, until it is receiving as clearly as possible.

**tuneful** /'tu:nfəl, 'tju:nfəl/, /toon-ful, tyoon-ful/ *adj* having a pleasing air or melody. • *adv* **tunefully**.

**tungsten** /'tʌŋstən/, /tung-sten/ *n* a rare metallic element, used for filaments in electric light bulbs.

**tunic** /'tʊnɪk, 'tju:nɪk/, /too-nic, tyoo-nic/ *n* 1 a loose upper garment covering the body, sometimes to below the waist. 2 a soldier's uniform jacket.

**tuning fork** /'tu:nɪŋ/, /'tju:nɪŋ/, /too-ning, tyoo-ning fawrk/ *n* a two-pronged fork that, when struck, gives a musical note to which instruments can be adjusted.

**tunnel** /'tənəl/, /tu-nel/ *n* an underground passage, especially one that enables a road or railway to pass under or through an obstacle.

**turban** /'tərbən/, /tur-ban/ *n* a headdress, made by winding a band of fabric around and around the head.

**turbine** /'tərbain/, /tur-bine/ *n* a type of wheel that, when moved by steam or water power, drives an engine.

**turbot** /'tərbət/, /tur-but/ *n* a large edible flatfish.

**turbulent** /'tərbjulənt/, /tur-byu-lent/ *adj* 1 moving violently and irregularly. 2 disorderly, hard to control or rule, rebellious. • *n* turbulence.

**tureen** /tjurɪ:n/, /tyoo-reen/ *n* a large deep dish for soup.

**turf** /tərf/, /turf/ *n* earth covered thickly with short grass. • *vb* to cover with turf. • **turf out** (*inf*) to throw out someone out, to evict or dismiss someone.

**turkey** /'tərki/, /tur-kee/ *n* a large farmyard fowl.

**Turkish bath** /tərkis 'bath/, /tur-kish bath/ *n* 1 a treatment in which you sit in a room of steam to induce a sweat and then follow it with a shower and massage. 2 the place where you would go for a Turkish bath.

**turmoil** /'tərmɔɪl/, /tur-moil/ *n* noisy confusion, disorder.

**turn** /tərn/, /turn/ *vb* 1 to move or cause to move around. 2 to shape wood by cutting it as it revolves. 3 to change. 4 (*of milk*) to become sour. • *n* 1 a change of direction. 2 (*of a wheel*) a revolution. 3 a bend. 4 an act. 5 a short walk. 6 a sudden feeling of sickness. • **turn down** to refuse. • **turn in** (*inf*) to go to bed. • **turn out** 1 to have. 2 to attend a meeting, etc. • **turn over a new leaf** to change yourself for the better. • **turn turtle** to turn completely over, to capsize. • **turn up** to appear unexpectedly. • **turn upon** to attack suddenly. • **in turn** one after the other, in the proper order.

**turning** /'tərnɪŋ/, /tur-ning/ *n* 1 a bend in the road. 2 a corner leading off to another road.

**turnip** /'tərnəp/, /tur-nip/ *n* a plant of the mustard family with a thick edible root.

**turnout** /'tərnəut/, /tur-nout/ *n* the number of people in an assembly.

**turnover** /'tərnəvər/, /tur-no-ver/ *n* in business, the amount of money paid in and out in a certain period.

**turnpike** /'tərnpeɪk/, /turn-pike/ *n* a gate or bar across a road at which travellers must pay a tax for the use of the road.

**turnstile** /'rərnstail/, /turn-stile/ *n* a revolving gate through which only one person can pass at a time.

**turntable** /'tərn,teɪbəl/, /turn-tay-bul/ *n* **1** a revolving platform for turning round railway engines, etc. **2** a round spinning surface on a phonograph on which the record is placed.

**turpentine** /'tərpəntain/, /tur-pen-tine/ *n* **1** a resin obtained from certain trees. **2** an oil made from this.

**turquoise** /'tərkwɔɪz/, /tur-kwoiz/ *n* a greenish-blue precious stone or its colour. • *also adj.*

**turret** /'tərit/, /tu-ret/ *n* **1** a small tower forming part of a building. **2** a revolving tower to protect guns and gunners on a warship or in a fort.

**turtle** /'tərtəl/, /tur-tul/ *n* **1** a reptile with four flipper-like limbs, almost entirely covered by a hard shell. **2** (US) a tortoise.

**turtle dove** /'tərtəl ,dəv/, /tur-tul duv/ *n* a dove with a soft, cooing note.

**turtle neck** /'tərtəl ,nek/, /tur-tul nek/ *n* **1** a high collar that turns down and fits closely around the neck. **2** a sweater or shirt with such a collar.

**tusk** /təsk/, /tusk/ *n* a long, pointed tooth sticking out from the mouth, as in a walrus, etc.

**tussle** /təsəl/, /tu-sul/ *n* a short struggle, a disorderly fight. • *vb to struggle.*

**tut** /tət/, /tut/ *interj* an exclamation expressing disappointment or disapproval.

**tutor** /'tju:tər/, /tyoo-tur/ *n* a private teacher. • *vb to teach, to act as tutor.*

**tutorial** /tju:ˈtɔriəl/, /tyoo-toe-ree-al/ *adj* having to do with a tutor or teaching. • *n* 1 a group of students who study with a tutor. 2 study time spent with a tutor.

**tutu** /tu:tuh/, /too-too/ *n* a very short stiff skirt worn by a female ballet dancer.

**TV** /ti:ˈvi:/, /tee-vee/ *n* television.

**twaddle** /'twɒdəl/, /twod-ul/ *n* nonsense, foolish talk.

**twang** /twæŋ/, /twang/ *n* 1 the sound made by plucking a tightly stretched string or wire. 2 a tone that sounds as if you were speaking through your nose. • *vb* to pluck a tightly stretched string or wire.

**tweak** /twi:k/, /tweek/ *vb* to twist sharply, to pinch. • *also n.*

**tweed** /twi:d/, /tweed/ *n* a rough woollen cloth, suitable for outer garments.

**tweezers** /'twi:zərz/, /twee-zerz/ *npl* small pincers for pulling out hairs, lifting tiny things, etc.

**twelve** /twelv/, /twelv/ *n, adj* the number 12. • *adj and n twelfth.*

**twenty** /twenti/, /twen-tee/ *n, adj* the number 20. • *adj and n twentieth.*

**twice** /twəɪs/, /twice/ *adv* two times.

**twiddle** /'twidəl/, /twi-dul/ *vb* to play with.

**twig** /twɪg/, /twig/ *n* a small shoot or branch of a tree or shrub.

**twilight** /'twailət/, /twie-lite/ *n* the faint light just after sundown.

**twill** /twɪl/, /twill/ *n* a strong cloth with ribbed lines or ridges running from end to end.

**twin** /twin/, /twin/ *n* 1 one of two children born at one birth. 2 a person or thing that looks exactly the same as another. • *adj* 1 born at one birth. 2 double. 3 consisting of two like parts or things. • *vb (twinned, twinning)* to pair together.

**twine** /twain/, /twine/ *n* strong string. • *vb* 1 to twist or wind around. 2 to twist together.

**twinge** /twindʒ/, /twinge/ *n* a sudden sharp pain.

**twinkle** /'twɪŋkəl/, /twing-kul/ *vb* to sparkle. • *n* 1 a gleam of light. 2 a quick look of amusement.

**twinkling** /'twɪŋklɪŋ/, /twin<sup>g</sup>-kling/ *n* a moment.

**twirl** /twɜrl/, /twirl/ *vb* to spin or turn around rapidly. • *also n.*

**twist** /twɪst/, /twist/ *vb* 1 to turn quickly out of shape or position. 2 to wind strands around each other. 3 to put a wrong meaning on. • *n* 1 something made by twisting. 2 a sudden turning out of shape or position.

**twister** /'twɪstər/, /twi-ster/ *n* a tornado.

**twitch** /twɪtʃ/, /twitch/ *n* 1 a jerk. 2 a sudden quick movement. • *vb* 1 to pull sharply. 2 to make a quick movement unintentionally.

**twitter** /'twɪtər/, /twi-ter/ *vb* to chirp, as a bird. • *n* 1 a chirp. 2 a state of nervous excitement.

**two** /tu:/, /too/ *adj, n* one more than one; the number 2.

**two-faced** /'tu:,feɪst/, /too-fayst/ *adj* deceitful.

**tycoon** /taɪ'ku:n/, /tie-coon/ *n* a very successful and influential businessman, a business magnate.

**type** /təɪp/, /tipe/ *n* 1 a class or kind. 2 a person or thing possessing most of the qualities of a certain group, class, nationality, etc. 3 a letter or symbol cut in metal, etc, and used for printing. 4 the kind and size of a set of letters used in printing. • *vb* to use a keyboard to write something.

**typescript** /'təɪpskrɪpt/, /tipe-script/ *n* typewritten material.

**typeset** /'təɪp,seɪt/, /tipe-set/ *vb* to set a written piece of work in a typed form. • *n typesetter. adj typeset.*

**typewriter** /'təɪp,rəɪtər/, /tipe-rie-ter/ *n* a machine operated by keys that, when struck, cause letters or symbols to be printed through an inked ribbon on to paper.

**typhoid** /'təɪfɔɪd/, /tie-foid/ *n* an infectious disease causing acute pain in the intestines.

**typhoon** /taɪ'fūn/, /tie-foon/ *n* a violent storm of wind and rain, especially in the China seas.

**typical** /'tɒkɪkəl/, /ti-pi-cal/ *adj* 1 characteristic. 2 serving as an example of a class or group. • *adv typically.*

**typify** /'tɪpɪ,fai/, /ti-pi-fie/ *vb* to serve as an example of.

**typist** /'təɪpɪst/, /tie-pist/ *n* a person who uses a typewriter.

**typography** /taɪ'pɒgrəfi/, /tie-pog-ra-fee/ *n* the art of printing. • *n typographer.*

**tyrannical** /tɪ'rænɪkəl/, /ti-ran-ic-al/, **tyrannous** /'tɪrænəs/, /ti-ran-us/ *adjs* cruel, ruling unjustly.

**tyrannize** /'tɪrənaɪz/, /ti-ra-nize/ *vb, also tyrannise* to use power cruelly or unjustly.

**tyrannosaurus** /tɪ'rænə'sɔːrəs/, /ti-ran-o-saw-rus/ *n* a very large meat-eating dinosaur that walked on its hind legs and had two small front legs.

**tyranny** /'tɪrəni/, /ti-ra-nee/ *n* cruel or unjust use of power.

**tyrant** /'taɪrənt/, /tie-rant/ *n 1* a person who uses power cruelly. *2* an unjust ruler.

**tyre** /taɪr/, /tire/ *n, also tire (US)* a ring of iron or rubber around the outside rim of a wheel.

**tsar** /tsar, zar/, /zar/ see **tsar**. • *f tsarina.*

# U

**U, u /ju:/, /yoo/** the 21st letter of the English alphabet.

**ubiquitous** /ju:'bɪkwɪtəs/, /yoo-bi-kwi-tus/ *adj* being or seeming to be in more than one place at the same time, seemingly occurring everywhere. • *n ubiquity*.

**U-boat** /'ju:bɔ:t/, /yoo-boat/ *n* a German submarine.

**udder** /'ʌdər/, /u-der/ *n* the organ containing the milk-producing gland of a cow, sheep, etc.

**UFO** /ju:ɛf'o:/, /yoo-ef-oa/ *abbr* = **unidentified flying object**: a strange, unidentified object seen in the sky, believed by some people to be an alien spacecraft.

**ugly** /'ʌgli/, /ug-lee/ *adj* 1 unpleasant to see or hear. 2 unpleasant, dangerous. • *n ugliness*.

**ukulele** /ju:kə'leɪli/, /yoo-ca-lay-lee/ *n* a stringed musical instrument similar to a guitar played by plucking the strings.

**ulcer** /'ʌlsər/, /ul-sur/ *n* an open, painful sore on the skin, or inside the mouth or stomach.

**ulcerated** /'ʌlsəreɪtəd/, /ul-su-ray-tid/, **ulcerous** /'ʌlsərəs/, /ul-su-russ/ *adj* having an ulcer or ulcers.

**ulna** /'ʌlnə/, /ul-na/ *n* the larger of the two bones of the forearm in humans, on the opposite side from the thumb.

**ulterior** /'ʌl'ti:rɪər/, /ul-ti-ree-ur/ *adj* further, secret, hidden.

**ulterior motive** /'ʌl'ti:rɪər 'mo:tiv/, /ul-ti-ree-ur mo-tiv/ *n* a reason for action that one does not make known to others.

**ultimate** /'ʌltɪmət/, /ul-ti-mit/ *adj* 1 last, final. 2 greatest or highest possible.

**ultimately** /'ʌltɪmətlɪ/, /ul-ti-mit-lee/ *adv* in the end.

**ultimatum** /'ʌltɪ'meɪtəm/, /ul-ti-may-tum/ *n* (*pl ultimatums or ultimata*) a last offer of conditions, to be followed, if refused, by action without more discussion.

**ultra-** /'ʌltrə/, /ul-tra/ *prefix* 1 very, extremely. 2 beyond.

**ultramarine** /'ʌltrəmə'reɪn/, /ul-tra-ma-reen/ *n* a deep blue colour. • also *adj.*

**ultrasound** /'ʌltrə'saʊnd/, /ul-tra-sound/ *n* the use of ultrasonic waves to form images of inside the body.

**ultraviolet** /'ʌltrə'veiələt/, /ul-tra-vie-lit/ *adj* having to do with a kind of radiation present in sunlight that is harmful to the eyes and skin, the wavelengths of which are shorter than violet light.

**ultravirus** /'ʌltrə'veɪrəs/, /ul-tra-vie-rus/ *n* a virus so small that it can pass through even the finest filters.

**umber** /'embər/, /um-ber/ *n* a reddish brown colour.

**umbilicus** /əm'bilikəs, ʌmbɪ'lɪkəs/, /um-bi-li-cus/ *n* (pl **umbilici**) the navel. • *adj umbilical.*

**umbrage** /'embrɪdʒ/, /um-bridge/ *n*: **take umbrage** to be offended or made angry by.

**umbrella** /əm'brelə/, /um-bre-la/ *n* a folding frame covered with waterproof material that can be opened out and held over the head at the end of a stick as protection against rain.

**umpire** /'əmpaɪr/, /um-pire/ *n* a person who acts as judge in a dispute or contest, a referee.

**umpteen** /'əmpti:n/, /um-teen/ *adj* a great number of, a great many. • *adj umpteenth.*

**un-** /ən/, /un/ *prefix* not.

**unabashed** /'ənə'bæʃd/, /u-na-basht/ *adj* not ashamed, not put off, confident.

**unable** /'ənə'eibəl/, /u-nay-bul/ *adj* not able; lacking the ability, means or power to do something.

**unabridged** /'ənə'brɪdʒd/, /u-na-bridgd/ *adj* not shortened, complete.

**unacceptable** /'ənæk'septəbəl/, /un-ak-sep-ta-bul/ *adj* unwelcome, not good enough to be acceptable.

**unaccommodating** /'ənæk'kɒmədeɪtɪŋ/, /un-a-com-a-day-ting/ *adj* not ready to oblige.

**unaccountable** /'ənæk'kaʊntəbəl/, /u-na-coun-ta-bul/ *adj* that cannot be explained.

**unaccustomed** /'ənæk'stəmd/, /u-na-cu-stumd/ *adj* not usual.

**unacknowledged** /ʌnæk'nɔːlɪdʒd/, /u-nak-nol-idgd/ *adj* not recognized, ignored.

**unaffected** /ʌnə'fektəd/, /u-na-fec-tid/ *adj* 1 simple, sincere. 2 unmoved.

**unanimous** /ju:'nænɪməs/, /yoo-na-ni-mus/ *adj* 1 being all of the same opinion. 2 agreed to by all present.

**unapproachable** /ʌnə'prɒtʃəbəl/, /u-na-pro-cha-bul/ *adj* unfriendly in manner.

**unarmed** /ʌn'ɑːrmɪd/, /u-narmd/ *adj* having no weapons, especially firearms or armour.

**unassuming** /ʌnə'sumɪŋ, -sju:-/, /u-na-soo-ming/ *adj* modest, not boastful.

**unauthorized** /ʌn'aθəraɪzd/, /un-aw-thu-riezd/ *adj*, *also unauthorised* done without permission.

**unaware** /ʌnə'wɛr/, /u-na-ware/ *adj* not knowing, ignorant.

**unawares** /ʌnə'wɛrz/, /u-na-wayrz/ *adv* unexpectedly.

**unbearable** /ʌn'bɛrəbəl/, /un-bay-ra-bul/ *adj* that cannot be borne; that cannot be accepted or allowed.

**unbecoming** /ʌn'bɛk'mɪŋ/, /un-bi-cu-ming/ *adj* not suitable, not proper, unattractive.

**unbeliever** /ʌnbi'lɪvər/, /un-bi-lee-ver/ *n* a person who does not believe in the accepted religion.

**unbend** /ʌn'bend/, /un-bend/ *vb* 1 to make straight. 2 to behave in a more friendly way.

**unbiased** /ʌn'baɪəst/, /un-bi-ast/ *adj* fair to all parties, just.

**unblock** /ʌn'blɒk/, /un-block/ *vb* to remove a block from.

**unbounded** /ʌn'baʊndəd/, /un-boun-did/ *adj* great, without limits.

**unbridled** /ʌn'braiðəld/, /un-brie-duld/ *adj* uncontrolled.

**unburden** /ʌn'bərdən/, /un-bur-din/ *vb* 1 (*frm*) to take a load off. 2 to tell about something that has caused worry or anxiety.

**unbutton** /ʌn'bʌtən/, /un-bu-tin/ *vb* to unfasten the button or buttons of something.

**uncalled-for** /ʌn'kɔːld fɔːr/, /un-cawl'd-fawr/ *adj* not required; unnecessary and rude.

**uncanny** /ʌn'kæni/, /un-ca-nee/ *adj* strange, mysterious.

**uncap** /ʌn'kæp/, /un-cap/ *vb* to remove the cap from.

**uncertain** /ʌn'sərtən/, /un-ser-tin/ *adj* 1 not sure. 2 doubtful. • *n uncertainty*.

**uncharitable** /ʌn'tʃærɪtəbəl/, /un-cha-ri-ta-bul/ *adj* harsh, severe, unkind, ungenerous.

**unclasp** /ʌn'klæsp/, /un-clasp/ *vb* to unfasten the clasp of.

**uncle** /'ʌŋkəl/, /un-cul/ *n* 1 the brother of a person's father or mother. 2 the husband of a person's aunt.

**uncoil** /ʌn'kɔɪl/, /un-coil/ *vb* to unwind.

**uncomfortable** /ʌn'kəmfərbəl/, /un-cumf-ta-bul/ *adj* 1 uneasy. 2 giving no comfort.

**uncommunicative** /ʌnkə'mju:nikətiv/, /un-cu-myoo-ni-cay-tiv/ *adj* not speaking much to others.

**uncomplimentary** /ʌn,kəmpli'mentəri/, /un-com-pli-men-tree/ *adj* critical, insulting.

**uncompromising** /ʌn'kəmprə'maɪzɪŋ/, /un-com-pru-mise-ing/ *adj* firm, not ready to give in.

**unconcerned** /ʌnkən'sernd/, /un-cun-sernd/ *adj* 1 unmoved. 2 uninterested.

**unconditional** /ʌnkən'dɪʃənəl/, /un-cun-dish-nal/ *adj* without conditions.

**unconscious** /ʌn'kənʃəs/, /un-con-shus/ *adj* 1 not knowing, unaware.

2 stunned, as by a blow to the head, and so unaware of what is going on.

**unconstitutional** /ʌnkənstrɪ'tu:ʃənəl/, /un-con-sti-too-shnal/ *adj* against the principles of the constitution of a country or the rules of an organization.

**unconventional** /ʌnkən'venʃənəl/, /un-cun-ven-shnal/ *adj* not bound by custom, natural, free and easy.

**uncouth** /ʌn'ku:θ/, /un-cooth/ *adj* rough in manner, awkward, clumsy.

**uncover** /ʌn'kevər/, /un-cu-ver/ *vb* to make known, to reveal.

**uncultivated** /ʌn'kəltɪ'vertəd/, /un-cul-ti-vay-tid/ *adj* 1 not prepared for crops. 2 uncivilized, crude.

**undaunted** /ʌn'daʊntəd/, /un-dawn-tid/ *adj* bold, fearless.

**undecided** /ʌndɪ'saɪdəd/, /un-di-sie-did/ *adj* not having made up the mind, doubtful.

**undemonstrative** /ʌndɪ'mɒnstrətɪv/, /un-di-mon-stra-tiv/ *adj* not showing feelings, calm by nature.

**undeniable** /ʌndə'naiəbəl/, /un-di-nie-a-bul/ *adj* that cannot be argued against, certain.

**under** /'endər/, /un-der/ *prep* 1 below. 2 beneath. 3 subject to. 4 less good than. • *adv* in a lower condition, degree, or place. • *pref* **under-** in, on, to, or from a lower place or side, beneath or below.

**underachieve** /'endərə'tʃi:v/, /un-der-a-cheev/ *vb* to fail to do as well as expected, as in school classes.

**underage** /'endə'reɪdʒ/, /un-der-ayj/ *adj* below the age required by law.

**underarm** /'endərərm/, /un-der-arm/ *adj* of, for, in, or used on the area under the arm or the armpit.

**underbelly** /'endər,bəli/, /un-der-be-lee/ *n* 1 the lower part of an animal's belly. 2 any unprotected area.

**undercarriage** /'endər,kərɪdʒ/, /un-der-ca-ridge/ *n* the wheels or other parts on the underside of an aircraft needed for landing.

**underclothes** /'endər,klo:z, -klo:ðz/, /un-der-cloathz/, **underclothing**, /un-der-cloathe-ing/ *n* clothes worn under others or next to the skin; underwear.

**undercoat** /'endər,ko:t/, /un-der-coat/ *n* 1 a layer of short hair or fur under the longer hair or fur on an animal's coat. 2 also **undercoating** a coating, like a primer, which prepares a surface for another layer of paint, varnish etc.

**undercover** /'endər'kevər, 'en-/ , /un-der-cu-ver/ *adj* acting or carried out in secret.

**undercurrent** /'endər,kərənt/, /un-der-cu-rint/ *n* 1 a current, as of air or water, flowing beneath the surface. 2 an influence or popular feeling that cannot easily be noticed.

**undercut** /'endər'kət/, /un-der-cut/ *vb* to offer to sell at a lower price.

**underdog** /'endər,dɒg/, /un-der-dawg/ *n* a person or group that is expected to lose.

**underdone** /'ʌndər'dən/, /un-der-dun/ *adj* not sufficiently cooked, lightly cooked.

**underestimate** /'ʌndər'ɛst̬əmeɪt/, /un-der-e-sti-mate/ *vb* to have too low an opinion of.

**undergo** /'ʌndər'gəʊ/, /un-der-go/ *vb* to bear, to suffer.

**undergraduate** /'ʌndər'grædʒuət/, /un-der-gra-ju-wit/ *n* a university student who has not yet earned a degree. • *also adj.*

**underground** /'ʌndər'graʊnd/, /un-der-ground/ *adj and adv* 1 beneath the ground. 2 secret. • *n* /un-der-ground/ 1 a place below the surface of the earth. 2 a railway running through underground tunnels.

**undergrowth** /'ʌndər,gro:θ/, /un-der-groath/ *n* shrubs and low bushes growing among trees.

**underhand** /'ʌndər,hænd/, /un-der-hand/ *adj* sly, secret, dishonest.

**underline** /'ʌndər,lain/, /un-der-line/ *vb* 1 to draw a line under. 2 to emphasize.

**undermine** /'ʌndər,maɪn/, /un-der-mine/ *vb* 1 to make holes underground. 2 to destroy gradually, to seek to harm by underhand methods.

**underneath** /'ʌndər'ni:θ/, /un-der-neeth/ *adv* under, below, beneath, on the underside.

**underpants** /'ʌndər,pænts/, /un-der-pants/ *n* underwear for the lower part of the body, long or short, with two openings for the legs.

**underpass** /'ʌndər,pæs/, /un-der-pass/ *n* part of a road or footpath that goes underneath a road or railway.

**underrate** /'ʌndər'reɪt/, /un-der-rate/ *vb* to have too low an opinion of.

**undersell** /'ʌndər'sel/, /un-der-sell/ *vb* to sell at a lower price.

**undersized** /'ʌndər,saɪzd/, /un-der-siezd/ *adj* less than the normal size, very small.

**understand** /'ʌndər'stænd/, /un-der-stand/ *vb (pt, pp understood)* 1 to see the meaning of. 2 to know thoroughly. 3 to work out the truth from what has been said.

**understanding** /'ʌndər'stændɪŋ/, /un-der-stan-ding/ *n* 1 intelligence, powers of judgment. 2 an agreement, especially an unwritten one.

• *adj* sympathetic and kind.

**understate** /'ʌndər'steɪt/, /un-der-state/ *vb* to talk of something as smaller or less important than it really is. • *n understatement*.

**understudy** /'ʌndər,stədi/, /un-der-stu-dee/ *n* an actor or actress who learns the same part as another to be able to take his or her place if necessary.

**undertake** /'ʌndər'teɪk/, /un-der-take/ *vb* (**undertook**, **undertaken**) to take upon oneself to do, to attempt.

**undertaker** /'ʌndər,teɪkər/, /un-der-tay-ker/ *n* a funeral director.

**undertaking** /'ʌndər,teɪkɪŋ/, /un-der-tay-king/ *n* 1 a task. 2 a promise.

**undertow** /'ʌndər,to:/, /un-der-toe/ *n* the backward flow of water after a wave breaks on the shore, an undercurrent.

**underwear** /'ʌndər,wɛr/, /un-der-ware/ *n* underclothes.

**underworld** /'ʌndər,wɜːld/, /un-der-wurld/ *n* 1 the mythical place to which the spirits of people go after death. 2 those members of society who live by violence and crime.

**undid** *pt of undo*.

**undies** /'ʌndi:z/, /un-deez/ *n* (*inf*) underwear.

**undisguised** /'ʌndɪs'gaɪzd/, /un-dis-giezd/ *adj* open, not hidden.

**undisturbed** /'ʌndɪs'tɜːrbd/, /un-di-sturbd/ *adj* calm, tranquil.

**undo** /ən'du:/, /un-doo/ *vb* (**undid**, **undone**) to reverse what has been done, to untie or unfasten, to ruin.

**undoing** /ən'du:ɪŋ/, /un-doo-ing/ *n* ruin.

**undone** /ən'dən/, /un-dun/ *pp of undo*. • *adj* 1 not done. 2 ruined.

**undoubted** /ən'daʊtəd/, /un-dou-tid/ *adj* certain, undeniable.

**undress** /ən'dres/, /un-dress/ *vb* 1 to take your clothes off. 2 to take off the clothes of.

**undue** /ən'du:/, ən'dju:/, /un-doo/, un-dyoo/ *adj* greater than is necessary.

**undulate** /'ʌndʒu,leɪt/, /un-ju-late/ *vb* 1 to rise and fall like waves. 2 to have a wavy appearance.

**unduly** /ən'dju:li/, /un-dyoo-lee/ *adv* more than is necessary, excessively.

**unearth** /ən'ərθ/, /un-erth/ *vb* 1 to discover by searching. 2 to dig up.

**unearthly** /ən'ərθli/, /un-erth-lee/ *adj* weird, supernatural, ghostly.

**uneasy** /ʌn'i:zi/, /un-ee-zee/ *adj* uncomfortable, worried, anxious.

**unemployed** /ʌnəm'plɔɪd/, /un-im-ployd/ *adj* having no paid job, out of work.

**unemployment** /ʌnəm'plɔɪmənt/, /un-im-ploy-mint/ *n* the state of not having a job.

**unequivocal** /ʌnə'kwɪvəkəl/, /un-i-kwi-vu-cal/ *adj* clear, that cannot be misunderstood.

**unerring** /ʌn'ærɪŋ, -'ərɪŋ/, /un-er-ing/ *adj* true, going straight to the target.

**uneven** /ʌn'i:vən/, /un-ee-vin/ *adj* 1 not flat, not smooth. 2 sometimes not as good as at other times.

**unfailing** /ʌn'feɪlɪŋ/, /un-fay-ling/ *adj* sure, reliable.

**unfamiliar** /ʌnfə'miljər/, /un-fa-mil-yar/ *adj* strange.

**unfasten** /ʌn'fæsən/, /un-fa-sin/ *vb* to undo, to unfix, to set loose.

**unfathomable** /ʌn'fæðəməbəl/, /un-fa-thu-ma-bul/ *adj* 1 very deep. 2 mysterious.

**unfetter** /ʌn'fetər/, /un-fet-ur/ *vb* to free from restraint of any kind. • *adj unfettered*.

**unforeseen** /ʌn'fɔ:r'si:n/, /un-fur-seen/ *adj* unexpected.

**unfortunate** /ʌn'fɔ:tʃənət/, /un-fawr-chew-nit/ *adj* unlucky.

**unfounded** /ʌn'faundəd/, /un-foun-did/ *adj* not based on fact.

**unfurl** /ʌn'fɜrl/, /un-furl/ *vb* to spread out.

**ungainly** /ʌn'geɪnli/, /un-gane-lee/ *adj* clumsy, awkward.

**ungodly** /ʌn'gɑ:dli/, /un-god-lee/ *adj* not religious, sinful, wicked.

**ungrateful** /ʌn'greɪtfəl/, /un-grate-ful/ *adj* not showing due thanks.

**unhappiness** /ʌn'hæpɪnəs/, /un-ha-pee-ness/ *n* misfortune, misery.

**unhappy** /ʌn'hæpi/, /un-ha-pee/ *adj* 1 miserable, sad. 2 unlucky.

**unhealthy** /ʌn'hɛlθi/, /un-helth-ee/ *adj* 1 not having good health. 2 bad for health. 3 having a bad influence.

**uni-** /'ju:nɪ/, /yoo-nee/ *prefix* having or consisting only of one.

**unicorn** /ju:nɪkɔrn/, /yoo-ni-cawrn/ *n* in fables, an animal like a horse with a single straight horn on its head.

**unicycle** /'ju:nɪsɔɪkəl/, /yoo-ni-sie-cul/ *n* a one-wheeled cycle straddled by the rider who pushes its peddles.

**uniform** /'ju:nɪfɔrm/, /yoo-ni-fawrm/ *adj* **1** unchanging. **2** of one kind, shape, size, etc. • *n* distinctive clothing worn by all members of the same organization, institution, etc.

**unify** /'ju:nɪfaɪ/, /yoo-ni-fie/ *vb* to unite, to form into one. • *n* **unification**.

**unilateral** /ju:nɪ'lætərəl/, /yoo-ni-la-tu-rul/ *adj* affecting one side or party only.

**unintentional** /,ənɪn'tenʃənl/, /un-in-ten-shnal/ *adj* not done on purpose.

**union** /'ju:njən/, /yoon-yun/ *n* **1** a putting together to make one. **2** act of joining together. **3** a trade union.

**unique** /ju:'ni:k/, /yoo-neek/ *adj* being the only one of its kind, unequalled.

**unisex** /'ju:nɪsɛks/, /yoo-ni-seks/ *adj* designed for use by both men and women, not for one particular sex.

**unison** /'ju:nisən/, /yoo-ni-sun/ *n* agreement. • **in unison** all at the same time together.

**unit** /'ju:nit/, /yoo-nit/ *n* **1** the number one. **2** a single person, thing, or group. **3** a fixed amount, etc, taken as a standard in measuring.

**unite** /ju'nait/, /yoo-nite/ *vb* **1** to make or become one. **2** to join, to act or work together.

**unity** /'ju:niti/, /yoo-ni-tee/ *n* **1** oneness. **2** agreement.

**universal** /ju:nɪ'versəl/, /yoo-ni-ver-sal/ *adj* **1** total, whole. **2** affecting all, done by everyone. • *adv* **universally**.

**universality** /ju:nɪ'versəlɪti/, /yoo-ni-ver-sa-li-tee/ *n* the state of being universal.

**universe** /'ju:nɪ'vers/, /yoo-ni-verse/ *n* **1** the whole of creation. **2** the world.

**university** /ju:nɪ'versiti/, /yoo-ni-ver-si-tee/ *n* a place of higher education in which advanced study in all branches of knowledge is carried on, and by which degrees are awarded to those showing proper achievement in their subjects.

**unjust** /ən'dʒəst/, /un-just/ *adj* unfair, dishonest, not just.

**unkempt** /ən'kempt/, /un-kempt/ *adj* (of hair) uncombed.

**unlawful** /ən'lɔ:fəl/, /un-law-ful/ *adj* against the law, illegal.

**unleaded** /ʌn'leɪdəd/, /un-**led**-id/ *adj* not containing lead compounds, said of petrol.

**unleavened** /ʌn'levənd/, /un-**le**-vend/ *adj* not mixed with yeast.

**unless** /ən'les, ən'lɛs/, /un-**less**/ *conj* if not, except that.

**unlimited** /ʌn'limɪtəd/, /un-**li**-mi-tid/ *adj* as much as is wanted, that cannot be used up.

**unload** /ʌn'lɔ:d/, /un-**load**/ *vb* to remove the load or burden from.

**unlucky** /ʌn'lʌki/, /un-**lu**-kee/ *adj* unfortunate.

**unmask** /ʌn'mæsk/, /un-**mask**/ *vb* to remove a mask or disguise from.

**unmentionable** /ʌn'menʃənəbəl/, /un-**men**-shna-bul/ *adj* unfit to be mentioned, especially in polite conversation.

**unmitigated** /ʌn'mɪtɪgeɪtəd/, /un-**mi**-ti-gay-tid/ *adj* complete, with no good qualities, thorough.

**unmoved** /ʌn'mu:vд/, /un-**moovd**/ *adj* firm, calm, not affected.

**unnerve** /ʌn'nərv/, /un-**nerv**/ *vb* to take away the strength or courage of.

**unobtrusive** /ʌnəb'tru:siv/, /un-nub-**troo**-siv/ *adj* not attracting attention, modest.

**unoccupied** /ʌn'ɒkjupaid/, /un-**oc**-yu-pied/ *adj* empty.

**unorthodox** /ʌn'ɔrθədɒks/, /un-**or**-thu-doks/ *adj* holding unusual views, differing from the accepted view.

**unpack** /ʌn'pæk/, /un-**pack**/ *vb* to open and removed the packed contents of.

**unpalatable** /ʌn'pælætəbəl/, /un-**pa**-la-ta-bul/ *adj* 1 unpleasant to taste. 2 unpleasant.

**unpopular** /ʌn'pɒpjʊlər/, /un-**pop**-yu-lar/ *adj* widely disliked.

**unparalleled** /ʌn'pərə,ləld/, /un-**par**-a-leld/ *adj* that has no equal, unmatched.

**unprecedented** /ʌn'prese,dəntəd/, /un-**pre**-su-den-tid/ *adj* without a previous example of the same kind.

**unprejudiced** /ʌn'predʒudist/, /un-**pre**-ju-dist/ *adj* fair, showing favour to no one.

**unpremeditated** /ʌnpri:'mediteɪtəd/, /un-pree-med-i-tay-tid/ *adj* done without forethought.

**unprepossessing** /ʌnpri:pə'zɛsɪŋ/, /un-pre-pu-ze-sing/ *adj* unattractive at first sight.

**unpretentious** /ʌnprə'tenʃəs/, /un-pri-ten-shus/ *adj* modest, not attracting attention.

**unprincipled** /ʌn'prɪnsɪpəld/, /un-prin-si-puld/ *adj* immoral, wicked, recognizing no standards of right or wrong.

**unproductive** /ʌnprə'dʌktɪv/, /un-pru-duc-tiv/ *adj* 1 yielding no crops, etc. 2 giving no profit.

**unprofessional** /ʌnprə'feʃənl/, /un-pru-fesh-nal/ *adj* against the rules or customs of a profession.

**unqualified** /ən'kwɒlfɪəd/, /un-kwawl-i-fied/ *adj* 1 not having the necessary training or skill. 2 complete.

**unquestionable** /ən'kwestʃənəbəl/, /un-kwes-chu-na-bul/ *adj* undoubted, certain.

**unravel** /ən'rævəl/, /un-ra-vel/ *vb* 1 to untangle. 2 to solve.

**unrelenting** /ənrl'lentɪŋ/, /un-ri-len-ting/ *adj* refusing to yield.

**unrelieved** /ənrl'lɪ:vɪd/, /un-ri-leevd/ *adj* 1 without relief. 2 lacking variety.

**unremitting** /ənrl'mɪtɪŋ/, /un-ri-mi-ting/ *adj* without pause, ceaseless.

**unrequited** /ənrl'kwəɪtəd/, /un-ri-kwie-tid/ *adj* not rewarded, not returned.

**unresolved** /ənrl'zolvɪd/, /un-ri-zolvd/ *adj* not settled, undecided.

**unrest** /ən'rest/, /un-rest/ *n* discontent, rebellion.

**unruly** /ən'rulɪ/, /un-roo-lee/ *adj* disorderly, badly behaved.

**unsavoury** /ən'seɪvəri/, /un-save-ree/ *adj*, also **unsavory** (US) unpleasant, nasty, unacceptable.

**unscathed** /ən'skeɪðd/, /un-scaythd/ *adj* unhurt.

**unscrupulous** /ən'skrʊ:pjuləs/, /un-scroo-pyu-lus/ *adj* having no standards of good and evil, wicked.

**unseemly** /ən'si:mli/, /un-seem-lee/ *adj* not fitting, improper.

**unsettle** /ən'setəl/, /un-se-tul/ *vb* to upset, to disturb.

**unsheathe** /ən'si:ð/, /un-sheethe/ *vb* to draw from a sheath or holder.

- unsightly** /ən'saɪtli/, /un-**sight**-lee/ *adj* ugly, unpleasant to look at.
- unskilled** /ən'skɪld/, /un-**skill**/ *adj* having no special skill or training.
- unsociable** /ən'so:səbəl/, /un-**so-sha-bul**/ *adj* avoiding others, not sociable, unfriendly.
- unsolicited** /ʌnsə'lɪsɪtəd/, /un-su-**li-si-tid**/ *adj* not asked for.
- unsophisticated** /ʌnsə'fɪstɪ,keɪtəd/, /un-su-**fi-sti-cay-tid**/ *adj* simple, natural, innocent.
- unsound** /ən'saʊnd/, /un-**sound**/ *adj* 1 not healthy. 2 faulty.
- unspeakable** /ən'spi:kəbəl/, /un-**spee-ca-bul**/ *adj* better or worse than can easily be expressed in words.
- unstudied** /ən'stədɪd/, /un-**stu-deed**/ *adj* natural, without having tried, not got by study.
- unsuspecting** /ənsə'spektɪŋ/, /un-su-**spec-ting**/ *adj* free from fear of danger or evil, trusting.
- untangle** /ən'tæŋgəl/, /un-**tang-gul**/ *vb* to free from a snarl, to free from confusion.
- unthinkable** /ən'θɪŋkəbəl/, /un-**thing-ka-bul**/ *adj* beyond the ability to understand or imagine.
- unthinking** /ən'θɪŋkɪŋ/, /un-**thing-king**/ *adj* showing lack of thought, attention, or consideration.
- untie** /ən'tai/, /un-**tie**/ *vb* to loosen, undo, or unfasten something tied or knotted.
- until** /ən'til/, /un-**til**/ *prep* up to the time of. • *conj* up to the time when.
- untimely** /ən'taɪmli/, /un-**time-lee**/ *adj* happening at a wrong or an inconvenient time.
- untold** /ən'to:lд/, /un-**toald**/ *adj* 1 not related, not told. 2 vast.
- untouchable** /ən'tətʃəbəl/, /un-**tu-cha-bul**/ *n* 1 a person or thing that cannot be touched. 2 a member of the lowest Hindu caste, whom a higher-caste Hindu may not touch.
- untoward** /əntə'wɔrd/, /un-**tu-wawrd**/ *adj* awkward, unsuitable, undesirable.
- untrue** /ən'tru:/, /un-**troo**/ *adj* 1 not true. 2 not loyal, faithless.
- untruth** /ən'tru:θ/, /un-**trooth**/ *n (fm)* a lie, a falsehood.
- untruthful** /ən'tru:θfʊl/, /un-**trooth-ful**/ *adj* given to lying.

**unusual** /ʌn'ju:ʒu:əl/, /un-yoozh-wal/ *adj* rare, peculiar, strange.

**unutterable** /ʌn'etərəbəl/, /un-u-tu-ra-bul/ *adj* that cannot be described in words.

**unveil** /ʌn'veil/, /un-vale/ *vb* to uncover, to reveal, to disclose to view.

**unwelcome** /ʌn'welkəm/, /un-wel-cum/ *adj* not gladly received.

**unwell** /ʌn'wel/, /un-wel/ *adj* ill; sick.

**unwieldy** /ʌn'wi:ldi/, /un-weel-dee/ *adj* 1 huge. 2 hard to move. 3 clumsy.

**unwilling** /ʌn'wilinj/, /un-wi-ling/ *adj* not willing, reluctant.

**unwind** /ʌn'waɪnd/, /un-winde/ *vb* to undo, to straighten out, to make relaxed or less tense.

**unwitting** /ʌn'wɪtɪŋ/, /un-wi-ting/ *adj* not knowing.

**unworldly** /ʌn'wɜːldli/, /un-wurld-lee/ *adj* 1 not interested in things in this life. 2 lacking experience of public life.

**unworthy** /ʌn'wɜːði/, /un-wur-thee/ *adj* 1 not deserving. 2 dishonourable.

**unwrap** /ʌn'ræp/, /un-rap/ *vb* to open, to take off the wrapping.

**unzip** /ʌn'zip/, /un-zip/ *vb* to open a zip, to separate the edges by opening a zip.

**up** /ʌp/, /up/ *adv* 1 in or to a higher place, amount, etc. 2 above. • *prep* to, towards, or at a higher place on or in.

**up-** /ʌp/, /up/ *prefix* combining form to suggest an upward movement.

**up-and-coming** /ʌpən'kəmɪŋ/, /up-and-cu-ming/ *adj* gaining in importance or status, promising.

**upbeat** /'ʌpbɪ:t/, /up-beet/ *n* 1 an upward trend. 2 in music, an unaccented beat, especially on the last note of a bar. • *adj* positive, optimistic, cheerful.

**upbringing** /'ʌp,brɪŋgɪŋ/, /up-bring-ing/ *n* a person's early training at home and school.

**upcoming** /'ʌp'kəmɪŋ/, /up-cum-ing/ *adj* happening soon.

**upcountry** /ep'kəntri, 'ep-/-, /up-cun-tree/ *adj* of or located in the central part of a country, inland.

**update** /'ʌpdeɪt/, /up-date/ *vb* to bring up to date, to make aware of the most recent facts. • *also n /up-date/.*

**upend** /'ʌp'end/, /up-end/ *vb* to set or turn on end.

**upfield** /'ʌp'fiːld/, /up-field/ *adv, adj* into, towards, or in the opposite end of the field.

**upfront** /'ʌp'frənt/, /up-frunt/ *adj* very honest and open.

**upgrade** /'ʌpgrɛɪd/, /up-grade/ *n* 1 an upward slope, especially in a road. 2 an improvement of the position or status of something. • *also vb.*

**upheaval** /'ʌp'hiːvəl/, /up-hee-val/ *n* 1 the pushing up of part of the earth's surface by forces below it. 2 a great change.

**uphill** /'əphɪl/, /up-hill/ *adv* in an upward direction. • *adj* 1 sloping upward. 2 very difficult.

**uphold** /'ʌp'hoːld/, /up-hoald/ *vb* 1 to support. 2 to defend as correct.

**upholster** /'ʌp'o:lstər/, /up-hole-ster/ *vb* to provide (chairs, sofas, etc.) with springs, stuffing, covering, etc. • *n upholstery.* • *n upholsterer.*

**upkeep** /'ʌpkɪ:p/, /up-keep/ *n* 1 the money needed to keep anything in good condition. 2 the act of keeping in good health or condition.

**upland** /'ʌplænd/, /up-land/ *n* land above other land, as along a river.

**uplift** /'ʌp'lifɪt/, /up-lift/ *vb* 1 to raise. 2 to make to think of higher things. • *n /up-lift/ the act or process of lifting up.*

**upload** /'ʌp'lifɪt/, /up-load/ *vb* to load or transfer a file or program from a personal computer to a central computer.

**upon** /ə'pɒn/, /up-on/ *adv* on, used only for completing a verb.

**upper** /'ʌpər/, /up-er/ *adj* higher in place or rank. • *n the upper part of a shoe.*

**uppercase** /'ʌpər'keɪs/, /up-er-case/ *n* capital-letter type used in printing, rather than lower case or small letters.

**uppercut** /'ʌpərkʌt/, /up-er-cut/ *n* in boxing, a short, swinging blow directed upward towards the chin.

**uppermost** /'ʌpər'moːst/, /up-er-moast/ *adj* highest in place or rank.

**upright** /'ʌprɔɪt/, /up-rite/ *adj* 1 standing straight up. 2 honest. • *n a vertical post.*

**uprising** /'ʌp'reɪzɪŋ/, /up-rie-zing/ *n* the action of rising up, as in a rebelling against the government.

**upriver** /əp'rɪvər/, /up-ri-ver/ *adj, adv* towards the source of a river.

**uproar** /'əprɔ:r/, /up-roar/ *n* loud, confused noise. • *adj uproarious.*

**uproot** /əp'rʊ:t/, /up-root/ *vb* to tear up by the roots.

**upset** /əp'set/, /up-set/ *vb* 1 to overturn, to knock over. 2 to spoil completely. 3 to cause to be sad, worried, etc. • *adj* 1 worried. 2 ill. • *n* /up-set/ 1 disturbance. 2 trouble. 3 a sudden misfortune.

**upset price** /'əpsɛt ˈpraɪs/, /up-set price/ *n* the minimum price something can be sold for at an auction.

**upshot** /'əpʃət/, /up-shot/ *n* result, outcome.

**upside** /'əpsaɪd/, /up-side/ *n* the upper side or part.

**upside-down** /əpsaɪd'daʊn/, /up-side-down/ *adv* with the top down and the bottom upward.

**upstage** /əp'steɪdʒ/, /up-stage/ *adv* towards or at the rear of a stage.

• *also adj.* • *vb* to draw the attention of the audience away from a fellow actor/actress and put the focus on oneself.

**upstairs** /əp'steɪz/, /up-stares/ *adv* on an upper floor of a house with stairs.

**upstanding** /əp'stændɪŋ/, /up-stan-ding/ *adj* 1 standing straight. 2 upright in character and behaviour.

**upstart** /'əpstart/, /up-start/ *n* a person who has risen quickly to a position of wealth or importance.

**upstream** /'əpst्रɪ:m/, /up-streem/ *adv, adj* in the direction against the current of a stream.

**uptight** /əp'teɪt/, /up-tite/ *adj* tense and worried.

**up-to-date** /'əptə'deɪt/, /up-tu-date/ *adj* containing the most recent information.

**upward** /'əpwərd/, /up-ward/ *adj, adv* towards a higher place, position, degree, amount, etc.

**uranium** /ju'reniəm/, /yoo-ray-nee-um/ *n* a heavy, white, radioactive metal.

**Uranus** /ju'reɪnəs, 'jurən-/ , /yoo-ra-nus/ *n* the seventh planet away from the sun.

**urban** /'ərbən/, /ur-ban/ *adj* having to do with a city or city life.

**urbane** /ər'bēn/, /ur-bane/ *adj* polite, refined, smooth. • *n urbanity*.

**urchin** /'ərtʃɪn/, /ur-chin/ *n* 1 (*old*) a ragged, poor street boy. 2 a sea creature with a prickly shell.

**urethra** /ju'rɪ:θrə/, /yoo-ree-thra/ *n* the duct through which urine is passed through the body in most mammals.

**urge** /ərdʒ/, /urge/ *vb* 1 to press to do. 2 to suggest strongly.

**urgent** /ərdʒənt/, /ur-jent/ *adj* requiring to be done quickly or at once, needing immediate attention. • *n urgency*.

**urinal** /'jurənəl/, /yoo-ra-nul/, /yoo-rie-nul/ *n* a place for passing urine.

**urinate** /'jurəneɪt/ *vb* to pass fluid from the bladder.

**urine** /'jurɪn/, /yoo-rin/ *n* fluid passed from the kidneys and bladder. • *adj urinary* having to do with urine.

**urn** /ərn/, /urn/ *n* 1 a vase for the ashes of the dead. 2 a large container with a tap for making and serving tea or coffee.

**us** /əs/, /us/ *pron* 1 the speaker and one or more other people. 2 (*inf*) me (*give us a clue*). 3 ourselves.

**usable** /'ju:səbəl/, /yoo-za-bul/ *adj* that can be used.

**usage** /'ju:sədʒ/, /yoo-sidge/ *n* treatment.

**use** /ju:z/, /yooz/ *vb* 1 to do something with for a purpose. 2 to employ. 3 to consume. • *n /yooss/* 1 the act of using, the state of being used. 2 advantage, benefit, value. 3 the power of using. 4 permission to use, the right to use. • **use up** to consume or exhaust, leaving nothing.

**useful** /'ju:sful/, /yoos-ful/ *adj* 1 of help. 2 able to be used.

**useless** /'ju:sləs/, /yoos-less/ *adj* 1 of no help. 2 not any use.

**user** /'ju:zər/, /yoo-zer/ *n* a person or thing that uses something.

**user-friendly** /ju:zə'rfrēndli:/, /yoo-zer-frend-lee/ *adj* designed to be used easily by a wide range of people who are not experts.

**usher** /'ʊʃər/, /u-sher/ *n* a person who meets people at the door (of a church, hall, etc.) and shows them to their seats. • *vb* to show in. • *f usherette*.

**usual** /'ju:ʒu:əl/, /yoo-zhoo-wal/ *adj* common, normal.

**usurer** /'ju:ʒərər/, /yoo-zhu-rer/ *n* a person whose business consists of lending money at high interest.

**usurp** /ju'sərp/, /yoo-surp/ *vb* to seize power or property to which one has no right. • *n usurpation*. • *n usurper*.

**usury** /'ju:ʒəri/, /yoo-zhu-ree/ *n (fml)* the lending of money at high interest.

**utensil** /ju:'tənsəl/, /yoo-ten-sil/ *n* a vessel or object in common household use, such as a fork or knife.

**uterine** /'ju:tərm/, /yoo-te-rine/ *adj* 1 of the uterus. 2 born of the same mother but not the same father, as in half-brother.

**uterus** /'ju:tərəs/, /yoo-te-rus/ *n* a female organ in mammals in which babies are developed; womb.

**utilitarian** /ju:tili'teriən/, /yoo-ti-li-tay-ree-an/ *n* a person who considers that a thing or action is good only if it is useful. • *also adj*.

**utilitarianism** /ju:tli'teriənizəm/, /yoo-ti-li-tay-ree-a-ni-zum/ *n* the belief that only what is useful is good.

**utility** /ju:tiliti/, /yoo-ti-li-tee/ *n* 1 usefulness. 2 benefit. 3 a public service.

**utilize** /'ju:tə,laɪz/, /yoo-ti-li-tize/ *vb*, also **utilise** to make use of.

**utmost** /'etmo:st/, /ut-moast/ *adj* 1 the farthest. 2 the greatest.

**utopia** /ju:tɔ:pia/, /yoo-toe-peeyah/ *n* an imaginary state in which everything is perfect.

**utopian** /ju:tɔ:piən/, /yoo-toe-peeyan/ *adj* perfect but impossible to achieve.

**utter<sup>1</sup>** /'etər/, /u-ter/ *adj* complete, total.

**utter<sup>2</sup>** /'etər/, /u-ter/ *vb* to speak, to pronounce.

**utterance** /'etərəns/, /u-ter-anse/ *n* 1 something said. 2 a way of speaking.

**uttermost** /'etərmo:st/, /u-ter-moast/ *adj* 1 farthest. 2 greatest.

**U-turn** /'ju:tərn/, /yoo-turn/ *n* 1 a turn made so as to head in the opposite direction. 2 a complete change in policy, ideas, etc.

**uvula** /'ju:vjulə/, /yoo-vyu-la/ *n* a small piece of flesh hanging inside the back of the mouth.

# V

**V, v** /vi:/, /vee/ the 22nd letter of the English alphabet.

**vacancy** /'veɪkənsi/, /vay-can-see/ *n* 1 an empty space. 2 a job to be filled.

**vacant** /'veɪkənt/, /vay-cant/ *adj* 1 empty, not occupied. 2 unthinking.

• *adv* **vacantly**.

**vacate** /'veɪkeɪt, və'keɪt/, /vay-cate/ *vb* 1 to leave empty. 2 to give up.

**vacation** /veɪ'keɪʃən/, /vay-cay-shun/ *n* 1 (esp. US) a holiday. 2 a period when university students take a break from their studies.

**vaccinate** /'vækstɪneɪt/, /vac-si-nate/ *vb* to inject with vaccine or with fluids giving protection against diseases. • *n* **vaccination**.

**vaccine** /væk'si:n, 'væksi:n/, /vac-seen, vac-seen/ *n* 1 fluid taken from a cow infected with cowpox and injected into a person's bloodstream to cause a mild attack of smallpox and so protect against worse attacks later. 2 a substance made from the germs that cause a particular disease and given to someone to prevent the disease.

**vacillate** /'væsɪleɪt/, /va-si-late/ *vb* to keep on changing your mind, to hesitate to come to a decision. • *n* **vacillation**.

**vacuous** /'vækju:əs/, /va-cyu-wus/ *adj* 1 empty, meaningless. 2 without expression.

**vacuum** /'vækju:m/, /va-cyoom/ *n* a space from which all the air has been taken.

**vacuum cleaner** /'vækju:m kli:nər/, /va-cyoom clee-ner/ *n* a machine that cleans carpets, etc, by sucking dust into a bag.

**vacuum flask** /'vækju:m flæsk/, /va-cyoom flask/ see **Thermos bottle**.

**vagabond** /'vægə,bɒnd/, /va-ga-bond/ *n* a person who wanders aimlessly from place to place. • *adj* wandering.

**vagary** /'veɪgəri/, /vay-ga-ree/ *n* a piece of odd or unexpected behaviour.

**vagina** /və'dʒaɪnə/, /va-jeye-na/ *n* in female mammals and humans, the canal connecting the uterus and the external sex organs.

**vagrant** /'veɪgrənt/, /vay-grant/ *adj* wandering. • *n* a wanderer or tramp. • *n* **vagrancy**.

**vague** /veɪg/, /vage/ *adj* not clear, not definite. • *adv* **vaguely**. • *n* **vagueness**.

**vain** /veɪn/, /vain/ *adj* 1 having no meaning or value. 2 too proud of yourself. 3 useless. • *adv* **vainly**. • **in vain** without result or effect.

**valance** /'væləns/, /va-lanse/ *n* a short piece of cloth hanging from a couch, bedstead, etc to the floor.

**vale** /veɪl/, /vale/ *n* (*fml*) a valley.

**valediction** /'vælə'dɪkʃən/, /va-li-dic-chun/ *n* (*fml*) a farewell. • *adj* **valedictory**. • *n* **valedictorian** (*US, Can*) one who makes a farewell speech at a graduation ceremony, *also adj*.

**valency** /'veɪlənsi/, /vay-lin-see/ *n* the power of chemical elements to combine.

**valentine** /'væləntɪn/, /va-lin-tine/ *n* 1 a person who is chosen as a lover or beloved on St Valentine's Day, February 14. 2 a card expressing love sent on this day.

**valet** /væ'leɪ/, /va-lay/ *n* a man's personal servant.

**valiant** /'væljənt/, /va-lee-ent/ *adj* brave. • *adv* **valiantly**.

**valid** /'vælid/, /va-lid/ *adj* 1 correct according to law. 2 good, sound. • *n* **validity**.

**validate** /'vælɪ,dɪt/, /va-li-date/ *vb* to make valid, to prove that something is true or correct.

**valley** /'væli/, /va-lee/ *n* the low ground between neighbouring hills or mountains, often watered by a river.

**valour** /'vælər/, /va-lur/ *n, also valor* (*US*) bravery, courage. • *adj* **valorous**.

**valuable** /'vælju:əbəl, 'væljəbəl/, /val-yu-bul/ *adj* 1 of great worth or importance. 2 costly.

**valuables** /'vælju:əbəlz/, /val-yu-bulz/ *npl* precious things.

**valuation** /,væljʊ:'eɪʃən/, /val-yu-way-shun/ *n* the estimated worth, price, or importance of a thing.

**value** /'vælju:/, /val-yoo/ *n* 1 worth, importance. 2 price, cost. • *npl* the standards by which you judge the worth of things. • *adj* **valueless**.

**valuer** /'væljuər/, /val-yoo-er/ *n* a person who estimates the value of things.

**valve** /vælv/, /valv/ *n* 1 a device that, when opened, allows gas, air, fluid, etc, to pass through in one direction only. 2 in old radio sets, a device by which you can control the power of waves transmitted or received.

**vamp** /væmp/, /vamp/ *n* the upper part of a boot or shoe. • *vb* to play music made up as you play.

**vampire** /'væmpair/, /vam-pire/ *n* 1 in old stories, a ghost supposed to suck the blood of the living. 2 a bloodsucking bat.

**van<sup>1</sup>** /væn/, /van/ *n* a covered wagon for goods or animals.

**van<sup>2</sup>** /væn/, /van/ short for **vanguard**.

**vandal** /'vændəl/, /van-dal/ *n* a person who purposefully and pointlessly destroys or damages public buildings or other property. • *n* **vandalism**. • *vb* **vandalize**, also **vandalise**.

**vane** /veɪn/, /vane/ *n* 1 a weathercock. 2 the blade of a windmill, propeller, etc.

**vanguard** /'vængard/, /van-gard/ *n* (abbr = van) 1 the front part of an army or fleet. 2 those leading the way.

**vanilla** /və'nɪlə/, /va-ni-la/ *n* a flavouring prepared from a tropical plant. • *adj* 1 having the flavour of vanilla. 2 ordinary, uninteresting.

**vanish** /'væniʃ/, /va-nish/ *vb* 1 to disappear. 2 to pass out of sight.

**vanity** /'vænɪti/, /va-ni-tee/ *n* 1 lack of meaning or value. 2 too great pride in yourself, conceit.

**vanquish** /'væŋkwɪʃ/, /vang-kwish/ *vb* to defeat completely.

**vantage** /'væntɪdʒ/, /van-tidge/ *n* (*old*) advantage.

**vantage point** /'væntɪdʒ\_ˌpɔɪnt/, /van-tidge point/ *n* a good position.

**vapid** /'væpid/, /va-pid/ *adj* lacking in spirit, dull.

**vaporize** /'veɪpə,raɪz/, /vay-pu-rize/ *vb*, also **vaporise** to turn into vapour.

**vapour** /'veɪpər/, /vay-pur/ *n, also vapor (US)* **1** the gas given off by a body when sufficiently heated. **2** mist.

**variable** /'veriəbəl/, /vay-ree-a-bul/ *adj* **1** quick to change. **2** changing often or easily.

**variance** /'veriəns/, /vay-ree-anse/ *n:* • at variance with in disagreement with.

**variant** /'veriənt/, /vay-ree-ant/ *n* a different or alternative form. • *adj* different.

**variation** /'veri'eɪʃən/, /vay-ree-ay-shun/ *n* change, difference.

**varicose** /'veri,kɔ:s/, /va-ri-coas/ *adj.* • **varicose veins** swollen veins.

**varied** /'veri:d/, /vay-reed/ *adj* including many different things.

**variegate** /'verə,geɪt, -riə,geɪt/, /vay-ree-u-gate/ *vb* to mark with different colours. • *adj* variegated.

**variety** /və'raiəti/, /va-rie-i-tee/ *n* **1** the state of being different. **2** a collection of different or slightly different things. **3** a class or species. **4** a theatre show with performers of different kinds.

**various** /'veriəs/, /vay-ree-us/ *adj* of several different types.

**varnish** /'varniʃ/, /var-nish/ *n* a clear, sticky liquid used to give a shiny surface to wood, metal, paper, etc. • *vb* to coat with varnish.

**vary** /'veri/, /vay-ree/ *vb* to make or become different, to change.

**vase** /væz, veɪz/, /vels/, /vahz/ *n* a vessel used for holding flowers or as an ornament.

**vasectomy** /və'sektəmi/, /vas-ek-tom-ee/ *n* a surgical operation to cut the duct carrying a man's sperm from the testicles, as a means of sterilization.

**Vaseline** /'væsə,li:n/, /va-su-leen/ *n (TM)* a jelly made from petroleum, used on the skin as an ointment.

**vassal** /'væsəl/, /va-sal/ *n (old)* in the feudal system, a person who held land from a lord on condition that he performed certain services for the lord.

**vast** /væst/, /vast/ *adj* **1** of great extent. **2** huge. • *adv* vastly. • *n* vastness.

**vat** /væt/, /vat/ *n* a large tub or tank.

**Vatican** /'vætɪkən/, /va-ti-can/ *n* the Pope's palace in Rome.

**vaudeville** /'vɔdvil, 'vɔdəvɪl/, /vawd-vil/ *n* an entertainment including songs and dances, usually comic; a light variety entertainment.

**vault<sup>1</sup>** /vɔlt/, /vawlt/ *n* **1** an arched roof. **2** a room, usually underground, with an arched roof (e.g. a cellar, a tomb, etc).

**vault<sup>2</sup>** /vɔlt/, /vawlt/ *vb* to jump over while resting the hand on something for support. • *n* a leap.

**v-chip** /'vi:tʃɪp/, /vee-chip/ *n* a device that can be attached to a television to block unsuitable shows from being viewed.

**VCR** /vi:sɪ:'ar/, /vee-see-ar/ *n* video cassette recorder.

**VDU** /vi:di:'ju:/, /vee-dee-yoo/ *n* visual display unit.

**veal** /vi:l/, /veel/ *n* the flesh of a calf.

**veer** /vi:r/, /veer/ *vb* to change direction.

**vegan** /'vi:gən, 'veɪ-/ , /'vɛdʒən/, /vee-gan/ *n* a person who eats no food made from animal products.

**vegetable** /'vɛdʒtəbəl, 'vɛdʒətəbəl/, /vedʒeta-bul/ *n* a plant grown for food.

**vegetarian** /'vɛdʒə'teriən/, /ve-ji-tay-ree-an/ *n* a person who eats no meat. • *n* **vegetarianism**.

**vegetate** /'vɛdʒəteɪt/, /ve-ji-tate/ *vb* **1** to live a plant's life. **2** to lead a dull, inactive life.

**vegetation** /'vɛdʒə'teɪʃən/, /ve-ji-tay-shun/ *n* **1** plants in general. **2** the plants of a particular region.

**vehement** /'vi:əmənt/, /vee-i-ment/ *adj* **1** full of strong feeling, passionate. **2** having a forceful way of speaking. • *n* **vehemence**. • *adv* **vehemently**.

**vehicle** /'vi:əkəl/, /vee-i-cul/ *n* **1** any type of carriage, cart, etc, used on land for carrying people or things. **2** a means of doing something. • *adj* **vehicular**.

**veil** /veɪl/, /vale/ *n* **1** a cloth worn over the face to hide or protect it. **2** something that hides or conceals. • *vb* **1** to conceal. **2** to cover.

**vein** /veɪn/, /vane/ *n* **1** one of the blood vessels through which blood flows back to the heart. **2** a sap tube or small rib of a leaf. **3** a layer of mineral in a rock. **4** a mood.

**Velcro** /'velkro:/, /vel-cro/ (*TM*) *n* a type of fastening for clothing, etc, consisting of two strips of fabric that stick to each other when pressed together.

**veld, veldt** /velt/, /velt/ *n* in South Africa, a wide expanse of grassy country with few trees.

**velocity** /və'ləsiti/, /vu-los-i-tee/ *n* speed.

**velour** /və'lur/, /vu-loor/, **velours** /vu-loor/ *n* a material like velvet.

**velvet** /'velvət/, /vel-vet/ *n* a thick, silk or synthetic fabric, with a soft pile on one side.

**velvety** /'velvəti/, /vel-vi-tee/ *adj* soft and smooth, like velvet.

**venal** /'vi:nəl/, /vee-nal/ *adj* ready to take bribes, corrupt. • *n* **venality**.

**vendetta** /vən'dətə/, /ven-de-ta/ *n* a feud between two families in which each is bound to revenge the death of any of its members killed by the other.

**vending machine** /'vendɪŋ mæʃin/, /ven-ding ma-sheen/ *n* a machine from which certain items can be bought by putting coins in it.

**vendor** /'vendər, -dər/, /ven-dur/ *n* a person who sells.

**veneer** /və'ni:x/, /vu-neer/ *n* 1 a thin layer (of fine wood, plastic, etc) glued on the surface of another inferior one. 2 something that appears fine but is not deep or lasting. • *vb* to cover with veneer.

**Venetian** /və'ni:ʃən/, /vu-nee-shin/ *adj* from or of Venice.

**venetian blind** /və,ni:ʃən 'blaind/, /vu-nee-shin blind/ *n* a window blind made from horizontal strips of thin wood, plastic, etc.

**vengeance** /'vendʒəns/, /ven-jinse/ *n* harm done in return for harm or injury received; revenge. • **with a vengeance** with a great deal of force and effort.

**vengeful** /'vendʒful/, /venj-ful/ *adj* desiring revenge.

**venison** /'venisən, -zən/, /ve-ni-sun/ *n* the flesh of deer.

**venom** /'venəm/, /ve-num/ *n* 1 poison. 2 spite.

**venomous** /'venəməs/, /ve-nu-mus/ *adj* 1 poisonous. 2 spiteful.

**vent** /vənt/, /vent/ *n* 1 a hole or opening through which air, smoke, etc, can pass. 2 an outlet. 3 expression. • *vb* to give free expression to.

**ventilate** /'ventɪleɪt/, /ven-ti-late/ *vb* 1 to allow fresh air to pass into or through. 2 to discuss freely. • *n ventilation*.

**ventilator** /'ventɪleɪtər/, /ven-ti-lay-tur/ *n* any device to let in fresh air.

**ventriloquist** /'ventrɪlo:kwɪst/, /ven-tri-lu-kwist/ *n* a person who is able to speak without moving his or her lips, in such a way that the voice seems to come from another person. • *n ventriloquism*.

**venture** /'vəntʃər/, /ven-chur/ *n* a business activity that is potentially very risky. • *vb* 1 to dare. 2 to risk.

**venturesome** /'vəntʃəsəm/, /ven-chur-sum/ *adj (fml)* ready to take risks, daring.

**venue** /'vənu:/, /ven-yoo/ *n* the place appointed for a public event.

**Venus** /'vi:nəs/, /vee-nus/ *n* 1 the Roman goddess of love. 2 the second planet away from the sun.

**veranda, verandah** /və'rændə/, /vu-ran-da/ *n* a covered platform or open balcony along the wall of a house.

**verb** /vərb/, /verb/ *n* a word that tells of the action or state of the subject of a sentence.

**verbal** /'vərbəl/, /ver-bal/ *adj* 1 of or in words. 2 by word of mouth. 3 word for word. • *adv verbally*.

**verbatim** /vər'beɪtɪm/, /ver-bay-tim/ *adv* word for word.

**verbose** /vər'bo:s/, /ver-boass/ *adj (fml)* using too many words, using more words than are necessary. • *n verbosity*.

**verdict** /'vərdikt/, /ver-dict/ *n* 1 the decision of a jury. 2 a considered opinion or judgment.

**verdigris** /'vərdigrɪs, -gri:s/, /ver-di-gree/ *n* the green rust on metals of various kinds.

**verge** /vərdʒ/, /verj/ *n* 1 the edging of a road, etc. 2 edge, brink. • *also vb*.

**verger** /'vərdʒər/, /ver-jer/ *n* a church attendant or usher.

**verify** /'verifai/, /ve-ri-fie/ *vb* 1 confirm. 2 to prove to be true. • *n verification*.

**veritable** /'verɪtəbəl/, /ve-ri-ta-bul/ *adj (fml or hum)* true, real, actual.

**verity** /'verɪti/, /ve-ri-tee/ *n (fml)* truth.

**vermicelli** /vərmel'i:tʃeli/, /ver-mi-chel-ee/ *n* long, thin threads of pasta.

**vermilion** /vər'miljən/, /ver-mil-yun/ *n*, also **vermillion** a bright red colour.

**vermin** /'vərmɪn/, /ver-min/ *npl* small animals or insects that do harm (e.g. to crops) or carry disease, as rats, mice, etc.

**vernacular** /vər'nækjʊlər/, /ver-na-cyu-lar/ *n* the language spoken from infancy by the people of a certain country or district.

**verruca** /və'rū:kə/, /vu-roo-ca/ *n* a plantar wart on the sole of the foot.

**versatile** /'vərsə,tail/, /ver-sa-tile/ *adj* able to do many different kinds of things. • *n versatility*.

**verse** /vərs/, /verss/ *n* 1 poetry. 2 writing set down in the form of poetry. 3 a stanza. 4 a short division of a chapter of the Bible.

**versed** /vərst/, /verst/ *adj* skilled, having knowledge.

**version** /'vərʒən/, /ver-shun/ *n* 1 an account or description peculiar to a particular person. 2 a translation.

**versus** /'vərsəs/, /ver-sus/ *prep* against.

**vertebra** /'vərtəbrə/, /ver-ti-bra/ *n* (*pl vertebrae*) one of the bones of the spine.

**vertebrate** /'vərtə,breɪt, -brət/, /ver-ti-brit/ *adj* having a backbone. • *n* a living creature having a backbone.

**vertex** /'vərtɛks/, /ver-teks/ *n* (*pl vertices*) the highest point, the top.

**vertical** /'vərtɪkəl/, /ver-ti-cal/ *adj* upright, at right angles to the bottom or ground level, running straight from top to bottom.

**vertigo** /'vərtɪgə/, /ver-ti-go/ *n* dizziness, giddiness.

**verve** /vərv/, /verv/ *n* enthusiasm, liveliness.

**very** /'veri/, /ve-ree/ *adv* extremely. • *adj* true, real.

**vespers** /'vespərz/, /ve-spers/ *npl* evening service in church.

**vessel** /'vesəl/, /ve-sul/ *n* 1 a container for holding things. 2 a ship or boat.

**vest** /vəst/, /vest/ *n* a collarless shirt with or without sleeves worn under an outer shirt, blouse, etc. • *vb* to place (*power, rights*) with something or someone. • **vested interests** /ve-stid in-trests/ rights that have been long held and will not readily be given up.

**vestibule** /'vestɪ,bju:l/, /ve-sti-byool/ *n* a porch or small compartment between the outer and inner front doors of a house; a small

entrance hall.

**vestige** /'vestɪdʒ/, /ve-stidge/ *n* 1 a mark or trace. 2 a very small amount.

**vestment** /'vestmənt/, /vest-ment/ *n* a garment or robe, especially that worn by a priest or official.

**vestry** /'vestri/, /ve-stree/ *n* a room in a church where the robes of priests, etc, are kept.

**vet<sup>1</sup>** /vet/, /vet/ *abbr* = **veterinary surgeon**: someone who is qualified to give medical treatment to sick and injured animals.

**vet<sup>2</sup>** /vet/, /vet/ *vb* (**vetted**, **vetting**) to approve, to pass as sound.

**veteran** /'vɛtərən, 'vetrən/, /ve-te-ran/ *n* 1 a person having long experience of something. 2 a soldier, sailor, etc who has served in a war. • *also adj.*

**veterinary** /'vɛtri,nəri, 'vɛtəri-/, /ve-tu-ri-nay-ree/ *adj* having to do with the diseases of domestic animals.

**veterinary surgeon** see **vet<sup>1</sup>**.

**veto** /'vi:tə/, /vee-toe/ *n* (*pl* **vetoes**) the right to refuse or forbid. • *vb* to forbid, to refuse to allow discussion of.

**vex** /veks/, /veks/ *vb* to make angry, to annoy. • *n* **vexation**.

**vexatious** /vɛk'seɪʃəs/, /vek-say-shus/ *adj* annoying, troublesome.

**via** /'vi:ə, 'vaiə/, /vee-a/ *prep* by way of.

**viable** /'vaiəbəl/, /vie-a-bul/ *adj* 1 able to exist or survive. 2 workable. • *n* **viability**.

**viaduct** /'vaiə,dɛkt/, /vie-a-duct/ *n* a long arched bridge carrying a road or railway over a valley, etc.

**vibrant** /'vaɪbrənt/, /vie-brant/ *adj* 1 quivering. 2 full of energy. 3 bright, shining. • *n* **vibrancy**. • *adv* **vibrantly**.

**vibrate** /'vaɪbreɪt/, /vie-brate/ *vb* 1 to move quickly backward and forward. 2 to shake, to quiver. • *n* **vibration**.

**vicar** /'vɪkər/, /vi-car/ *n* the priest or minister in charge of a parish.

**vicarage** /'vɪkərɪdʒ/, /vic-ridge/ *n* the house of a vicar.

**vicarious** /vɪ'kəriəs, vər-/, /vie-cay-ree-us/ *adj* 1 suffered or undergone in place of another. 2 enjoyed or experienced through the medium of other people.

**vice**<sup>1</sup> /vəɪs/, /vɪs/ *n* **1** immoral or wicked behaviour. **2** criminal behaviour, often involving sex or drugs.

**vice**<sup>2</sup> /vəɪs/, /vɪs/ *n, also sometimes vise* (US) an instrument for holding something (a piece of wood, metal, etc.) steady while you are working on it.

**vice**<sup>3</sup> /vəɪs/, /vɪs/ *prep* in place of.

**vice-** /vəɪs/, /vɪs/ *prefix* in the place of, next in order to.

**viceroy** /'vɪs'rɔɪ/, /vɪs'-rɔɪ/ *n* a person who rules in behalf of a king or queen.

**vice versa** /,vəɪs'vərsə, ,vɪsə-/ /vɪs-sə-/ *adv* the other way around.

**vicinity** /və'sɪnɪti/, /vi-si-ni-tee/ *n* neighbourhood.

**vicious** /'vɪʃəs/, /vi-shus/ *adj* wicked, evil, ill-tempered. • *adv* **viciously**. • *n* **viciousness**.

**vicious circle** /vɪʃəs 'sɪkəl/, /vi-shus sir-kul/ *n* a series in which each bad event or action or argument leads on to a worse one.

**victim** /'vɪktəm/, /vic-tim/ *n* **1** a person who has been injured or killed as the result of a crime or an accident. **2** a person who suffers because of something bad that happens to them.

**victimize** /'vɪktəm,aɪz/, /vic-ti-mize/ *vb, also victimise* to make to suffer, to treat unfairly. • *n* **victimization**, *also victimisation*.

**victor** /'vɪktər/, /vic-tur/ *n* a person who wins or conquers.

**victorious** /vɪk'tɔriəs/, /vic-toe-ree-us/ *adj* successful in a war, battle, contest, or match.

**victory** /'vɪktəri/, /vic-tree/ *n* the winning of a battle, contest, or game.

**victuals** /'vɪtəlz/, /vi-tulz/ *np* food.

**video** /'vɪdɪə/, /vi-dee-oe/ *n* the transmission or recording of television shows or movies using a television set and a **video cassette recorder** and **videotape**. • *also vb*.

**video game** /'vɪdɪə:,geɪm/, /vi-dee-oe game/ *n* an electronic game with images that you can manipulate on a video screen.

**vie** /vai/, /vie/ *vb* to try hard to do better than, to compete with.

**view** /vju:/, /vyoo/ *n* 1 all that can be seen at one look or from one point, a scene. 2 opinion. 3 intention. • *vb* 1 to look at. 2 to examine, to consider.

**viewer** /'vju:ər/, /vyoo-wer/ *n* a person who watches something, e.g. television.

**viewpoint** /'vju:pɔɪnt/, /vyoo-point/ *n* 1 a place from which you can see the surroundings well. 2 the way in which you consider or think of something.

**vigil** /'vɪdʒəl/, /vi-jil/ *n* an act of staying awake all night or of remaining watchful.

**vigilance** /'vɪdʒələns/, /vi-ji-lanse/ *n* watchfulness, care.

**vigilant** /'vɪdʒələnt/, /vi-ji-lant/ *adj* watchful, careful. • *adv* **vigilantly**.

**vigilante** /'vɪdʒə'lænti/, /vi-ji-**lan**-tee/ *n* a member of an unauthorized group who try to prevent, or who punish, crime in their neighbourhood.

**vigour** /'vɪgər/, /vi-gur/ *n*, also **vigor** (US) strength and energy, power of mind.

**vigorous** /'vɪgərəs/, /vi-gu-rus/ *adj* full of strength or energy, active. • *adj* **vigorously**.

**Viking** /'vɛɪkɪŋ/, /vie-king/ *n* a Norse pirate or sea rover of the 8th to 10th centuries.

**vile** /vaɪl/, /vile/ *adj* 1 wicked, evil. 2 disgusting, horrible.

**vilify** /'vɪlə,fai/, /vi-li-fie/ *vb* to speak ill of. • *n* **vilification**.

**villa** /'vi:lə/, /vi-la/ *n* 1 a country house. 2 in a town, a house with a garden in a residential area. 3 a house rented for a holiday, often in southern Europe.

**village** /'vɪlədʒ/, /vi-ledge/ *n* a group of houses, stores, etc, smaller than a town.

**villager** /'vɪlədʒər/, /vi-li-jer/ *n* a person who lives in a village.

**villain** /'vɪlən/, /vi-lin/ *n* a bad or wicked person, a scoundrel.

**villainous** /'vɪlənəs/, /vi-li-nus/ *adj* wicked.

**villainy** /'vɪləni/, /vi-li-nee/ *n* wickedness.

**vim** /vɪm/, /vim/ *n* energy, strength, force.

**vindicate** /'vɪndɪkeɪt/, /vɪn-di-cate/ *vb* **1** to show that charges made are untrue, to free from blame. **2** to prove that something is true or right, to justify. • *n* **vindication**.

**vindictive** /vɪn'dɪktɪv/, /vɪn-dic-tiv/ *adj* eager to obtain revenge, spiteful.

**vine** /vain/, /vɪne/ *n* a climbing plant that bears grapes.

**vinegar** /'vɪnəgər/, /vi-ni-gar/ *n* a sour liquid, dilute acetic acid, made from wine or malt and used in cooking or for seasoning.

**vinegary** /'vɪnəgəri/, /vi-ni-gree/ *adj* sour.

**vineyard** /'vɪnjərd/, /vin-yard/ *n* a field or area in which vines are cultivated.

**vintage** /'vɪntædʒ/, /vin-tidge/ *n* **1** the number of grapes or amount of wine obtained from one vineyard in a year. **2** all the wine made from the grapes grown in a certain year. • *adj* **1** of a good vintage. **2** classic, the best of its kind. **3** of a time gone by.

**vinyl** /'vاینېل/, /vie-nil/ *n* a kind of strong plastic that can bend easily, used to make wall and floor coverings, etc, and, especially formerly, records.

**viola<sup>1</sup>** /vɪ'o:lə/, /vee-oe-la/ *n* a large type of violin.

**viola<sup>2</sup>** /vai:o:lə, vi:-/, /vie-oe-la/ *n* a family of plants, including the violet, pansy, etc.

**violate** /'vaiə,leɪt/, /vie-u-late/ *vb* **1** to break a rule or formal agreement. **2** to treat someone without respect. **3** to rape. • *n* **violation**. • *n* **violator**.

**violence** /'vaiələns/, /vie-lense/ *n* **1** great force. **2** harm, injury.

**violent** /'vaiələnt/, /vie-lent/ *adj* **1** strong. **2** using force. • *adv* **violently**.

**violet** /'vaiələt, 'vairlət/, /vie-let/ *n* **1** a small bluish-purple flower. **2** a bluish-purple colour. • *adj* bluish-purple.

**violin** /'vaiə'lɪn/, /vie-u-lin/ *n* a four-stringed musical instrument played with a bow. • *n* **violinist**.

**violoncello** /vi:ələn'tʃəlo:/, /vie-u-li-che-lo/ *n* (*abbr* = **cello** /che-lo/) a large violin giving deep notes. • *n* **violoncellist**.

**viper** /'vайpər/, /vie-per/ *n* **1** a poisonous snake. **2** (*lit*) a treacherous or spiteful person.

**virago** /'vɪ'rəgə/, -'reɪgə/, /vi-rä-go/ *n* (*pl viragoes or viragos*) a bad-tempered scolding woman.

**virgin** /'vɜːrdʒɪn/, /vir-jin/ *adj* 1 pure, without any sexual experience. 2 untouched, still in its original condition. • *n* someone who has never had sex. • *n* **virginity**. • *adj* **virginal**.

**virile** /'vɪrɪəl/, /vi-rile/ *adj* manly, strong. • *n* **virility**.

**virtual** /'vɜːrtʃuːəl/, /vir-chal/ *adj* being so in fact but not in name or title. • *adv* **virtually**.

**virtual reality** /'vɜːrtʃuːəl rɪ'ælɪtɪ/, /vir-chal ree-a-li-tee/ *n* the computer simulation of three-dimensional images that seems to surround the viewer and that allows interaction.

**virtue** /'vɜːrtʃuː/, /vir-choo/ *n* 1 goodness of life or character. 2 a good quality, power, strength.

**virtuoso** /'vɜːrtʃuː'o:sə/, /vir-choo-wo-so/ *n* (*pl virtuosi or virtuosos*) an exceptionally highly skilled musician or other artist. • *n* **virtuosity**.

**virtuous** /'vɜːrtʃuːəs/, /vir-choo-wus/ *adj* morally good, of good character, leading a good life. • *adv* **virtuously**.

**virulent** /'vɪrulənt, 'virju/, /vir-yu-lent/ *adj* 1 powerful, dangerous. 2 full of hatred, spiteful. • *n* **virulence**.

**virus** /'vaɪrəs/, /vie-rus/ *n* any of various types of germ that are smaller than bacteria and cause infectious diseases in the body.

**visa** /'vi:zə/, /vee-za/ *n* a permit stamped on a passport, giving the owner the right to enter or leave a particular country.

**visage** /'vɪzɪdʒ/, /vi-zazh/ *n* (*frm*) the face.

**vis-à-vis** /'vi:zə'vi:/, /vee-za-vee/ *prep* (*frm*) with regard to.

**viscose** /'vɪsko:s/, or /-ko:z/, /vis-coass/ *n* a kind of rayon made from viscous cellulose.

**viscount** /'vaɪkaunt/, /vie-count/ *n* a nobleman of the rank below an earl.

**viscous** /'vɪskəs/, /vis-cuss/ *adj* sticky. • *n* **viscosity**.

**visibility** /'vɪzɪ'bɪlɪti/, /vi-zi-bi-li-tee/ *n* 1 clearness to sight. 2 the state of weather, atmosphere, etc, as they affect your ability to see clearly.

**visible** /'vɪzɪbəl/, /vi-zi-bil/ *adj* able to be seen. • *adv* **visibly**.

**vision** /'vɪʒən/, /vi-zhun/ *n* 1 the ability to see, sight. 2 something imagined as in a dream. 3 something seen that has no bodily existence. 4 the power to foresee consequences.

**visionary** /'vɪʒənri/, /vi-zhin-ree/ *adj* 1 existing only in the imagination. 2 full of fancies or hopes of perfection. • *n* a person who believes in ideals that cannot be achieved in his or her lifetime.

**visit** /'vɪzɪt/, /vi-zit/ *vb* 1 to go to see or stay with. 2 to call upon. • *n* 1 a call upon. 2 a short stay.

**visitation** /,vɪzɪ'teɪʃən/, /vi-zi-tay-shun/ *n* 1 an official visit. 2 suffering believed to be sent by God as punishment.

**visitor** /'vɪzɪtər/, /vi-zi-tur/ *n* a person who visits.

**visor** /'vaɪzər/, /vie-zur/ *n* 1 (*old*) a movable part of a helmet, protecting the face when closed. 2 the peak of a cap.

**vista** /'vistə/, /vi-sta/ *n* a narrow view, as seen between rows of houses, trees, etc.

**visual** /'vɪʒʊəl, 'vɪʒj-, /vi-zhu-wal/ *adj* of the sense of sight. • *adv* **visually**.

**vital** /'vɪtəl/, /vie-tal/ *adj* 1 very important. 2 unable to be done without, necessary to life. • *adv* **vitally**.

**vitality** /vɪ'tælɪti/, /vie-ta-li-tee/ *n* energy, vigour, liveliness.

**vitals** /'vɪtəls/, /vie-talz/ *npl* the organs of the body necessary to life.

**vitamin** /'vɪtəmɪn/, /vi-ta-min, vie-ta-min/ *n* one of several substances found in food, necessary to the health of the body.

**vitreous** /'vɪtriəs/, /vi-tree-us/ *adj* of or like glass.

**vitriol** /'vɪtriɒl, 'vɪtriəl/, /vi-tree-ole/ *n* 1 sulphuric acid. 2 hostile language.

**vitriolic** /'vɪtri'ɒlɪk/, /vi-tree-ol-ic/ *adj* using violent language, full of hatred.

**vivacious** /vɪ'veɪʃəs, vər-/, /vi-vay-shus/ *adj* lively, bright, and talkative. • *adv* **vivaciously**.

**vivacity** /vɪ'væsɪtɪ/, /vi-va-si-tee/ *n* liveliness.

**vivid** /'vɪvid/, /vi-vid/ *adj* 1 bright, striking. 2 appearing true to life. • *adv* **vividly**.

**vivisection** /'vɪvɪ'sekʃən/, /vi-vi-sec-shun/ *n* the cutting up of a living animal to assist scientific experiment.

**vixen** /'vɪksən/, /vik-sun/ *n* a female fox.

**vizier** /'vɪzɪər, vɪ'zɪər/, /vi-zeer/ *n* a high political official in some Muslim countries.

**vocabulary** /və'kæbjʊləri/, /vu-ca-byu-la-ree/ *n* 1 all the words used by a certain person or in a certain work. 2 a list of words with their meaning.

**vocal** /'vo:kəl/, /vo-cal/ *adj* 1 having to do with the voice, spoken or sung. 2 intended to be heard. • *adv* **vocally**.

**vocal cords** /'vo:kəl kɔ:rdz/, /vo-cal cawrds/ *npl* two membranes in the throat that produce vocal sounds.

**vocalist** /'vo:kəlist/, /vo-ca-list/ *n* a singer.

**vocation** /vo:'keɪʃən/, /vo-cay-shun/ *n* 1 your employment, profession, or trade. 2 the particular work you feel you are specially fitted for.

**vocational** / vo:'keɪʃənəl/, /vo-cay-shnal/ *adj* concerned with your profession or trade.

**vociferous** /vo:'sifərəs/, /vu-si-frous/ *adj* 1 noisy. 2 expressing opinions loudly or openly.

**vodka** /'vɒdkə/, /vod-ka/ *n* a kind of strong alcoholic liquor, made from grain or potatoes, originating in Russia.

**vogue** /vo:g/, /voag/ *n* a popular or passing fashion.

**voice** /voɪs/, /voiss/ *n* 1 the sound produced through the mouth when speaking or singing. 2 a vote, an opinion. 3 the right to speak or express an opinion. 4 (gram) a grouping of forms of the verb according to whether they are active or passive. • *vb* 1 to say. 2 to express.

**voicemail** /'voismeɪl/, /voiss-male/ *n* an electronic system for storing telephone messages so that they can be listened to later.

**void** /vɔɪd/, /void/ *adj* 1 empty. 2 having no effect, having no force. • *n* empty space.

**volatile** /'vɒlə,tail/, /vol-a-tile/ *adj* 1 easily changing into gas. 2 able to evaporate readily. 3 changing moods or ideas often. • *n* **volatility**.

**volcano** /vɒl'keɪno:/, /vol-**cay**-no/ *n* (*pl* **volcanoes**) a mountain with an opening at its summit through which molten rock, metals, etc, are occasionally forced up in a red-hot stream from beneath the surface of the earth. • *adj* **volcanic**.

**vole** /vo:l/, /vɔle/ *n* the water-rat.

**volition** /və'lɪʃən/, /vu-li-shun/ *n* willpower.

**volley** /'vɒli/, /vol-ee/ *n* 1 the firing of several guns or throwing of many things at the same time. 2 the speaking of a number of words in quick succession. 3 in tennis, the hitting of a ball before it touches the ground. • *vb* 1 to send a volley. 2 to hit (a ball) before it touches the ground.

**volleyball** /'vɒli\_�ɒl/, /vol-ee-bawl/ *n* a game in which two teams volley a ball back and forth over a net.

**volt** /vo:lt/, /voalt/ *n* the unit used in measuring electrical power or force.

**voltage** /'vo:ltɪdʒ/, /voal-tidge/ *n* electrical power measured in volts.

**volatile** /'vɒljʊbəl/, /vol-yu-bul/ *adj* speaking much. • *n* **volubility**.

**volume** /'vɒlju:m/, /vol-yoom/ *n* 1 a book. 2 one of a series in a set of books. 3 the amount of space taken up by anything. 4 a large mass or amount. 5 level of sound.

**voluminous** /və'lu:minəs/, /vu-lyoo-mi-nus/ *adj* 1 taking up much space. 2 very big, holding a lot.

**voluntary** /'vɒlən,təri/, /vol-un-tree/ *adj* done of your own free will, not forced. • *n* an organ solo before or after a church service.

**volunteer** /'vɒlən'ti:r/, /vol-un-teer/ *n* a person who offers to do something without being asked or ordered. • *vb* 1 to offer your services without pay. 2 to give.

**voluptuous** /və'læptʃuəs/, /vu-lup-choo-wus/ *adj* 1 having a full, rounded figure. 2 tempting to bodily pleasures. 3 giving pleasure to the senses.

**vomit** /'vɒmɪt/, /vom-it/ *vb* 1 to throw up from the stomach through the mouth, to be sick. 2 to put out in large clouds, e.g. of smoke.

**voodoo** /'vu:du:/, /voo-doo/ *n* a primitive and degraded form of worship, witchcraft.

**voracious** /və'reɪʃəs/, /vu-ray-shus/ *adj* very greedy. • *adv voraciously*. • *n voracity*.

**vortex** /'vɔrtɛks/, /vawr-teks/ *n* 1 a whirlpool. 2 a whirlwind.

**vote** /vo:t/, /vote/ *n* 1 an expression of opinion for or against a proposal. 2 the support given by an individual to a person contesting an election. • *vb* 1 to give a vote. 2 to decide by vote. • *n voter*.

**vouch** /vəʊtʃ/, /vouch/ *vb* to speak.

**voucher** /'vəutʃər/, /vou-cher/ *n* 1 a paper handed over in exchange for goods instead of cash. 2 a receipt.

**vouchsafe** /'-seif/, /vouch-safe/ *vb (fm)* to be good enough to give or grant.

**vow** /vau/, /vow/ *n* a solemn promise, a promise made to God. • *vb* to promise solemnly.

**vowel** /'vauəl/, /vow-el/ *n* 1 a simple sound (*a, e, i, o, u*) made by the voice without obstruction to the air passage. 2 the letter representing it.

**voyage** /'vɔɪdʒ/, /voy-idge/ *n* a long journey, especially by sea.

**vulcanize** /'vʌlkənaɪz/, /vul-ca-nize/ *vb*, also **vulcanise** to treat rubber with sulphur.

**vulgar** /'vʌlgər/, /vul-gar/ *adj* 1 coarse in manners or behaviour; rude. 2 relating to sex or certain body parts and likely to cause offence to some people; rude. 3 (*old*) having to do with ordinary people; low. • *adv vulgarly*.

**vulgar fraction** /'vʌlgər 'frækʃən/, /vul-gar frac-shun/ *n* a fraction other than a decimal fraction (e.g.  $\frac{5}{8}$ ).

**vulgarity** /'vʌl'geriti/, /vul-ga-ri-tee/ *n* rudeness, coarseness.

**vulnerable** /'vʌlnərəbəl/, /vuln-ra-bul/ *adj* 1 able to be wounded or hurt. 2 weakly defended against attack. • *n vulnerability*.

**vulture** /'vʌltʃər/, /vul-chur/ *n* a large bird that feeds on the flesh of dead animals.

**vulva** /'vʌlvə/, /vul-va/ *n* the external genitals of human females.

# W

**W, w** /'dəbəljū:/, /du-bul-yoo/ the 23rd letter of the English alphabet.

**wacky** /'wækɪ/, /wa-kee/ *adj (inf)* mad or eccentric.

**wad** /wɒd/, /wod/ *n* 1 a lump of soft fibrous material for padding garments, stopping holes, etc. 2 a bundle.

**wadding** /'wɒdɪŋ/, /wod-ing/ *n* soft material used for padding, etc.

**waddle** /'wɒdəl/, /wod-ul/ *vb* to walk, rolling from side to side, as a duck. • *also n.*

**wade** /weɪd/, /wade/ *vb* 1 to walk through water. 2 to walk slowly and with difficulty. 3 to read through with difficulty.

**wader** /'weɪdər/, /way-der/ *n* any long-legged bird that wades in water in search of food.

**waders** /'weɪdərz/, /way-derz/ *np* high waterproof boots worn by fishermen, etc.

**wafer** /'weɪfər/, /way-fer/ *n* a very thin cake or cracker.

**waffle<sup>1</sup>** /'wɒfəl/, /woff-ul/ *n* a batter cake with a grid pattern, baked in a waffle iron

**waffle<sup>2</sup>** /'wɒfəl/, /woff-ul/ *vb (inf)* to talk in a rambling way.

**waft** /wɔft, waft/, /waft/ *vb* to bear along gently through the air.

**wag** /wæg/, /wag/ *vb (wagged, wagging)* to shake up and down or to and fro. • *n* 1 a wagging movement. 2 a person who is fond of telling jokes or making amusing comments.

**wage** /weɪdʒ/, /wayj/ *n* money paid regularly for work done. • *vb* to carry on.

**wager** /'weɪdʒər/, /way-jer/ *n* a bet. • *vb* to bet.

**waggle** /'wægəl/, /wa-gul/ *vb* to wag.

**wagon** /'wægən/, /wa-gun/ *n* 1 a four-wheeled vehicle used to carry loads. 2 a large open container pulled by a train for carrying goods.

**wagtail** /'wægtel/, /wag-tail/ *n* a small bird with a long tail that it wags constantly.

**waif** /weɪf/, /waif/ *n* a homeless child or animal.

**wail** /weɪl/, /wail/ *vb* to cry aloud in grief or distress. • *n* a loud cry of grief, a moaning cry.

**waist** /weɪst/, /waist/ *n* the narrowest part of the human trunk, just below the ribs.

**waistcoat** /-ko:t/, /waist-coat/ a sleeveless garment worn by men under a suit coat.

**wait** /weɪt/, /wait/ *vb* 1 to stay in a place in the hope or expectation of something happening. 2 to serve at table. • *n* time spent waiting.

**waiter** /'weɪtər/, /way-ter/ *n* a person employed to serve food at table.

• *f* **waitress**.

**waiting list** /'weɪtɪŋ list/, /way-ting list/ *n* a list of people who are waiting for something.

**waiting room** /'weɪtɪŋ rum/, /way-ting room/ *n* a room where people may wait.

**waitress** see **waiter**.

**waive** /weɪv/, /waiv/ *vb* to give up, not to insist on.

**wake<sup>1</sup>** /weɪk/, /wake/ *vb* (*pt* **woke**, *pp* **woken**) 1 to arouse from sleep. 2 to return to full consciousness after sleep. • *n* a watch kept over a dead body until the time of burial, sometimes with feasting.

**wake<sup>2</sup>** /weɪk/, /wake/ *n* the track left on water by a moving ship. • **in the wake of** behind, following.

**wakeful** /'weɪkful/, /wake-ful/ *adj* not sleeping.

**waken** /weɪkən/, /way-kin/ *vb* to wake.

**walk** /wɒk/, /wawk/ *vb* 1 to advance step by step. 2 to go on foot. • *n* 1 an outing on foot. 2 your manner of walking. 3 a road or path. • **walk of life** your rank or work in life.

**walking stick** /'wɔ:kɪŋ/, /waw-king stick/ *n* a stick carried when walking.

**walkover** /'wɔ:kəʊvər/, /waw-ko-a-ver/ *n* 1 an easy victory. 2 a victory granted because there has been no opposition.

**wall** /wɒl/, /wɔ:l/ *n* **1** a barrier of stone, brick, etc. **2** one of the sides of a building, room, etc. • *vb* to provide with a wall.

**wallaby** /'wɒləbi/, /waw-la-bee/ *n* a small marsupial of the kangaroo family.

**wallet** /'wɒlət/, /waw-let/ *n* a small flat case for holding money and credit cards.

**wallflower** /'wɒlflaʊər/, /wawl-flour/ *n* **1** a sweet-smelling garden flower. **2** a person who is not dancing because he or she has no partner.

**wallop** /'wɒləp/, /waw-lup/ *vb* to thrash soundly, to strike heavily. • *also n.*

**wallow** /'wɒlo:/, /waw-lo/ *vb* **1** to roll about in mud, dirt, etc. **2** to enjoy what is dirty or unpleasant.

**wallpaper** /'wɒlpeɪpər/, /wawl-pay-per/ *n* coloured or decorative paper covering the walls of rooms.

**walnut** /'wɒlnət/, /wawl-nut/ *n* **1** a tree whose wood is much used for making furniture. **2** its edible nut.

**walrus** /wɔlrəs/, /wawl-rus/ *n* a large tusked sea mammal that can live on both land and sea.

**waltz** /wɒlts/, /wawltz/ *n* **1** a ballroom dance for two people. **2** music for such a dance. • *vb* to dance a waltz.

**wan** /wɒn/, /wan/ *adj* pale, sickly-looking. • *adv* **wanly**. • *n* **wanness**.

**wand** /wɒnd/, /wawnd/ *n* **1** a long, thin stick. **2** the rod of a magician or conjurer.

**wander** /'wɒndər/, /wawn-der/ *vb* **1** to go purposelessly from place to place. **2** to lose your way. **3** to talk in a disconnected manner. **4** to go off the point. • *n* **wanderer**.

**wane** /weɪn/, /wane/ *vb* **1** to grow less or smaller. **2** to lose strength or power. • **on the wane** growing less.

**wangle** /'wæŋgəl/, /wang-gul/ *vb* to arrange cleverly or by trickery.

**want** /wɒnt/, /wawnt/ *n* **1** need. **2** longing. **3** shortage. **4** poverty. • *vb* **1** to lack. **2** to need. **3** to desire.

**wanting** /'wɒntɪŋ/, /wawn-ting/ *adj* **1** not as good as required. **2** lacking. **3** foolish-minded.

**wanton** /'wɒntən/, /wawn-tun/ *adj* 1 immoral. 2 malicious. • *n* an immoral person.

**war** /wɔ:/, /wawr/ *n* 1 a state of fighting and enmity between nations or within a nation. 2 an active campaign against something. • *vb* (**warred**, **warring**) to make war.

**warble** /'wɔ:bəl/, /wawr-bul/ *vb* to sing, as a bird.

**warbler** /wɔ:blər/, /wawr-blur/ *n* a songbird.

**ward** /'wɔ:d/, /wawrd/ *vb* (*with off*) 1 to defend oneself against. 2 to defeat.

**-ward** /wərd/, /wurd/ *suffix* in the direction of.

**warden** /'wɔ:dn/, /wawr-din/ *n* 1 a person who guards or helps to protect. 2 the head of a college or hostel.

**warder** /'wərdər/, /wawr-der/ *n* a guard in a prison.

**wardrobe** /'wərdro:b/, /wawr-droab/ *n* 1 a cupboard for hanging clothing. 2 all of a person's clothing.

**ware** /wer/, /ware/ *n* articles manufactured out of some material. • *npl* goods for sale.

**warehouse** /'werhəus/, /ware-houss/ *n* a building for storing goods.

**warfare** /'wɔ:fer/, /wawr-fare/ *n* the carrying-on of fighting in war.

**warlock** /wərlɒk/, /wawr-lock/ *n* a person who has magical powers.

**warm** /wɔ:m/, /wawrm/ *adj* 1 quite hot. 2 affectionate. 3 sincere. • *vb* to make or become warm. • *adv* **warmly**.

**warm-hearted** /wɔ:m'hɑ:təd/, /wawrm-har-tid/ *adj* kindly, generous.

**warmth** /wɔ:mθ/, /wawrmθ/ *n* 1 gentle heat. 2 excitement. 3 sincerity.

**warn** /wɔ:n/, /wawrn/ *vb* 1 to advise against possible danger or error. 2 to tell to be careful.

**warning** /'wɔ:rnɪŋ/, /wawr-ning/ *n* 1 advice to be careful. 2 advice that danger or trouble lies ahead.

**warp** /wɔ:rp/, /wawrp/ *vb* 1 to twist or bend out of shape. 2 to become twisted or bent. 3 to spoil the nature or character of. • *n* 1 the lengthwise threads in a loom.

**warrant** /'wɔ:rent/, /wawr-rant/ *n* a written document giving the right to do certain things. • *vb* 1 to give the right or permission to. 2 to

be good reason for, to justify.

**warren** /'wɔrən/, /wawr-rin/ *n* many rabbit burrows in one piece of land.

**warrior** /'wɔriər/, /wawr-yur/ *n* **1** a person who is good at fighting. **2** a soldier.

**wart** /wɔ:t/, /wawrt/ *n* a hard dry growth on the skin.

**wary** /'wəri/, /way-reel/ *adj* careful, cautious, not rushing into danger.

**was** /wɒz/, /woz/ *pt of be* used with 'I', 'he', 'she', 'it' and singular nouns. See also **is**, **are**, **were**.

**wash** /wɒʃ/, /wawsh/ *vb* **1** to clean with water. **2** to flow against or over. **3** to carry away. **4** to colour lightly. • *n* **1** the act of cleaning with water. **2** a washing, the flow or dash of water. **3** a healing liquid. **4** a thin coat of colour. • **wash your hands of** to refuse to have anything more to do with. • *adj* **washable**.

**washer** /'wɔʃər/, /wawsh-er/ *n* a ring of metal, rubber, etc, to keep a bolt, etc, firmly in position.

**washing** /'wɔʃɪŋ/, /wawsh-ing/ *n* **1** dirty clothing or linen to be washed. **2** clothing or linen newly washed.

**washing machine** /'wɔʃɪŋ mæʃɪ:n/, /wawsh-ing ma-sheen/ *n* a machine for washing clothing and linen.

**washing-up** /'wɔʃɪŋʌp/, /wawsh-ing-up/ *n* **1** dirty dishes, cutlery etc to be washed. **2** the washing of dishes, cutlery, etc.

**washstand** /'wɔʃstænd/, /wawsh-stand/ *n* a table for a basin of water, formerly used to wash the hands and face.

**wasp** /wɔsp/, /wawsp/ *n* a stinging winged insect, with black and yellow stripes on its body.

**waspish** /'wɔspiʃ/, /waw-spish/ *adj* sharp-tempered, spiteful.

**wastage** /'weɪstɪdʒ/, /way-stidge/ *n* that which is lost by waste.

**waste** /weɪst/, /waste/ *vb* **1** to fail to put to a useful purpose. **2** to spend or use foolishly. **3** to destroy, to damage. **4** to make or become weaker. • *adj* **1** left over. **2** uncultivated, undeveloped. • *n* **1** what is left over as useless. **2** useless spending.

**wasteful** /'weɪstfəl/, /waste-ful/ *adj* spending foolishly or uselessly.

**waste paper** /'weɪstpeɪpər/, /waste pay-per/ *n* paper thrown away as useless.

**waste pipe** /'weɪstpeɪp/, /waste pipe/ *n* a pipe to carry away dirty water.

**waster** /'weɪstər/, /way-ster/, **wastrel** /way-stril/ *n* (*inf*) a lazy useless person.

**watch** /wɒtʃ/, /wawch/ *vb* **1** to look at or observe with care. **2** to look at. **3** to guard. **4** to look after. • *n* **1** a guard. **2** a careful look-out. **3** a four-hour spell of duty for half the crew on board a ship. **4** a clock carried in the pocket or on the wrist.

**watchdog** /wɒtʃdɒg/, /wawch-dawg/ *n* **1** a dog used to guard a house or other building. **2** a person or group who watches out for wrongdoing, especially by a business firm.

**watchful** /'wɒtʃfʊl/, /wawch-ful/ *adj* keeping a look-out, observant, alert.

**watchmaker** /'wɒtʃmeɪkər/, /wawch-may-kur/ *n* a person who makes or repairs watches.

**watchman** /'wɒtʃmən/, /wawch-man/ *n* a man employed to look after a building or site when it is unoccupied.

**watchword** /'wɒtʃwɜːd/, /wawch-wurd/ *n* **1** a word known only to members of a group so that by using it they may be recognized as members. **2** a motto.

**water** /'wɒtər/, /waw-ter/ *n* **1** the clear liquid that falls as rain and flows in streams and rivers. **2** a large area of water, as a lake, sea, etc. • *vb* **1** to supply with water. **2** to pour or sprinkle water on. **3** (of eyes) to fill with tears. **4** (of the mouth) to fill with saliva. **5** to dilute a drink with water.

**watercolour** /'wɒtərkələr/, /waw-ter-cu-lur/ *n*, also **watercolor** (US) **1** colouring matter to be mixed with water, not oil. **2** a painting in watercolours.

**watercress** /'wɒtərkres/, /waw-ter-cress/ *n* an edible water plant.

**waterfall** /'wɒtərfɔːl/, /waw-ter-fawl/ *n* a stream falling over steep rocks or stones to a lower level.

**water-lily** /'wɒtərlili:/, /waw-ter-li-lee/ *n* a plant with floating flowers and leaves, found in ponds, etc.

**waterlogged** /'wɒtərlɒgd/, /waw-ter-logd/ *adj* soaked or filled with water.

**watermark** /'wɔ:tər,mark/, /waw-ter-mark/ *n* the faint trademark on a piece of paper.

**watermelon** /'wɔ:tər,melən/, /waw-ter-mel-on/ *n* a large juicy type of melon with red flesh.

**water polo** /'wɔ:tər,po:lo:/, /waw-ter po-lo/ *n* a ball game for swimmers.

**water power** /'wɔ:tər,pauər/, /waw-ter pow-ur/ *n* mechanical power got from running water.

**waterproof** /'wɔ:tər,pru:f/, /waw-ter-proof/ *adj* able to keep out water, that water cannot pass through. • *n* 1 waterproof cloth. 2 waterproof raincoat.

**watershed** /'wɔ:tər,ʃed/, /waw-ter-shed/ *n* 1 a ridge or hill separating two river valleys. 2 a point at which events take a different turn.

**water-ski** /'wɔ:tər,ski:/, /waw-ter-skee/ *n* a board on which a person can stand and be towed over water by a speedboat. • *also vb.* • *n* **water-skier**. • *n* **water-skiing**.

**waterspout** /'wɔ:tər,spəut/, /waw-ter-spout/ *n* a column of water sucked by a whirlwind.

**watertight** /'wɔ:tər,təit/, /waw-ter-tite/ *adj* so tight that water can pass neither in nor out.

**waterworks** /'wɔ:tər,wərks/, /waw-ter-wurks/ *n* an apparatus for supplying water through pipes to a town, etc.

**watery** /'wɔ:təri/, /waw-ter-ee/ *adj* 1 full of water. 2 tasteless, weak, thin.

**watt** /'wɔ:t/, /wat/ *n* a unit of measurement of electric power. • *n* **wattage**.

**wattle** /'wɔ:təl/, /wat-ul/ *n* 1 a fence made of twigs woven together. 2 an Australian tree.

**wave** /weiv/, /wave/ *n* 1 a moving ridge of water rising above the surface of the sea and then sinking down again. 2 any movement resembling this. 3 one of several ridges in the hair. 4 a moving of the hand as a signal. • *vb* 1 to move or make to move up and down or to and fro. 2 to shake in the air as a sign. 3 to put waves in hair. 4 to signal with your hand.

**waveband** /'weɪvbaend/, /wave-band/ *n* a band of radio waves between specific limits.

**wavelength** /'weɪvləŋθ/, -ləŋkθ/, /wave-length/ *n* the distance in water, air etc, between the crest of one wave and that of the next.

**waver** /'weɪvər/, /way-ver/ *vb* 1 to be uncertain, to hesitate. 2 to move unsteadily. 3 to flicker.

**wavy** /'weɪvi/, /way-vee/ *adj* 1 rising and falling in waves. 2 covered with waves.

**wax<sup>1</sup>** /wæks/, /waks/ *n* 1 a sticky yellow substance made by bees. 2 any material resembling this. 3 a substance used to seal letters, packets, etc.

**wax<sup>2</sup>** /'wæks/, /waks/ *vb (old)* 1 to grow larger. 2 to become.

**waxen** /'wæksən/, /wak-sin/ *adj* like wax.

**waxwork** /'wækswɜːk/, /waks-wurk/ *n* the image of a famous person made in wax for showing to the public. • *npl (functioning as sing.)* a museum where waxworks are exhibited.

**way** /wei/, /way/ *n* 1 a track, path, or road. 2 a method of doing something. 3 distance travelled. 4 the route to a place. 5 a custom or habit. • **have a way with you** to be attractive in character. • **under way** in movement. • **ways and means** methods.

**wayfarer** /wei'fərər/, /way-fay-rer/ *n* a traveller, especially on foot.

**waylay** /wei'leɪ/, /way-lay/ *vb* to hide and wait for in order to surprise or attack.

**wayside** /'weɪsaɪd/, /way-side/ *n*. • **fall by the wayside** not to continue.

**wayward** /'weiwərd/, /way-ward/ *adj* fond of having your own way, not heeding the advice or orders of others.

**WC** /dəbəlju:'si:/, /du-bul-yoo-see/ *abbr* = **water closet** a toilet.

**we** /wi:/, /wee/ *subjective pron* 1 refers to the speaker, or writer, and one other or several other people. 2 a formal word for I, e.g. used by royalty.

**weak** /wi:k/, /week/ *adj* 1 not strong, feeble. 2 giving in too easily to others. 3 not good at. • *adv weakly*.

**weaken** /'wi:kən/, /wee-kin/ *vb* to make or become weak.

**weakling** /'wi:klin/, /week-ling/ *n* a person who is weak in body or character.

**weakly** /'wi:kli/, /week-lee/ *adj* not strong, not having good health.

**weakness** /'wi:knəs/, /week-ness/ *n* 1 lack of strength or determination. 2 a bad point in your character. 3 a foolish liking for.

**weal** /wi:l/, /weel/ *n* a raised mark on the skin caused by a blow from a whip, thin stick, etc.

**wealth** /we1θ/, /welθ/ *n* 1 riches. 2 plenty.

**wealthy** /'we1θi:/, /wel-thee/ *adj* very rich.

**wean** /wi:n/, /ween/ *vb* 1 to change from feeding.

**weapon** /'wepən/, /wep-un/ *n* any instrument that can be used in fighting or attack.

**wear** /wær/, /ware/ *vb* (pt **wore**, pp **worn**) 1 to have on the body as clothing. 2 to put or stick on your clothing for show. 3 to damage or waste by rubbing or use. • *n* 1 clothing. 2 damage caused by rubbing or use. • *n* **wearer**. • **wear away** to become gradually less, to rub or be rubbed away. • **wear off** to become gradually less. • **wear on** to pass slowly. • **wear out** 1 to exhaust. 2 to make useless by using too often.

**wearisome** /'wəri:səm/, /hee-ree-sum/ *adj* tiring, boring.

**weary** /'wi:ri/, /hee-ree/ *adj* 1 tired by continued effort, exhausted. 2 fed up, bored. • *adv* **wearily**.

**weasel** /'wi:zəl/, /hee-zul/ *n* a small reddish-brown animal that eats frogs, mice, birds, etc.

**weather** /'wɛðər/, /weth-er/ *n* the general conditions of the atmosphere (e.g. sunshine, rain, wind, etc) at any particular time. • *vb* 1 to come safely through. 2 to be damaged or discoloured by the effects of weather. • **make heavy weather of** to find difficulty in doing. • **under the weather** feeling unwell.

**weather-beaten** /'wɛðər,bi:tən/, /weth-er-bee-tin/ *adj* marred or coloured by the effects of the weather.

**weather vane** /'wɛðər,vēn/, /weth-er vane/ *n* a pointer that turns around to show the direction from which the wind is blowing.

**weave** /wi:v/, /weev/ *vb* (pt **wove**, pp **woven**) 1 to form cloth by intertwining threads. 2 to put together sticks, twigs, etc, by

interlacing them. **3** to make up. • *n* **weaver**.

**web** /wɛb/, /wɛb/ *n* **1** cloth made by weaving. **2** the net of fine threads made by a spider. **3** the skin between the toes of water birds. **3** (*cap*) short for the World Wide Web, the Internet. • *adj* **webbed**.

**webbing** /'wɛbɪŋ/, /wɛb-ing/ *n* a narrow band of strong material used for belts, etc.

**webcam** /'wɛbkam/, /wɛb-cam/ *n* a video camera connected to a computer so that the images can be viewed on the Internet.

**web-footed** /wɛb'fʊtəd/, /wɛb-foo-tid/ *adj* having skin between the toes.

**weblog** see **blog**.

**web page** /wɛb'peɪdʒ/, /wɛb payj/ *n* a computer file accessed on the Internet or World Wide Web.

**web site** /wɛb'saɪt/, /wɛb site/ *n* an Internet location that consists of a number of related documents or files.

**wed** /wed/, /wɛd/ *vb* (**wedded**, **wedding**) to marry.

**we'd** /wi:d/, /wɛd/ *contraction* we had.

**wedding** /wɛdɪŋ/, /wɛd-ing/ *n* a marriage.

**wedge** /wɛdʒ/, /wɛdʒ/ *n* a piece of wood, metal, etc, thick at one end and narrowing to a sharp edge at the other. • *vb* to split open, fix, or fasten with a wedge.

**wedlock** /'wɛdlɒk/, /wɛd-lock/ *n* the married state.

**Wednesday** /'wɛnzdeɪ/, /wɛd-anz-day/ *n* the fourth or middle day of the week.

**weed** /wi:d/, /wɛd/ *n* **1** a useless plant growing in a garden or field. **2** (*inf*) a weak or very thin person. **3** (*inf*) cannabis. • *vb* **1** to clear of weeds. **2** to pull up weeds.

**weeds** /wi:dz/, /wɛdʒ/ *npl* the black clothing worn by a widow in mourning.

**weedy** /'wi:di/, /wɛe-dee/ *adj* thin and weak-looking.

**week** /wi:k/, /wɛk/ *n* a period of seven days.

**weekday** /'wi:kdeɪ/, /wɛk-day/ *n* any day of the week except Sunday and often Saturday.

**weekend** /'wi:kənd/, /week-end/ *n* the period from the time your work ceases on Friday or Saturday until you begin it again on Monday.

**weekly** /'wi:kli/, /week-lee/ *adj* happening once a week. • *n* a newspaper or magazine published once a week.

**weep** /wi:p/, /weep/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **wept**) **1** to shed tears, to cry. **2** to mourn. • *adj* **weepy**.

**weeping** /'wi:pɪŋ/, /wee-ping/ *adj* **1** crying. **2** (*of a tree*) having drooping branches.

**weevil** /'wi:vəl/, /hee-vil/ *n* a type of beetle that destroys stored grain.

**weft** /wɛft/, /weft/ *n* the cross-threads of a piece of cloth.

**weigh** /wei/, /way/ *vb* **1** to measure the heaviness of. **2** to raise. **3** to be of a certain heaviness. • **weigh down** to trouble. • **weigh up** to consider carefully. • **weigh with** to seem important to.

**weight** /weɪt/, /wate/ *n* **1** heaviness. **2** a piece of metal, etc, of known heaviness, used in finding how heavy another object is or in fitness training. **3** importance, influence. **4** a heavy load. • *adj* **weightless**. • *n* **weightlessness**.

**weightlifting** /'weɪt,liftnɪŋ/, /wate-lif-ting/ *n* the sport of lifting heavy weights.

**weight training** /'weɪt,treɪnɪŋ/, /wate tray-ning/ *n* a kind of fitness training involving the use of light weights.

**weighty** /'weɪti/, /way-tee/ *adj* **1** heavy. **2** important, deserving careful consideration.

**weir** /wi:r/, /weer/ *n* a barrier built across a stream to make the water approaching it deeper.

**weird** /wi:rd/, /weerd/ *adj* **1** odd, very strange. **2** strange, eerie, unearthly. • *adv* **weirdly**. • *n* **weirdness**.

**welcome** /'welkəm/, /wel-cum/ *adj* **1** pleasing. **2** allowed to use or take at any time. • *n* a kindly greeting or reception. • *vb* **1** to greet kindly. **2** to receive or hear with pleasure. • **make welcome** to make (a guest) feel at home.

**weld** /weld/, /weld/ *vb* to join two pieces of metal by heating them and hammering them together. • *n* **welder**.

**welfare** /'welfər/, /wel-fare/ *n* **1** happiness, success. **2** health, good living conditions. **3** payments provided by the government for those in need.

**well<sup>1</sup>** /wɛl/, /well/ *adv* **1** in a good way or style. **2** thoroughly. **3** rightly. **4** with approval. • *adj* **1** in good health. **2** all right. • **as well as** in addition to.

**well<sup>2</sup>** /wɛl/, /well/ *n* **1** a spring of water. **2** a hole in the ground from which water can be drawn. **3** a pit made in the ground to reach oil. **4** a fountain. • *vb* **1** to come up as from a spring. **2** to gush out.

**we'll** /wi:l, wɪl/, /weel/ *contraction* we will.

**well-being** /wɛl,bi:ŋ/, /well-bee-ing/ *n* success, happiness.

**well-informed** /wɛlɪn'fɔrmɪd/, /well-in-fawrmd/ *adj* having much knowledge.

**well-known** /wɛl'nɒ:n/, /well-noan/ *adj* famous.

**well-nigh** /'wɛl,nai/, /well-nie/ *adv* (*old* or *fml*) almost.

**well-off** /wɛl'ɔf/, /well-awf/ *adj* rich.

**well-read** /'wɛl'red/, /well-red/ *adj* having read much.

**well-spoken** /wɛl'spo:kən/, /well-spoε-kin/ *adj* always pronouncing clearly with a pleasing, educated accent.

**well-wisher** /'wɛl,wɪʃər/, /well-wi-sher/ *n* a friendly supporter.

**well-worn** /wɛl'wɔrn/, /well-woarn/ *adj* much worn, much used.

**welter** /'weltər/, /well-ter/ *n* a confused mass, disorder.

**welterweight** /weltər,weɪt/, /well-ter-wate/ *n* a boxer between middleweight and heavyweight.

**wench** /wɛntʃ/, /wench/ *n* (*old*) a young woman.

**wend** /wend/, /wend/ *vb* (*old*) to go, to make.

**were** /wɛr/, /wer/ *pt of be*, used with 'we', 'you' or 'they' or with plural nouns

**we're** /wi:r/, /weer/ *contraction* we are.

**went pt of go.**

**wept pt and pp of weep.**

**west** /'wɛst/, /west/ *n* one of the four principal points of the compass, the direction in which the sun sets.

**westerly** /'wɛstərli/, /west-er-lee/ *adj* from or towards the west.

**western** /'wɛstərn/, /west-ern/ *adj* in or from the west. • *n* a movie, usually about cowboys and American Indians, set in the west of North America during the 19th or early 20th century.

**westward** /'wɛstwərd/, /west-ward/ *adv* towards the west.

**wet** /wɛt/, /wet/ *adj* 1 covered or soaked with water or other liquid. 2 not dry, moist. 3 rainy. • *n* rainy weather. • *vb* (**wet** or **wetted**, **wetting**) to make wet. • *n* **wetness**.

**we've** /wi:v/, /weev/ *contraction* we have.

**whack** /wæk/, /whack/ *vb (inf)* to strike sharply, to beat severely. • *n* 1 a blow. 2 a share. 3 an attempt.

**whale** /weil/, /whale/ *n* a large sea mammal. • *vb* to hunt whales. • *n* **whaling**.

**whalebone** /'weiłbo:n/, /whale-bone/ *n* an elastic horny substance got from the jaw of a whale.

**whaler** /'weiłər/, /whay-ler/ *n* a ship engaged in whale hunting.

**wharf** /wɔrf/, /whawrf/ *n* (*pl* **wharfs** or **wharves**) a platform or quay at which ships are loaded and unloaded.

**what** /wɛt, wɒt/, /whawt/ *adj and pron* used to ask for information about someone or something.

**whatever** /wɛt'evər, wɒt-/ , /whaw-te-ver/ *pron* no matter what, any thing concerned.

**whatnot** /'wɛtnɒt, wɒt-/ , /whawt-nawt/ *n* an object not easily described or defined.

**wheat** /wi:t/, /wheet/ *n* the grain from which bread flour is obtained.

**wheaten** /'wi:tən/, /whee-tin/ *adj* made from wheat.

**wheedle** /'wi:dəl/, /whee-dul/ *vb* to try to please a person in order to get him or her to do something; to coax.

**wheel** /wi:l/, /wheel/ *n* a round frame, often strengthened by spokes, turning on an axis. • *vb* 1 to move on wheels. 2 to turn like a wheel. 3 to change direction by a wheeling movement when marching in line.

**wheelbarrow** /'wi:l'bəro:/, /wheel-ba-ro/ *n* a handcart, usually with one wheel, two legs, and handles.

**wheelchair** /'wi:ltʃər/, /wheel-chair/ *n* a chair with wheels for people who are unable to walk.

**wheelwright** /'wi:lraɪt/, /wheəl-rite/ *n* a maker of wheels and carts.

**wheeze** /wi:z/, /wheeze/ *vb* to breathe with a hoarse or hissing sound.

• *also n. • adj wheezy.*

**when** /wen/, /when/ *adv and conj* at what or which time.

**whence** /wəns/, /whenss/ *adv and conj* from what place.

**whenever** /wen'evər/, /whe-ne-ver/, **whensoever** /when-so-ev-er/ *adv and conj* at no matter what time.

**where** /wer/, /whare/ *adv and conj* at, to, or in what place.

**whereabouts** /'wərə'bauts/, /whay-ra-bouts/ *n* the place you are in.

**whereas** /wer'æz/, /whay-raz/ *conj* since, although.

**whereby** /wer'bai/, /whare-bie/ *adv and conj* by which.

**wherefore** /'werfo:r/, /whare-fore/ *adv and conj* for which or what reason.

**whereupon** /,wərə'pɒn/, /whare-up-awn/ *adv* after which.

**wherever** /wer'evər/, /whare-ev-er/ *adv and conj* at, to, or in whatever place.

**whet** /wɛt/, /whet/ *vb* 1 to sharpen. 2 to make.

**whether** /'weðər/, /whe-ther/ *conj* if. • *pron* which of two.

**whey** /wei/, /whay/ *n* the watery part of the milk, separated from the curd.

**which** /witʃ/, /which/ *adj and pron* what particular.

**whiff** /wɪf/, /whiff/ *n* 1 a puff of air or smoke. 2 a quick or slight smell. • *vb* 1 to puff. 2 to smell.

**while** /waɪl/, /while/, *also whilst* *n* a space of time. • *conj* during the time that. • *vb* to pass.

**whilst** *conj* see **while**.

**whim** /wɪm/, /whim/ *n* a sudden strange desire or idea, a passing fancy.

**whimper** /'wɪmpər/, /whim-per/ *vb* to cry brokenly, to whine. • *also n.*

**whimsical** /'wɪmzɪkəl/, /whim-zí-cal/ *adj* full of whims, odd, unusual, fantastic.

**whimsy** /'wɪmzi/, /whim-zee/ *n* whim. • *n* **whimsicality**. • *adv* whimsically.

**whine** /wain/, /whine/ *n* a long cry of complaint, a wail. • *vb* 1 to utter a sad or complaining cry. 2 to speak in a complaining voice.

**whinny** /'wini/, /whi-nee/ *n* the high-pitched cry of a horse. • *also vb.*

**whip** /wip/, /whip/ *n* a cord attached to a stick for beating or driving animals. • *vb (whipped, whipping)* 1 to strike with a whip. 2 to beat eggs, cream, etc, into a froth. 3 to take or move.

**whippet** /'wipit/, /whi-pit/ *n* a dog like a greyhound used for racing.

**whir(r)** /wər, hwər/, /whir/ *vb (whirred, whirring)* to move through the air or spin with a buzzing or clicking sound. • *also n.*

**whirl** /wərl/, /whirl/ *vb* to move quickly around and around, to spin quickly. • *n* a quick round-and-round movement, confusion.

**whirlpool** /'wəlpu:l/, /whirl-pool/ *n* a current of water turning around and around with a circular motion.

**whirlwind** /'wəlwɪnd/, /whirl-wind/ *n* a violent wind blowing around and around in a circle.

**whisk** /wɪsk/, /whisk/ *vb* 1 to knock or brush with a quick light movement. 2 to beat lightly into a froth. 3 to take with a quick movement. • *n* 1 a quick or jerky movement. 2 an implement for beating eggs, etc. 3 a bunch of hair, etc, for brushing away flies, dust, etc.

**whisker** /'wɪskər/, /whi-sker/ *n* 1 the hair growing on the cheeks, the stiff hairs growing on the cheeks of men. 2 the stiff hairs growing above the mouth of certain animals.

**whiskey** /'wiski/, /whi-skee/ *n* a strong alcoholic drink made in Ireland or North America from barley, rye, etc.

**whisky** /'wiski/, /whi-skee/ *n* a strong alcoholic drink made in Scotland from barley.

**whisper** /'wɪspər/, /whi-sper/ *vb* 1 to speak very softly, using the breath instead of the voice. 2 to rustle. • *n* 1 a very soft voice. 2 what is whispered. 3 a rumour.

**whist** /wɪst/, /whist/ *n* a game of cards for four persons.

**whistle** /'wɪsəl/, /whi-sul/ *vb* 1 to make a high, shrill sound with the lips or a special instrument. 2 to play a tune by whistling. • *n* 1 a shrill sound made with the lips or a special instrument. 2 an instrument that makes a whistling sound when blown.

**whit** /wɪt/, /wɪt/ *n* a tiny piece.

**white** /'wɛɪt/, /whtɪə/ *adj* 1 of the colour of clean snow or milk. 2 pale.

3 having a pale skin. • *also n.*

**White House** /'wɛɪt haʊs/, /whtɪə hawss/ *n* the official residence of the president of the USA in Washington, DC.

**white lie** /'wɛɪt laɪ/, /whtɪə laɪ/ *n* a lie told for what is believed to be a good purpose.

**whiten** /'wɛɪtən/, /whtɪən/ *vb* to make or become white.

**whitewash** /'wɛɪtwɒʃ/, /whtɪə-wawsh/ *n* a mixture of lime or chalk and water used for painting walls, etc, white. • *vb* 1 to paint with whitewash. 2 to try to make what is wrong appear blameless, to try to make a guilty person seem innocent.

**whither** /'wɪðər/, /whi-ther/ *adv and conj* to which or what place.

**whiting** /'wɛɪtɪŋ/, /whtɪə-ting/ *n* a small edible sea fish.

**whittle** /'wɪtl̩/, /whi-tul/ *vb* 1 to pare off short strips with a knife. 2 to make smaller or thinner. 3 to cut down or reduce a little at a time.

**whiz(z)** /wɪz/, /whizz/ *vb* (**whizzed**, **whizzing**) to make a hissing or swishing sound when moving through the air. • *also n.*

**whizkid** or **whizzkid** /'wɪzkɪd/, /whiz-kid/ *n* (*inf*) a young person who is exceptionally successful at something, often in business.

**who** /hu:/, /hoo/ *pron* which person.

**whoever** /hu:'evər/, /hoo-əv-er/ *pron* no matter who, any person concerned.

**whole** /ho:l/, /hole/ *adj* 1 complete, entire. 2 unharmed. • *n* the total, all.

**wholefood** /'ho:lfd/, /hole-food/ *n* food which has not been refined or processed very much and which does not contain artificial substances.

**wholehearted** /'ho:l,hartəd/, /hole-har-tid/ *adj* enthusiastic, keen. • *adv wholeheartedly.*

**wholemeal** /'ho:lmi:l/, /hole-meel/ *adj* of flour or bread, made from the complete grain of wheat, including the husk.

**wholesale** /'ho:lseɪl/, /hole-sale/ *n* the selling of goods in large quantities to those who will resell them to others. • *adj* on a large scale. • *n wholesaler.*

**wholesome** /'ho:ləm/, /hole-sum/ *adj* 1 having a good effect on health. 2 healthy, morally healthy.

**wholly** /'ho:li/, /hole-lee/ *adv* completely.

**whom** /hu:m/, /hoom/ *pron* the form of 'who' used when the object of a sentence or following a preposition.

**whoop** /wup, wup/, /hu:p/, /whoop/ *n* a loud shout. • *vb* to make a whoop.

**whooping cough** /'wu:pɪŋ kɒf/, /whoo-ping coff/ *n* a disease, chiefly of children, with long fits of coughing, during which the breath is taken in again with a gasping sound.

**whorl** /wɔrl/, /whawrl/ *n* 1 a ring of leaves around a stem. 2 one turn of a spiral shell.

**whose** /hu:z/, /hooz/ *pron* belonging to whom.

**why** /wai/, /whie/ *adv and conj* for what reason.

**wick** /wɪk/, /wick/ *n* the thread in a candle; in an oil lamp or oil heater, the band of cloth that draws up the oil and is burned to give light.

**wicked** /'wɪkid/, /wi-kid/ *adj* bad, sinful, evil. • *adv* **wickedly**. • *n* **wickedness**.

**wicker** /'wɪkər/, /wi-ker/ *n* a willow twig. • *adj* made of willow twigs woven together.

**wickerwork** /wi-ker-wurk/ *n* basket work.

**wicket** /-ɪt/, /wi-kit/ *n* a small gate, a small door in or near a larger one.

**wide** /waɪd/, /wide/ *adj* broad, extending far in all directions. • *adv* 1 missing the target by passing beside it. 2 fully. • *adv* **widely**.

**widen** /'waɪdən/, /wie-den/ *vb* to make or become wide.

**widespread** /-spred, -'spred/, /wide-spred/ *adj* occurring or found far and wide.

**widow** /'wɪdəʊ/, /wi-doe/ *n* a woman whose husband is dead.

**widower** /-ər/, /wi-doe-wer/ *n* a man whose wife is dead.

**width** /widθ, witθ/, /width/ *n* breadth.

**wield** /wi:ld/, /weeld/ *vb* 1 to use with the hands. 2 to use or put into practice.

**wife** /wɔɪf/, /wifə/ *n* (*pl* **wives**) a married woman.

**wifely** /'wɔɪflɪ/, /wife-lee/ *adj* like a wife.

**wifi** see **wireless**.

**wig** /wig/, /wig/ *n* an artificial covering of hair for the head.

**wiggle** /'wɪgəl/, /wi-gul/ *vb* to wag, to shake from side to side.

**wigwam** /'wɪgwæm/, /wig-wam/, also **wickiup** *n* a domed tent dwelling of a Native American.

**wild** /waɪld/, /wilde/ *adj* 1 not tamed or civilized. 2 not cultivated. 3 savage. 4 uncontrolled. 5 very excited. • *n* a desert area, an area unaltered by man. • *adv* **wildly**.

**wildcat** /'waɪldkæt/, /wilde-cat/ *n* 1 a fierce wild animal of the cat family. 2 a fierce person. • *adj* foolish, reckless, risky.

**wildebeest** /'wɪldəbi:st/, /wil-di-beest/ *n* a gnu.

**wilderness** /'wɪldərnəs/, /wil-der-ness/ *n* a desert, an uncultivated or uninhabited area.

**wildfire** /waɪld,fair/, /wilde-fire/ *n*. • **spread like wildfire** to spread very quickly.

**wild-goose chase** /'waɪld 'gu:s tʃeɪs/, /wilde-goos-chase/ *n* an undertaking that cannot possibly succeed.

**wildlife** /'waɪdləɪf/, /wilde-life/ *n* animals, birds, and insects, and sometimes plants, which live in their natural environment.

**wile** /waɪl/, /wile/ *n* a trick.

**will<sup>1</sup>** /wɪl/, /will/ *aux vb, pt would (with a noun or pronoun)* 1 to express the future (*he will, she will, they will*). 2 to express a command (*you will do this*). 3 to express a desire (*I will succeed*). 4 to express expectation (*it will happen*). See also **shall**.

**will<sup>2</sup>** /wɪl/, /will/ *n* 1 your power to make decisions or choices, self-control. 2 desire. 3 a written document made by a person to say what is to be done with his or her property after death. • *vb* to leave property to others by a signed will.

**wilful** /'wilfʊl/, /will-ful/ *adj*, also **willful** (*US*) always wanting your own way; done deliberately. • *adv* **wilfully**, also **willfully** (*US*).

**willing** /'wɪlɪŋ/, /wi-ling/ *adj* ready, eager. • *adv* **willingly**.

**willow** /'wi:lə/, /wi-loe/ *n* a tree with slender, easily bent branches.

**willowy** /'wi:lə:i/, /wi-lo-wee/ *adj* 1 easily bent. 2 slender, graceful.

**willpower** /'wil,pauər/, /will-pow-er/ *n* determination to control what you do.

**wilt** /wilt/, /wilt/ *vb* 1 to droop. 2 to lose freshness or vigour.

**wily** /'waili/, /wie-lee/ *adj* cunning.

**wimple** /'wimpəl/, /wim-pul/ *n* (*old*) a headdress, fitting closely around the face, worn by nuns.

**win** /win/, /win/ *vb* (**won**, **winning**) 1 to be successful in a match or contest, to be victorious. 2 to obtain in a competition. • *n* 1 a success. 2 a victory. • *n* **winner**.

**wince** /wɪns/, /winss/ *vb* 1 to make a quick movement back because of pain or fear. 2 to twist the face from pain.

**winch** /wɪntʃ/, /winch/ *n* 1 a handle for turning a wheel. 2 a device for moving a heavy object by winding a rope attached to it around a drum or wheel, so drawing the object up or along.

**wind<sup>1</sup>** /wind/, /wind/ *n* 1 air moving. 2 a current of air, a breeze or gale. 3 breath. • *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **winded**) to put out of breath by a blow in the stomach.

**wind<sup>2</sup>** /waɪnd/, /wynd/ *vb* (*pt*, *pp* **wound**) 1 to twist. 2 to coil. 3 to gather up by turning. 4 to follow a twisting course. • **wind up** 1 to turn a handle to tighten a spring in a machine. 2 to bring to an end. 3 (*inf*) to joke with in order to irritate.

**windbag** /'windbæg/, /wind bag/ *n* (*inf*) a person who talks too much.

**windfall** /'windfɔ:l/, /wind-fawl/ *n* 1 fruit blown down. 2 a piece of unexpected luck, an unexpected gift of money.

**windfarm** /'windfærm/, /wind-farm/ *n* a collection of turbines, for generating electricity, that are driven by wind power.

**wind instrument** /'wind ,instrəmənt/, /wind in-stru-mint/ *n* a musical instrument, such as the flute, played by blowing into it.

**windmill** /'windmil/, /wind-mill/ *n* a mill with sails driven by wind.

**window** /'windo:/, /win-doe/ *n* an opening in the wall of a house, etc, to let in light (usually filled with a sheet of glass).

**windpipe** /'windpəɪp/, /wind-pipe/ *n* the air passage from the mouth to the lungs.

**windscreen** /'windskri:n/, /wind-skreen/ *n* the glass panel at the front of a motor car that acts like a shield.

**windsurfing** /'wind,sərfɪŋ/, /wind-sur-fing/ *n* a sport involving moving along the surface of the sea or a stretch of water while standing on a board with a sail attached to it. • *n* **windsurfer**.

**windward** /'windwərd/, /wind-ward/ *n* the direction from which the wind is blowing. • *also adj.*

**windy** /'windi, waindi/, /win-dee/ *adj* open to the winds, breezy, gusty.

**wine** /waɪn/, /wine/ *n* an alcoholic drink made from the fermented juice of grapes.

**wing** /wɪŋ/, /wing/ *n* 1 the limb with the help of which birds, insects, etc, fly. 2 a side part or extension of a building, stage, etc. 3 the supporting parts of an aeroplane. 4 the side part of an army when drawn up for battle. 5 the far right or left of a sports field, such as a football pitch. 6 the part of a car above the wheel. • *vb* 1 to fly. 2 to wound in the wing or arm. • *adj* **winged**. • *adj* **wingless**. • **on the wing** in flight.

**wink** /wɪŋk/, /wingk/ *vb* 1 to shut and open one eyelid with a quick movement. 2 to flicker, to twinkle. 3 (*fmf*) (*usually with at*) to pretend not to see. • *n* 1 the act of winking. 2 a hint given by winking. • **forty winks** a nap, a short sleep.

**winner** see **win**.

**winning** /'wɪnɪŋ/, /wi-ning/ *adj* 1 successful. 2 charming. • *npl* money that you have won.

**winnow** /'wɪno:/, /win-noe/ *vb* to separate the grain from the chaff by a draught of air.

**winsome** /'wɪnsəm/, /win-sum/ *adj* (*fmf*) attractive, pleasant.

**winter** /'wɪntər/, /win-ter/ *n* the coldest season of the year. • *vb* to spend the winter.

**wintry** /'wintri/, /win-tree/ *adj* like winter; cold, stormy, or snowy.

**wipe** /wəɪp/, /wipe/ *vb* to clean or dry by gentle rubbing. • *n* a rub intended to clean or dry. • **wipe out** to destroy, to cause to cease to exist.

**wiper** /'wɪpər/, /wie-per/ *n* a device for wiping rain from a car windscreen.

**wire** /waɪr/, /wire/ *n* a thread or cord of metal. • *vb* to provide with wire or wires. • *n* **wiring**.

**wireless** /'waɪrləs/, /wire-less/ *adj* 1 having no wire. 2 of telecommunications devices transmitting electromagnetic waves. 3 of computer networking, *abbr* **wifi**. • *n* (*old, Brit*) the radio.

**wiry** /'wairi/, /wie-ree/ *adj* thin but muscular.

**wisdom** /'wɪzdəm/, /wiz-dum/ *n* 1 the ability to make good use of your knowledge and experience. 2 good sense.

**wisdom tooth** /'wɪzdəm tu:θ/, /wiz-dum tooth/ *n* a back tooth that grows when you are a young adult.

**wise** /waɪz/, /wize/ *adj* 1 having or showing wisdom. 2 sensible.

**-wise** /waɪz/, /wize/ *suffix (fml)* with regard to.

**wish** /wɪʃ/, /wish/ *vb* to have a desire, to want (to do), to long. • *n* 1 a desire. 2 the thing wanted.

**wishful thinking** /,wɪʃful 'θɪŋkɪŋ/, /wish-ful thing-king/ *n* something believed in spite of the facts because you want it to be true.

**wishy-washy** /'wɪʃi:,wɒʃi/, /wi-shee-waw-shee/ *adj* weak and pale, feeble.

**wisp** /wɪsp/, /wisp/ *n* a small bundle of straw, hay, etc. • *adj* **wispy**.

**wistful** /'wɪstfʊl/, /wist-ful/ *adj* thoughtful, longing. • *adv* **wistfully**.

**wit** /wɪt/, /wit/ *n* 1 the ability to say things shortly, neatly, and cleverly, often in a way that makes them amusing. 2 a person who has this ability. 3 intelligence, understanding. • **at your wit's end** so worried that you do not know what to do next. • **to wit** namely, that is to say.

**witch** /wɪtʃ/, /witch/ *n* 1 a woman believed to have magical powers granted by the devil. 2 an ugly old woman.

**witchcraft** /wɪtʃkræft/, /witch-craft/ *n* magic performed with the aid of the devil.

**witch-doctor** /'wɪtʃdɒktər/, /witch-doc-tor/ *n* among certain African tribes, a man believed to be able to control evil spirits and cure illness by magic.

**with** /wiθ, wið/, /with/ *prep* 1 in the company of. 2 having.

**withdraw** /wɪθ'drɒ, wɪð-/ , /with-draw/ *vb* 1 to draw or pull back, to retreat. 2 to take back. 3 to take money, etc, from your bank or stock. • *n withdrawal*.

**withdrawn** /wɪθdrən, wɪð/, /with-drawn/ *adj* shy or unfriendly.

**wither** /'wɪðər/, /wi-ther/ *vb* to make or become dry and faded, to shrivel, to rot away.

**withering** /'wɪðərɪŋ/, /wi-ther-ing/ *adj* 1 drying, fading. 2 hurtful, sarcastic.

**withers** /'wɪðərz/, /wi-therz/ *npl* the ridge between the shoulder blades of a horse.

**withhold** /wɪθ'ho:ld/, /with-hoald/ *vb* to refuse to grant or give, to keep back.

**within** /wɪ'ðɪn/, /wi-thin/ *prep* inside. • *adv* 1 indoors. 2 inwardly.

**without** /wɪ'θaʊt, -ðaʊt/, /with-out/ *prep* not having.

**withstand** /wɪθ'stænd, wɪð-/ , /with-stand/ *vb* to resist, to oppose.

**witless** /'wɪtləs/, /wit-less/ *adj (fml)* foolish, stupid.

**witness** /'wɪtnəs/, /wit-ness/ *n* 1 a person who sees an event taking place. 2 a person who tells in a court of law what took place on an occasion at which he or she was present. 3 (fml) evidence pointing to the truth. • *vb* 1 to see happening. 2 to sign a document to confirm that another has signed it in your presence. • **bear witness** to give evidence.

**witticism** /'wɪtɪsɪzəm/, /wi-ti-si-zum/ *n* a clever or humorous saying, shortly and neatly expressed.

**wittingly** /'wɪtɪŋli/, /wi-ting-lee/ *adv* with knowledge or understanding of what you are doing.

**witty** /'wɪti/, /wi-tee/ *adj* able to say clever things briefly and often amusingly. • *adv wittily*.

**wives** /waɪvz/, /wives/ *pl of wife*.

**wizard** /'wɪzərd/, /wi-zard/ *n* 1 a man who claims magical powers. 2 a conjurer.

**wizardry** /'wɪzərdri:/, /wi-zard-ree/ *n* 1 magic. 2 great skill.

**wizened** /'wɪzənd/, /wi-zend/ *adj* dried up and wrinkled.

**wobble** /'wɒbəl/, /wob-ul/ *vb* to sway from side to side, move unsteadily. • *also n.*

**wobbly** /'wɒbli/, /wob-lee/ *adj* unsteady.

**woe** /wo:/, /woe/ *n (fml)* grief, sorrow, misery.

**woebegone** /'wo:bə,gən/, /wo-bi-gawn/ *adj (fml)* full of sorrow or grief.

**woeful** /'wo:fəl/, /wo-ful/ *adj* 1 sad. 2 deplorably bad. • *adv* **woefully**.

**wok** /wɒk/, /wok/ *n* a large bowl-shaped cooking pan used for stir-frying.

**woke** /wo:k/, /woke/ *pt of wake*. • *pp* **woken**.

**wolf** /wʊlf/, /woolf/ *n (pl wolves)* a fierce wild animal of the dog family. • *vb* to eat greedily.

**woman** /'wʊmən/, /woo-man/ *n (pl women /wi-min/)* a grown-up female human being.

**womanhood** /'wʊmən,hud/, /woo-man-hood/ *n* the state or qualities of a woman.

**womanish** /'wʊmən,ɪʃ/, /woo-ma-nish/ *adj* 1 having the qualities of a woman. 2 unmanly.

**womankind** /'wʊmən,kaind/, /woo-man-kiend/ *n* women in general.

**womanly** /'wʊmən,li/, /woo-man-lee/ *adj* having the good qualities of a woman, gentle.

**womb** /wu:m/, /woom/ *n* the female organ in which the young are kept and fed until birth.

**wombat** /'wɒmbæt/, /wom-bat/ *n* a pouched Australian animal, like a small bear.

**women** *pl of woman*.

**women's movement** /'wɪmɪnz,mu:vment/, /wi-minz moov-mint/ *n* a movement whose aim is to improve the position of women in society and obtain equality with men.

**won** /wɒn/, /wun/ *pt of win*.

**wonder** /'wʌndər/, /wun-der/ *n* 1 great surprise or astonishment. 2 anything giving rise to such feelings, a marvel or miracle. • *vb* 1 to think about the reasons for something. 2 to feel surprise or astonishment.

**wonderful** /'wʌndər,fʊl/, /wun-der-ful/ *adj* very surprising, extraordinary. • *adv* **wonderfully**.

**wonderment** /'wʌndərmənt/, /wun-der-mənt/ *n* surprise, astonishment.

**wondrous** /'wʌndrəs/, /wun-druss/ *adj* (*old*) wonderful.

**wont** /wɒnt/, /wawnt/ *n* custom, habit. • *adj* accustomed.

**won't** /wo:nt/, /woant/ *contraction* will not.

**woo** /wu:/, /woo/ *vb* 1 to try to make someone love you, to seek to marry. 2 to try to get someone's support or custom. • *n* **wooer**.

**wood** /wud/, /wood/ *n* 1 a large collection of growing trees. 2 the hard substance of which the trunks and branches of trees are made.

**woodcut** /'wudkət/, /wood-cut/ *n* a print made from a picture carved on wood.

**wooded** /'wudɪd/, /woo-did/ *adj* covered with trees or woods.

**wooden** /'wudən/, /woo-din/ *adj* 1 made of wood. 2 dull, lacking feeling.

**woodland** /'wudlənd/, /wood-land/ *n* country covered with trees or woods.

**woodpecker** /'wud,pɛkər/, /wood-pe-ker/ *n* a bird that taps holes in trees with its long pointed beak and takes out insects from them with its tongue.

**woodwind instrument** /'wudwɪnd ,ɪnstɪmənt/, /wood-wind in-stru-mint/ *n* a wind instrument usually made of wood, such as the clarinet.

**woodwork** /'wudwɜːk/, /wood-wurk/ *n* 1 the art of making objects out of wood. 2 objects so made.

**woodworm** /'wudwərm/, /wood-wurm/ *n* a grub that eats its way into wood and destroys it.

**woody** /'wudi/, /woo-dee/ *adj* 1 made of wood. 2 covered with woods.

**woof** /wʊf/, /woof/ *n* the sound that a dog makes when it barks.

**wool** /wʊl/, /wool/ *n* 1 the soft, wavy hair covering the body of certain animals (e.g. sheep, goats, etc.). 2 thread or cloth made from wool.

**woollen** /'wulən/, /woo-lən/ *adj*, also **woolen** (*US*) made of wool. • *also n.*

**woolly** /'wʊli/, /woo-lee/ *adj* 1 covered with wool. 2 like wool.

**word** /wɜːd/, /wurd/ *n* 1 a sound or group of sounds expressing an idea. 2 a message, information. 3 a promise. • *vb* to express in words. • **have words with** to quarrel with. • **word for word** in exactly the same words as those used before.

**wording** /'wɜːdɪŋ/, /wur-dɪŋ/ *n* the way that something is expressed in words.

**word-perfect** /'wɜːdpərfekt/, /wurd-per-fect/ *adj* able to say without an error the words of something learned.

**word processor** /'wɜːd,prəsəsər/, /wurd prə-se-sur/ *n* a computer system used for writing, editing and printing documents.

**wordy** /'wɜːdi/, /wur-dee/ *adj* using more words than are necessary.

**wore** /wɔːr/, /wore/ *pt of wear*.

**work** /wɜːk/, /wurk/ *n* 1 effort. 2 a task, tasks. 3 that which you do for a living. 4 a book, picture, piece of music, etc. • *vb* 1 to labour, to toil. 2 to be in a job. 3 to make to do work. 4 to have the desired effect or result. 5 to cause, to bring about. 6 to give shape to. • *npl* **works** 1 a factory. 2 the parts of a machine that make it go. • **work up** to excite.

**workable** /'wɜːkəbəl/, /wur-ka-bul/ *adj* that can be done or used.

**worker** /'wɜːkər/, /wur-ker/ *n* 1 a person who works. 2 an insect (e.g. a bee) that does all the work.

**workforce** /'wɜːkfɔːrs/, /wurk-foarss/ *n* the number of people who work in a particular firm, place, industry, etc.

**workman** /'wɜːkmən/, /wurk-man/ a worker who is employed as a craftsman or manual labourer.

**workmanship** /'wɜːkmənʃɪp/, /wurk-man-ship/ 1 skill of a worker. 2 the quality of a piece of work.

**workout** /'wɜːkəut/, /wurk-out/ *n* a session of physical exercise or training. • *vb* **work out**.

**workshop** /'wɜːkʃɒp/, /wurk-shap/ *n* a building or room in which work is carried on.

**world** /wɜːld/, /wurld/ *n* 1 the Earth on which we live. 2 any planet or star. 3 the universe and all created things. 4 all human beings. 5 any sphere of activity, study, etc. 6 a great amount.

**worldly** /'wərl̩dli/, /wurld-lee/ *adj* 1 having to do with this world or life. 2 interested only in the things of this life.

**worldwide** /wərl̩d'waɪd/, /wurld-wɪdə/ *adj* spread throughout or found everywhere in the world.

**World Wide Web** /wərl̩d'waɪd,wɛb/, /wɔrl̩d wɪd wɛb/ *n (abbr = WWW)* the Internet network that stretches across the world.

**worm** /wərm/, /wurm/ *n* 1 a small creeping animal without a backbone or legs. 2 the thread of a screw. 3 (*inf*) a despicable person. • *vb* 1 to wriggle or crawl along. 2 to do something slowly and secretly. 3 to persuade to tell by persistent questioning.

**worn** /wɔrn/, /woarn/ *pp of wear*. • *adj* showing signs of wear.

**worn-out** /'wɔrnaut/, /woarn-out/ *adj* 1 exhausted. 2 overused or worn.

**worry** /'wəri/, /wu-ree/ *vb* 1 to feel anxiety. 2 to trouble, to vex. 3 to tear with the teeth. • *n* 1 anxiety, trouble. 2 a cause of anxiety.

**worse** /wərs/, /wurss/ *adj* more bad, less good, more sick. • *adv* more badly.

**worsen** /wərsən/, /wur-sin/ *vb* to make or become worse.

**worship** /'wərʃɪp/, /wur-ship/ *n* 1 prayers and praise offered to God. 2 a religious service. 3 great love or reverence for. • *vb* (**worshipped**, **worshipping**) 1 to pray to. 2 to honour greatly. 3 to join in a religious service. • *n worshiper*.

**worst** /wərst/, /wurst/ *adj* most bad or sick. • *adv* most badly. • *n* the greatest evil or ill possible. • *vb* to defeat.

**worth** /wərθ/, /wurθ/ *adj* 1 equal in value to. 2 deserving of. 3 having such-and-such an amount of money or property. • *n* 1 value. 2 price. 3 merit, excellence.

**worthless** /'wərθləs/, /wurθ-less/ *adj* of no use or value. • *n* **worthlessness**.

**worthwhile** /wərθwaɪl/, /wurθ-while/ *adj* profitable, repaying the money, work, etc, expended.

**worthy** /'wərði/, /wur-thee/ *adj* deserving, deserving respect.

**would** /wud, wəd/, /wood/ *pt of will*.

**would-be** /'wudbi:/, /wood-be/ *adj* wishing to be, intending.

- wound** /wu:nd/, /woond/ *n* a hurt, cut, or bruise, an injury. • *vb* 1 to injure, to cause a wound to. 2 to hurt the feelings of.
- wound** /waund/, /wound/ *pt, pp of wind*. • **wound-up** over-excited.
- wove** /wo:v/, /wove/ *pt of weave*. • *pp woven*.
- wraith** /reiθ/, /raith/ *n (fml)* a ghost.
- wrangle** /ræŋgəl/, /rang-gul/ *vb* to quarrel, to argue angrily. • *n* a quarrel, a dispute. • *n wrangler*.
- wrap** /ræp/, /rap/ *vb*. • *n* 1 a shawl, a loose cloak. 2 a sandwich consisting of some kind of rolled-up thin bread with a filling inside. • *n wrapping*.
- wrapper** /'ræpər/, /ra-per/ *n* a cover for books, etc.
- wrath** /ræθ/, /rath/ *n* great anger, rage.
- wrathful** /ræθfəl/, /rath-ful/ *adj* very angry.
- wreak** /ri:k/, /reek/ *vb* to carry out, to put into effect.
- wreath** /ri:θ/, /reeth/ *n* 1 flowers, leaves, etc, woven together to form a ring or crown. 2 a curling or spiral cloud.
- wreathe** /ri:ð/, /reethe/ *vb* to put a wreath on or around.
- wreck** /ræk/, /reck/ *n* 1 destruction, especially of a ship at sea. 2 a ruin. 3 the remains of a ship destroyed by the sea. 4 a person weakened by ill health or evil living. • *vb* to ruin, to destroy.
- wreckage** /'rekidʒ/, /re-kidge/ *n* the broken parts of a wrecked ship.
- wren** /ren/, /ren/ *n* a very small songbird.
- wrench** /-tʃ/, /rench/ *n* 1 a violent twist. 2 the sorrow caused by parting from or giving away. 3 a tool for gripping and turning nuts, bolts, etc. • *vb* 1 to give a sudden twist or pull to. 2 to sprain.
- wrest** /rest/, /rest/ *vb* to twist, to pull violently from.
- wrestle** /'resəl/, /re-sul/ *vb* 1 to struggle with another by gripping and trying to throw down. 2 to try hard to solve.
- wrestler** /'resler/, /re-sler/ *n* a person who wrestles for sport.
- wrestling** /'restlin/, /re-sling/ *n* the sport of wrestling.
- wretch** /retʃ/, /rech/ *n* 1 a very unfortunate or miserable person. 2 a wicked or worthless person.
- wretched** /retʃed/, /rech-ed/ *adj* 1 miserable. 2 worthless.

**wriggle** /'rɪgəl/, /ri-gul/ *vb* 1 to twist from side to side. 2 to move with a wriggling movement. • *also n.* • *adj* **wriggly**.

**-wright** /rəɪt/, /rite/ *suffix* worker at, maker of.

**wring** /rɪŋ/, /ring/ *vb (pt, pp wrung)* 1 to squeeze hard, to twist tightly. 2 to get by pressure or persuasion.

**wringer** /'rɪŋər/, /ring-er/ *n* a machine for squeezing the water out of clothing.

**wrinkle** /'rɪŋkəl/, /ring-cul/ *n* a fold or furrow in the skin, or in cloth, etc. • *vb* to make wrinkles in.

**wrist** /rɪst/, /rist/ *n* the joint between the hand and the arm.

**wristwatch** /'rɪstwɒtʃ/, /rist-wawch/ *n* a watch attached to a band worn around the wrist.

**writ** /rit/, /rit/ *n* a written order from a law court to do or not to do certain acts.

**write** /rəɪt/, /rite/ *vb (pt wrote, pp written)* 1 to make marks standing for sounds, letters, or words on paper, etc, with a pen or pencil. 2 to make up stories, poems, etc, for publication. 3 to write a letter to.

**writer** /'rəɪtər/, /rie-ter/ *n* 1 an author. 2 a person who writes.

**writhe** /raɪð/, /rithe/ *vb* to twist and turn the body about.

**writing paper** /'rəɪtɪŋ ,peɪpər/, /rie-ting pay-per/ *n* paper for writing letters on.

**writings** /'rəɪtɪŋz/, /rie-tingz/ *npl* the written works of an author.

**written** *pp of write*.

**wrong** /rɒŋ/, /rong/ *adj* 1 not correct, false. 2 incorrect in your opinion, etc. 3 not good, not morally right, evil. • *vb* 1 to treat unjustly. 2 to do harm to. • *n* 1 an injustice. 2 harm. • *adv* **wrongly**.

**wrongdoer** /'rɒŋ,dʊər/, /rong-doo-er/ *n* a criminal, a sinner. • *n* **wrongdoing**.

**wrongful** /rɒŋfʊl/, /rong-ful/ *adj* 1 unjust. 2 criminal, wrong. • *adv* **wrongfully**.

**wrote** /ro:t/, /rote/ *pt of write*.

**wrought** /rɒt/, /rawt/ *old pt of work*. • *adj* beaten or rolled into shape. • *also adj.*

**wrought iron** /'rɒt aɪərn/, /rawt eye-urn/ *n* hammered iron. • *also adj.*

**wrung** *pt and pp of wring.*

**wry** /raɪ/, /riː/ *adj* 1 twisted, turned to one side. 2 slightly mocking. •

*adv* wryly. • *n* **wryness**.

**www abbr** = **World Wide Web.**

# X

**X, x /ɛks/, /eks/** **1** the 24th letter of the English alphabet. **2 (algebra)** the first unknown quantity. **3 (math)** the first coordinate.

**xenophobia** /'zenə'fɔ:bɪə, 'zi:n-/; /ze-nu-fo-bee-ya/ *n* hatred of foreigners and their ways.

**xerox** (see **1**) /'zi:rɒks/, /zee-roks/ *vb (TM)* to make photograph copies by machine. • *n* such a copy.

**Xmas** /'krɪsməs, 'ɛksməs/, /eks-mas/ short for **Christmas**.

**X-rays** /'ɛksreɪz/, /eks-raze/ *npl* electric rays that are able to pass through solid substances and so can be used in photographing broken bones, or other objects hidden behind a solid surface. • *n* **X-ray** an X-ray photograph. • *vb X-ray* to make an X-ray photograph of.

**xylophone** /'zaɪlə,fo:n/, /zie-lu-fone/ *n* a musical instrument of hanging wooden bars that give notes when struck with a wooden hammer.

# Y

**Y, y** /waɪ/, /wʌɪ/ **1** the 25th letter of the English alphabet. **2** (*algebra*) the second unknown quantity. **3** (*math*) the second coordinate.

**yacht** /jɒt/, /yot/ *n* a ship, especially a sailing ship, used for pleasure or racing. • *n* **yachting**.

**yachtsman** /'jɒtsmən/, /yots-mən/, **yachtswoman** /yots-woo-mən/ *n* a person who sails a yacht.

**yak** /jæk/, /yak/ *n* a type of ox with long silky hair, found in Tibet.

**yam** /jæm/, /yam/ *n* a tropical plant with an edible root; a sweet potato.

**yank** /jæŋk/, /yangk/ *vb* to move suddenly or with a jerk.

**Yankee** /'jæŋki/, /yang-kee/ *n* (sometimes pejorative) a citizen of the North of the United States.

**yap** /jæp/, /yap/ *vb* (**yapped**, **yapping**) to yelp; to bark shrilly.

**yard** /jard/, /yard/ *n* **1** an imperial measure of length (= 3 feet or 0.9144 metres). **2** a pole fixed across a mast for supporting a sail. **3** an enclosed piece of ground near or behind a building. **4** a piece of ground enclosed for a particular purpose.

**yardstick** /jardstɪk/, /yard-stick/ *n* a standard by which you measure or judge other things.

**yarn** /jɑrn/, /yarn/ **1** any type of spun thread. **2** (*inf*) a made-up or improbable story.

**yashmak** /'jæʃmæk/, /yash-mak/ *n* a veil worn by Muslim women in public.

**yawn** /jɔn/, /yawn/ *vb* **1** to open the mouth wide because of tiredness or boredom. **2** to be wide open. • *n* the act of yawning.

**ye** /ji:/, /yee/ *pron* (*old*) you (*pl*).

**yea** /jeɪ/, /yay/ *adv* yes.

**yeah** /jæ, jɛ/, /yeh/ *sentence substitute* (*inf*) yes.

**year** /jɪər/, /yɪər/ *n* the time taken by the earth to travel once around the sun; 365 days, especially from January 1 to December 31; 12 months.

**yearling** /'jɪ:rliŋ/, /yɪər-ling/ *n* a one-year-old animal.

**yearly** /'jɪ:rli/, /yɪər-lee/ *adj* 1 happening once a year. 2 happening every year. • *also adv.*

**yearn** /jərn/, /yurn/ *vb* to desire greatly, to long.

**yearning** /'jərnɪŋ/, /yur-ning/ *n* a strong desire, a longing.

**yeast** /ji:st/, /yeest/ *n* a frothy substance used for making bread rise and in making beer, etc.

**yell** /jel/, /yell/ *vb* to scream, to shout loudly and suddenly. • *also n.*

**yellow** /'jelo:/, /ye-lo/ *n* a bright golden colour, as of daffodils. • *adj* 1 of golden colour. 2 (*inf*) cowardly.

**yellow fever** /'jelo: ,fi:vər/, /ye-lo fee-ver/ *n* a dangerous tropical disease spread by mosquitoes.

**yelp** /jɛlp/, /yelp/ *vb* to utter a sharp cry, as a dog in pain. • *also n.*

**yen<sup>1</sup>** /jɛn/, /yen/ *n* (*pl yen*) the currency of Japan.

**yen<sup>2</sup>** /jɛn/, /yen/ *n* (*inf*) desire.

**yeoman** /'jo:mən/, /yo-e-man/ *n* a farmer, one who owns a small farm of his own.

**yesterday** /'jɛstədeɪ/, /ye-ster-day/ *n* the day before today. • *also adv.*

**yes** /jɛs/, /yes/ *sentence substitute* used to express the affirmative. • *n* an answer of 'yes'.

**yet** /jet/, /yet/ *adv* 1 still. 2 in addition. 3 up to the present. 4 however. 5 all the same.

**yeti** /'jeti/, /ye-tee/ *n* a legendary very large creature said to live in the Himalayas.

**yew** /ju:/, /yoo/ *n* a large evergreen tree often grown in churchyards.

**Yiddish** /'jɪdɪʃ/, /yid-ish/ *n* a language, partly German and Hebrew, spoken by some Jewish people.

**yield** /ji:ld/, /yeeld/ *vb* 1 to produce. 2 to give in, to surrender. 3 to give way. • *n* 1 the amount produced or made in profit. 2 a crop.

**yielding** /'ji:lɪŋ/, /yel-ding/ *adj* giving in easily, easily influenced or managed.

**yodel** /'jo:dəl/, /yo-dul/ *vb (yodelled, yodelling)* to sing with frequent changes from one's ordinary voice to a higher-pitched one. • *n yodeler.*

**yoga** /'jo:gə/, /yo-ga/ *n* a Hindu belief that by prayer and complete control over the body and its desires, you may become one with God.

**yogi** /'jo:gi/, /yo-gee/ *n* a person who practises yoga.

**yogurt, yoghurt** /'jɒgərt/, /yo-gurt/ *n* a food made from fermented milk.

**yoke** /jo:k/, /yoke/ *n* 1 the part of a garment that fits over the shoulders and round the neck. 2 a frame of wood that fits over the necks of two oxen, making them work together when pulling a plough, cart, etc. 3 something that forces people to do something.  
• *vb* 1 to put together under a yoke. 2 to link together.

**yokel** /'jo:kəl/, /yo-kul/ *n (derog)* someone from the country.

**yolk** /jo:k/, /yoke/ *n* the yellow part of an egg.

**Yom Kippur** /jɒmkɪ'pur/, /yom ki-poor/ *n* the Day of Atonement, a Jewish festival involving fasting and repenting.

**yon** /jɒn/, /yon/, **yonder** /yon-dur/ *adjs (old)* that (one) over there. • *adv yonder* over there.

**yore** /jɔr/, /yore/ *n (old)* olden times. • **of yore** in olden times.

**you** /ju:/, /yoo/ *pron, pl you* the person or people being addressed.

**young** /jeŋ/, /yung/ *adj* not old, not grown up, childish, youthful. • *n* 1 all the children or offspring. 2 young people in general.

**youngster** /jæŋ'stər/, /yung-ster/ *n* a young person.

**your** /jɔr, jur/, /yoor/ *adj* belonging to you.

**yours** /jurz, jɔrz/, /yoorzs/ *pron* something belonging to you.

**yourself** /jɔr,self, jur-/, /yoor-self/ *pron (pl yourselves)* the reflexive form of 'you'.

**youth** /ju:θ/, /yooth/ *n* 1 the early part of one's life. 2 a young man. 3 young people.

**youthful** /ju:θful/, /yooth-ful/ *adj* young, young-looking. • *adv youthfully.*

**yowl** /jaul/, /yowl/ *vb* to cry or howl like a dog. • *also n.*

**yo-yo** /'jo:jo:/, /yo-yo/ *n* a toy consisting of a double disc that you move up and down on a string.

**Yule** /ju:l/, /yool/ *n* Christmas.

**Yuletide** /'ju:ltaid/, /yool-tide/ *n* the Christmas season.

# Z

**Z, z** /zəd, zi:/, /zee, zed/ **1** the 26th letter of the English alphabet. **2** (*algebra*) the third unknown quantity. **3** (*math*) the third coordinate.

**zany** /'zeini/, /zay-nee/ *adj* crazy.

**zap** /zæp/, /zap/ *vb* **1** to destroy or kill, especially in computer games.

**2** to change television channel using a remote control.

**zeal** /zi:l/, /zeel/ *n* keenness, eagerness, enthusiasm.

**zealot** /'zelət/, /zel-ut/ *n* a person who is so keen on a cause or idea that he or she can talk of nothing else.

**zealous** /'zeləs/, /zel-us/ *adj* very keen, eager. • *adv* **zealously**.

**zebra** /'zi:bṛə, 'zəb-/ , /zeh-bra/ *n* a striped horselike animal found in Africa.

**zenith** /'zeniθ/, /ze-nith/ *n* **1** the point of the heavens directly overhead. **2** the highest point.

**zephyr** /'zefər/, /ze-fur/ *n* (*lit*) a gentle breeze.

**zero** /'zi:ro:/, /zee-ro/ *n* **1** the figure 0. **2** the 0-mark on a measuring scale.

**zero hour** /'zi:ro: aur/, /zee-ro our/ *n* the time fixed for the beginning of something, such as a military attack.

**zest** /zest/, /zest/ *n* keen enjoyment, enthusiasm. • *adj* **zestful**.

**zigzag** /'zigzæg/, /zig-zag/ *adj* turning sharply to the left, following a straight line, then turning sharply to the right, and so on. • *n* a zigzag line or course. • *also vb*.

**zinc** /zɪŋk/, /zingk/ *n* a bluish white metal.

**Zionism** /'zaɪənɪzəm/, /zie-u-ni-zum/ *n* the movement to found and develop Israel. • *adj and n* **Zionist**.

**zip** /zɪp/, /zip/ *vb* (**zipped, zipping**) **1** (*inf*) to whiz. **2** to fasten with a zip. • *n* a sliding fastener that causes two strips of metal teeth to engage in or disengage from each other as it moves.

**zip code** /zipko:d/, /zip/ *n* a number identifying a postal area of the US.

**zither** /'ziðər/, /zi-ther/ *n* a flat stringed musical instrument played with the fingers.

**zodiac** /'zo:di,æk/, /zo-dee-ac/ *n* the band of the heavens within which the sun, moon, and planets seem to move, and containing the 12 groups of stars known as the signs of the zodiac.

**zone** /zon/, /zone/ *n* **1** a belt or stripe. **2** any region with distinctive characteristics of its own. **3** one of the five great belts running around the earth (e.g. *Arctic zone*).

**zoo** /zu:/, /zoo/ *n* a park in which animals are kept in cages, enclosures, ponds, etc, for show.

**zoological** /zu:ə'lɒdʒɪkəl/, /zoo-u-lodge-ic-al/ *adj* having to do with the study of animals.

**zoological gardens** /zu:ə'lɒdʒɪkəl ,gardinz/, /zoo-u-lodge-ic-al gar-den/ *n* a zoo.

**zoologist** /zo:'ɒ:lədʒɪst/, /zoo-ol-u-jist/ *n* a person who studies animals.

**zoology** /zo:'ɒ:lədʒi, zu:/, /zoo-ol-u-jee/ *n* the study of animals.

**zoom** /zu:m/, /zoom/ *vb* **1** to climb rapidly at a steep angle. **2** (*inf*) to increase rapidly. **3** (*inf*) to move very quickly.

**zoom lens** /'zu:m lenz/, /zoom lenz/ *n* a camera lens that is adjusted for focusing on close or distant objects.

**zucchini** /zu:'ki:ni/, /zoo-kee-nee/ (esp. *US*) *n* a courgette.

**Zulu** /'zu:lu:/, /zoo-loo/ *n* **1** a member of an African tribe. **2** its language.

## WEBSTER'S WORD POWER

Betty Kirkpatrick, a graduate of Edinburgh University, has a long career in reference publishing. She has edited *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary*, *Roget's Thesaurus*, the concise edition of *Brewer's Phrase and Fable*, and was language consultant to the *Encarta World English Dictionary*. She has compiled various other reference books, including the *Oxford Paperback Thesaurus* and the *Bloomsbury Dictionary of Clichés*. She acts as a consultant to the *Bloomsbury Good Word Guide*. Betty is author of an extensive list of publications on various aspects of the English language for learners of English.



**Compiled By Betty Kirkpatrick**

**Spelled-out pronunciation scheme by Scott and Bettina Montgomery**

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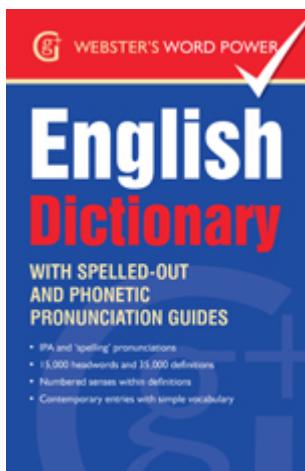


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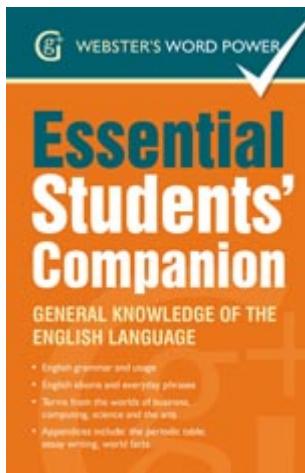
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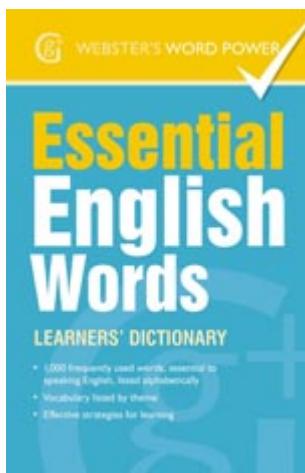
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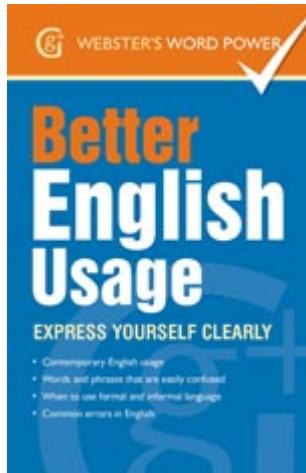
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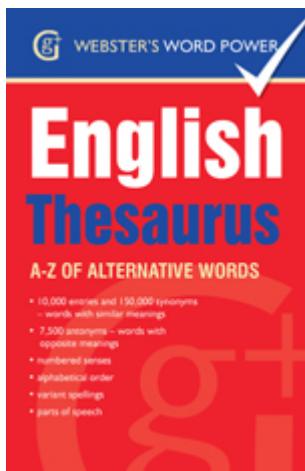
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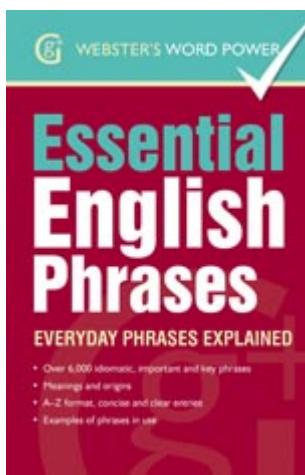
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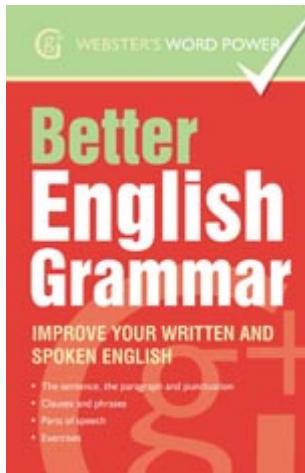
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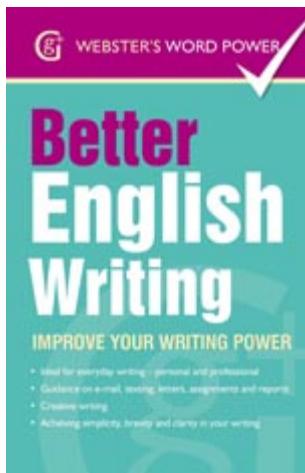
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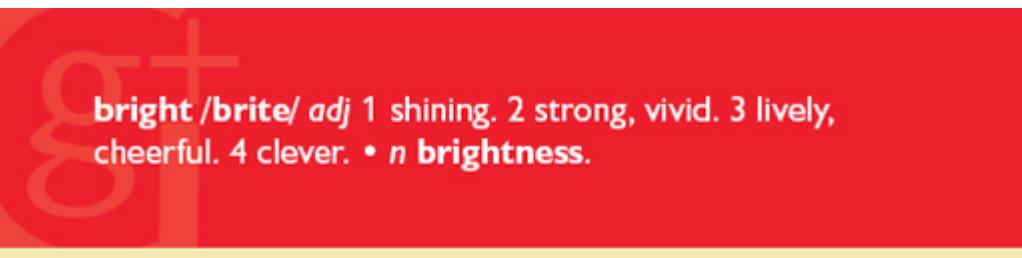
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