

Word formation in English

The English language has a genius for the formation of expressive compound words. Common examples include sun-stroke, pick-pocket, elbow-room, land-lord, humming-bird etc.

The two parts of a compound word are usually separated by a hyphen. However, in the case of many common compound words, the component parts have become so closely connected that they are now written as one word without any hyphen between them.

Examples are: sunstroke, landlord, pickpocket, overload etc.

And in the case of some other compound words, complete integration has been achieved by modifying one or both of the component parts.

For example, pass time is now written as pastime. In the same way, holy day has become holiday and prime rose has become primrose.

There are different types of compound words

Noun + noun

Examples are: master-piece, table-cloth, maid-servant, bread-winner, shoe-maker etc.

Noun + gerund

Examples are: wool-gathering, snake-charming, bull-baiting, sooth-saying etc.

Noun + adjective

Examples are: court-martial, knight-errant

Gerund + noun

Examples are: piping-hot, walking-stick, drawing-room, laughing-stock, skipping-rope etc.

Adverb + noun

Word formation in English

Examples are: out-patient, over-load, fore-sight, under-tone, in-sight etc.

Verb + noun

Examples are: dare-devil, cut-throat, break-fast, spend-thrift, pass-port etc.

Adjective + noun

Examples are: short-hand, free-thinker, lay-man, hard-ware, strong-hold etc.

Present participle + noun

Examples are: humming-bird, flying-fish, loving-kindness etc.

Pronoun + noun

Examples are: he-goat

Possessive noun + noun (In this case, the apostrophe is usually omitted)

Examples are: sportsman, craftsman, statesman, hair's-breadth, stone's-throw

Word formation

1 Compounds

A Compound nouns

A compound noun can be formed by joining two nouns together, e.g. *hand* + *bag* = *handbag*.

a handbag the weekend football a guidebook my bedroom

We stress the first part of the word: *a 'handbag*.

There is little difference between a compound noun and two separate nouns used one after the other, e.g. *a phone bill*. Some combinations can be written either as a compound or as two separate nouns, e.g. *guidebook* or *guide book*.

Some compound nouns are formed from an adjective + noun or from a verb + noun.

a greenhouse a blackboard some workmen a searchlight

NOTE

Compare these phrases.

Compound noun: *a 'hotplate* (= a place on a cooker where you heat food)

Adjective + noun: *a hot 'plate* (= a plate which is hot)

B Gerund + noun

We can use a gerund to classify a noun, to say what type it is or what its purpose is.

the dining-room (= the room for dining in)

a washing-machine (= a machine that washes clothes)

a sailing-ship some writing-paper a swimming-pool

the booking office

We often use a hyphen after the gerund. We stress the gerund, e.g. *the 'dining-room*.

NOTE

Compare a gerund and a participle.

Gerund: *a 'sleeping-pill* (= a pill that helps you to sleep)

Participle: *a sleeping 'child* (= a child who is sleeping)

C Noun + gerund

We can form a compound with a noun + gerund.

Taxi-driving was what I ended up doing.

We had three days of ***sightseeing***.

Coin-collecting is an interesting hobby.

We stress the noun, e.g. *'coin collecting*.

The noun in this pattern is singular, e.g. ***coin-collecting***. But after a gerund the noun can be either singular or plural depending on the meaning.

*Driving a **taxi** was what I ended up doing.*
*Collecting **coins** is an interesting hobby.*

D Compound modifiers

We can use a number + noun to modify another noun.

*a **three-day** visit a **sixty-mile** journey a car with **four-wheel** drive*

The noun in this pattern is usually singular, e.g. *a **three-day** visit*.

The modifier can also be a number + noun + adjective.

*a **three-day-old** baby a **hundred-metre-long** queue*

We can also form compounds with participles.

*a **road-widening** scheme a **hard-boiled** egg*

2 Prefixes

A A prefix is something that we can put at the beginning of a word to change the meaning. Compare these two sentences.

*I **calculated** the amount I would need.*

*I **mis**calculated the amount I would need.*

(= I **wrongly** calculated the amount I would need.)

Here the prefix *mis-* (= wrongly) changes the meaning.

B Here are some prefixes and some examples of words we can form with them.

<i>anti-</i> (= against)	<i>anti-nuclear protestors, anti-social behaviour</i>
<i>auto-</i> (= self)	<i>an autobiography, auto-suggestion</i>
<i>co-</i> (= together)	<i>co-exist, a co-production, my co-driver</i>
<i>ex-</i> (= previously)	<i>his ex-wife, an ex-footballer</i>
<i>inter-</i> (= between)	<i>an inter-city train, an international phone call</i>
<i>mini-</i> (= small)	<i>a minibus, a minicab</i>
<i>mis-</i> (= badly/wrongly)	<i>misuse, misbehave, miscount, a misprint</i>
<i>mono-</i> (= one)	<i>a monorail, monolingual, speak in a monotone</i>
<i>multi-</i> (= many)	<i>a multinational company, a multi-storey car park</i>
<i>out-</i> (= more/better)	<i>outnumber the opposition, outplayed their opponents</i>
<i>over-</i> (= too much)	<i>overweight, an overgrown garden, ill from overwork</i>
<i>post-</i> (= after)	<i>the post-war years, a post-dated cheque</i>
<i>pre-</i> (= before)	<i>the pre-war years, preheat an oven</i>
<i>pro-</i> (= in favour of)	<i>pro-government forces, pro-European policies</i>
<i>re-</i> (= again)	<i>re-write a letter, remarry, the resale value of the car</i>
<i>semi-</i> (= half)	<i>semi-precious stones, reach the semi-final</i>
<i>sub-</i> (= under/less)	<i>the subway, subnormal intelligence, sub-zero temperatures</i>
<i>super-</i> (= big/more)	<i>a superstar, a superhuman effort, a supersonic aircraft</i>

<i>trans-</i> (= across)	<i>a transatlantic flight, a heart transplant operation</i>
<i>under-</i> (= too little)	<i>undercooked food, an underused resource, underpopulation</i>

NOTE

Out- and *under-* can have a literal meaning: *underwear, the Underground, underline a word; an outbuilding, an outdoor pool, the outskirts of the town.*

C There are some negative prefixes meaning 'not.'

<i>un-</i>	<i>feeling unhappy, an unfair decision, unhealthy conditions, high unemployment, unplug a machine, unpack a suitcase</i>
<i>in-</i>	<i>an independent state, an inoffensive remark, the invisible man, an incurable disease, a terrible injustice</i>
<i>il-</i> (+ l)	<i>an illegal act, an illogical argument</i>
<i>im-</i> (+ b/m/p)	<i>an imbalance, an immoral act, immature behaviour, an impossible situation, an impractical dreamer, wait impatiently</i>
<i>ir-</i> (+ r)	<i>an irrational fear, an irresponsible attitude</i>
<i>dis-</i>	<i>a dishonest statement, a violent disagreement, disappearing out of the door, a dislike of flying</i>
<i>non-</i>	<i>non-alcoholic drinks, non-stop entertainment, a non-smoking area</i>
<i>de-</i>	<i>defrost a fridge, the depopulation of the countryside, the decentralization of government</i>

We do not use *in-* before *b, l, m, p,* or *r*. We use *il-*, *im-*, and *ir-* instead.

3 Suffixes

A Introduction

A suffix comes at the end of a word. For example, we can add the suffix *-ness* to the adjective *kind* to form the noun *kindness*. Compare these two sentences.

*We won't forget **how kind you've been**.*

*We won't forget **your kindness**.*

Here the use of the suffix to form a noun makes the sentence shorter and neater.

Sometimes the addition of a suffix involves other changes in the form or pronunciation of the word.

apply → *application*

possible → *possibility*

courage /'kʌrɪdʒ/ → *courageous* /kə'reɪdʒəs/

Changes in pronunciation can involve both sounds and stress. For example, when we add *-ous* to *courage*, the stress changes from the first to the second syllable.

TIP

Not all combinations of words and suffixes are possible. For example, we can add *-ment* to some verbs to form *statement*, *amusement*, *punishment*, and so on. But we cannot add *-ment* to every verb. The possible combinations have to be learned as individual words.

B Abstract nouns

Here are some ways that we can add a suffix to a verb or adjective to form a noun – usually an abstract noun.

Verb → noun ending in <i>-ion</i>	<i>correct</i> → <i>correction</i> , <i>discuss</i> → <i>discussion</i> <i>produce</i> → <i>production</i> , <i>describe</i> → <i>description</i> <i>inform</i> → <i>information</i> , <i>invite</i> → <i>invitation</i> <i>add</i> → <i>addition</i> , <i>repeat</i> → <i>repetition</i> <i>decide</i> → <i>decision</i> , <i>permit</i> → <i>permission</i>
Verb + <i>-ment</i>	<i>development</i> , <i>government</i> , <i>movement</i> , <i>payment</i>
Verb + <i>-ance/-ence</i>	<i>acceptance</i> , <i>performance</i> ; <i>existence</i> , <i>preference</i>
Verb + <i>-ing</i>	<i>a building</i> , <i>my feelings</i>
Adjective + <i>-ness</i>	<i>blindness</i> , <i>forgetfulness</i> , <i>illness</i> , <i>sadness</i>
Adjective in <i>-ant/-ent</i> → noun in <i>-ance/-ence</i>	<i>distant</i> → <i>distance</i> , <i>important</i> → <i>importance</i> <i>absent</i> → <i>absence</i> , <i>silent</i> → <i>silence</i> , <i>violent</i> → <i>violence</i>
Adjective + <i>-ty/-ity</i>	<i>certainty</i> , <i>royalty</i> ; <i>nationality</i> , <i>stupidity</i>

C *Driver, student, tourist, etc.*

There are a number of endings that we use to express a person's role.

Noun/Verb + <i>-er/-or</i>	<i>builder</i> , <i>driver</i> , <i>footballer</i> , <i>interviewer</i> , <i>lawyer</i> , <i>owner</i> , <i>smoker</i> , <i>walker</i> , <i>writer</i> > Note a <i>editor</i> , <i>navigator</i>
Noun/Verb/Adjective + <i>-ist</i>	<i>journalist</i> , <i>motorist</i> , <i>nationalist</i> , <i>tourist</i>

Verb + <i>-ant/-ent</i>	<i>assistant, informant, inhabitant, servant correspondent, student</i>
Verb + <i>-ee</i>	<i>addressee, employee, interviewee, payee</i> > Note b
Noun + <i>-an/-ian</i>	<i>republican; historian, musician</i> > Note c

NOTE

- a We also use *-er* in many nouns referring to a device such as a tool or machine, e.g. *a computer, a food mixer, a heater, a screwdriver*.
- b The suffix *-ee* usually has a passive meaning. Compare *-er* and *-ee*.
*The company is the biggest **employer** in the town. It has two thousand **employees**.*
- c Some adjectives of nationality end in *-an/-ian*, e.g. *American, Brazilian*. > 6B

D *Friend, waitress, policeman/policewoman, etc*

Most nouns for people can mean either a male or a female, so *a friend, a student, a doctor, a motorist*, etc. can be either a man or a woman.

*My friend has sold **his** car.* (a male friend)

*My friend has sold **her** car.* (a female friend)

If we need to specify what sex, we add another word, e.g. *her **boyfriend**, **female** students, **women** doctors*.

Some words for family members are different for males and females, e.g. *husband/wife, father/mother, son/daughter, brother/sister, uncle/aunt*. But a *cousin* can be male or female.

We can add the female suffix *-ess* to some nouns. A *prince* is male, and a *princess* is female. Other examples are *hostess* and *empress*. But be careful not to over-use *-ess*. Where there is a word that can refer to either sex, e.g. *manager* or *poet*, it is old-fashioned and may be seen as sexist to use *manageress* or *poetess*. The only jobs where *-ess* is still regularly used are *actress* and *waitress*, although *actor* can refer to either a man or a woman.

There is also a male suffix *-man* /mən/ and a female suffix *-woman*, e.g. *businessman/businesswoman, chairman/chairwoman, policeman/policewoman, salesman/saleswoman, spokesman/spokeswoman*. But these are now often regarded as sexist, and words that can refer to both males and females are preferred. Sometimes we use the suffix *-person*, e.g. *the chairperson, a salesperson*. Or we use a different word, e.g. *a business executive, a police officer, a sales representative*.

NOTE

Some adjectives of nationality end in *-man/-woman*, e.g. *Frenchman, Irishwoman*. > 6B

E Verbs

There are many verbs in *-ize* formed from adjectives with an abstract meaning. We can also add *-en* to some adjectives with a concrete meaning.

Adjective + <i>-ize</i>	<i>centralize, legalize, modernize, popularize, privatize</i>
Adjective + <i>-en</i>	<i>brighten, harden, loosen, sharpen, shorten, widen</i>

NOTE

- a The ending *-ize* can also be spelled *-ise* in British English: *centralize/centralise*.
b Some adjectives can be used as verbs, e.g. *clear, empty*.

F Adjectives

Noun + <i>-al</i>	<i>industrial, national, natural, original, traditional</i>
Noun + <i>-ic</i>	<i>artistic, energetic, heroic, photographic</i>
Noun + <i>-ful</i>	<i>careful, hopeful, peaceful, powerful, wonderful</i> > Note a-b
Noun + <i>-less</i>	<i>careless, hopeless, powerless, useless, worthless</i> > Note b
Noun + <i>-ous</i>	<i>courageous, dangerous, famous, luxurious</i>
Noun + <i>-y</i>	<i>greedy, healthy, salty, thirsty, wealthy</i>
Noun + <i>-ly</i>	<i>costly, cowardly, friendly, neighbourly</i> > Note c
Verb + <i>-ive</i>	<i>active, effective, exclusive, informative</i>
Verb + <i>-ing</i>	<i>amusing, exciting, surprising</i>
Verb + <i>-ed</i>	<i>amused, excited, surprised</i>
Verb + <i>-able/-ible</i>	<i>acceptable, eatable, excusable, manageable</i> > Note d <i>comprehensible, defensible</i>

NOTE

- a Nouns with the suffix *-ful* end in a single *l*, but the adverb has two. Compare *careful* and *carefully*.
b *-less* is a negative suffix. *Hopeless* means 'without hope'. *Painful* and *painless* are opposites.
c *Hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly* can be adjectives or adverbs.
d The suffix *-able/-ible* often means that something can be done.
*This sweater is **washable**. (= This sweater can be washed.)*
But not all adjectives in *-able/-ible* have this meaning, e.g. *pleasurable* (= giving pleasure), *valuable* (= worth a lot), formed from the nouns *pleasure* and *value*.

G Adverbs

Many adverbs are formed from an adjective + *-ly*, e.g. *quick* → *quickly*.

4 Vowel and consonant changes

A Sometimes two related words have a different vowel sound.

*We could feel the **hot** sun on our backs.*

*We could feel the **heat** of the sun on our backs.*

Here *hot* is an adjective, and *heat* is a noun.

Other examples are *blood* → *bleed*, *food* → *feed*, *full* → *fill*, *lose* → *loss*,
proud → *pride*, *sell* → *sale*, *shoot* → *shot*, *sing* → *song*, *sit* → *seat*.

- B** Two related words can have a different consonant sound.
*The explanation was hard to **believe**.*
*The explanation was beyond **belief**.*
 Here *believe* is a verb, and *belief* is a noun.
 Other examples are *advise* → *advice*, *descend* → *descent*, *prove* → *proof*,
speak → *speech*.
- C** Sometimes there is more than one sound change, e.g. *choose* → *choice*,
lend → *loan*, *live* /lɪv/ → *life* /laɪf/, *succeed* → *success*, *think* → *thought*.

5 Words used in more than one way

- A** Many words can be both verbs and nouns.

Verb:	Noun:
<i>We had to wait a long time.</i>	<i>We had a long wait.</i>
<i>How much will it cost?</i>	<i>What about the cost?</i>
<i>Things are going to change around here.</i>	<i>I'm going to make some changes.</i>

Here are some common words of this kind.

<i>aid</i>	<i>claim</i>	<i>drive</i>	<i>hit</i>	<i>plan</i>	<i>support</i>
<i>answer</i>	<i>control</i>	<i>experience</i>	<i>hope</i>	<i>report</i>	<i>talk</i>
<i>attack</i>	<i>cost</i>	<i>fall</i>	<i>look</i>	<i>run</i>	<i>test</i>
<i>attempt</i>	<i>cut</i>	<i>fear</i>	<i>love</i>	<i>sound</i>	<i>vote</i>
<i>call</i>	<i>deal</i>	<i>fight</i>	<i>market</i>	<i>start</i>	<i>wait</i>
<i>cause</i>	<i>demand</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>need</i>	<i>stay</i>	<i>walk</i>
<i>change</i>	<i>design</i>	<i>help</i>	<i>offer</i>	<i>stop</i>	

- B** Sometimes a noun differs from a verb in where the stress goes. Usually the verb is stressed on the second syllable and the noun on the first.

Verb	Noun
<i>The goods are expensive to transport.</i> /træn'spɔ:t/	<i>What transport do you use?</i> /'trænsɔ:t/
<i>How is your research progressing?</i> /prə'gresɪŋ/	<i>Are you making progress?</i> /'prəʊgres/

The change of stress can make a difference to a vowel sound such as in the first syllable of *progress*, which is /prə/ when unstressed and /prəʊ/ when stressed.

Here are some words that are stressed differently as a verb and as a noun.

<i>conduct</i>	<i>export</i>	<i>produce</i>	<i>rebel</i>	<i>suspect</i>
<i>conflict</i>	<i>import</i>	<i>progress</i>	<i>record</i>	<i>transfer</i>
<i>discount</i>	<i>increase</i>	<i>protest</i>	<i>reject</i>	<i>transport</i>

C Some concrete nouns can also be verbs.

*If you could **butter** the bread, it would be a help.* (= put butter on)

*The waste was illegally **shipped** across the Channel.* (= taken by ship)

*We aim to break into the UK **bottled** water market.* (= put into bottles)

Here are some other verbs formed in this way.

<i>brake</i> (= apply the brake, slow down)	<i>hand someone their key</i>
<i>finger</i> (= touch or feel with your fingers)	<i>mail</i> (= to send by post or by e-mail)
<i>fish</i> (= to try to catch fish)	<i>parcel up a present</i>
<i>glue</i> (= to stick with glue)	<i>ski down a slope</i>
<i>gun down</i> (= shoot and kill or injure)	<i>(tele)phone a friend</i>
<i>hammer a nail in</i>	<i>wallpaper a room</i>
	<i>water the plants</i>

NOTE

Some of these verbs can also have less literal meanings.

*The team got absolutely **hammered**.* (= badly beaten in a game)

D Some adjectives can also be verbs.

*The paint will soon **dry**.* (= become dry)

*They're going to **free** the prisoners.* (= set free)

Some words of this kind are *blind, calm, clear, cool, dry, empty, free, narrow, slow, smooth, warm, wet*.

NOTE

Some adjectives with similar meanings are equivalent to verbs with *-en*, e.g. *widen*.

6 Nationality words

A We form nationality words from the name of a country, e.g. *Italy* → *Italian*, *France* → *French*, *Japan* → *Japanese*. We can do the same with continents and regions, e.g. *Africa* → *African*, *Texas* → *Texan*.

We can use nationality words in the following ways.

As an adjective	<i>the Italian embassy Japanese tourists a Texan oilman</i>
As the name of a language	<i>The President gave his speech in Italian. When did you learn Japanese?</i>
For one person or a group	<i>My sister is married to an Italian. Lots of Japanese come here on holiday.</i>
For a whole people	<i>(The) Italians love their football, don't they? The French don't call it 'the English Channel'.</i>

NOTE

We can also refer to a whole people using the adjective + *people*.

*(The) **Italian people** love their football, don't they?*

*The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French to **the American people**.*

- B** Many nationality words end in *-an*, e.g. *American, Asian, Australian, Brazilian, Indian, Italian, Mexican*. We can use them as adjectives or nouns, and we can add *-s* to the noun.

*the **Russian** Revolution a **Russian** (person) the **Russians***

Some nationality words end in *-ese*, e.g. *Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese*. We can use them as adjectives or nouns, but we cannot add *-s* to the noun.

*a **Chinese** official a **Chinese** (person) the **Chinese** (NOT *the Chineses*)*

We cannot use a word ending in *-ese* on its own as a noun.

***The Chinese** have become more open to the West.*

(NOT ~~Chinese have become~~ ...)

With some nationalities, the adjective is different from the noun.

*a **Polish** student a **Pole** the **Poles***

Others are *Denmark/a Dane, Finnish/a Finn, Swedish/a Swede*, and *Turkish/a Turk*.

Some nouns have a suffix *-man /mən/* or *-woman*.

*a **French** magazine a **Frenchman**/a **Frenchwoman***

*the **French** (NOT *the Frenches*)*

Others are *a Dutchman, an Englishman, an Irishwoman, a Scotswoman*, and *a Welshman*.

NOTE

A nationality word + *man* is usually written as one word: *an Irishman*. When we use *woman*, it can usually be written as one word or two: *an Irishwoman/an Irish woman*.

- C** From Britain we form the adjective *British*, e.g. *the **British** Isles*. To refer to a person or a group, we can say *a British person* or *some British people*. You may also see *a Brit* or *a Briton*.

*Local people are puzzled by the influx of **Britons** into the area.*

But *Brit* and *Briton* are rather journalistic. *Brit* is informal.

For the whole people we say *the British*.
 At one time India was ruled by **the British**.

C Here are some examples of nationality words.

Place name	Adjective	Person	Whole People
<i>Africa</i>	<i>African</i>	<i>an African</i>	<i>Africans</i>
<i>America</i>	<i>American</i>	<i>an American</i>	<i>(the) Americans</i>
<i>Asia</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>an Asian</i>	<i>Asians</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Australian</i>	<i>an Australian</i>	<i>(the) Australians</i>
<i>Britain</i>	<i>British</i>	> C	<i>the British</i>
<i>England</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>an Englishman/woman</i>	<i>the English</i>
<i>Europe</i>	<i>European</i>	<i>a European</i>	<i>Europeans</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>a Frenchman/woman</i>	<i>the French</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>a German</i>	<i>(the) Germans</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>Greek</i>	<i>a Greek</i>	<i>(the) Greeks</i>
<i>India</i>	<i>Indian</i>	<i>an Indian</i>	<i>(the) Indians</i>
<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Irish</i>	<i>an Irishman/woman</i>	<i>the Irish</i>
<i>Japan</i>	<i>Japanese</i>	<i>a Japanese</i>	<i>the Japanese</i>
<i>Pakistan</i>	<i>Pakistani</i>	<i>a Pakistani</i>	<i>(the) Pakistanis</i>
<i>Poland</i>	<i>Polish</i>	<i>a Pole</i>	<i>(the) Poles</i>
<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Scottish</i>	<i>a Scot</i> <i>a Scotsman/woman</i>	<i>(the) Scots</i>
<i>Switzerland</i>	<i>Swiss</i>	<i>a Swiss</i>	<i>the Swiss</i>
<i>Turkey</i>	<i>Turkish</i>	<i>a Turk</i>	<i>(the) Turks</i>
<i>Wales</i>	<i>Welsh</i>	<i>a Welshman/a Welsh woman</i>	<i>the Welsh</i>

English Idioms Commonly Used In Daily Language

Common Idioms	Meaning	Example
A blessing in disguise	seems bad, but is actually good	Accidently registering for the wrong class was actually a blessing in disguise.
Actions speak louder than words	actions are more important than words	You say you love me but actions speak louder than words.
A piece of cake	easy	That test was a piece of cake.
Beating around the bush	not discussing what is important/procrastinating	I needed to study, but I kept beating around the bush.
Big task on your hand	having something important to finish	My teacher gave me a new assignment, so I have a big task on my hands.
Break a leg	wishing someone to do well/ good luck	You will do fine on your presentation. Go break a leg out there.
Can't stand (something)	to dislike something	I can't stand having to do homework on a Sunday.
Check out that	give that a look	Check out that very cool looking car.
Close but no cigar	close but failed at the end	You got a 79% on the test. Almost a B...close but no cigar.
Don't sweat it	don't worry about it	You accidently scratched my car but I don't care. Don't sweat it.
Driving me bananas	making me feel crazy	My very loud neighbors are driving me bananas.
Easier said than done	easy to say, but hard to actually do	Changing the world is easier said than done.
Get out of town	I don't believe you	You got an A in your Finance class? Get out of town!
Get over it	forget about the past	He broke up with his girlfriend but he needs to get over it.
Gone off track	forgot about your future goal	My friend really got off track because he failed three classes this semester.
Hands down	for certain the right answer	America is hands down the best place to study abroad.
Hang on a second	wait for a moment	Hang on a second...I am waiting for my laundry to finish.
Hang out	spend time with a friend	Joe and I hang out after class every week.
Have stumbled upon	to accidentally discover something	I stumbled upon a new restaurant while walking around downtown.
Hold your horses	wait/calm down	Hold your horses. I am still eating my lunch.
How's it going?	How are you?	How's it going today Bobby?
I made a key decision	make an important decision	I made a key decision to finish college.
Inside scoop	the details	Hey give me the inside scoop on how you met John.
In the bag	will definitely happen	My baseball team will win the game. It is in the bag.
I was knocked on my heels	I was surprised	I was knocked on my heels when I realized I got the job.

I'll toss it around	to casually suggest an idea to people	I am tossing around the idea of having a party this weekend.
I'm feeling blue	to feel sad	I failed my test today, I'm really feeling blue.
I'm out	I'm leaving	I have to go to a meeting, I'm out!
In the nick of time	when something happens at the last possible moment	The firefighter saved the baby from the burning building in the nick of time.
It's all flooding back to me	beginning to remember something you once forgot	When I saw my childhood bicycle memories all came flooding back to me.
Kick the bucket	to die/no longer work	Yesterday my phone kicked the bucket.
Kill two birds with one stone	accomplish two things at once	You can kill two birds with one stone by checking email and study at the library.
Laid back	relaxed	Jason is not very excited, he is laid back.
Last shot	Last chance	The final exam is my last shot to get an A in the class.
Leading someone on	having someone believe something that isn't true	Why do you keep telling Amy you like her, you are just leading her on.
Lend a hand	help someone out	I see those grocery bags are very heavy, can I lend you a hand?
Let it ride	to allow something to remain as it is	I don't like my schedule for next semester, but I'm going to let it ride.
Let's boogie on out	let's all leave together	The bar is closing, let's boogie on out.
Let's bounce	to leave	The football game is over, let's bounce.
Low down	to receive the full story	Hey give me the low down on what happened last Saturday night.
Take a chill pill	a way of telling someone to calm down	I don't think the test will be too hard, take a chill pill.
Hit the books	to study	I can't go to the party tonight, I have to hit the books.
To touch base	to contact someone	I need to touch base with Jeremy about the new office reports.
Locked in	to give full concentration too	I'm really locked in to this new television series.
No big deal	no need to worry	If you can't make it to my birthday dinner it's no big deal.
Get on the ball	to get focused on the goal	If you haven't started your research project yet, you need to get on the ball.
Out of nowhere	unexpected	That surprise quiz came out of nowhere.
Out of the blue	unexpected	We were walking to the store when Mike appeared out of the blue.
Pull the plug	to end something/someone	After Bob quit, we may just have to pull the plug on the whole operation.
Put a sock in it	be quiet	My loud neighbors really need to put a sock in it.
Rally the troops	to gather friends together	We're going to rally the troops then head to the basketball game.
Since day one	for a long time	I've been playing basketball since day one.

Something's fishy	something's strange	All the lights are off in the house and door is open, something's fishy.
Speak of the Devil	when you see someone/something happens unexpectedly while talking about them	Speak of the devil Jenny! We were just talking about your new car.
Spill the beans	to tell the secret	I told Jessica my biggest secret, she then spilled the beans to the whole class.
Spur of the moment	to make a random decision	I decided to drive to Colorado on the spur of the moment.
Stay on track	to stay focused on the goal	I shouldn't watch TV right now. I need to stay on track and study.
Stick with your goal/stick with it	to continue doing something	You should really stick with soccer because you are very good at it.
Take him out of the picture	remove him from the situation	Mike isn't the best group partner, we should take him out of the picture.
Take it easy	calm down	You only failed the first test. You will have many more. Take it easy.
That's tight	that's awesome	This new song is tight.
The stars have aligned	the moment is right	The stars have aligned because it's his birthday and he won the lottery.
Draw the line	the point where you decide not to do something	I draw the line at \$10 for a hamburger.
The last straw	the last thing that causes everything to fail	My recent sprained ankle was the last straw; I need to get surgery now.
Throw an idea around	casually suggest an idea	I want to throw an idea around for tomorrow's event.
Tight	a sporting event having a close score	75 to 75 with one minute left! This is a really tight game.
Time flies	time passes by fast	I can't believe the weekend is already over, time flies!
Up a creek without a paddle	in a bad situation	Yesterday my car ran out of gas and then my phone ran out of battery, I was up a creek without a paddle.
Fill in the blanks	figure out the rest on your own	Did we win? We were losing by 40 points at halftime, fill in the blanks.
On the same page	having similar thoughts	I'm glad we are on the same page with our ideas for this project.
What's up?	How are you?	Hey John what's up?
You pulled a fast one	to trick someone	You pretended you knew his name when really you did not, you pulled a fast one.

Special Thanks To Max Schmitt

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ENGLISH PHRASAL VERBS

A phrasal verb is a verb plus a preposition or adverb;
the combination creates a meaning different from the original verb.

1000 Phrasal Verbs e-book '1000 Phrasal Verbs in Context' PDF \$15.95 immediate download www.teflgames.com

Estudia idiomas en Canadá Aprende un nuevo idioma y conoce una nueva cultura Canadá tu destino es.collegelasalle.com

Free TOEFL Practice Tests Listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Learn your score now. www.testden.com

AdChoices 

[idiom-a-day](#)

[phrasal verb crossword](#)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y	Z
	Phrasal Verb	Meaning										Example												
A	abide by	respect or obey. (the law, a decision, a rule)										If you want to stay at this school, you must abide by the rules.												
	account for	explain, give a reason										I hope you can account for the money you spent!												
	add up	make sense, seem reasonable										Her story just doesn't add up .												
	advise against	recommend <u>not</u> doing something										The doctor advised him against carrying heavy loads.												
	agree with	have the same opinion as somebody else.										I agree with you. I think she deserves the award too.												
	aim at	point something in the direction of a target										The policeman aimed his gun at the hijacker.												
	allow for	take into consideration, include in a calculation										You'd better leave early to allow for traffic jams.												
	answer back	reply rudely										Don't answer back your mother!												
	appeal to	1) plead or make an earnest request 2) be attractive or interesting										1) The organizers appealed to the crowd to stay calm. 2) A trekking holiday doesn't appeal to me.												
	apply for	make a formal request for something (job, permit, loan etc.)										He applied for the job he saw advertised in the newspaper.												
	avail (oneself) of	take advantage of something (an opportunity)										When the company is privatized, you should avail yourself of the opportunity and buy some shares.												
B	back away	move backwards, in fear or dislike										When he saw the dog, he backed away .												
	back down	withdraw, concede defeat										Local authorities backed down on their plans to demolish the building.												
	back up	1) give support or encouragement 2) make a copy of (file, program, etc.)										1) If I tell the boss we've got too much work, will you back me up ? 2) It is recommended to back up all files in a secure location.												
	bail out	1) pay money to secure someone's release 2) rescue from financial difficulties										1) When he was arrested, his family refused to bail him out . 2) The government bailed out the bank.												
	bank on	base your hopes on someone/something										Don't forget the date. I'm banking on your help.												
	beef up	improve, make more substantial										He beefed up his presentation with diagrams and statistics.												
	black out	faint, lose consciousness										When he fell off the horse he blackened out .												
	block off	Separate using a barrier.										The area was blocked off during the demonstration.												
	blow up	1) explode; 2) be destroyed by an explosion										1) The terrorists said the bomb would blow up at 9 o'clock. 2) The car blew up but luckily there was nobody in it.												


	boil down to	be summarized as	The problem boils down to a lack of money.
	boot up	start a computer by loading an operating system or program.	Just give my a few minutes to boot up the computer.
	break away	escape from captivity	A few horses broke away from the paddock.
	break down	1) go out of order, cease to function 2) lose control of one's emotions	1) John's car broke down so he had to take the bus. 2) The parents broke down when they heard the bad news.
	break into	enter by force	Burglars broke into the house around midnight.
	break out	start suddenly	Rioting broke out as a result of the strike.
	break out of	escape from a place by force	Three prisoners broke out of jail.
	break up	come to an end (marriage, relationship)	After her marriage broke up , Emma went to live in London.
	bring up	raise (a child)	She stopped working in order to bring up her children.
	brush up on	improve, refresh one's knowledge of something	Mary had to brush up on her Spanish before going to South America.
	bump into	meet by accident or unexpectedly	Pedro bumped into his English teacher at the supermarket.
	burn out	1) stop (something) working 2) become exhausted from over-working	1) The fuse has burnt out . 2) Tom will burn himself out if he doesn't slow down.
	butt in (on sthg)	interrupt impolitely	It's rude to butt in on a conversation like that!
C	call back	return a phone call	I'll call you back as soon as possible.
	call off	cancel	The meeting was called off because of the strike.
	call on/upon sby	formally invite or request	I now call upon the President to address the assembly.
	calm down	become more relaxed, less angry or upset	He was angry at first but he eventually calmed down .
	carry on	continue	He carried on gardening in spite of the rain.
	carry out	1) do something as specified (a plan, an order, a threat) 2) perform or conduct (test, experiment)	1) The plan was carried out to perfection. 2) Tests are carried out to determine the efficiency of a new drug.
	carry over	postpone until later	As regards holidays, can you carry over any days from one year to the next?
	check in	register at a hotel or airport	For security reasons you have to check in two hours before your flight.
	check out	1) pay one's bill and leave (a hotel) 2) investigate	1) Is Mr. Blair still at the hotel? No, he checked out this morning. 2) I don't know if the address is still valid. I'll check it out .
	clam up	refuse to speak	When the teacher arrived she clammed up .
	clamp down on	act strictly to prevent something	The government has decided to clamp down on smoking in public places.
	close down	stop operating (company, restaurant, cinema).	When the factory closed down , the employees lost their jobs.
	come across	1) find by chance 2) appear, seem, make an impression	1) Julie came across some photographs of her grandparents in the attic. 2) The candidate came across as a dynamic person during the interview.
	come forward	present oneself	The police have asked any witnesses to come forward .
	come up against	be faced with or opposed by	The project came up against a lot of criticism.
	conk out	1) stop working 2) stop or fall asleep (from exhaustion)	1) The car conked out on the motorway. 2) He was so exhausted, he conked out in front of the TV.
	count on	rely or depend on (for help)	I'm counting on the taxi driver to find the theatre.
	cross out	remove by drawing a line through	In some exercises, you are asked to cross out the incorrect word.
	cut down on	reduce in number or size	The doctor told him to cut down on cigarettes.

	cut out	1) remove using scissors 2) stop doing something	1) She cut out a picture in a magazine. 2) I'm going to cut out eating between meals.
D	deal with	handle, take care of (problem, situation)	The manager is good at dealing with difficult customers.
	die down	calm down, become less strong	When the applause died down , she started to sing.
	do without	manage without	The shops are closed so we'll have to do without sugar.
	drag on	last longer than expected	We expected a short speech but it dragged on and on!
	draw up	write (contract, agreement, document)	An agreement was drawn up and signed by the two parties.
	dress up	1) wear elegant clothes 2) disguise oneself	1) Do people dress up to go to the opera in your country? 2) Children love to dress up at Halloween.
	drop in	visit, usually on the way somewhere	I sometimes drop in to see my grandparents on my way home from school.
	drop off	1) deliver someone or something 2) fall asleep	1) I'll drop you off at the bus stop if you like. 2) Granddad often drops off in front of the TV.
	drop out	leave school without finishing	She decided to go to art school then dropped out after the first term.
E	ease off	reduce, become less severe or slow down (pain, traffic, work)	After Christmas the workload generally eases off .
	end in	finish in a certain way; result in	Their marriage ended in divorce.
	end up	finally reach a state, place or action	If he continues his misconduct he'll end up in prison.
	even out	1) eliminate differences of opinion. 2) become level or regular	1) After a long discussion they managed to even out their differences. 2) The road was evened out to make it safer.
F	fall through	fail; doesn't happen	Our planned boat trip fell through because of the storm.
	figure out	understand, find the answer	I'm trying to figure out how to assemble the bookshelves.
	fill out	complete (a form/an application)	Please fill out the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible.
	find out	discover or obtain information	I'm going to call the cinema to find out what time the film starts.
	focus on	concentrate on something	The advertising campaign will focus on the quality of the product.
	figure out	understand; find a solution	We'll have to figure out a way to deliver the goods faster.
G	get along (with)	be on good terms; work well with	I get along (well) with my mother-in-law.
	get at	imply	What exactly are you trying to get at ?
	get away	escape	The robbers got away in a black car.
	get by	manage to cope or to survive	It's difficult to get by on a low salary.
	get in	enter	How did the burglar get in ?
	get into (+noun)	enter	How did the burglar get into the house?
	get off	1) leave (bus, train, plane) 2) remove	1) You should get off the bus at Trafalgar Square. 2) She can't get the stain off her sweater.
	get on	board (bus, train, plane)	You can pay when you get on the bus.
	get on with (something)	continue to do; make progress	Be quiet and get on with your homework.

	get on (well) with (somebody)	have a good relationship with	I get on very well with my colleagues.
	get out	leave	How did he get out ?
	get out of (+noun)	leave	How did he get out of the house?
	get out of	avoid doing something	Some husbands manage to get out of doing any housework.
	get over	recover from (illness, disappointment)	My grandmother had pneumonia but she got over it.
	get rid of	eliminate	It's difficult to get rid of old habits.
	get together	meet each other	Let's get together for lunch on day.
	get up	rise, leave bed	I usually get up at 7 o'clock.
	give up	stop doing something	Sarah gave up smoking 5 years ago.
	go through	experience	Pete went through a lot of pain after the accident.
	grow up	spend one's childhood; develop; become an adult	He grew up in a small village in the mountains.
H	hand in	submit (report, homework)	All application forms must be handed in before the end of the month.
	hand out	distribute	Samples will be handed out at the end of the demonstration.
	hang out	spend time in a particular place, or with a group of friends	Where does he hang out these days? Who does he hang out with?
	hang up	end a phone conversation	"Don't hang up . I haven't finished yet."
	hit at	aim a blow at	He hit at the wasp with the newspaper.
	hit back	retaliate; reply to an attack	When he was attacked by the others, the boy hit back .
	hit on/upon	find unexpectedly or by inspiration	She hit upon an idea for her new collection.
	hold on	-wait -grip tightly	- 'Hold on please. I'll put you through to Mr. Brown.' - She held on to the railing as she crossed the bridge.
	hurry up	be quick, act speedily	Hurry up! We'll miss the bus.
I	iron out	resolve by discussion, eliminate differences	The meeting tomorrow will be an opportunity to iron out difficulties.
J	join in	participate	She was too shy to join in the game.
	join up	-engage in, become a member of - meet and unite with	- John was in the Army and Tom joined up as soon as he left school. - The two groups of tourists joined up at the hotel.
	jot down	take quick notes	I jotted down the address while watching the programme on TV.
K	keep on	continue doing something	It told him to be quiet but he kept on making noise.
	keep up with	stay at the same level as someone or something	Bill walks so fast it's difficult to keep up with him.
	kick off	begin, start	The football match kicked off at 3 o'clock.

L	leave out	omit, not mention	The child's name was left out of the report.
	let down	disappoint	You promised to come to the party, so don't let me down !
	look after	take care of	A babysitter looks after the children when they go out.
	look ahead	think of the future	It's time to forget the past and look ahead .
	look down on	consider as inferior	He tends to look down on anyone who is not successful.
	look on	be a spectator at an event	Billy didn't take part in the fight. He just looked on .
	look for	try to find something	Jane went to the shops to look for a pair of shoes.
	look forward to	await or anticipate with pleasure	I look forward to seeing you soon.
	look up to	admire	He was a wonderful teacher and many students looked up to him.
M	make fun of	laugh at/ make jokes about	The old lady dresses so strangely that the kids make fun of her.
	make up	invent (excuse, story)	Some employees make up excuses when they arrive late for work.
	mix up	mistake one thing or person for another	I don't know my neighbours' names yet. I keep mixing them up .
	move in	arrive in a new home or office	You've bought a new house? When are you moving in ?
	move out	leave your home/office for another one.	My neighbour is leaving. He's moving out next Saturday.
N	nod off	fall asleep	My grandfather often nods off in front of the television.
	note down	write something	I'll call the station and note down the departure times.
O	opt out	leave a system or decide not to participate	I enjoy tennis but I'm so busy I had to opt out of the tournament.
	own up	admit or confess something	The boy owned up . He said he kicked the ball through the window.
P	pass away	die	The old lady passed away peacefully.
	pass out	faint	She passed out when she heard the bad news.
	pay back	reimburse	I'll lend you 20€ provided you pay me back before the end of the week.
	put off	postpone, arrange a later date	The meeting was put off because of the strike.
	put on	turn on, switch on	Could you put on the light please?
	put out	extinguish	It took a long time to put out the fire.
	put up	accommodate, give somebody a bed	We can put you up if you'd like to come for a week-end.
	pick up	collect somebody	I'll pick you up at the station when you arrive.
	point out	indicate/direct attention to something	She pointed out the mistake.
R	rely on	count on, depend on, trust	Don't worry. You can rely on me. I can keep a secret.

	rule out	eliminate	The police ruled out political motives.
	run away	escape from a place or suddenly leave	He ran away from home at the age of fourteen.
	run into	meet by accident or unexpectedly (also: bump into)	Sophie ran into Maria at the shopping centre.
	run out of	have no more of something.	What a nuisance! We've run out of coffee.
S	set off	start a journey;	Early Saturday morning we set off for the ski slopes .
	set up	start a business	She set up her own company 10 years ago.
	shop around	compare prices	It's always wise to shop around before buying anything.
	show off	brag or want to be admired	There's David showing off in his new sports car!
	show up	appear/arrive	We expected David to come but he didn't show up .
	shut up (impolite)	be silent, stop talking	Oh shut up , you idiot!
	sit down	take a seat	Please come in and sit down .
	stand up	rise from a sitting position	The pupils stood up when the headmaster arrived.
	stick up for	defend	It's important to stick up for one's principles.
T	take after	resemble, in appearance or character	Jamie really takes after his dad.
	take care of	look after	I'll take care of your plants while you're away.
	take off	leave the ground	The plane took off at 6 a.m.
	take on	hire or engage staff	Business is good so the company is taking on extra staff.
	take out	remove; extract	She took out a pen to note the address.
	tell off	reprimand/criticize severely	The teacher told her off for not doing her homework.
	think over	consider	I'll have to think over the proposal before I decide.
	try on	wear something to see if it suits or fits	I'm not sure about the size. Can I try it on ?
	turn down	refuse	I couldn't turn down an offer like that!
U	use up	finish a product (so that there's none left)	The kids have used up all the toothpaste.
V	vouch for	express confidence in, or guarantee something	You can give the keys to Andy. I can vouch for him.
W	watch out	be careful	Watch out! There's a car coming.
	wear out	1) become unusable 2) become very tired	1) Julie wore out her shoes visiting the city. 2) At the end of the day Julie was worn out .
	work out	1) do physical exercise 2) find a solution or calculate something	1) I work out twice a week at the gym club. 2) It's expensive but I haven't worked out the exact cost yet.

wipe off	clean (board, table).	The teacher asked Lee to wipe off the board.
<p><u>Instant Grammar Checker</u> Correct All Grammar Errors And Enhance Your Writing. Try Now! www.Grammarly.com <u>Study TOEFL in Boston</u> TOEFL for International Students Most effective course in Boston ascenglish.com/english/toefl <u>English Language School</u> Exclusive, Professional, Business One-to-one, \$3333/wk, all inclusive www.TahoeEnglish.com <u>Improve English Listening</u> Improve Your English Listening Get Our Free 7-Day Email Course deepenglish.com/ListeningExercises</p> <p>AdChoices </p>		
<p>phrasal verb quiz phrasal verb crossword</p> <p>Print this page</p> <p>top of page home</p> <p><small>copyright © k.beke. all rights reserved.</small></p>		

List of Synonyms

A list of synonyms & antonyms for the 100 most often used words in the English language.

Action

Come	advance, approach, arrive, near, reach	Put	place, set, attach, establish, assign, keep, save, set aside, effect, achieve, do, build
Go	depart, disappear, fade, move, proceed, recede, travel	Take	hold, catch, seize, grasp, win, capture, acquire, pick, choose, select, prefer, remove, steal, lift, rob, engage, bewitch, purchase, buy, retract, recall, assume, occupy, consume
Run	dash, escape, elope, flee, hasten, hurry, race, rush, speed, sprint	Make	create, originate, invent, beget, form, construct, design, fabricate, manufacture, produce, build, develop, do, effect, execute, compose, perform, accomplish, earn, gain, obtain, acquire, get
Hurry	rush, run, speed, race, hasten, urge, accelerate, bustle	Break	fracture, rupture, shatter, smash, wreck, crash, demolish, atomize
Hide	conceal, cover, mask, cloak, camouflage, screen, shroud, veil	Destroy	ruin, demolish, raze, waste, kill, slay, end, extinguish
Move	plod, go, creep, crawl, inch, poke, drag, toddle, shuffle, trot, dawdle, walk, traipse, mosey, jog, plug, trudge, slump, lumber, trail, lag, run, sprint, trip, bound, hotfoot, high-tail, streak, stride, tear, breeze, whisk, rush, dash, dart, bolt, fling, scamper, scurry, skeddaddle, scoot, scuttle, scramble, race, chase, hasten, hurry, hump, gallop, lope, accelerate, stir, budge, travel, wander, roam, journey, trek, ride, spin, slip, glide, slide, slither, coast, flow, sail, saunter, hobble, amble, stagger, paddle, slouch, prance, straggle, meander, perambulate, waddle, wobble, pace, swagger, promenade, lunge	Kill	slay, execute, assassinate, murder, destroy, cancel, abolish
Do	execute, enact, carry out, finish, conclude, effect, accomplish, achieve, attain	Cut	gash, slash, prick, nick, sever, slice, carve, cleave, slit, chop, crop, lop, reduce
Have	hold, possess, own, contain, acquire, gain, maintain, believe, bear, beget, occupy, absorb, fill, enjoy	Fall	drop, descend, plunge, topple, tumble
Use	employ, utilize, exhaust, spend, expend, consume, exercise	Fly	soar, hover, flit, wing, flee, waft, glide, coast, skim, sail, cruise
Get	acquire, obtain, secure, procure, gain, fetch, find, score, accumulate, win, earn, rep, catch, net, bag, derive, collect, gather, glean, pick up, accept, come by, regain, salvage	Decide	determine, settle, choose, resolve
Keep	hold, retain, withhold, preserve, maintain, sustain, support	Help	aid, assist, support, encourage, back, wait on, attend, serve, relieve, succor, benefit, befriend, abet
		Mark	label, tag, price, ticket, impress, effect, trace, imprint, stamp, brand, sign, note, heed, notice, designate
		Plan	plot, scheme, design, draw, map, diagram, procedure, arrangement, intention, device, contrivance, method, way, blueprint
		Show	display, exhibit, present, note, point to, indicate, explain, reveal, prove, demonstrate, expose

Antonyms

Begin	start, open, launch, initiate, commence, inaugurate, originate
End	stop, finish, terminate, conclude, close, halt, cessation, discontinuance, cease, halt, stay, pause, discontinue, conclude, finish, quit
Big	large, enormous, huge, immense, gigantic, vast, colossal, gargantuan, sizable, grand, great, tall, substantial, mammoth, astronomical, ample, broad, expansive, spacious, stout, tremendous, titanic, mountainous
Little	small, tiny, diminutive, shrimp, runt, miniature, puny, exiguous, dinky, cramped, limited, itsy-bitsy, microscopic, slight, petite, minute
New	fresh, unique, original, unusual, novel, modern, current, recent
Old	feeble, frail, ancient, weak, aged, used, worn, dilapidated, ragged, faded, broken-down, former, old-fashioned, outmoded, passe, veteran, mature, venerable, primitive, traditional, archaic, conventional, customary, stale, musty, obsolete, extinct
False	wrong, fake, fraudulent, counterfeit, spurious, untrue, unfounded, erroneous, deceptive, groundless, fallacious, incorrect, inaccurate, mistaken, erroneous, improper, unsuitable
True	right, accurate, proper, precise, exact, valid, genuine, real, actual, trusty, steady, loyal, dependable, sincere, staunch, correct, accurate, factual, true, good, just, honest, upright, lawful, moral, proper, suitable, apt, legal, fair
Fast	quick, rapid, speedy, fleet, hasty, snappy, mercurial, swiftly, rapidly, quickly, snappily, speedily, lickety-split, posthaste, hastily, expeditiously, like a flash
Slow	unhurried, gradual, leisurely, late, behind, tedious, slack

Cool	chilly, cold, frosty, wintry, icy, frigid
Hot	feverish, warm, heated, sweltering, torrid, equatorial, tropical, erotic, passionate, spicy, peppery, pungent, sharp tangy, tart, fiery, flaming, sizzling, charged, burning, seared, chafed', inflamed, irritated, red, smarting, stinging
Quiet	silent, still, soundless, mute, tranquil, peaceful, calm, restful, hushed, inaudible <i>reticent, reserved, taciturn, secretive, uncommunicative, tightlipped</i>
Noisy	loudly, earsplitting, stentorian, strident, clamorous, boisterous, clangorous, deafening, roisterous, uproarious, pandemoniac
All	complete, entire, full, gross, outright, perfect, total, utter, whole, any, complete, every, sum, totality, each and every, every bit of, bar none, every single, everything, everyone
None	nothing, nobody, no one, zero, zilch, no one at all, no part, not a bit, not a soul, not a thing, not any, not anyone, not anything, not one, nonexistent, null <i>nadir, nil, naught, void, nada, blank, nix</i>
Normal	daily, traditional, familiar, routine, proper, ordinary, typical, everyday, usual, commonplace, natural, classic, standard, general, bona fide, established, habitual, orthodox, prevalent, run-of-the-mill, time-honored, unvarying, average, conventional, customary, common, regular, garden-variety, household, plain, simple, balanced
Strange	abnormal, aberrant, anomalous, bent, bizarre, deviant, queer, eccentric, freakish, fanatical, odd, eerie, peculiar, weird, unorthodox, nonstandard, atypical, different, irregular, nonconforming, offbeat, unusual, extraordinary, insane, irrational, disorderly, rare, exceptional, extreme, outlandish

Feelings

Anger	enrage, infuriate, arouse, nettle, exasperate, inflame, madden
Angry	mad, furious, enraged, excited, wrathful, indignant, exasperated, aroused, inflamed
Calm	quiet, peaceful, still, tranquil, mild, serene, smooth, composed, collected, unruffled, level-headed, unexcited, detached, aloof
Eager	keen, fervent, enthusiastic, involved, interested, alive to
Fear	fright, dread, terror, alarm, dismay, anxiety, scare, awe, horror, panic, apprehension
Happy	pleased, contented, satisfied, delighted, elated, joyful, cheerful, ecstatic, jubilant, gay, tickled, gratified, glad, blissful
Hate	despise, loathe, detest, abhor, disfavor, dislike, disapprove, abominate

Negative

Awful	dreadful, terrible, abominable, bad, poor
Bad	evil, immoral, wicked, corrupt, sinful, depraved, rotten, contaminated, spoiled, tainted, harmful, injurious, unfavorable, defective, inferior, imperfect, substandard, faulty, disagreeable, unpleasant, cross, nasty, irascible, horrible, atrocious, outrageous, scandalous, infamous, wrong, noxious, sinister, putrid, snide, deplorable, dismal, gross, heinous, nefarious, base, obnoxious, detestable, despicable, contemptible, foul, rank, ghastly, execrable
Crooked	bent, twisted, curved, hooked, zigzag
Dangerous	perilous, hazardous, risky, uncertain, unsafe
Dilemma	quandary, dilemma, pickle, problem, plight, spot, scrape, jam, <i>predicament</i>
Hurt	damage, harm, injure, wound, distress, afflict, pain
Dark	shadowy, unlit, murky, gloomy, dim, dusky, shaded, sunless, black, dismal, sad

Love	like, admire, esteem, fancy, care for, cherish, adore, treasure, worship, appreciate, savor
Moody	temperamental, changeable, short-tempered, glum, morose, sullen, mopish, irritable, testy, peevish, fretful, spiteful, sulky, touchy
Sad	miserable, uncomfortable, wretched, heart-broken, unfortunate, poor, downhearted, sorrowful, depressed, dejected, melancholy, glum, gloomy, dismal, discouraged, unhappy
Scared	afraid, frightened, alarmed, terrified, panicked, fearful, unnerved, insecure, timid, shy, skittish, jumpy, disquieted, worried, vexed, troubled, disturbed, horrified, terrorized, shocked, petrified, haunted, timorous, shrinking, stupefied, paralyzed, stunned, apprehensive
Dull	boring, tiring, tiresome, uninteresting, slow, dumb, stupid, unimaginative, lifeless, dead, insensible, tedious, wearisome, listless, expressionless, plain, monotonous, humdrum, dreary
Fat	stout, corpulent, fleshy, beefy, paunchy, plump, full, rotund, tubby, pudgy, chubby, chunky, burly, bulky, elephantine
Gross	improper, rude, coarse, indecent, crude, vulgar, outrageous, extreme, grievous, shameful, uncouth, obscene, low
Lazy	indolent, slothful, idle, inactive, sluggish
Trouble	distress, anguish, anxiety, worry, wretchedness, pain, danger, peril, disaster, grief, misfortune, difficulty, concern, pains, inconvenience, exertion, effort
Ugly	hideous, frightful, frightening, shocking, horrible, unpleasant, monstrous, terrifying, gross, grisly, ghastly, horrid, unsightly, plain, homely, evil, repulsive, repugnant, gruesome

Positive

Amazing incredible, unbelievable, improbable, fabulous, wonderful, fantastic, astonishing, astounding, extraordinary

Beautiful pretty, lovely, handsome, attractive, gorgeous, dazzling, splendid, magnificent, comely, fair, ravishing, graceful, elegant, fine, exquisite, aesthetic, pleasing, shapely, delicate, stunning, glorious, heavenly, resplendent, radiant, glowing, blooming, sparkling

Brave courageous, fearless, dauntless, intrepid, plucky, daring, heroic, valorous, audacious, bold, gallant, valiant, doughty, mettlesome

Bright shining, shiny, gleaming, brilliant, sparkling, shimmering, radiant, vivid, colorful, lustrous, luminous, incandescent, intelligent, knowing, quick-witted, smart, intellectual

Delicious savory, delectable, appetizing, luscious, scrumptious, palatable, delightful, enjoyable, toothsome, exquisite

Enjoy appreciate, delight in, be pleased, indulge in, luxuriate in, bask in, relish, devour, savor, like

Famous well-known, renowned, celebrated, famed, eminent, illustrious, distinguished, noted, notorious

Descriptive

Describe portray, characterize, picture, narrate, relate, recount, represent, report, record

Difference disagreement, inequity, contrast, dissimilarity, incompatibility

Explain elaborate, clarify, define, interpret, justify, account for

Tell disclose, reveal, show, expose, uncover, relate, narrate, inform, advise, explain, divulge, declare, command, order, bid, recount, repeat

Idea thought, concept, conception, notion, understanding, opinion, plan, view, belief

Funny humorous, amusing, droll, comic, comical, laughable, silly

Good excellent, fine, superior, wonderful, marvelous, qualified, suited, suitable, apt, proper, capable, generous, kindly, friendly, gracious, obliging, pleasant, agreeable, pleasurable, satisfactory, well-behaved, obedient, honorable, reliable, trustworthy, safe, favorable, profitable, advantageous, righteous, expedient, helpful, valid, genuine, ample, salubrious, estimable, beneficial, splendid, great, noble, worthy, first-rate, top-notch, grand, sterling, superb, respectable, edifying

Great noteworthy, worthy, distinguished, remarkable, grand, considerable, powerful, much, mighty

Playful *mischievous*, prankish, naughty, roguish, waggish, impish, sportive

Neat clean, orderly, tidy, trim, dapper, natty, smart, elegant, well-organized, super, desirable, spruce, shipshape, well-kept, shapely

Popular well-liked, approved, accepted, favorite, celebrated, common, current

Look gaze, see, glance, watch, survey, study, seek, search for, peek, peep, glimpse, stare, contemplate, examine, gape, ogle, scrutinize, inspect, leer, behold, observe, view, witness, perceive, spy, sight, discover, notice, recognize, peer, eye, gawk, peruse, explore

Story tale, myth, legend, fable, yarn, account, narrative, chronicle, epic, sage, anecdote, record, memoir

Think judge, deem, assume, believe, consider, contemplate, reflect, mediate

Talk / Speech

Answer	reply, respond, retort, acknowledge
Ask	question, inquire of, seek information from, put a question to, demand, request, expect, inquire, query, interrogate, examine, quiz
Cry	shout, yell, yowl, scream, roar, bellow, weep, wail, sob, bawl
Mean	add up to, affect, be important, be of value, be substantive, carry weight, connote, count, denote, express, imply, intend, involve, signify, spell, stand for, suggest, value, weigh in

Say/Tell	inform, notify, advise, relate, recount, narrate, explain, reveal, disclose, divulge, declare, command, order, bid, enlighten, instruct, insist, teach, train, direct, issue, remark, converse, speak, affirm, suppose, utter, negate, express, verbalize, voice, articulate, pronounce, deliver, convey, impart, assert, state, allege, mutter, mumble, whisper, sigh, exclaim, yell, sing, yelp, snarl, hiss, grunt, snort, roar, bellow, thunder, boom, scream, shriek, screech, squawk, whine, philosophize, stammer, stutter, lisp, drawl, jabber, protest, announce, swear, vow, content, assure, deny, dispute
-----------------	---

Unsorted

Somewhata	little, sort of, kind of, a bit, relatively, slightly, moderately, to some extent / degree, reasonably, partially, more or less, not much <i>rather, quite, fairly, by a long shot, by far, rather, significantly, well</i>
Somehow	in a way, virtually, to a certain extent, in some measure, to some extent, to a certain degree, quasi, in a manner of speaking, effectively <i>anyhow, anyway, anyways, by hook or by crook, another, howsoever, in any way, somehow or other, someway, by some means</i>
Definite	certain, sure, positive, determined, clear, distinct, obvious
Fair	just, impartial, unbiased, objective, unprejudiced, honest

Important	necessary, vital, critical, indispensable, valuable, essential, significant, primary, principal, considerable, famous, distinguished, notable, well-known
------------------	---

Interesting	fascinating, engaging, sharp, keen, bright, intelligent, animated, spirited, attractive, inviting, intriguing, provocative, thought-provoking, challenging, inspiring, involving, moving, titillating, tantalizing, exciting, entertaining, piquant, lively, racy, spicy, engrossing, absorbing, consuming, gripping, arresting, enthralling, spellbinding, curious, captivating, enchanting, bewitching, appealing
--------------------	---

Part	portion, share, piece, allotment, section, fraction, fragment
-------------	---

Place	space, area, spot, plot, region, location, situation, position, residence, dwelling, set, site, station, status, state
--------------	--