Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • jure / 'Ind3ər / verb

1 injure someone/something/yourself to harm yourself or someone else physically, especially in an accident He injured his knee playing hockey.

Three people were killed and five injured in the crash.

She injured herself during training.

collocations at injury

2 injure something to damage someone's reputation, pride, etc.

This could seriously injure the company's reputation.

THESAURUS

iniure

wound hurt bruise sprain pull strain

These words all mean to harm yourself or someone else physically, especially in an accident.

injure to harm yourself or someone else physically, especially in an accident: He injured his knee playing hockey. \Diamond Three people were injured in the crash.

wound [often passive] (somewhat formal) to injure part of the body, especially by making a hole in the skin using a weapon: Two people were killed and dozens more wounded in the attack. **Wound** is often used to talk about people being hurt in war or in other attacks which affect a lot of people.

hurt (somewhat informal) to cause physical pain to someone or yourself; to injure someone or yourself: Did you hurt yourself?

INJURE OR HURT?

You can **hurt** or **injure** a part of the body in an accident. **Hurt** emphasizes the physical pain caused; **injure** emphasizes that the part of the body has been damaged in some way.

bruise to make a blue, brown, or purple mark (= a bruise) appear on the skin after someone has fallen or been hit; to develop a bruise

sprain to injure part of your body, especially your ankle, wrist, or knee, by suddenly bending it in an awkward way, causing pain and swelling

pull to damage a muscle, etc., by using too much force

strain to injure yourself or part of your body by making it work too hard: Don't strain your eyes by reading in poor light.

PATTERNS

to injure/hurt/strain yourself

to injure/hurt/pull/strain a muscle

to injure/hurt/sprain your ankle/knee/wrist

to injure/hurt/strain your back/shoulder/eyes

to injure/hurt your spine/neck

to be badly/severely/slightly injured/wounded/hurt/bruised/sprained

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • no • vate / 'Inə veIt / verb

[intransitive, transitive]

to introduce new things, ideas, or ways of doing something

We must constantly adapt and innovate to ensure success in a growing market.

innovate something to innovate new products

in • no • va • tor / 'Inə veItər / noun

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • put / 'InpUt / noun, verb

noun

1 [countable, uncountable] time, knowledge, ideas, etc. that you put into work, a project, etc. in order to make it succeed; the act of putting something in

input (into/to something) Her specialist input to the discussions has been very useful.

Barley is one of the main inputs to the process of distillation.

I'd appreciate your input on this.

input (of something) There has been a big input of resources into the project from industry.

Growing anything in this soil will require heavy inputs of nutrients.

2 [**uncountable**] (computing) the act of putting information into a computer; the information that you put in data input

This program accepts input from most word processors.

 $\bf 3$ [$\bf countable$] (technical) a place or means for electricity, data, etc. to enter a machine or system an input lead

Where is the audio input on the computer?

compare output

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verb
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(in • put • ting , in • put , in • put
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OI

in • put • ting , in • put • ted , in • put • ted)

input something

to put information into a computer

to input text/data/figures

compare output

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • sert verb, noun

verb / In'sərt /

1 insert something (in/into/between something) to put something into something else or between two things Insert coins into the slot and press for a ticket.

They inserted a tube in his mouth to help him breathe.

2 to add something to a piece of writing

insert something Position the cursor where you want to insert a word.

insert something into something Later, he inserted another paragraph into his will.

noun / 'Insərt /

insert (in something)

1 an extra section added to a book, newspaper, or magazine, especially to advertise something an 8-page insert on the new car models

2 something that is put inside something else, or added to something else

These inserts fit inside any style of shoe.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • sight / 'InsaIt / noun

1 [uncountable] (approving) the ability to see and understand the truth about people or situations a writer of great insight

With a flash of insight, I realized what the dream meant.

2 [**countable** , **uncountable**] **insight** (**into something**) an understanding of what something is like The book gives us fascinating insights into life in Mexico.

I hope you have gained some insight into the difficulties we face.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • spect / In spEkt / verb

1 to look closely at something or someone, especially to check that everything is as it should be examine

inspect something/someone The teacher walked around inspecting their work.

Make sure you inspect the goods before signing for them.

inspect something/someone for something The plants are regularly inspected for disease.

THESAURUS

check

examine inspect go over something

These words all mean to look closely to make sure that everything is correct, in good condition, or acceptable. check to look at something closely to make sure that everything is correct, in good condition, safe, or satisfactory: Check your work before handing it in.

examine to look at someone or something closely to see if there is anything wrong or to find the cause of a problem: The goods were examined for damage.

inspect to look at someone or something closely to make sure that everything is satisfactory; to officially visit a school, factory, etc. in order to check that rules are being followed and that standards are acceptable: Make sure you inspect the goods before signing for them. \diamondsuit The state health board inspects all restaurants at least once a year.

CHECK, EXAMINE, OR INSPECT?

All these words can be used when you are looking for possible problems, but only **check** is used for mistakes: Examine/Inspect your work before handing it in. Only **examine** is used when looking for the cause of a problem: The doctor checked/inspected her but could find nothing wrong. Examine is used more often when talking about the activities of a professional person: The surveyor examined the walls for signs of termites. Inspect is used more often about an official: Public health officials were called in to inspect the nursing home. go over something to check something carefully for mistakes, damage, or anything dangerous: My boss goes over each report in detail.

PATTERNS

to check/examine/inspect/go over something for something

to check/examine/inspect/go over something to see if/whether...

to check/examine/inspect/go over something carefully/thoroughly

2 inspect something to officially visit a school, factory, etc. in order to check that rules are being obeyed and that standards are acceptable

Public health officials were called in to inspect the premises.

The Tourist Board inspects all recommended hotels at least once a year.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • stance / 'InstOns / noun, verb

noun

a particular example or case of something

The report highlights a number of instances of injustice.

In most instances, there will be no need for further treatment.

I would normally suggest taking time off work, but in this instance I'm not sure that would do any good.

THESAURUS

example

case instance specimen illustration

These are all words for a thing or situation that is typical of a particular group or set, and is sometimes used to support an argument.

example something such as an object, a fact, or a situation that shows, explains, or supports what you say; a thing that is typical of or represents a particular group or set: Can you give me an example of what you mean?

case a particular situation or a situation of a particular type; a situation that relates to a particular person or thing: In some cases people have had to wait several weeks for an appointment.

instance (somewhat formal) a particular situation or a situation of a particular type: The report highlights a number of instances of injustice.

specimen an example of something, especially an animal or a plant: The aquarium has some interesting specimens of tropical fish.

illustration (somewhat formal) a story, an event, or an example that clearly shows the truth about something: The statistics are a clear illustration of the point I am trying to make.

EXAMPLE OR ILLUSTRATION?

An **illustration** is often used to show that something is true. An **example** is used to help to explain something. PATTERNS

a(n) example/case/instance/specimen/illustration of something

in a particular case/instance

for example/instance

for instance

for example

What would you do, for instance, if you found a member of staff stealing?

language bank at e.g.

in the first instance

(formal)

as the first part of a series of actions

In the first instance, notify the police and then contact your insurance company.

verb

instance something

(formal)

to give something as an example

I refer to the situation instanced above.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • sti • tute / 'Instə tut / noun, verb

noun

an organization that has a particular purpose, especially one that is connected with education or a particular profession; the building used by this organization

a research institute

institutes of higher education

verb

institute something

(formal)

to introduce a system, policy, etc. or start a process

to institute criminal proceedings against someone

The new management intends to institute a number of changes.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • struct / In strAkt / verb

1 (formal) to tell someone to do something, especially in a formal or official way

direct, order

instruct someone to do something The letter instructed him to report to headquarters immediately.

instruct someone where, what, etc.... You will be instructed where to go as soon as the plane is ready.

instruct someone She arrived at 10 o'clock as instructed.

instruct that... He instructed that a wall be built around the city.

instruct (someone) + speech "Put it there," she instructed (them).

THESAURUS

order

tell instruct direct command

These words all mean to use your position of authority to say to someone that they must do something.

order to use your position of authority to tell someone to do something: The company was ordered to clean up the pollution in the river. \diamondsuit "Come here at once!" she ordered.

tell to say to someone that they must or should do something: He was told to sit down and wait. ♦ Don't tell me what to do!

instruct (somewhat formal) to tell someone to do something, especially in a formal or official way: The letter instructed him to report to headquarters immediately.

direct (formal) to give an official order: The police officer directed me to pull over and stop the car. **command** to use your position of authority to tell someone to do something: He commanded his men to retreat.

ORDER OR COMMAND?

Order is a more general word than **command** and can be used about anyone in a position of authority, such as a parent, teacher, or government, telling someone to do something. **Command** is slightly stronger than **order** and is the normal word to use about an army officer giving orders, or in any context where it is normal to give orders without any discussion about them. It is less likely to be used about a parent or teacher.

PATTERNS

to order/tell/instruct/direct/command someone to do something

to order/instruct/direct/command that...

to do something as ordered/told/instructed/directed/commanded

2 instruct someone (in something) (formal) to teach someone something, especially a practical skill All our staff have been instructed in sign language.

3 [usually passive] **instruct someone that...** (formal) to give someone information about something We **have been instructed that** a decision will not be made before the end of the week.

4 instruct someone (to do something) (law) to employ someone to represent you in a legal situation, especially as a lawyer

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • te • gral / 'Intəqrəl ; In't&qrəl / adjective

1 being an essential part of something

Music is an integral part of the school's curriculum.

integral to something Practical experience is integral to the course.

2 [usually before noun] included as part of something, rather than supplied separately All models have an integral CD player.

3 [usually before noun] having all the parts that are necessary for something to be complete an integral system

in • te • gral • ly / ; / adverb

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • te • grate / 'Intə GreIt / verb

1 [intransitive, transitive] to combine two or more things so that they work together; to combine with something else in this way

integrate into/with something These programs will integrate with your existing software.

integrate A (into/with B) | integrate A and B These programs can be integrated with your existing software.

2 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] to become or make someone become accepted as a member of a social group, especially when they come from a different culture

integrate (into/with something) They have not made any effort to integrate with the local community. integrate someone (into/with something) The policy is to integrate children with special needs into ordinary schools.

compare segregate

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • teg • ri • ty / In tegrati / noun

[uncountable]

1 the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles

personal/professional/artistic integrity

to behave with integrity

a man of great integrity

2 (formal) the state of being whole and not divided

unity

to respect the territorial integrity of the nation

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • tel • li • gence / In tEl d 3 ans / noun

[uncountable]

1 the ability to learn, understand and think in a logical way about things; the ability to do this well a person of high/average/low intelligence

He didn't even have the intelligence to call for an ambulance.

see also artificial intelligence, emotional intelligence

2 secret information that is collected, for example about a foreign country, especially one that is an enemy; the people that collect this information

intelligence reports

the Central Intelligence Agency

intelligence sources (= people who give this information)

the head of military intelligence

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • tense / In tens / adjective

1 very great; very strong

extreme

intense heat/cold/pain

The President is under intense pressure to resign.

the intense blue of her eyes

intense interest/pleasure/desire/anger

2 serious and often involving a lot of action in a short period of time

intense competition

It was a period of intense activity.

3 (of a person) having or showing very strong feelings, opinions, or thoughts about someone or something an intense look

He's very intense about everything.

compare intensive

in • tense • ly adverb

She disliked him intensely.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • ter • act / IntƏr cekt / verb

These definition have collected by Shakib. Kurdistan of Iran. September 2nd 2016

1 [intransitive] interact (with someone) to communicate with someone, especially while you work, play or spend time with them

Teachers have a limited amount of time to interact with each child.

The only thing he interacts with is his computer!

2 [**intransitive**] **interact (with something)** if one thing **interacts** with another, or if two things **interact**, the two things have an effect on each other

Perfume interacts with the skin's natural chemicals.

in • ter • ac • tion / Intər œk[n / noun [uncountable , countable]

interaction (between someone/something) the interaction between performers and their audience interaction (with someone/something) the interaction of bacteria with the body's natural chemistry

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • ter • me • di • ate / IntƏr midiət / adjective, noun

adjective

1 [usually before noun] located between two places, things, states, etc.

an intermediate stage/step in a process

intermediate between A and B Liquid crystals are considered to be intermediate between liquid and solid.

2 having more than a basic knowledge of something but not yet advanced; suitable for someone who is at this level

an intermediate skier/student, etc.

an intermediate textbook

pre-/upper-intermediate classes

noun

a person who is learning something and who has more than a basic knowledge of it but is not yet advanced

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • ter • nal / In tornl / adjective

1 [only before noun] connected with the inside of something

the internal structure of a building

internal doors

external

2 [only before noun] connected with the inside of your body

internal organs/injuries

The medicine is not for internal use.

external

 $f{3}$ [usually before noun] involving or concerning only the people who are part of a particular organization rather than people from outside it

an internal investigation

the internal workings of government

internal divisions within the company

external

4 [only before noun] connected with a country's own affairs rather than those that involve other countries **domestic**

internal affairs/trade/markets

an **internal flight** (= within a country)

external

5 coming from within a thing itself rather than from outside it

a theory which lacks internal consistency (= whose parts are not in agreement with each other)

Some photos contain internal evidence (= fashions, transportation, etc.) that may help to date them.

6 happening or existing in your mind

inner

```
internal rage
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in • ter • nal • ly / In tərnəli / adverb

internally connected rooms

The new positions were only advertised internally.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • ter • pret / In tərprət / verb

1 [transitive] interpret something to explain the meaning of something

The students were asked to interpret the poem.

2 [transitive] to decide that something has a particular meaning and to understand it in this way interpret something as something I didn't know whether to interpret her silence as acceptance or refusal. interpret something The data can be interpreted in many different ways.

compare misinterpret

- **3** [intransitive] interpret (for someone) to translate one language into another as you hear it She couldn't speak much English so her children had to interpret for her.
- **4** [transitive] interpret something to perform a piece of music, a role in a play, etc. in a way that shows your feelings about its meaning

He interpreted the role with a lot of humor.

in • ter • pret • a • ble / In tərprətəbl / adjective

interpretable data

AWL COLLOCATIONS

interpret

interpret verb

be difficult to

The results of the three studies are inconsistent and difficult to interpret.

~ with caution

The results of this study, however, should be interpreted with caution because of several methodological flaws.

~ within a/the framework | ~ within a/the context

The results should be interpreted within the context of a number of underlying assumptions.

be interpreted as

Typographical errors may be reasonably interpreted as resulting from carelessness.

broadly | narrowly, strictly | cautiously | accurately, correctly | erroneously, incorrectly | variously Historians have variously interpreted the treaty's significance.

The findings should be interpreted cautiously because of the small sample size.

data, finding, result | pattern | information | study | meaning | behavior | theory | text

To interpret the results, it is important to understand how the study was organized.

interpretation noun

```
broad | literal, narrow, strict | subjective | plausible | correct | erroneous
```

Alexander Hamilton advocated a broad interpretation of the Constitution, which President George Washington endorsed.

be open to, be subject to

Many ethical issues are complex and subject to multiple interpretations.

defy, preclude | complicate | confound, contradict | challenge, refute | favor, support

The small sample size precludes further interpretation of this finding.

misinterpret verb

easily | completely | willfully

Every clinician is at risk of making an error when confusing or easily misinterpreted abbreviations or symbols are used.

misinterpretation noun

```
common | gross, serious | deliberate | possible, potential
```

These small misinterpretations would often lead to gross misinterpretations of the text as a whole.

be open to , be subject to | lead to , result in | be prone to | be based on , rest on | avoid , prevent

Unfortunately, his conclusions rested on a misinterpretation of the data.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • ter • val / 'IntƏrvl / noun

1 a period of time between two events

The interval between major earthquakes might be 200 years.

He knocked on the door and after a brief interval it was opened.

2 [usually **plural**] a short period during which something different happens from what is happening the rest of the time

She's delirious, but has lucid intervals.

3 (music) a difference in **pitch** (= how high or low a note sounds) between two notes an interval of one octave

at (...) intervals

1 with time between

Buses to the city leave at regular intervals.

The runners started at 5-minute intervals.

2 with spaces between

Traffic cones were positioned at intervals along the road.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • ter • vene / IntƏr vin / verb

1 [intransitive] to become involved in a situation in order to improve or help it

She might have been killed if the neighbors hadn't intervened.

intervene in something The President intervened personally in the crisis.

2 [transitive , intransitive] (+ speech) to interrupt someone when they are speaking in order to say something

"But," she intervened, "what about the others?"

3 [**intransitive**] to happen in a way that delays something or prevents it from happening They were planning to get married and then the war intervened.

4 [intransitive] (formal) to exist between two events or places

I saw nothing of her during the years that intervened.

in • ter • ven • tion / [IntƏr vɛnʃn / noun [uncountable , countable]

intervention (in something) calls for government intervention to save the steel industry

armed/military intervention

People resented his repeated interventions in the debate.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • trin • sic / In trInzIk; In trInsIk / adjective

belonging to or part of the real nature of something or someone

the intrinsic value of education

These tasks were repetitive, lengthy, and lacking any intrinsic interest.

intrinsic to something Small local shops are intrinsic to the town's character.

compare extrinsic

in • trin • si • cally / In'trInzIkli / / In'trInsIkli / adverb

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with the idea (= it is good in itself but there may be outside circumstances that mean it is not suitable).

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • vest / In vest / verb

1 [intransitive, transitive] to buy property, shares in a company, etc. in the hope of making a profit invest (in something) Now is a good time to invest in the property market.

invest something (in something) He invested his life savings in his daughter's business.

2 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] (of an organization or government, etc.) to spend money on something in order to make it better or more successful

invest (in/on something) The government has invested heavily in public transportation.

invest something (in/on something) The college is to invest \$2 million in a new theater.

In his time managing the team he has invested millions on new players.

3 [transitive] invest something (in something) | invest something (in) doing something to spend time, energy, effort, etc. on something that you think is good or useful She had invested all her adult life in the relationship.

4 [transitive] (formal) to give someone power or authority, especially as part of their job invest someone (with something) The new position invested her with a good deal of responsibility. invest someone (as something) The interview was broadcast on the same day he was invested as president. see also investiture

in vest in something (informal, often humorous) to buy something that is expensive but useful Don't you think it's about time you invested in a new coat?

in vest someone/something with something (formal) to make someone or something seem to have a particular quality

Being a model invests her with a certain glamour.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • ves • ti • gate / In vEstə GeIt / verb

1 [intransitive, transitive] to carefully examine the facts of a situation, an event, a crime, etc. to find out the truth about it or how it happened

The FBI has been called in to investigate.

(informal) "What was that noise?" "I'll go and investigate."

investigate something Police are investigating possible links between the murders.

investigate what, how, etc.... Police are investigating what happened.

collocations at **crime**

2 [**transitive**] **investigate someone** (**for something**) to try to find out information about someone's character, activities, etc.

This is not the first time he has been investigated by the police for fraud.

3 [transitive , intransitive] to find out information and facts about a subject or problem by study or research

investigate (something) Scientists are investigating the effects of diet on fighting cancer.

investigate how, what, etc.... The research investigates how foreign speakers gain fluency.

AWL COLLOCATIONS

investigate

investigate verb

empirically, experimentally | theoretically | rigorously, systematically, thoroughly | extensively, further

This theory has been investigated experimentally by heating volcanic rock.

This speculation needs to be investigated further.

influence, interaction, relationship, role | effect, efficacy | hypothesis

Our study aims to investigate the role of optimism in preventing illness.

To investigate our hypothesis, we will present two analyses.

investigation noun

empirical, scientific | thorough | further, ongoing

Proposals for scientific investigations will probably increase as new discoveries are made.

A thorough investigation of the evidence confirms this conclusion.

conduct, undertake

We conducted a follow-up investigation to determine whether or not the students enrolled in French the following year.

demonstrate, reveal, show, uncover, yield

Investigations showed no chemical contamination of the air or water.

Recent investigations have yielded new insight into sleep's role in memory and learning.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • voke / In ่voびk / verb

1 invoke something (against someone) to mention or use a law, rule, etc. as a reason for doing something It is unlikely that libel laws will be invoked.

2 invoke someone/something to mention a person, a theory, an example, etc. to support your opinions or ideas, or as a reason for something

She invoked several eminent scholars to back up her argument.

3 invoke something to mention someone's name to make people feel a particular thing or act in a particular way

His name was invoked as a symbol of the revolution.

4 invoke someone to make a request (for help) to someone, especially a god

5 invoke something to make someone have a particular feeling or imagine a particular scene **evoke**

The opening paragraph invokes a vision of England in the early Middle Ages.

Some people think this use is not correct.

6 invoke something (computing) to begin to run a program, etc.

This command will invoke the HELP system.

7 invoke someone/something to make evil appear by using magic

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

in • volve / In valv / verb

1 if a situation, an event, or an activity **involves** something, that thing is an important or necessary part or result of it

entail

involve something Any investment involves an element of risk.

Many of the crimes involved drugs.

involve doing something The test will involve answering questions about a photograph.

involve someone/something doing something The job involves me traveling all over the country.

(formal) The job involves my traveling all over the country.

2 involve someone/something if a situation, an event, or an activity involves someone or something, they take part in it or are affected by it

There was a serious incident involving a group of youths.

How many vehicles were involved in the crash?

3 to make someone take part in something

involve someone (in something/in doing something) We want to involve as many people as possible in the celebrations.

involve yourself (in something) Parents should involve themselves in their child's education.

4 involve someone (in something) to say or do something to show that someone took part in something, especially a crime

implicate

His confession involved a number of other politicians in the scandal.

in volve someone in something to make someone experience something, especially something unpleasant Don't involve me in your family arguments!

AWL COLLOCATIONS

involve

involve verb

actively, directly | typically, usually | necessarily

The plots usually involve a virtuous hero who triumphs over evil.

In the context of climate change, many potential risks necessarily involve intervention by the state.

involved adjective

actively, directly | deeply, heavily

Numerous researchers are actively involved in water table management research.

Already heavily involved in the church, Baptist women heightened that involvement for the duration of the war.

~ in

The step-by-step activities involved in the process are detailed in this article.

involvement noun

the act of taking part in something

active, direct

The matter of a national bank system drew some direct involvement from President Lincoln.

~ in | ~ with

In the study, two questions inquired about adolescents' involvement in competitive sports.

The survey showed that producers in North Carolina had the lowest involvement with livestock.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

i • so • late / 'aIsƏ leIt / verb

1 to separate someone or something physically or socially from other people or things

isolate someone/yourself/something Patients with the disease should be isolated.

isolate someone/yourself/something from someone/something He was immediately isolated from the other prisoners.

This decision will isolate the country from the rest of Europe.

2 isolate something (from something) to separate a part of a situation, problem, idea, etc. so that you can see what it is and deal with it separately

It is possible to isolate a number of factors that contributed to her downfall.

3 isolate something (from something) (technical) to separate a single substance, cell, etc. from others so that you can study it

Researchers are still trying to isolate the gene that causes this abnormality.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

is • sue / 'Iʃu / noun, verb

noun

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

1 [countable] an important topic that people are discussing or arguing about

a key/sensitive/controversial issue

This is a **big issue**; we need more time to think about it.

She usually writes about environmental issues.

The union plans to raise the issue of overtime.

The party was divided on this issue.

You're just avoiding the issue.

Don't confuse the issue.

PROBLEM/WORRY

2 [**countable**] a problem or worry that someone has with something Money is **not an issue** .

I don't think my private life is the issue here.

I'm not bothered about the cost—you're the one who's making an issue of it.

Because I grew up in a dysfunctional family, anger is a big issue for me.

She's always on a diet—she has issues about food.

He still has **some issues with** women (= has problems dealing with them).

If you have any issues, please call this number.

MAGAZINE/NEWSPAPER

3 [countable] one of a regular series of magazines or newspapers

the July issue of a popular food magazine

The article appeared in issue 25.

OF STAMPS/COINS/SHARES

4 [**countable**] a number or set of things that are supplied and made available at the same time The company is planning a new **share issue** .

a special issue of stamps

MAKING AVAILABLE/KNOWN

5 [**uncountable**] the act of supplying or making available things for people to buy or use I bought a set of the new stamps on the date of issue.

the issue of blankets to the refugees

the issue of a joint statement by the French and German foreign ministers

CHILDREN

6 [uncountable] (law) children of your own

He died without issue.

be at issue

to be the most important part of the subject that is being discussed

What is at issue is whether she was responsible for her actions.

take issue with someone (about/on/over something)

(formal)

to start disagreeing or arguing with someone about something

I must take issue with you on that point.

see also force

verb

MAKE KNOWN

1 issue something (to someone) to make something known formally

They issued a joint statement denying the charges.

The police have issued an appeal for witnesses.

GIVE

2 [often passive] to give something to someone, especially officially

issue something to issue passports/visas/tickets

issue someone with something New members will be issued with a temporary identification card.

issue something to someone Work permits were issued to only 5% of those who applied for them.

LAW

3 issue something to start a legal process against someone, especially by means of an official document to issue a writ against someone

A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

MAGAZINE

4 issue something to produce something such as a magazine, article, etc.

We issue a monthly newsletter.

STAMPS/COINS/SHARES

5 issue something to produce new stamps, coins, shares, etc. for sale to the public

They issued a special set of stamps to mark the occasion.

issue from something

(formal)

to come out of something

A weak trembling sound issued from his lips.

is • su • er noun

credit-card issuers

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

i • tem / ˈaItəm / noun

1 one thing on a list of things to buy, do, talk about, etc.

What's the next item on the agenda?

2 a single article or object

Can I pay for each item separately?

The computer was my largest single item of expenditure.

A windproof jacket is an essential item of clothing for hiking.

This clock is a **collector's item** (= because it is rare and valuable).

3 a single piece of news in a newspaper, on television, etc.

an item of news/a news item

I heard an item on the radio about women engineers.

be an item (informal) to be involved in a romantic or sexual relationship

Are they an item?

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

job / d3ab / noun

PAID WORK

1 work for which you receive regular payment

He's trying to get a job.

She took a job as a waitress.

His brother's just lost his job.

a summer/Saturday/vacation job

a temporary/permanent job

I'm thinking of applying for a new job.

The takeover of the company is bound to mean more job losses.

Many women are in part-time jobs.

Did they offer you the job?

He certainly **knows his job** (= is very good at his job).

I'm only doing my job (= I'm doing what I am paid to do).

He's been **out of a job** (= unemployed) for six months now.

She's never had a **steady job** (= a job that is not going to end suddenly).

collocations at unemployment

TASK

2 a particular task or piece of work that you have to do

I've got various jobs around the house.

Sorting these papers out is going to be a long job.

The builder has a couple of jobs going at the moment.

see also nose job

THESAURUS

task

duties mission job chore

These are all words for a piece of work that someone has to do.

task a piece of work that someone has to do, especially a difficult or unpleasant one: Our first task is to set up a communications system.

duties tasks that are part of your job: Your duties include data entry and record keeping.

mission an important official job that a person or group of people is given to do, especially when they are sent to another country: They went on a fact-finding mission to learn more about it.

job a piece of work that someone has to do: I've got various jobs around the house.

TASK OR JOB?

A **task** may be more difficult than a **job** and require you to think carefully about how you are going to do it. A **job** may be something small that is one of several things that you have to do, especially in the home; or a **job** can be something that takes a long time and is boring and/or needs a lot of patience.

chore a task that you have to do regularly, especially one that you do in the home and find unpleasant or boring: household chores

PATTERNS

the task/mission/job/chore of (doing) something

- (a) daily/day-to-day task/duties/job/chore
- (a) **routine** task/duties/mission/job/chore
- a/an easy/difficult task/mission/job/chore
- (a) household/domestic task/duties/job/chore
- to do a task/a job/the chores
- to finish a task/a mission/a job/the chores
- to give someone a task/their duties/a mission/a job/a chore

DUTY

3 [usually **singular**] a responsibility or duty

It's not my job to lock up!

CRIME

4 (informal) a crime, especially stealing

a bank job

He got six months for that last job he did.

an **inside job** (= done by someone in the organization where the crime happens)

OBJECT

5 (informal) a particular kind of thing

It's real wood—not one of those plastic jobs.

COMPUTING

6 an item of work that is done by a computer as a single unit

The job can be processed overnight.

do a good, bad, etc. job (on something)

to do something well, badly, etc.

They did a very professional job.

You've certainly done an excellent job on the kitchen (= for example, painting it).

We haven't done a very good job on the publicity for the show.

do the job (informal) to be effective or successful in doing what you want

This extra strong glue should do the job.

do a job on someone/something (informal) to harm or defeat someone, or to damage something

The hurricane really did a job on the city.

fall down on the job

to fail to do something that people expected you to do, or to do it badly

The government fell down on the job of monitoring this company.

good job! (informal) used to tell someone that they have done well at something on the job

while doing a particular job

No sleeping on the job!

on-the-job training

see also walk

THESAURUS

ioh

position post vacancy appointment

These are all words for a position doing work for which you receive regular payment.

job a position doing work for which you receive regular payment: He's trying to get a job at a bank.

```
position (formal) a job: I would like to apply for a position in sales.
JOB OR POSITION?
Position usually refers to a particular job within an organization, and is not usually used about about jobs
generally. It is also often used in job applications, descriptions, and advertisements.
post (formal) an important job, especially one in government: She was offered a key post in the new
government.
vacancy a job that is available for someone to do: We have several vacancies for nurses.
appointment (somewhat formal) a job or position of responsibility: After two years, you will become
eligible for a permanent appointment.
PATTERNS
 a permanent/temporary job/position/post/vacancy/appointment
 a full-time/part-time job/position/post/vacancy/appointment
 to have/have got a(n) job/position/post/vacancy/appointment
 to apply for/fill a job/position/post/vacancy
 to resign from/leave/quit a job/position/post
TOPIC COLLOCATIONS
Jobs
getting a job
 look for work
 look for/apply for/go for a job
 get/pick up/complete/fill out an application (form)
 send/e-mail your résumé/CV/application/application form/cover letter
 be called for/have/attend an interview
 offer someone a job/work/employment/a promotion
 find/get/land a job
 employ/hire/recruit staff/workers/trainees
  recruit/appoint a manager
doina a iob
 arrive at/get to/leave work/the office/the factory
 start/finish work/your shift
 do/put in/work overtime
 have/gain/get/lack/need experience/qualifications
 do/get/have/receive training
 learn/pick up/improve/develop (your) skills
 cope with/manage/share/spread/delegate the workload
 improve your/achieve a better work-life balance
  have (no) job satisfaction/job security
building a career
 have a job/work/a career/a vocation
 find/follow/pursue your vocation
 enter/go into/join a profession
 choose/embark on/start/begin/pursue a career
 change jobs/professions/careers
 be/go/work freelance
 do/take on temp work/freelance work
 do/be engaged in/be involved in volunteer work
leaving your job
 leave/quit/resign from your job
 give up work/your job/your career
 hand in your notice/resignation
 plan to/be due to retire in June/next year, etc.
 take early retirement
```

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

jour • nal / 'dʒərnl / noun

1 a newspaper or magazine that deals with a particular subject or profession

a scientific/trade journal

the American Bar Association Journal

2 used in the title of some newspapers

the Wall Street Journal

3 a written record of the things you do, see, etc. every day

He kept a journal of his travels across Asia.

compare diary

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

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jus • ti • fy / 'd3\startag faI / verb
( jus • ti • fies , jus • ti • fy • ing , jus • ti • fied , jus • ti • fied )
```

1 to show that someone or something is right or reasonable

justify (someone/something) doing something How can they justify paying such huge salaries? **justify something** Her success had justified the faith her teachers had put in her.

2 justify something/yourself (to someone) | justify (someone/something) doing something to give an explanation or excuse for something or for doing something

defend

The Secretary of Education has been asked to justify the decision to Congress.

You don't need to justify yourself to me.

3 justify something (technical) to arrange lines of printed text so that one or both edges are straight see the end justifies the means at end n.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

la • bel / 'leIbl / noun, verb

noun

1 a piece of paper, etc. that is attached to something and that gives information about it tag, ticket

The washing instructions are on the label.

price/address labels

He'll only wear **designer labels** (= clothes with designer labels).

2 (disapproving) a word or phrase that is used to describe someone or something in a way that seems too general, unfair, or not correct

I hated the label "housewife."

3 a company that produces and sells recorded music

the Virgin record label

It's his first release for a major label.

see also off-label

verb

(, -I-, CanE usually -II-)

[often passive]

1 label something to attach a label on something or write information on something

We carefully labeled each item with the contents and the date.

The file was labeled "Private."

2 to describe someone or something in a particular way, especially unfairly

label someone/something (as) something | label someone/something + noun/adjective It is unfair to label a small baby as naughty.

He was labeled (as) a traitor by his former colleagues.

THESAURUS

label

tag sticker

These are all words for a piece of paper, fabric, or plastic that is attached to something and gives information about it.

label a small piece of paper, fabric, or plastic that is attached to something in order to show what it is or give information about it: The washing instructions are on the label. \diamondsuit address labels \diamondsuit He'll only wear clothes with a **designer label**.

tag (often used in compounds) a small piece of paper, fabric, or plastic that is attached to something, or that someone wears, in order to give information about it/them: Everyone at the conference had to wear a name tag.

LABEL OR TAG?

Labels in clothes are often made of fabric and sewn in. **Tags** on clothes are usually made of cardboard and cut off before you wear the clothes. A name tag can be stuck or tied onto someone to show who they are: All babies in the hospital have name tags wrapped around their ankles.

Price tag is much more frequent than price label and is used for both literal and figurative meanings: What does the price tag say? \diamondsuit There is a \$20 million price tag on the team's star player. A **label** can also be a **sticker** that you put on an envelope.

sticker a sticky label with a picture or message on it, that you stick on to something.

PATTERNS

a price tag/sticker

to **have** a label/tag/sticker

to attach/put on/stick on a label/tag/sticker

The label/tag/sticker says...

labour = labor

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

la • bor (CanE usually la • bour) / 'leIbƏr / noun, verb

noun

WORK

1 [uncountable] work, especially physical work

manual labor (= work using your hands)

The price will include the labor and materials.

The company wants to keep down labor costs.

He was sentenced to two years in a **labor camp** (= a type of prison where people have to do hard physical work) .

see also day labor

2 [countable , usually plural] (formal) a task or period of work

He was so exhausted from the day's labors that he went straight to bed.

People look forward to enjoying the fruits of their labors during retirement.

PEOPLE WHO WORK

 ${f 3}$ [uncountable] the people who work or are available for work in a country or company a shortage of labor

Employers are using immigrants as cheap labor.

Repairs involve skilled labor, which can be expensive.

good **labor relations** (= the relationship between workers and employers)

HAVING BABY

4 [uncountable , countable , usually singular] the period of time or the process of giving birth to a baby Jane was in labor for ten hours.

She went into labor early.

labor pains

Older women tend to have more difficult labors.

a labor of love

a hard task that you do because you want to, not because it is necessary Writing the book was a labor of love.

verb

STRUGGLE

1 [intransitive] to try very hard to do something difficult

labor (away) He was in his study laboring away over some old papers.

labor to do something They labored for years to clear their son's name.

WORK HARD

2 [intransitive] to do hard physical work

We labored all day in the fields.

(old-fashioned) the laboring classes (= the working class)

MOVE WITH DIFFICULTY

3 [intransitive] (+ adverb/prep.) to move with difficulty and effort

struggle

The horses labored up the steep slope.

With engine laboring, the car struggled up the hill.

labor the point

to continue to repeat or explain something that has already been said and understood I understand what you're saying—there's no need to labor the point.

labor under something

(formal)

to believe something that is not true

to labor under a misapprehension/delusion, etc.

He's still laboring under the impression that he's written a great book.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

lay • er / 'leIƏr / noun, verb

noun

1 a quantity or thickness of something that lies over a surface or between surfaces

A thin layer of dust covered everything.

How many layers of clothing are you wearing?

2 a level or part within a system or set of ideas

There were too many layers of management in the company.

the layers of meaning in the poem

verb

[often passive]

layer something

to arrange something in layers

Layer the potatoes and onions in a dish.

Her hair was layered (= cut to several different lengths).

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

lec • ture / ˈlɛkt[ər / noun, verb

noun

lecture (to someone) (on/about something)

1 a talk that is given to a group of people to teach them about a particular subject, often as part of a course of study

to deliver/give a lecture to first-year students

to attend a series of lectures on Jane Austen

a lecture hall/room

THESAURUS

speech

lecture address talk sermon

These are all words for a talk given to an audience.

speech a formal talk given to an audience: Several people made speeches at the wedding.

lecture a talk given to a group of people to tell them about a particular subject, often as part of a university or college course: a lecture on the Roman army \Diamond a course/series of lectures

address a formal speech given to an audience: a televised presidential address

SPEECH OR ADDRESS?

A **speech** can be given on a public or private occasion; an **address** is always public: He gave an address at the wedding.

talk a fairly informal session in which someone tells a group of people about a subject: She gave an interesting talk on her visit to China.

sermon a talk on a moral or religious subject, usually given by a religious leader during a service: to preach a sermon

PATTERNS

a long/short speech/lecture/address/talk/sermon

a keynote speech/lecture/address

to prepare/give/deliver/hear a(n) speech/lecture/address/talk/sermon

to write a speech/sermon

to attend/go to a lecture/talk

collocations at education

2 a long angry talk that someone gives to one person or a group of people because they have done something wrong

I know I should stop smoking—don't give me a lecture about it.

verb

1 [intransitive] lecture (on/in something) to give a talk or a series of talks to a group of people on a subject, especially as a way of teaching in a university or college She lectures on Russian literature.

2 [transitive] lecture someone (about/on something) | lecture someone (about doing something) to criticize someone or tell them how you think they should behave, especially when it is done in an annoying way

Don't start lecturing me!

He's always lecturing me about the way I dress.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

le • gal / 'ligl / adjective

1 [only before noun] connected with the law

the legal profession/system

to get/seek legal advice

a legal adviser

legal costs

They are currently facing a long legal battle in the U.S. courts.

2 allowed or required by law

The driver was more than three times over the **legal limit** (= the amount of alcohol you are allowed to have in your body when you are driving).

Should euthanasia be made legal?

illegal

le • gal • ly / ˈligəli / adverb

a legally binding agreement

to be legally responsible for someone or something

You are legally entitled to a full refund. Legally, there is not a lot we can do.

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Oxford Advanced American Dictionary
leg • is • late / 'lEd30s,leIt / verb
[ intransitive ]
legislate (for/against/on something)
( formal )
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to make a law affecting something

The government will legislate against discrimination in the workplace.

(figurative) You can't legislate against bad luck!

They promised to legislate to protect people's right to privacy.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

le • vy / ˈlɛvi / noun, verb

noun

(pl. le • vies)

levy (on something)

an extra amount of money that has to be paid, especially as a tax to the government to **put/impose a levy** on oil imports

verb

(le • vies , le • v • ying , le • vied , le • vied)

levy something (on someone/something)

to use official authority to demand and collect a payment, tax, etc.

a tax levied by the government on excess company profits

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

lib • er • al / 'lIbƏrƏl ; 'lIbrƏl / adjective, noun

adiective

RESPECTING OTHER OPINIONS

1 willing to understand and respect other people's behavior, opinions, etc., especially when they are different from your own; believing people should be able to choose how they behave liberal attitudes/views/opinions

POLITICS

2 wanting or allowing a lot of political and economic freedom and supporting gradual social, political, or religious change

Some politicians want more liberal trade relations with Europe.

liberal democracy

liberal theories

a liberal politician

3 Liberal connected with the Liberal Party, a political party in Canada

GENEROUS

4 liberal (with something) generous; given in large amounts

lavish

She is very liberal with her money.

I think Sam is too liberal with his criticism (= he criticizes people too much).

Divorced fathers should have liberal access to their children.

We ate cake with liberal amounts of whipped cream.

EDUCATION

5 concerned with increasing someone's general knowledge and experience rather than particular skills a liberal education

NOT EXACT

6 not completely accurate or exact

free

a liberal translation of the text

a liberal interpretation of the law

lib • er • al • ly adverb

Apply the cream liberally.

The word "original" is liberally interpreted in copyright law.

noun

SOMEONE WHO RESPECTS OTHERS

1 a person who understands and respects other people's opinions and behavior, especially when they are different from their own

He liked to think of himself as a liberal.

POLITICS

2 a person who supports political, social, and religious change

Reform is popular with middle-class liberals.

3 Liberal (politics) a member of the Liberal Party, a political party in Canada

licence = license

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

li • cense / 'laIsns / noun, verb

noun (CanE also li • cence)

1 [countable] an official document that shows that permission has been given to do, own, or use something a driver's license

license (for something) a license for the software

Is there a license fee?

James lost his license for six months (= had his license taken away by the police as a punishment).

license (to do something) You need a license to fish in this river.

a license holder (= a person who has been given a license)

a site license for the new software

2 [**uncountable** , **singular**] **license** (**to do something**) (formal) freedom to do or say whatever you want, often something bad or unacceptable

Lack of punishment seems to give youngsters license to break the law.

3 [uncountable] (formal) freedom to behave in a way that is considered sexually immoral artistic/poetic license

the freedom of artists or writers to change facts in order to make a story, painting, etc. more interesting or beautiful

a license to print money

(disapproving)

used to describe a business which makes a lot of money with little effort

under license (of a product) made with the permission of a company or an organization

verb

to give someone official permission to do, own, or use something

license something The new drug has not yet been licensed in the U.S.

license someone/something to do something They licensed the company to produce the drug.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

like • wise / 'laIkwaIz / adverb

1 (formal) the same; in a similar way

He voted for the change and he expected his colleagues to do likewise.

2 (formal) also

Her second marriage was likewise unhappy.

3 (informal) used to show that you feel the same toward someone or about something "Let me know if you ever need any help." "Likewise."

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

link / IIηk / noun, verb

noun

1 link (between A and B) a connection between two or more people or things

Police suspect there may be a link between the two murders.

evidence for a strong causal link between exposure to sun and skin cancer see also **missing link**

2 a relationship between two or more people, countries, or organizations

link (with something) to establish trade links with Asia

The department is interested in developing closer links with industry.

link (between A and B) Social customs provide a vital link between generations.

3 a means of traveling or communicating between two places

a high-speed rail link

a video link

The speech was broadcast via a satellite link.

4 (computing) a place in an electronic document that is connected to another electronic document or to another part of the same document

hyperlink

To visit similar Web sites to this one, click on the links at the bottom of the page.

5 each ring of a chain

see also cuff link

6 (also **link** sausage, sausage **link**) a chain of long thin sausages; an individual long thin sausage They sell breakfast sausages in links or patties.

a link in the chain

one of the stages in a process or a line of argument

Food production, processing and marketing are different links in the chain from farmer to consumer.

Death is the last link in the chain.

see also weak

verb

[often passive]

1 to make a physical or electronic connection between one object, machine, place, etc. and another

link A to B The video cameras are linked to a powerful computer.

link A with B An underground tunnel links the library's basement with the Faculty of Law.

link A and B (together) When computers are networked, they are linked together so that information can be transferred between them.

2 if something links two things, facts, or situations, or they are linked, they are connected in some way link A to/with B Exposure to ultraviolet light is closely linked to skin cancer.

link A and B The two factors are directly linked.

The personal and social development of the child are **inextricably linked** (= they depend on each other).

3 link A to/with B | link A and B to state that there is a connection or relationship between two things or people

associate

Detectives have linked the break-in to a similar crime in the area last year.

Newspapers have linked his name with the singer.

4 link A and B to join two things by putting one through the other

The two girls linked arms as they strolled down the street.

link up (with someone/something) to join or become joined with someone or something

The two spacecraft will link up in orbit.

The bands have linked up for a charity concert.

related noun linkup

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

list / lIst / noun, verb

noun

1 [countable] a series of names, items, figures, etc., especially when they are written or printed

a shopping/wine/price list to make a list of things to do

(formal) to draw up a list

Is your name on the list?

Having to wait hours came high on the list of complaints.

Her novel shot to the top of the best-seller list.

see also A-list, hit list, laundry list, mailing list, short list, waiting list, wait list

2 [singular] the fact of a ship leaning to one side

verb

1 [transitive] list something to write a list of things in a particular order

We were asked to list our ten favorite songs.

Towns in the guide are listed alphabetically.

2 [transitive] list someone/something to mention or include someone or something in a list

The koala is listed among Australia's endangered animals.

soldiers listed as missing

3 [intransitive, transitive] list (at/for something) | list something to be put or put something in a list of things for sale

This DVD player lists at \$200.

4 [intransitive] (of a ship) to lean to one side

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

lo • cate / 'loukeIt / verb

1 [transitive] locate someone/something to find the exact position of someone or something The mechanic located the fault immediately.

Rescue planes are trying to locate the missing sailors.

2 [transitive] locate something + adverb/prep. to put or build something in a particular place

They located their headquarters in Boston.

compare relocate

3 [intransitive] + adverb/prep. to start a business in a particular place

There are tax breaks for businesses that locate in rural areas.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

log • ic / 'ladʒIk / noun

1 [uncountable] a way of thinking or explaining something

I fail to see the logic behind his argument.

The two parts of the plan were governed by the same logic.

2 [uncountable , singular] sensible reasons for doing something

Linking the proposals in a single package did have a certain logic.

a strategy based on sound commercial logic

There is no logic to/in any of their claims.

3 [**uncountable**] (philosophy) the science of thinking about or explaining the reason for something using formal methods

the rules of logic

4 [**uncountable**] (computing) a system or set of principles used in preparing a computer to perform a particular task

+

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

log • i • cal / 'lad3Ikl / adjective

1 (of an action, event, etc.) seeming natural, reasonable. or sensible

a logical thing to do in the circumstances

It was a logical conclusion from the child's point of view.

Each of them having their own room was the logical solution.

2 following or able to follow the rules of logic in which ideas or facts are based on other true ideas or facts a logical argument

Computer programming needs someone with a logical mind.

illogical

log • i • cally / ˈlɑdʒIkli / adverb

to argue logically

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

main • tain / meIn teIn / verb

1 maintain something to make something continue at the same level, standard, etc.

preserve

to maintain law and order/standards/a balance

The two countries have always maintained close relations.

(formal) She maintained a dignified silence.

to maintain prices (= prevent them falling or rising)

2 maintain something to keep a building, a machine, etc. in good condition by checking or repairing it regularly

The house is large and difficult to maintain.

3 to keep stating that something is true, even though other people do not agree or do not believe it insist

maintain (that)... The men maintained (that) they were out of the country when the crime was committed. maintain something She has always maintained her innocence.

+ speech "But I'm innocent!" she maintained.

language bank at argue

4 maintain someone/something to support someone or something over a long period of time by giving money, paying for food, etc.

keep

Her income was barely enough to maintain one child, let alone three.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ma • jor / 'meId3Ər / adjective, noun, verb

adjective

1 [usually before noun] very large or important

a major road

major international companies

to play a major role in something

We have encountered major problems.

There were calls for major changes to the welfare system.

minor, see also major-league

THESAURUS

main

major key central principal chief prime

These words all describe something that is the largest or most important of its kind.

main [only before noun] largest or most important: Turn left onto the main road. ♦ The main thing is to remain calm.

major [usually before noun] very large or important: He played a major role in setting up the system. Major is most often used after a with a singular noun, or no article with a plural noun. When it is used with the or my/your/his/her/our/their, it means "the largest or most important": Our major concern here is combatting poverty. In this meaning it is only used to talk about ideas or worries that people have, not physical things, and it is also more formal than main: Turn left onto the major road. The major thing is to remain calm. key [usually before noun] most important; essential: He was a key figure in the campaign. Key is used most frequently in business and political contexts. It can be used to talk about ideas, or the part that someone plays in a situation, but not physical things. It is slightly more informal than major, especially when used after a noun and linking verb: Speed is key at this point.

central (somewhat formal) most important: The central issue is that of widespread racism. **Central** is used in a similar way to **key**, but is more formal. It is most frequently used in the phrase something is central to something else.

principal [only before noun] (somewhat formal) most important: The principal reason for this omission is a lack of time. **Principal** is mostly used for statements of fact about which there can be no argument. To state an opinion, or to try to persuade someone of the facts as you see them, it is more usual to use **key** or **central**: The key/central issue here is...

chief [only before noun] (somewhat formal) most important: Malnutrition is the chief cause of preventable blindness.

prime [only before noun] (somewhat formal) most important; to be considered first: My prime concern is to protect my property.

PATTERNS

a/the main/major/key/central/principal/chief/prime aim/concern

a/the main/major/principal road/town/city

the main/key thing is to...

to be of major/key/central/prime importance

2 [not before noun] serious

Never mind—it's nothing major.

3 (music) based on a scale (= a series of eight notes) in which the third note is two whole tones/steps higher than the first note

the key of D major

compare minor

4 related to someone's main subject of study in college

noun

1 [countable] (abbr. Maj.) an officer of fairly high rank in the army or the air force Major Smith

He's a major in the U.S. army.

see also drum major, sergeant major

2 [**countable**] the main subject or course of a student at college or university

Her major is French.

compare minor

- **3** [**countable**] a student studying a particular subject as the main part of their course She's a French major.
- 4 the majors [plural] (sports) the Major Leagues verb

'major in something to study something as your main subject at a university or college She majored in history at Stanford.