

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • nor • mous / I'nɔrməs / **adjective**

extremely large

huge , immense

an enormous house/dog

an **enormous amount** of time

enormous interest

The problems facing the president are enormous.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

en • sure (also **in • sure**) / In'ʃʊr / **verb**

to make sure that something happens or is definite

ensure something The book ensured his success.

ensure someone something Victory ensured them a place in the final.

ensure (that)... Please ensure (that) all lights are switched off.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

en • ti • ty / 'Entəti / **noun**

(pl. **en • ti • ties**)

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

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

These countries can no longer be viewed as a **single entity** .

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

en • vi • ron • ment / In'vaIənmənt ; In'vaIrənmənt / **noun**

1 [countable , uncountable] the conditions that affect the behavior and development of someone or something; the physical conditions that someone or something exists in

a pleasant **working/learning environment**

An unhappy **home environment** can affect a child's behavior.

They have created an environment in which productivity should flourish.

the political environment

tests carried out in a controlled environment

2 the environment [singular] the natural world in which people, animals, and plants live

measures to protect the environment

pollution of the environment

damage to the environment

3 [countable] (computing) the complete structure within which a user, computer, or program operates a user-friendly desktop development environment

THESAURUS

environment

setting surroundings background

These are all words for the type of place in which someone or something exists or is situated.

environment the conditions in a place that affect the behavior and development of someone or something:

An unhappy **home environment** can affect children's behavior. ◇ a pleasant **working environment**

setting a place or situation of a particular type, in which something happens or exists: The island provided an exotic setting for the concert.

surroundings everything that is around or near someone or something: The cabins blend in perfectly with their surroundings.

background the things or area behind or around the main objects or people that are in a place or picture:
The mountains in the background were capped with snow.

PATTERNS

in (a/an) ... environment/setting/surroundings
(a/an) **new/unfamiliar** environment/setting/surroundings
someone/something's **immediate** environment/surroundings
(a) **dramatic** setting/background

TOPIC COLLOCATIONS

The Environment

environmental damage

cause/contribute to climate change/global warming
produce pollution/CO₂/greenhouse (gas) emissions
damage/destroy the environment/a marine ecosystem/the ozone layer/coral reefs
degrade ecosystems/habitats/the environment
harm the environment/wildlife/marine life
threaten natural habitats/coastal ecosystems/a species with extinction
deplete natural resources/the ozone layer
pollute rivers and lakes/waterways/the air/the atmosphere/the environment/oceans
contaminate groundwater/the soil/food/crops
log forests/rainforests/trees

protecting the environment

address/combat/tackle the threat/effects/impact of climate change
fight/take action on/reduce/stop global warming
limit/curb/control air/water/atmospheric/environmental pollution
cut/reduce pollution/greenhouse (gas) emissions
offset carbon/CO₂ emissions
reduce (the size of) your carbon footprint
achieve/promote sustainable development
preserve/conserve biodiversity/natural resources
protect endangered species/a coastal ecosystem
prevent/stop soil erosion/overfishing/massive deforestation/damage to ecosystems
raise awareness of environmental issues
save the planet/the rainforests/an endangered species

energy and resources

conserve/save/consume/waste energy
manage/exploit/be rich in natural resources
dump/dispose of hazardous/toxic/nuclear waste/sewage
dispose of/throw away litter/garbage/trash
use/be made from recycled/recyclable/biodegradable material
recycle bottles/packaging/paper/plastic/waste
promote/encourage recycling/sustainable development/the use of renewable energy
develop/invest in/promote renewable energy
reduce your dependence/reliance on fossil fuels
get/obtain/generate/produce electricity from wind, solar, and wave power/renewable sources
build/develop a (50-megawatt/offshore) wind farm
install/be powered by solar panels

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • quate / I'kweIt / **verb**

equate something (with something)

to think that something is the same as something else or is as important

Some parents equate education with exam success.

I don't see how you can equate the two things.

Resource: <https://github.com/k-five>

e'quate to something to be equal to something else
 A \$5,000 raise equates to 25%.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • quip / I'kwIp / **verb**
 (-pp-)

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

equip something to be **fully/poorly equipped**

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

equip yourself/someone/something (with something) (for something) He equipped himself with a street map.

The center is **well equipped** for canoeing and mountaineering.

2 equip someone (for something) | equip someone (to do something) to prepare someone for an activity or a task, especially by teaching them what they need to know

The course is designed to equip students for a career in nursing.

+

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • quip • ment / I'kwIpment / **noun**
 [uncountable]

1 the things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity

a useful **piece of equipment** for the kitchen

office equipment

new equipment for the sports club

2 the process of providing a place or person with necessary things

The equipment of the photographic studio was expensive.

THESAURUS

equipment

material gear kit apparatus

These are all words for the things that you need for a particular purpose or activity.

equipment the things that are needed for a particular purpose or activity: camping equipment ◇ a piece of laboratory/medical equipment

material things that are needed for a particular activity: household cleaning materials ◇ teaching material

EQUIPMENT OR MATERIAL?

Equipment is usually solid things, especially large ones. **Materials** may be liquids, powders, or books, CDs, etc. containing information, as well as small solid items.

gear the equipment or clothes needed for a particular activity: Camping gear can be expensive.

kit a set of tools or equipment that you use for a particular purpose: a first-aid kit ◇ a sewing kit

apparatus (formal) the tools or other pieces of equipment that are needed for a particular activity or task: breathing apparatus for firefighters ◇ laboratory apparatus **Apparatus** is used especially for scientific, medical, or technical purposes.

PATTERNS

electrical/electronic equipment/gear/apparatus

sports equipment/gear

camping equipment/gear

a **piece of** equipment/apparatus

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • quiv • a • lent / I'kwIvələnt / **adjective, noun**
adjective

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

250 grams or an equivalent amount in ounces

equivalent to something Eight kilometers is roughly equivalent to five miles.

The new regulation was seen as equivalent to censorship.

e • quiv • a • lence / I'kwIvələns / **noun** [**uncountable**] (formal)

There is no straightforward equivalence between economic progress and social well-being.

noun

a thing, an amount, a word, etc. that is equivalent to something else

Send \$20 or the equivalent in your own currency.

equivalent of/to something Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of BSE

Is there a French word that is the exact equivalent of the English word "home"?

Breathing such polluted air is the equivalent of (= has the same effect as) smoking ten cigarettes a day.

The German "Gymnasium" is the closest equivalent to a U.S. prep school.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • rode / I'roʊd / **verb**

[often passive]

1 [**transitive, intransitive**] to gradually destroy the surface of something through the action of wind, rain, etc.; to be gradually destroyed in this way

wear away

erode something (away) The cliff face has been steadily eroded by the ocean.

erode (away) The rocks have eroded away over time.

2 [**transitive, intransitive**] **erode (something)** to gradually destroy something or make it weaker over a period of time; to be destroyed or made weaker in this way

Her confidence has been slowly eroded by repeated failures.

Mortgage payments have been eroded (= decreased in value) by inflation.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

er • ror / 'ɛrər / **noun**

[**countable, uncountable**]

a mistake, especially one that causes problems or affects the result of something

No payments were made last week because of a computer error.

error in something There are too many errors in your work.

error in doing something I think you have made an error in calculating the total.

A simple **error of judgment** meant that there was not enough food to go around.

a **grave error** (= a very serious mistake)

a **glaring error** (= a mistake that is very obvious)

The delay was due to **human error** (= a mistake made by a person rather than by a machine) .

The computer system was turned off **in error** (= by mistake) .

There is no **room for error** in this job.

Almost all accidents start with a simple error by the pilot.

see also **margin of error**

THESAURUS

mistake

error inaccuracy slip misprint

These are all words for a word, figure, or fact that is not said, written down, or typed correctly.

mistake a word or figure that is not said or written down correctly: It's a common mistake among learners of English. ◇ spelling mistakes

error (somewhat formal) a word, figure, etc. that is not said or written down correctly: There are too many errors in your work. **Error** is a more formal way of saying **mistake** .

inaccuracy (somewhat formal) a piece of information that is not exactly correct: The article is full of inaccuracies.

slip a small mistake, usually made by being careless or not paying attention

misprint a small mistake in a printed text

PATTERNS

a(n) mistake/error/inaccuracy/slip/misprint **in** something

to **make** a(n) mistake/error/slip

to **contain/be full of/include** mistakes/errors/inaccuracies/misprints

see, realize, etc. the error of your ways (formal or humorous) to realize or admit that you have done something wrong and decide to change your behavior

see also **trial**

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

es • tab • lish / I 'stæblɪʃ / **verb**

1 establish something to start or create an organization, a system, a place, etc. that is meant to last for a long time

set up

The committee was established in 1912.

The new treaty establishes a free trade zone.

to establish a park/forest/nature preserve

Let's establish some ground rules.

THESAURUS

build

construct assemble put something together erect put something up establish

These words all mean to make or create something, especially by putting different parts together.

build to make something, especially a building, by putting parts together: a house built of stone ◇ They're going to build a museum on the site of the old power plant.

construct [often passive] (somewhat formal) to build something such as a road, building, or machine

assemble (somewhat formal) to fit together all the separate parts of something, such as a piece of furniture or a machine: The cupboard is easy to assemble.

put something together to make or prepare something by fitting or collecting parts together: to put together a model plane

erect (formal) to build something; to put something in position and make it stand upright: Police had to erect barriers to keep crowds back.

put something up to build something or place something somewhere: I put up a fence so that my dog would have somewhere to exercise.

establish to create an organization or place that is meant to last for a long time: President Roosevelt established the first national park at Yellowstone.

PATTERNS

to build/construct/erect/put up a **house/wall**

to build/construct/erect/put up some **shelves**

to build/construct/erect/put up a **barrier/fence/shelter**

to build/assemble a(n) **engine/machine**

to build/construct a **road/railway/railroad/tunnel**

to erect/put up a **tent/statue/monument/memorial**

2 establish something to start having a relationship, especially a formal one, with another person, group, or country

The school has established a successful relationship with the local community.

3 establish someone/something/yourself (in something) (as something) to hold a position for long enough or succeed in something well enough to make people accept and respect you

By then she was established as a star.

He has just set up his own business but it will take him a while to **get established**.

4 establish something to make people accept a belief, claim, custom, etc.

It was this campaign that established the paper's reputation.

Traditions get established over time.

5 to discover or prove the facts of a situation

ascertain

establish something Police are still trying to establish the cause of the accident.

establish that... They have established that his injuries were caused by a fall.

establish where, what, etc.... We need to establish where she was at the time of the shooting.

it is established that... It has since been established that the horse was drugged.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

es • tate / I 'steIt / **noun**

1 (law) [**countable** , **uncountable**] all the money and property that a person owns, especially everything that is left when they die

Her estate was left to her daughter.

He left estate valued at a million dollars.

2 [**countable**] a large area of land, usually in the country, that is owned by one person or family

a 3 000-acre estate

She receives rent from all the people whose cottages are on estate land.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

es • ti • mate **noun, verb**

noun / 'Estəmət /

1 a judgment that you make without having the exact details or figures about the size, amount, cost, etc. of something

I can give you a **rough estimate** of the amount of wood you will need.

a **ballpark estimate** (= an approximate estimate)

official government estimates of traffic growth over the next decade

At least 5,000 people were killed, and that's a **conservative estimate** (= the real figure will be higher) .

2 a statement of how much a piece of work will probably cost

We got estimates from three businesses and accepted the lowest.

verb / 'Estə,meIt /

[often passive]

to form an idea of the cost, size, value, etc. of something, but without calculating it exactly

estimate something (at something) Police estimate the crowd at 30,000.

estimate something to do something The deal is estimated to be worth around \$1.5 million.

estimate (that)... We estimated (that) it would cost about \$5,000.

it is estimated (that)... It is estimated (that) the project will last four years.

estimate how many, large, etc.... It is hard to estimate how many children have dyslexia.

es • ti • ma • ted **adjective**

The satellite will cost an estimated \$400 million.

AWL COLLOCATIONS

estimate

estimate verb

accurately , **correctly** , **reliably** | **conservatively** | **roughly** | **empirically** , **quantitatively** | **separately**

These models were estimated separately for the 2000, 2004, and 2007 data sets.

difficult to | possible to | impossible to

Population figures are difficult to estimate, with figures ranging from 10 to 16 million.

distance , size | frequency , rate | likelihood , probability | abundance , prevalence | variance

Measuring risk means estimating the probability of an occurrence as a result of a specific event.

overestimate verb**greatly , grossly | consistently | systematically**

Forecasters tended to systematically overestimate inflation.

tend to

People tend to overestimate their activity levels, so Wyatt asked participants in the study to wear pedometers.

underestimate verb**grossly | systematically | likely**

These statistics grossly underestimate the number of unemployed.

estimated adjective**probability | percent | prevalence | variance | cost**

Table 2 reports the estimated prevalence of work-related asthma.

estimate noun**accurate , precise , reliable | reasonable | unbiased | biased | conservative | rough**

Sufficient information exists to support reasonable estimates of life expectancy.

calculate , compute | derive | obtain | revise

Estimates are calculated using the method of maximum likelihood.

be based on

Most available demographic estimates are based on one or two years of data.

differ , range , vary | indicate , suggest

Estimates of the number of species range between 3.6 million and 100 million.

according to

Bangladesh is approximately the size of Wisconsin, yet it has a population of more than 130 million, according to a 1996 estimate.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

eth • ic / 'ɛθɪk / **noun**

1 ethics [**plural**] moral principles that control or influence a person's behavior

professional/business/medical ethics

to draw up a **code of ethics**

He began to question the ethics of his position.

2 [**singular**] a system of moral principles or rules of behavior

a strongly defined work ethic

the Protestant ethic

3 ethics [**uncountable**] the branch of philosophy that deals with moral principles

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

eth • nic / 'ɛθnɪk / **adjective, noun**

adjective

1 connected with or belonging to a nation, race, or people that shares a cultural tradition

ethnic groups/communities

ethnic strife/tensions/violence (= between people from different races or peoples)

ethnic Albanians living in Germany

The country is divided along ethnic lines.

2 typical of a country or culture that is very different from modern Western culture and therefore interesting for people in Western countries

ethnic clothes/jewelry/cooking**eth • ni • cally** / 'ɛθnɪkli / **adverb**

an ethnically divided region

nouna person from an **ethnic minority**

states where there are a large number of ethnics

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • val • u • ate / I'vælyu,eɪt / **verb**

to form an opinion of the amount, value, or quality of something after thinking about it carefully

assess**evaluate something** Our research attempts to evaluate the effectiveness of the different drugs.**evaluate how, whether, etc....** We need to evaluate how well the policy is working.**e • val • u • a • tion** / I,vælyu'eɪʃn / **noun** [**countable** , **uncountable**]

an evaluation of the health care system

e • val • u • a • tive / I'vælyu,eɪtɪv / **adjective****AWL COLLOCATIONS****evaluate****evaluate verb****critically** | **objectively** | **quantitatively** | **carefully** , **rigorously** | **thoroughly** | **empirically** | **scientifically** , **systematically**

This article critically evaluates the results of the two approaches.

These probabilities can be evaluated empirically.

effectiveness | **effect** | **accuracy** | **hypothesis** | **usefulness** | **significance** | **performance** | **outcome**

Although numerous statistical approaches can be used to evaluate the hypothesis, we will consider three here.

designed to

This study is designed to evaluate two methods of teaching economics.

difficult to

The evidence is difficult to evaluate and, in some respects, inconsistent.

reevaluate verb**periodically** | **constantly** , **continually** | **critically**

The strategy needs to be monitored and periodically reevaluated, and the measured results reported and acted upon.

evaluation noun**careful** , **comprehensive** , **rigorous** , **thorough** | **initial** | **further** | **objective** | **subjective**

The new management structure would create a rigorous evaluation system based on peer review.

undergo | **warrant** | **conduct**

This study conducts a thorough evaluation of current methodologies, and makes recommendations.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • ven • tu • al / I'ventʃuəl / **adjective**

[only before noun]

happening at the end of a period of time or of a process

the eventual winner of the tournament

It is impossible to predict what the eventual outcome will be.

The hospital may face eventual closure.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ev • i • dent / 'ɛvədənt / **adjective**

clear; easily seen

obvious

The orchestra played with evident enjoyment.

evident (to someone) (that...) It has now become evident to us that a mistake has been made.

evident in/from something The growing interest in history is clearly evident in the number of people visiting museums and historic houses.

see also **self-evident**

THESAURUS

clear

obvious apparent evident plain

These words all describe something that is easy to see or understand and leaves no doubts or confusion.

clear easy to see or understand and leaving no doubts: Her instructions were very clear.

obvious easy to see or understand: I don't understand how you missed such an obvious error.

apparent [not usually before noun] (somewhat formal) easy to see or understand: It soon became apparent that everything had gone wrong.

evident (somewhat formal) easy to see or understand: The orchestra played with evident enjoyment.

plain easy to see or understand: He **made it** very **plain** that he wanted us to leave.

WHICH WORD?

These words all have almost exactly the same meaning. There are slight differences in register and patterns of use. If you make something clear/plain , you do so deliberately because you want people to understand something; if you make something obvious , you usually do it without meaning to: ~~I hope I make myself obvious.~~ ◇ ~~Try not to make it so clear/plain.~~ In the expressions clear majority , for obvious reasons , for no apparent reason, and plain to see , none of the other words can be used instead. You can have a clear/an obvious/a plain case of something but not: ~~an evident case of something.~~

PATTERNS

clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain **to** someone/something

clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain **that/what/who/how/where/why...**

to seem/become/make something clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain

perfectly/quite/very clear/obvious/apparent/evident/plain

AWL COLLOCATIONS

evident

evident adjective

appear , seem | become | remain

Several trends become evident from the results.

clearly , plainly | especially , particularly | increasingly

A regional pattern is clearly evident in the data.

evidence noun

anecdotal | circumstantial | empirical , experimental | scientific | theoretical | compelling , convincing

There is extensive theoretical and empirical evidence.

This experimental evidence is based on clinical observations of patients.

based on

These observations are based on the evidence provided by numerous surveys.

find , gather | present , provide

Evidence was gathered from a number of sources.

In this paper, I have provided evidence for two major assumptions of the theory.

indicate , suggest | back , support | justify , prove , substantiate

Empirical evidence suggests that being married and being employed are frequently associated with better health.

body of ~

As the body of scientific evidence grows, the speed of climatic change is proving greater than predicted.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

e • volve / I'vɒlv / **verb**

1 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] to develop gradually, especially from a simple to a more complicated form; to develop something in this way

evolve (from something) (into something) The idea evolved from a drawing I discovered in the attic. The company has evolved into a major chemical manufacturer.

evolve something (from something) Each school must evolve its own way of working.

2 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] (biology) (of plants, animals, etc.) to develop over time, often many generations, into forms that are better adapted to survive changes in their environment

evolve (from something) The three species evolved from a single ancestor.

evolve something The dolphin has evolved a highly developed jaw.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • am • ple / Ig'zæmpl / **noun**

1 example (of something) something such as an object, a fact, or a situation that shows, explains, or supports what you say

Can you give me an example of what you mean?

This dictionary has many examples of how words are used.

Just to give you an example of his generosity—he gave me his old car and wouldn't take any money for it.

It is important to cite examples to support your argument.

I will take four different examples from contemporary literature to illustrate my point.

language bank at **e.g.**

2 example (of something) a thing that is typical of or represents a particular group or set

This is a good example of the artist's early work.

It is a **perfect example** of a medieval castle.

Japan is often quoted as the **prime example** of a modern industrial nation.

It is a **classic example** of how not to design a new downtown area.

3 a person or their behavior that is thought to be a good model for others to copy

example (to someone) Her courage is an example to us all.

example (for someone) He **sets an example** for the other students.

example (of something) She is a **shining example** of what people with disabilities can achieve.

He is a captain who leads **by example** .

4 a person's behavior, either good or bad, that other people copy

It would be a mistake to **follow his example** .

for example (abbr. **e.g.**) used to emphasize something that explains or supports what you are saying; used to give an example of what you are saying

There is a similar word in many languages, for example in French and Italian.

The report is incomplete; it does not include sales in France, for example.

It is possible to combine Computer Science with other subjects, for example Physics.

language bank at **e.g.**

make an example of someone

to punish someone as a warning to others not to do the same thing

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

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • ceed / ɪk'sid / **verb** (formal)

1 exceed something to be greater than a particular number or amount

The price will not exceed \$100.

His achievements have **exceeded expectations** .

2 exceed something to do more than the law or an order, etc. allows you to do

She was exceeding the speed limit (= driving faster than is allowed) .

The officers had exceeded their authority.

see also **excess**

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • e • cute / 'ɛksəˌkyut / **verb**

1 [usually passive] **execute someone (for something)** to kill someone, especially as a legal punishment

He **was executed** for treason.

The prisoners were executed by firing squad.

2 execute something (formal) to do a piece of work, perform a duty, put a plan into action, etc.

They drew up and executed a plan to reduce fuel consumption.

The crime was very cleverly executed.

Check that the computer has executed your commands.

3 execute something (formal) to successfully perform a skillful action or movement

The pilot executed a perfect landing.

4 execute something (formal) to make or produce a work of art

Picasso also executed several landscapes at Horta de San Juan.

5 execute something (law) to follow the instructions in a legal document; to make a document legally valid

His will was executed by his lawyers in 2008.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • hib • it / ɪg'zɪbət / **verb, noun**

verb

1 [**transitive** , **intransitive**] to show something in a public place for people to enjoy or to give them information

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

Only one painting was exhibited in the artist's lifetime.

exhibit (at/in...) He exhibits regularly in local art galleries.

2 [**transitive**] **exhibit something** (formal) to show clearly that you have or feel a particular feeling, quality, or ability

display

The patient exhibited signs of fatigue and memory loss.

noun

1 an object or a collection of objects shown in a public place, for example a museum

The museum contains some interesting exhibits on Spanish rural life.

The new exhibit will tour a dozen European cities next year.

2 a thing that is used in court to prove that someone is guilty or not guilty

The first exhibit was a knife that the prosecution claimed was the murder weapon.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • pand / ɪkˈspænd / **verb**

1 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] to become greater in size, number, or importance; to make something greater in size, number, or importance

Metals expand when they are heated.

Student numbers are expanding rapidly.

A child's vocabulary expands through reading.

The waist expands to fit all sizes.

expand something In breathing, the chest muscles expand the rib cage and allow air to be sucked into the lungs.

The new system expanded the role of social workers.

There are no plans to expand the local airport.

contract

2 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] if a business **expands** or **is expanded** , new branches are opened, it makes more money, etc.

an expanding economy (= with more businesses starting and growing)

expand something We've expanded the business by opening two more stores.

3 [**intransitive**] to talk more; to add details to what you are saying

I repeated the question and waited for her to expand.

ex'pand on/upon something to say more about something and add some details

Could you expand on that point, please?

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • pert / ˈɛkspɜrt / **noun, adjective**

noun

a person with special knowledge, skill, or training in something

a computer/medical expert

expert (at/in/on something) an expert in child psychology

an expert on modern literature

expert (at/in/on doing something) He's an expert at getting his own way.

Don't ask me—I'm no expert!

adjective

done with, having, or involving great knowledge or skill

to **seek expert advice/an expert opinion**

an expert driver

We need some expert help.

expert (at/in something) They are all expert in this field.

expert (at/in doing something) She's expert at making cheap but stylish clothes.

compare **inexpert**

ex • pert • ly **adverb**

The roads were icy, but she stopped the car expertly.

The music was expertly performed.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • plic • it / ɪkˈsplɪsɪt / **adjective**

1 (of a statement or piece of writing) clear and easy to understand

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

2 (of a person) saying something clearly, exactly, and openly

frank

She was very explicit about why she had left.

3 said, done, or shown in an open or direct way, so that you have no doubt about what is happening

The reasons for the decision should be made explicit.

She made some very explicit references to my personal life.

compare **implicit**

ex • plic • it • ly **adverb**

The report states explicitly that the system was to blame.

ex • plic • it • ness **noun** [**uncountable**]

He didn't like the degree of sexual explicitness in the movie.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • ploit **verb, noun**

verb / ɪkˈsplɔɪt /

1 exploit something (**disapproving**) to treat a person or situation as an opportunity to gain an advantage for yourself

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

She realized that her youth and inexperience were being exploited.

Competitors will always exploit the company's problems to their own advantage.

2 exploit someone (**disapproving**) to treat someone unfairly by making them work and not giving them much in return

What is being done to stop employers from exploiting young people?

3 exploit something to use something well in order to gain as much from it as possible

She fully exploits the humor of her role in the play.

Teachers should be exploiting computers in education.

4 to develop or use something for business or industry

exploit something Minerals have been exploited in this area.

exploit something for something countries exploiting the rainforests for hardwood

ex • ploit • er **noun** [**countable**]

noun / ˈɛksplɔɪt /

[usually **plural**]

a brave, exciting, or interesting act

the daring exploits of Roman heroes

The papers were full of her latest amorous exploits.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • port **verb, noun**

verb / ɪkˈspɔrt ; ˈɛkspɔrt /

1 [**transitive, intransitive**] **export (something) (to someone)** to sell and send goods to another country

The islands export sugar and fruit.

90% of the engines are exported to Europe.

collocations at **economy**

2 [transitive] export something (+ adverb/prep.) to introduce an idea or activity to another country or area

American rock music has been exported around the world.

3 [transitive] export something (computing) to send data to another program, changing its form so that the other program can read it

import

noun / 'ɛkspɔrt /

1 [uncountable] the selling and transporting of goods to another country

a ban on the export of live cattle

Then the fruit is packaged **for export** .

export earnings

an export license

2 [countable , usually plural] a product that is sold to another country

the country's major exports

a fall in the value of exports

import

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • pose / ɪkˈspoʊz / **verb**

SHOW SOMETHING HIDDEN

1 to show something that is usually hidden

reveal

expose something He smiled suddenly, exposing a set of amazingly white teeth.

Miles of sand are exposed at low tide.

My job as a journalist is to expose the truth.

expose something to someone He did not want to expose his fears and insecurity to anyone.

SHOW TRUTH

2 expose someone/something (as something) to tell the true facts about a person or a situation, and show them/it to be immoral, illegal, etc.

She was exposed as a liar and a fraud.

He threatened to expose the racism that existed within the police force.

TO SOMETHING HARMFUL

3 expose someone/something/yourself (to something) to put someone or something in a place or situation where they are not protected from something harmful or unpleasant

to expose yourself to ridicule

Do not expose babies to strong sunlight.

The roof collapsed, exposing the timbers to the elements.

You could be exposing yourself to unnecessary risks when driving alone.

GIVE EXPERIENCE

4 expose someone to something to let someone find out about something by letting them experience it or showing them what it is like

We want to expose the kids to as much art and culture as possible.

mountain communities that had not been exposed to tourism before

FILM IN CAMERA

5 expose something to allow light onto the film inside a camera when taking a photograph

YOURSELF

6 expose yourself a man who **exposes** himself shows his sexual organs in public in a way that is offensive to other people

see also **exposure**

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • ter • nal / ɪk'stɜːnl / **adjective**

1 connected with or located on the outside of something or someone

the external walls of the building

The lotion is **for external use** only (= only for the skin and must not be swallowed) .

2 happening or coming from outside a place, an organization, your particular situation, etc.

A combination of internal and external factors caused the company to close down.

external pressures on the economy

Many external influences can affect your state of mind.

The information has come from reliable sources external to the government.

3 coming from or arranged by someone from outside a school, a university, or an organization

An external auditor will verify the accounts.

4 connected with foreign countries

The government is committed to reducing the country's external debt.

external affairs

internal

ex • ter • nal • ly / ɪk'stɜːnəli / **adverb**

The building has been restored externally and internally.

The university has many externally funded research projects.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

ex • tract noun, verb

noun / 'ɛkstrækt /

1 [**countable**] **extract (from something)** a short passage from a book, piece of music, etc. that gives you an idea of what the whole thing is like

The following extract is taken from her new novel.

2 [**uncountable** , **countable**] a substance that has been obtained from something else using a particular process

moisturizer containing natural plant extracts

vanilla extract

see also **essence**

verb / ɪk'strækt /

1 **extract something (from someone/something)** to remove or obtain a substance from something, for example by using an industrial or a chemical process

a machine that extracts excess moisture from the air

to extract essential oils from plants

2 **extract something (from someone/something)** to obtain information, money, etc., often by taking it from someone who is unwilling to give it

Journalists managed to extract all kinds of information about her private life.

3 **extract something (from someone/something)** to choose information, etc. from a book, a computer, etc. to be used for a particular purpose

This article is extracted from his new book.

4 **extract something (from someone/something)** (formal or technical) to take or pull something out, especially when this needs force or effort

The dentist may decide that the wisdom teeth need to be extracted.

He rifled through his briefcase and extracted a file.

5 **extract something (from someone/something)** (formal) to get a particular feeling or quality from a situation

derive

They are unlikely to extract much benefit from the trip.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fa • cil • i • tate / fəˈsɪləˈteɪt / **verb**

facilitate something

(formal)

to make an action or a process possible or easier

The new trade agreement should facilitate more rapid economic growth.

Structured teaching facilitates learning.

fa • cil • i • ta • tion / fəˈsɪləˈteɪʃn / **noun** [**uncountable** , **singular**]

the facilitation of international communication

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fac • tor / ˈfæktər / **noun, verb**

noun

1 [**countable**] one of several things that cause or influence something

economic factors

The closure of the mine was the **single most important** factor in the town's decline.

the **key/crucial/deciding factor**

The result will depend on a number of different factors

language bank at **cause**

2 [**countable**] (mathematics) a number that divides into another number exactly

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12 are the factors of 12.

3 [**countable**] the amount by which something increases or decreases

The real wage of the average worker has increased by a factor of over ten in the last 70 years.

4 [**countable**] a particular level on a scale of measurement

The wind chill factor will make it seem colder.

a sunblock with a sun protection factor of 30

5 [**uncountable**] (medical) a substance in the blood that helps the **clotting** process. There are several types of this substance

Hemophiliacs have no factor 8 in their blood

verb

factor something 'in | **factor something into something** (technical) to include a particular fact or situation when you are thinking about or planning something

Remember to factor in staffing costs when you are planning the project.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fam • i • ly / ˈfæmli ; ˈfæməli / **noun, adjective**

noun

(pl. **fam • i • lies**)

1 [**singular**] a group consisting of one or two parents and their children

the other members of my family

Almost every family in the country owns a television.

My whole family enjoys skiing.

one-parent / single-parent families

a family of four

families with young children

He's a friend of the family (= he is known and liked by the parents and the children) .

see also **blended family** , **nuclear family**

2 [**singular** , **uncountable**] a group consisting of one or two parents, their children and close relations

The whole family came to Grandpa's eightieth birthday party.

The support of **family and friends** is vital.

We've only told the **immediate family** (= the closest relations) .

I always think of you as **one of the family** .

(informal) She's family (= she is a relation) .

see also **extended family**

3 [**countable**] all the people who are related to each other, including those who are now dead

Some families have farmed in this area for hundreds of years.

This painting has **been in our family** for generations.

4 [**countable** , **uncountable**] a couple's or a person's children, especially young children

They have a large family.

I addressed it to Mr. and Mrs. Jones and family.

Do they plan to **start a family** (= have children) ?

to **bring up/raise a family**

collocations at **child**

5 [**countable**] a group of related animals and plants; a group of related things, especially languages

Lions belong to the cat family.

the Germanic family of languages

(be/get) in the family way

(old-fashioned , informal)

(to be/become) pregnant

run in the family

to be a common feature in a particular family

Heart disease runs in the family.

adjective

[only before noun]

1 connected with the family or a particular family

family life

your family background

family ties/connections

It's a family tradition.

2 owned by a family

a family business

the family car

3 suitable for all members of a family, both adults and children

a family movie

family entertainment

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fea • ture / 'fiʃər / **noun, verb**

noun

[**countable**]

1 something important, interesting, or typical of a place or thing

An interesting feature of the city is the old market.

Teamwork is a **key feature** of the training program.

Which features do you look for when choosing a car?

The software has no particular **distinguishing features** .

geographical features

see also **water feature**

2 [usually **plural**] a part of someone's face such as their nose, mouth, and eyes

his strong, handsome features

Her eyes are her most **striking feature** .

3 feature (on someone/something) (in newspapers, on television, etc.) a special article or program about someone or something

a special feature on education

4 the main movie shown at a theater

see also **double feature**

verb

1 [**transitive**] to include a particular person or thing as a special feature

feature someone/something as someone/something The movie features Cary Grant as a professor.

feature someone/something The latest model features alloy wheels and an electronic alarm.

Many of the hotels featured in the brochure offer special deals on the weekend.

2 [**intransitive**] **feature (in something)** to have an important part in something

Olive oil and garlic feature prominently in his recipes.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fed • er • al / 'fɛdərəl / **adjective**

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

a federal republic

2 connected with national government rather than the local government of an individual state or **province**

a federal law

state and federal income taxes

fed • er • al • ly **adverb**

federally funded health care

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fee / fi / **noun**

1 an amount of money that you pay for professional advice or services

legal fees

Does the bank **charge a fee** for setting up the account?

Some phone companies charge you for each call you make and some charge a **flat fee** (= an amount of money that allows you to make as many calls as you want) .

THESAURUS

rate

charge fee rent fine fare toll

These are all words for an amount of money that is charged or paid for something.

rate a fixed amount of money that is asked or paid for something: a low hourly rate ◇ interest rates

charge an amount of money that is asked for goods or services: an admission charge ◇ a rental charge

fee (somewhat formal) an amount of money that you have to pay for professional advice or services, to go to a school or college, or to join an organization: legal fees ◇ an annual membership fee

rent an amount of money that you regularly have to pay for use of a home or an office

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

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

toll an amount of money that you have to pay to use a particular road or bridge.

PATTERNS

(a) rate/charge/fee/rent/fine/fare/toll **for** something

(a) rate/charge/fee/rent/toll **on** something

at a rate/charge/fee/rent/fare of...

for a charge/fee

to **pay** (a) rate/charge/fee/rent/fine/fare/toll

to **charge** (a) rate/fee/rent/fare/toll

2 an amount of money that you pay to join an organization, or to do something

membership fees

Is there an **entrance fee** to the park?

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

file / faɪl / **noun, verb**

noun

1 a box or folded piece of thick paper for keeping loose papers together and in order
a hanging file

A stack of files awaited me on my desk.

2 a collection of information stored together in a computer, under a particular name

to **access/copy/create/delete/download/save a file**

Every file in the same folder must have a different name.

see also **PDF**

3 a file and the information it contains, for example about a particular person or subject

secret police files

Your application will be kept **on file** (= in a file, to be used later) .

file on someone to **have/open/keep a confidential file** on someone

Police have reopened the file (= have started collecting information again) on the missing girl.

4 a metal tool with a rough surface for cutting or shaping hard substances or for making them smooth

see also **nail file**

5 a line of people or things, one behind the other

They set off **in file** behind the teacher.

see **(in) single file** at **single** adj.

verb

1 [**transitive**] to put and keep documents, etc. in a particular place and in a particular order so that you can find them easily; to put a document into a file

file something (+ adverb/prep.) The forms should be filed alphabetically.

Please file it in my "Research" file.

file something away I filed the letters away in a drawer.

2 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] (law) to present something so that it can be officially recorded and dealt with

file for something to file for divorce

file something to **file a claim/complaint/petition/lawsuit**

file to do something He filed to divorce his wife.

3 [**transitive**] **file something** (of a journalist) to send a report or a story to your employer

4 [**intransitive**] + **adverb/prep.** to walk in a line of people, one after the other, in a particular direction

The doors of the museum opened and the visitors began to file in.

5 [**transitive**] **file something (away/down, etc.)** to cut or shape something, or make something smooth, using a file

to file your nails

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fi • nal / 'faɪnəl / **adjective, noun**

adjective

1 [only before noun] being or happening at the end of a series of events, actions, statements, etc.

his final act as senator

The referee blew the final whistle.

The project is in its final stages.

They find each other in the final chapter of the book.

I'd like to return to the final point you made.

language bank at **process 1**

2 [only before noun] being the result of a particular process

the final product

No one could have predicted the final outcome.

3 that cannot be argued with or changed

The judge's **decision is final** .

Who has the **final say** around here?

I'll give you \$500 for it, and that's my **final offer** !

I'm not coming, **and that's final** ! (= I will not change my mind)

see **analysis** , **straw** , **word**

noun

1 the last of a series of games or competitions in which the winner is decided

She reached the final of the 100m hurdles.

The players met in last year's final.

the 2010 NBA Finals (= the last few games in the competition)

They will now go through to the final.

see also **quarter-final** , **semifinal**

2 an exam taken by school or college students at the end of a **semester** or school year on everything they have learned during the course

I got an "A" on my American history final.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fi • nance / 'faɪnæns ; fə'neɪns / **noun, verb**

noun

1 [**uncountable**] the activity of managing money, especially by a government or commercial organization

the **finance director/department/committee**

a specialization in banking and finance

the world of **high finance** (= finance involving large companies or countries)

2 finances [**plural**] the money available to a person, an organization, or a country; the way this money is managed

government/public/personal finances

It's about time you got your finances in order.

Buying a house put a severe strain on our finances.

The firm's finances are basically sound.

verb

finance something

to provide money for a project

fund

The new bridge will be financed by the state government.

He took a job to finance his stay in Brazil.

TOPIC COLLOCATIONS

Finance

income

earn money/cash/(informal) a fortune

make money/a fortune/(informal) a killing in the stock market

acquire/inherit/amass wealth/a fortune

build up funds/savings/principal/equity

receive/leave (someone) an inheritance/a legacy

live on a low wage/a fixed income/a pension

get/receive/draw/collect a pension

depend/be dependent on welfare/social security/food stamps

expenditure

spend money/your savings/(informal) a fortune on...

invest/put your savings in.../into...

throw away/waste/ (informal) shell out money on...

lose your money/inheritance/pension/retirement savings

use up/ (informal) wipe out all your savings

pay (in) cash
pay by/use a credit/debit card
pay by/use a/make out a/write someone a/accept a check
change/exchange money/currency/traveler's checks
give/pay/leave (someone) a deposit

banks

have/hold/open/close/freeze a bank account/an account
credit/debit/deposit something into/take money out of your account
deposit money/funds into your account
withdraw money/cash/\$50 from an ATM, etc.
make a deposit/withdrawal
find/go to/use an ATM
be in debit/in the black/in good standing (= have money in the bank) /in the red/overdrawn (= owe money to the bank)

personal finance

manage/handle/plan/run/organize your finances
plan out/manage/work out/stick to a budget
offer/extend credit (to someone)
arrange for/take out a loan/overdraft protection
pay back/repay money/a loan/a debt
pay for something in installments
make weekly/monthly payments

financial difficulties

get into debt/financial difficulties
be short on/ (informal) be strapped for cash
run out of/owe money
face/get/ (informal) be slapped with a bill for \$...
can't afford the cost of.../payments/rent
fall behind on the mortgage/payments/rent
incur/run up/accumulate debts
declare/file for bankruptcy
tackle/reduce/settle your debts

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fi • nite / 'faɪnaɪt / **adjective**

1 having a definite limit or fixed size

a finite number of possibilities

The world's resources are finite.

infinite

2 (grammar) a **finite** verb form or **clause** shows a particular tense, **person** , and **number**

"Am," "is," "are," "was," and "were" are the finite forms of "be"; "being" and "been" are the non-finite forms.

nonfinite

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

flex • i • ble / 'fleksəbl / **adjective**

1 (approving) able to change to suit new conditions or situations

a more **flexible approach**

flexible working hours

Our plans need to be flexible enough to accommodate everyone.

You need to be more flexible and imaginative in your approach.

Can you be flexible about when you take your vacation?

2 able to bend easily without breaking

flexible plastic tubing

inflexible

flex • i • bil • i • ty / ˌflɛksəˈbɪlɪtɪ / **noun** [**uncountable**]

Computers offer a much greater degree of flexibility in the way work is organized.

An overdraft provides increased flexibility but at a higher cost.

exercises to develop the flexibility of dancers' bodies

flex • i • bly / ˈflɛksəbli / **adverb**

Managers must respond flexibly to new developments in business practices.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fluc • tu • ate / ˈflʌktʃuˌeɪt / **verb**

[**intransitive**]

to change frequently in size, amount, quality, etc., especially from one extreme to another

vary

fluctuating prices

The documentary follows the fluctuating fortunes of one marketing company.

fluctuate between A and B During the crisis, oil prices fluctuated between \$40 and \$80 a barrel.

+ adverb/prep. Temperatures can fluctuate by as much as 10 degrees.

My weight fluctuated wildly depending on how much I ate.

My mood seems to fluctuate from day to day.

The rate of inflation has been fluctuating around 4% for some time.

fluc • tu • a • tion / ˌflʌktʃuˈeɪʃn / **noun** [**countable** , **uncountable**]

fluctuation (in/of something) wild fluctuations in interest rates

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

fo • cus / ˈfoʊkəs / **verb, noun**

verb

(**-s-** or **-ss-**)

1 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] to give attention, effort, etc. to one particular subject, situation, or person rather than another

focus (on someone/something) The discussion focused on three main problems.

Each exercise focuses on a different grammar point.

focus something (on someone/something) The visit helped to focus world attention on the plight of the refugees.

2 [**intransitive** , **transitive**] (of your eyes, a camera, etc.) to adapt or be adjusted so that things can be seen clearly; to adjust something so that you can see things clearly

It took a few moments for her eyes to focus in the dark.

focus on someone/something Let your eyes focus on objects that are farther away from you.

In this scene, the camera focuses on the actor's face.

focus something (on someone/something) He focused his blue eyes on her.

I quickly focused the camera on the children.

3 [**transitive**] **focus something (on something)** (technical) to aim light onto a particular point using a **lens**

noun

(pl. **fo • cus • es** or **fo • ci** / ˈfoʊsəɪ /)

1 [**uncountable** , **countable** , usually **singular**] the thing or person that people are most interested in; the act of paying special attention to something and making people interested in it

It was the main **focus of attention** at the meeting.

focus for something) His comments provided a focus for debate.

focus on something We will keep our focus on the needs of the customer.

In today's lecture the focus will be on recent changes in corporate tax structure.

The incident **brought** the problem of violence in schools **into** sharp **focus** .

What we need now is a **change of focus** (= to look at things in a different way) .

2 [**uncountable**] a point or distance at which the outline of an object is clearly seen by the eye or through a **lens**

The children's faces are badly **out of focus** (= not clearly shown) in the photo.

The binoculars were not **in focus** (= were not showing things clearly) .

3 (also '**focal point**') [**countable**] (physics) a point at which waves of light, sound, etc. meet after **reflection** or refraction (**refract**); the point from which waves of light, sound, etc. seem to come

4 [**countable**] (geology) the point at which an **earthquake** starts to happen

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

for • mat / 'fɔrmæt / **noun, verb**

noun

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

The format of the new quiz show has proved popular.

2 the shape and size of a book, magazine, etc.

They brought out the magazine in a new format last month.

3 (computing) the way in which data is stored or held to be worked on by a computer

The images are stored in a digital format within the database.

verb

(**-tt-**)

1 **format something** to arrange text in a particular way on a page or a screen

2 **format something** to prepare a computer disk so that data can be recorded on it

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

for • mu • la / 'fɔrmyələ / **noun**

(pl. **for • mu • las** or, especially in scientific use, **for • mu • lae** / 'fɔrmyəli /)

1 [**countable**] (mathematics) a series of letters, numbers, or symbols that represent a rule or law

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

2 [**countable**] (chemistry) letters and symbols that show the parts of a chemical **compound** , etc.

CO is the formula for carbon monoxide.

3 [**countable**] a particular method of doing or achieving something

They're trying to work out a **peace formula** acceptable to both sides in the dispute.

All the patients were interviewed according to a standard formula.

formula for something/for doing something There's no **magic formula** for a perfect marriage.

4 [**countable**] a list of the things that something is made from, giving the amount of each substance to use the secret formula for the blending of the whiskey

5 (also '**formula milk**') [**uncountable** , **countable**] a type of liquid food for babies, given instead of breast milk

6 [**countable**] a class of racing car, based on engine size, etc.

Formula One racing™

7 [**countable**] a fixed form of words used in a particular situation

legal formulae

The minister keeps coming out with the same tired formulas.

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

forth • com • ing / ˌfɔrθˈkʌmɪŋ ; ˈfɔrθˌkʌmɪŋ / **adjective**

1 [only before noun] going to happen, be published, etc. very soon

the forthcoming elections

a list of forthcoming books

the band's forthcoming U.S. tour

2 [not before noun] ready or made available when needed

Financial support was not forthcoming.

3 [not before noun] willing to give information about something

She's never very forthcoming about her plans.

unforthcoming

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

found / faʊnd / **verb**

1 found something to start something, such as an organization or an institution, especially by providing money

establish

to found a museum/company

Her family founded the college in 1895.

2 found something to be the first to start building and living in a town or country

The town was founded by English settlers in 1790.

3 [usually passive] **found something (on something)** to base something on something

Their marriage was founded on love and mutual respect.

see also **ill-founded** , **unfounded** , **well-founded**

4 found something (technical) to melt metal and pour it into a **mold** ; to make objects using this process

see also **find**

Oxford Advanced American Dictionary

foun • da • tion / faʊnˈdeɪʃn / **noun**

1 [**countable** , usually **plural**] a layer of bricks, concrete, etc. that forms the solid underground base of a building

The builders are now beginning **to lay the foundations** of the new school.

The explosion shook the foundations of the houses nearby.

THESAURUS

bottom

base foundation foot

These are all words for the lowest part of something.

bottom [usually sing.] the lowest part of something: Footnotes are given at the bottom of each page. ◇ I waited for them at the bottom of the hill.

base [usually sing.] the lowest part of something, especially the part or surface on which it rests or stands: The lamp has a heavy base.

foundation [usually pl.] a layer of bricks, concrete, etc. that forms the solid underground base of a building: to **lay the foundations** of the new school

foot [sing.] the lowest part of something: She waited for him at the foot of the stairs.

BOTTOM OR FOOT?

Foot is used to talk about a limited number of things: it is used most often with tree, hill/mountain, steps/stairs, and page . **Bottom** can be used to talk about a much wider range of things, including those mentioned above for **foot** .

PATTERNS

at/near/toward the bottom/base/foot of something

on the bottom/base of something

(a) **firm/solid/strong** base/foundation(s)

2 [**countable** , **uncountable**] a principle, an idea, or a fact that something is based on and that it grows from

Respect and friendship provide a **solid foundation** for marriage.

The rumor is totally **without foundation** (= not based on any facts) .

These stories **have no foundation** (= are not based on any facts) .

THESAURUS

basis

foundation groundwork base

These are all words for the ideas, facts, or work that something is based on.

basis [usually sing.] a principle, an idea, or a fact that supports something and that it can develop from: This article will form the basis for our discussion.

foundation [C, U] a principle, an idea, or a fact that supports something and that it develops from: Respect and friendship provide a solid foundation for marriage. ◇ The rumor is totally without foundation (= is not based on any facts) .

BASIS OR FOUNDATION?

Foundation is often used to talk about larger or more important things than **basis** : He laid the foundations of Japan's modern economy. ◇ These figures formed the basis of their claim for compensation.

groundwork [U] work that is done as preparation for other work that will be done later: Her study laid the groundwork for my research.

base [usually sing.] an idea, a fact, or a situation from which something is developed: This work provided us with a strong base upon which to build the company.

PATTERNS

a/the basis/foundation/groundwork/base **for** something

a **secure/solid/sound/strong/weak** basis/foundation/base

to **form** the basis/foundation/base of something

to **lay** the foundation/groundwork for something

to **be without** basis/foundation

3 [**countable**] an organization that is established to provide money for a particular purpose, for example for scientific research or charity

The money will go to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

4 [**uncountable**] the act of starting a new institution or organization

establishment

The organization has grown enormously since its foundation in 1955.

She used the money toward the foundation of a special research group.

5 [**uncountable**] a skin-colored cream that is put on the face underneath other makeup

shake/rock the foundations of something | **shake/rock something to its foundations**

to cause people to question their basic beliefs about something

This issue has shaken the foundations of Louisiana politics.