

# ACADEMIC WORD LIST

*570 most common academic words*

**analysis**

Type: noun

Definitions: If you do an analysis, you study something carefully to understand it.

Examples: We performed a detailed analysis of the effects of fishing on the marine ecosystem.

Synonyms: study, research

**assessment**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An assessment of a person, idea, skill, process, etc. is a judgment or measurement of them.

Examples: (noun) The buyers have to make their own assessment of the value. (noun) The results of your recent job assessment are excellent.

Synonyms: nouns: observation, analysis, judgment.

**available**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is available, it exists and you can use it.

Examples: (adjective) These forms are available from the local office. (adjective) We can't answer the question with the available information.

Synonyms: adjectives: ready, usable.

**consistent**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If X is consistent with Y, then X fits or matches Y. (adjective) If something is consistent, it is regular and you can guess what it will be like in the future.

Examples: (adjective) His behavior is consistent with his words. (adjective) The theory is consistent with the data. (adjective) Since including more art and music lessons, overall student scores have shown a consistent improvement in all subjects. (adjective) She makes a consistent effort to study hard.

Synonyms: adjectives: regular, agreeable, identical.

**contract**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you contract a disease, you become sick with it. (verb) If something contracts, it gets smaller. (verb) If you contract someone to do a job, you enter into a

contract with them. (noun) A contract is a legal agreement to trade goods, services, and/or property. It's usually written down.

Examples: (verb) Many people risk contracting sexually transmitted diseases. (verb) As the wood dries out, it contracts. (verb) We've contracted a cleaning company to take care of the office. (noun) You must look over the contract before you sign it. (noun) My father's employment contract is for forty years.

Synonyms: nouns: commitment, promise. verbs: commission. narrow, shrink.

### **definition**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A definition is an explanation of the meaning of a word.

Examples: (noun) Can you give me a definition for "imprisonment"? (noun) ESL students often check definitions in their dictionaries. (noun) The sentence before this one is a definition.

Synonyms: nouns: explanation, meaning.

### **economic**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something that is economic is efficient at doing a task. (adjective) Something that is economic relates to the economy, business, money, etc.

Examples: (adjective) The business is very economic. They only have 6 members of staff. (adjective) Solar cookers are economic because they only need the sun to work. (adjective) As our two countries do more and more business, we must begin to match our economic policies. (adjective) The reduction in unemployment and continued economic growth are good news for workers.

Synonyms: adjectives: commercial. efficient, profitable.

### **estimate**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you estimate the number, size, value, amount, cost, etc. of something, you guess based on incomplete information. (noun) An estimate is a judgment of size, value, amount, cost, etc., which is based on incomplete information.

Examples: (verb) It's difficult to estimate how long it will take to get to London because it's hard to tell how bad the traffic will be. (noun) The company will give you an estimate of the cost before doing any work.

Synonyms: nouns: estimation. verbs: guess.

**factor**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To factor in something is to include it as part of a process. (noun) A factor is one of a number of things that causes a result.

Examples: (verb) I have factored in the effects of social media in my report about stress.

(noun) There are three factors that lead to this outcome (noun) The main factor in the success of the program is the effort made by the excellent teachers.

Synonyms: nouns: cause, element. verbs: include.

**function**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something is functioning, it is working and is not completely broken.

(noun) Something or someone's function is its purpose or its job.

Examples: (verb) Some people can still function normally even after a heavy brain injury.

(noun) The function of the questionnaire was to find out what people knew about healthy food.

Synonyms: nouns: job, purpose. verbs: run, work.

**indicate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If something indicates something, it makes something known. (verb) If someone indicates something, they point it out or they point to it; they bring your attention to something.

Examples: (verb) These measurements indicate that the ocean is warming. (verb) Dark clouds indicate rain is coming. (verb) He indicated on the map how to get to the police station.

Synonyms: verbs: signal, show, express. signal, show, predict.

**involved**

Type: adjective, verb

Definitions: (adjective) If something is involved in something else, it means they are connected. (verb) involved is a past tense verb and a synonym of 'included'.

Examples: (adjective) Even as a young man, he was always very involved in politics.

(adjective) Sand is involved in the making of glass. (verb) The solution involved using pumps to remove the waste from the river. (verb) The processes involved in word recognition are rather different for spoken and printed words.

Synonyms: verbs: included, required. adjectives: connected.

**legal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A legal problem, action, fee, etc. is related to the law or lawyers.

(adjective) If an activity is legal it does not break any laws.

Examples: (adjective) The government brought legal action against three cigarette makers.

(adjective) The company had legal issues with the way it treated its low-level employees.

(adjective) In Canada, it is perfectly legal for a woman to walk down the street with no shirt on.

Synonyms: adjectives: allowed, lawful, fair. lawful.

**method**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If you use a method to achieve a goal, then you use a planned process.

Examples: (noun) My preferred method for contacting friends overseas is to use email.

(noun) It is quite simple to use the method described in Section 7.2 to find the solution.

Synonyms: nouns: process, technique, way.

**period**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A period is the dot that marks the end of most sentences in English.

(noun) A period is a length of time.

Examples: (noun) Don't forget to end each sentence with a period. (noun) In this period of time, the farm work was shared evenly between people in the villages. (noun) The dinosaurs lived from late in the Triassic period (about 225 million years ago) until the end of the Cretaceous (about 65 million years ago).

Synonyms: nouns: time. full stop.

**procedure**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A procedure is a particular way of doing something.

Examples: (noun) The company decided on new hiring procedures for employees after the incident last year. (noun) Because the police did not follow the procedure, the criminal was set free.

Synonyms: nouns: process, method.

**research**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you research a question, you try to find an answer, usually by reading a lot about it, or by doing experiments. (noun) Research is the process or result of trying to find an answer by reading, interviewing, watching, or doing experiments.

Examples: (verb) I have to research the history of King Henry II for my English class. (noun) We've been conducting research into the reason for the changes in these fish. (noun) The last 10 years have provided a huge amount of research into a cure for cancer.

Synonyms: nouns: study, analysis. verbs: study, examine.

## **section**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A section of a thing or place is a part of it.

Examples: (noun) A large section of the population believes that more money needs to be spent on infrastructure. (noun) The police closed one section of the road because of the accident.

Synonyms: nouns: part, sector.

## **similar**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If two things are similar, they are almost the same, or the same in many, but not all, ways.

Examples: (adjective) My sister and I have very similar ideas. (adjective) British English is similar to American English, but there are some small differences in pronunciation and spelling.

Synonyms: adjectives: alike, close.

## **structure**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you structure something in a particular way, you organize or build it that way. (noun) A structure is something that has been built or put together, especially something big, such as a building. (noun) The structure of something is the way that it is put together.

Examples: (verb) The lecture was structured to allow students to ask questions at the end. (verb) It's important to prepare a list of questions to structure the interview. (noun) The CN tower is the tallest structure in Toronto. (noun) The social structure of a class is often very complex. (noun) The structure of your writing should allow your ideas to flow from one to the next.

Synonyms: nouns: format, arrangement, build. building, construction. verbs: organize, build, form.

## **approach**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) An approach is a way or method of doing something. (verb) If you approach a problem or a job you try to find a solution. (verb) If you approach something, you move closer to it.

Examples: (noun) Private and public schools differ in their approaches to students. (noun) Research has emphasized a family-based approach to coping with the illness. (noun) Most students benefit from a hands-on approach to learning. (verb) We've got a difficult situation here, and I'm not sure how to approach it. (verb) They approached the surface of the Moon at a speed of 500 km/hour.

Synonyms: verbs: move (towards). handle, manage. nouns: way, method, strategy.

## **assume**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you assume something, you guess or believe something without having enough information to know that it's true.

Examples: (verb) Politicians often assume that their policy ideas are better than those of their colleagues. (verb) It is foolish to assume that the data is inaccurate.

Synonyms: verbs: accept, believe, guess.

## **benefit**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you benefit from something, you get something good from it. (noun) A benefit is something good that comes from something else.

Examples: (verb) A country can really benefit from promoting family planning. (verb) Health really benefits from 30 minutes of exercise a day. (noun) The benefits of investing in education are countless. (noun) Although it was her idea, she received no benefit from the new program.

Synonyms: nouns: advantage, use, value. verbs: (get/receive) help.

## **constitutional**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is constitutional it is related to the fundamental laws of a country. (adjective) If a law, a right, an action, etc. is constitutional, it is legal in that particular country.

Examples: (adjective) The government is planning some constitutional changes. (adjective) I think freedom of speech should be a constitutional right for everyone because everyone should be able to have their voice heard. (adjective) The court ruled that the new law was constitutional and that there was no need for the government to change it.

Synonyms: adjectives: acceptable, legal. democratic, legal.

## **create**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you create something, you make it. Usually, it's something that nobody has made before.

Examples: (verb) A lot of problems have been created by the new government. (verb) Initially, the company will create 200 new jobs, rising to 520 over the next few years.

Synonyms: verbs: make, invent.

## **derive**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If A is derived from B, A comes from B in the way that one idea comes from another.

Examples: (verb) Many current theories about learning are derived from Piaget's earlier theories. (verb) He derives a lot of pleasure from teaching.

Synonyms: verbs: determine, develop.

## **environment**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Your environment is the situation or area that you live, work, or spend time in, including the people, buildings, vehicles, etc. (noun) The environment is the natural world: forests, rivers, grasslands, oceans, etc.

Examples: (noun) When we moved to the city, we found ourselves in a completely new social environment. (noun) The learning environment can have a large effect on your grades. (noun) We have to do more to protect the environment from pollution.

Synonyms: nouns: habitat, surroundings.

## **evidence**

Type: noun



Definitions: (noun) Evidence is facts or observations that support an idea.

Examples: (noun) If there is clear evidence for life on Mars, it will change the way we look at the universe. (noun) The gun is evidence that he attempted to murder her.

Synonyms: nouns: proof.

## **financial**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A financial problem, issue, or activity is about money.

Examples: (adjective) The government is giving financial help to people buying houses.

(adjective) Our sales are down and we have serious financial problems.

Synonyms: adjectives: fiscal, monetary.

## **identify**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you identify with someone else, you understand and share their feelings. (verb) If you identify something, you say what it is.

Examples: (verb) I identify with her ideas on the subject. (verb) It is important to identify the real causes of ocean acidification.

Synonyms: verbs: recognize, find, understand. agree.

## **individual**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) An individual is a single person, looked at separately from others.

(adjective) An individual person or thing is looked at separately from others.

Examples: (noun) A country must balance the rights of individuals with the rights of groups.

(noun) One of the most difficult parts of growing up is learning to form your own ideas; to become an individual. (adjective) This office assists whole families rather than individual family members.

Synonyms: adjectives: single, separate. nouns: human, person.

## **issue**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you issue something, such as a statement, guidelines, or an order, you officially publish it. (noun) An issue is a particular topic or subject, often one that people are discussing and/or is a problem.

Examples: (verb) The governments of Canada and the United States jointly issued a statement about the recent crash. (noun) There are many legal issues migrants face before

they can find a job. (noun) The students raised an important issue in my last class, and I hope we can discuss it today.

Synonyms: nouns: topic, subject, problem. verbs: release.

## **legislation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) legislation is the process of making and passing laws. (noun) legislation is the official laws and rules of a government.

Examples: (noun) The government has the power of legislation. (noun) This new criminal law is a very important piece of legislation. (noun) The City council is planning new legislation regarding recycling.

Synonyms: nouns: law. lawmaking.

## **occur**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If something occurs, it happens.

Examples: (verb) After the flooding occurred, many people complained that the government reacted too slowly. (verb) Over the summer a change occurred in the eastern cities.

Synonyms: verbs: happen.

## **policy**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A policy is an official rule or idea that explains how to act in certain situations.

Examples: (noun) In at least one case there was a deliberate policy decision not to involve the police. (noun) The government is suggesting a significant change in economic policy. (noun) The college policy is that teachers may not have any sexual relationship with students.

Synonyms: nouns: rule, law.

## **process**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you process something, you change it from its natural state into something that's ready to use. (noun) A process is a series of steps that you take for a particular purpose.

Examples: (verb) The oil companies process much of the crude oil into gasoline. (verb) There's too much information. I can't process all of it right now. (noun) Let us look at the factors considered during the formal decision-making process.

Synonyms: nouns: method, activity. verbs: refine, prepare.

## **response**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A response is some words or actions that happen as a reaction to something else.

Examples: (noun) The police response to these problems has been slow and weak. (noun)

We sent a message to them two weeks ago, but there has been no response so far.

Synonyms: nouns: reaction, reply.

## **sector**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A sector is a part or division of an area, especially a part of the economy.

Examples: (noun) I am going to go patrol the south sector. (noun) The government is placing a large number of private businesses in the public sector. (noun) Service sector jobs, such as restaurant jobs, are often low-paying.

Synonyms: nouns: area, division, part.

## **source**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) The source of some material, an idea, a product, etc. is the place it came from originally. (verb) If you source something, then you obtain or receive it.

Examples: (noun) The current company can't supply these parts anymore, so we need to find a new source. (noun) CO<sub>2</sub> is the main source of global warming. (verb) The data was sourced from a recent research paper.

Synonyms: verbs: obtain, receive. nouns: beginning, origin, cause.

## **theory**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A theory is an idea that tries to explain an observation.

Examples: (noun) Nobody has disproved Einstein's theory of general relativity. (noun) The new information showed that his theory about growth was incorrect.

Synonyms: nouns: idea, concept.

**area**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An area of study in a particular subject, such as mathematics, grammar, music, or biology. (noun) An area is a piece of land or space.

Examples: (noun) Economics is quite interesting, but my area is more related to politics. (noun) They chose a large forested area for the new park. (noun) The business area of town has grown significantly in the last year.

Synonyms: nouns: part, sector. focus, study.

**authority**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If you are an authority on something, many people think you know very, very much about it. (noun) To have authority means to have the power to make a decision.

Examples: (noun) The Pope is the highest authority in the Catholic church. (noun) The police have the authority to evict illegal immigrants from their homes. (noun) This judge has the authority to throw you in jail.

Synonyms: nouns: power, ability. expert.

**concept**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A concept is an idea.

Examples: (noun) The concept of the recycling plant is that it uses lasers to identify and separate waste. (noun) Italy has introduced the concept of "parental leave" – time off work given to either parent to look after the child.

Synonyms: nouns: idea, notion.

**context**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Something's context is the situation that it happens in.

Examples: (noun) Newspapers often take phrases in interviews out of context so that they sound worse than they really are. (noun) The meaning of words can change depending on the context of the sentence.

Synonyms: nouns: situation, circumstance.

**data**

Type: noun

Definitions: Data is information, such as facts, numbers, photographs, etc.

Examples: A study using experimental data from ten schools found no difference between methods.

Synonyms: information

## **distribution**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) distribution is the way that things are spread (often used in statistics).

(noun) distribution is sending or giving out things to several people, companies, places, etc.

Examples: (noun) The distribution of test scores was typical for children of their age. (noun)

The distribution of power in the company is very narrow, with just a few managers controlling almost everything. (noun) The increase in profits was followed by a cash distribution to the investors. (noun) The distribution of the mail was slowed by the snow storm.

Synonyms: nouns: hand out. spread.

## **established**

Type: verb, adjective

Definitions: (verb) If you have established something, you have started it, and it is expected to last for a long time. (adjective) If an institution, system, etc. is established, it has existed for some time and is probably well known.

Examples: (verb) The government was established in 1765. (verb) Now that we've established the reasons for the flooding, we can stop it from happening again. (adjective) The fact that the earth is not in the center of the universe is well established. (adjective) The established leaders often do not wish to see changes that might reduce their power.

Synonyms: adjectives: organized, set up.

## **export**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) An export is something that you send out of the country, usually for business purposes. (verb) If you export something, you send it out of the country, usually for business purposes.

Examples: (noun) Bananas are Ecuador's largest export. (noun) A shipment of computers is being loaded on the ship for export to Singapore. (verb) The government is exporting its terrorist ideas to other countries in the area. (verb) Canada will export up to 450,000 barrels per day of crude oil to China.

Synonyms: verbs: sell, trade, transport.

**formula**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A formula is a way to do something or solve a problem that does not change much.

Examples: (noun) One formula to reduce poverty is to educate women and improve their human rights. (noun) There is no simple formula for making a profit, yet many entrepreneurs believe that there is.

Synonyms: nouns: equation.

**income**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) income is the money that you get from working.

Examples: (noun) The company's income has dropped because of poor sales. (noun)

Generally, teachers have a lower income than business people.

Synonyms: nouns: earnings, wage, salary.

**interpretation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An interpretation is one meaning that something might have, or one way that one person understands something. (noun) An interpretation is an attempt to understand something.

Examples: (noun) The hospital offers interpretation services between English and French, Spanish, and Punjabi. (noun) One interpretation of the poem "Cross" by Langston Hughes is that "Cross" symbolizes the speaker's mixed race. (noun) Weather forecasters use a lot of data, but the interpretation of the data is very difficult.

Synonyms: nouns: understanding, analysis.

**labor**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you labor, you work hard. (noun) labor is the work that people do, usually lifting, moving, building, etc. rather than desk work.

Examples: (verb) He labored under the sun for weeks before the project was completed.

(verb) He labored over the food all afternoon to get ready for dinner. (noun) There is a big labor shortage in the construction industry. (noun) The cost of labor is higher than the cost of building materials.

Synonyms: nouns: work, job. verbs: work (hard).

**major**

Type: verb, noun, adjective

Definitions: (verb) If you major in something, you concentrate on a single area of study as a student at a college or university. (noun) A major is a subject area that is the main study of a student at a college or university. (adjective) A major change, problem, event, etc. is a big and important one.

Examples: (verb) He became a great scientist, even though he majored in Latin. (noun) My major is Speech-Language Pathology, which is about problems people may have with talking. (adjective) There needs to be a major improvement in the way that governments deal with pollution. (adjective) Climate change is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

Synonyms: adjectives: important, serious. nouns: degree.

**percent**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) You use percent to show the number of parts out of a hundred. The symbol is %.

Examples: (noun) Twenty percent of the water used for drinking was dirty. (noun) One percent of the population owns half of the wealth. (noun) The cost of gas has increased seven percent in the last month.

Synonyms:

**principle**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A principle is a general idea that explains or supports something. (noun) Principles are personal rules that tell you what is right and wrong.

Examples: (noun) Police must not accept money because it could affect their judgment. The same principle applies if gifts, etc, are offered. (noun) The basic principle of his chair is that the knees should be below the hips. (noun) It goes against my principles to ignore her.

Synonyms: nouns: belief, idea, concept.

**require**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you are required to do something, you have to do it. (verb) If you require something, you need it.

Examples: (verb) All men over the age of 21 are required to report to the army for service (verb) The new system will make the information available where it is required. (verb) The job requires a high level of math skills.

Synonyms: verbs: need.

## **role**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) role is another word for a part in a theatrical work such as a play or a ballet (noun) The role of a person or thing is the job that they do in a certain situation.

Examples: (noun) Tamara Karsavina was the first to dance the role of the Firebird. (noun) Music plays an important role in dealing with stress. (noun) In the past twenty-five years, the role of women on farms had changed dramatically.

Synonyms: nouns: job, work. part.

## **significant**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is significant, it is important, or large, enough to pay attention to or to believe.

Examples: (adjective) The enthusiasm of the teacher is significant to the popularity of the subject. (adjective) There was a significant drop in the price of gas, causing drivers to line up at the pumps to fill up.

Synonyms: adjectives: important, serious, major

## **specific**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is specific, it is detailed, clear, and limited. (adjective) A specific idea, person, group, etc. is the one that is of interest, or when someone knows exactly which one they're talking about.

Examples: (adjective) First I will talk about farming in general, and then I will talk about the specific problems of wheat farming. (adjective) Last time, he was happy to do anything but feels this time he has to be more specific. (adjective) The interviewer uses a checklist to make sure that specific areas are covered.

Synonyms: adjectives: particular, definite, precise.

## **variable**

Type: adjective, noun

Definitions: (adjective) If something is variable, it can change. (noun) A variable is something that may not always be the same.

Examples: (adjective) The temperature in the area is highly variable. (noun) In life insurance, gender is an important variable because men generally die younger than women.



Synonyms: nouns: value, figure. adjectives: changeable, unstable.

### **achieve**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you achieve success or a goal, you have completed what you planned to do.

Examples: (verb) It is important to have a good routine if you want to achieve your goals.

(verb) She achieved a grade of 98% in her English class.

Synonyms: verbs: reach, complete, realize.

### **affect**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If one thing affects another, it causes a change in it.

Examples: (verb) The new program affected the way people think about immigration. (verb) The movement of the soccer ball was affected by the wind.

Synonyms: verbs: change, alter, manipulate.

### **assistance**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If you give someone or something assistance, you give help or support.

Examples: (noun) The assistance that some teachers provide is invaluable. (noun) The government now also provides financial assistance to single mothers.

Synonyms: nouns: support, help.

### **commission**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you commission someone to do or create something, you formally ask them to do it. (noun) A commission is a money that a salesperson receives for each sale.

(noun) A commission is a group of people who work together to research or manage something for a government.

Examples: (verb) The report commissioned by the Department of Health in 1989, contains guidelines on how best to manage and organize waiting lists. (noun) You may have to pay a commission to convert the dollars into local currency on your travels. (noun) She was recently appointed to head the European Commission on climate change.

Synonyms: nouns: department. money. verbs: request.

### **computer**

Type: noun

Definitions: A computer is a machine that helps you store, organize, and use information.

Examples: If you're looking at a web page, you must be using a computer.

Synonyms: device

### **consequence**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A consequence is a result of an action, decision, etc. Often negative.

Examples: (noun) Traffic produces a lot of pollution. In consequence, the air quality of many cities is very poor. (noun) The consequence of his actions will affect the whole country.

Synonyms: nouns: result, the aftermath.

### **credit**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you credit somebody with something, you say that they did it. (verb) If you credit an account, you add money to it. (noun) Credit is positive words or feelings.

(noun) Credit is an agreement to buy something and pay later.

Examples: (verb) Although he was credited for the discovery, it was a team effort. (verb) I called the bank about the mistake and they credited my account with the missing \$50.

(noun) The children here should take credit for a job well done. (noun) He gave credit to local management and to the unions for the improvements at the factory. (noun) I only use my credit card when I know I'll have the money the next week. (noun) We bought the new dining room table on credit.

Synonyms: approval, praise, respect. verbs: award.

### **distinction**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If something is done with distinction, it is done to a high level and other people recognize that. (noun) A distinction is a difference that you have noticed or decided is important. Often used to separate things.

Examples: (noun) We only wanted to take athletes of distinction; we are here to win, no one is going just for the trip. (noun) Before we discuss how you can develop your creative powers, we need to make a distinction between two different but related activities: thinking and learning. (noun) There is, in other words, no neat or clear distinction to be drawn between political equality and social and economic equality.

Synonyms: nouns: difference, separation. quality, superiority.

**evaluation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) evaluation is the process of making a judgment.

Examples: (noun) After the problem was found, the company began an internal evaluation of the management. (noun) If a teacher doesn't know the student well, it makes the evaluation of the student's level very difficult.

Synonyms: nouns: assessment.

**focus**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) The focus is the main thing or person that people are paying attention to. (verb) If you focus on a lens, you adjust it to make a clear picture. (verb) If you focus on something, you pay special attention to it.

Examples: (noun) The focus of the lecture was on hydroelectric energy. (verb) Most digital cameras automatically focus on the object in the center. (verb) We should focus on the deeper causes of poverty. (verb) A smaller company will probably focus its attention on making sure its customers are satisfied

Synonyms: verbs: pay attention, study, analyze.

**institute**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To institute is to begin or initiate something. (noun) An institute is an organization such as a school or hospital that does teaching or research.

Examples: (verb) The government instituted the new law last week. (verb) We have no choice but to institute court proceedings against the airline. (noun) The work was completed by the National Institute of Economic & Social Research.

Synonyms: nouns: college. verbs: implement, initiate, start.

**journal**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A journal is a record of what is happening, usually written regularly (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly, etc.), often scientific.

Examples: (noun) They published their study in the British Medical Journal.

Synonyms: nouns: diary, log, blog.

**obtain**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you obtain something, you get or acquire it.

Examples: (verb) After obtaining permission from the town, they built the new trail through the park. (verb) The newspaper was able to obtain the information from the police.

Synonyms: verbs: get, acquire, receive.

## **positive**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A positive is a good thing or part of something. (adjective) If a test result is positive, the test found what it was testing for. (adjective) If you are positive about something, you are sure that you are not mistaken. (adjective) A positive number or value is more than zero. (adjective) If something is positive, it is good, happy, or wanted.

Examples: (noun) There are many positives to take away from this research. (adjective) The test was positive for bacteria in the blood. (adjective) The guard at Euston was positive that on that particular day he had locked the door. (adjective) A positive number multiplied by a negative number results in a negative. (adjective) The changes in the prices were all positive. (adjective) After using the new skin cream for four weeks, most women showed positive results, reporting that their skin felt smoother and softer and looked better. (adjective) A balanced diet, exercise, and a positive attitude are all things that give you a sense of well-being.

Synonyms: adjectives: good, beneficial, helpful. sure.

## **primary**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something primary is the first or most important.

Examples: (adjective) It is of primary importance that we invest more money in education. (adjective) primary education covers infant schooling from the ages of 6 to 10.

Synonyms: adjectives: first.

## **region**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A region is an area of land or of the body.

Examples: (noun) An operation in this region of the brain may cause damage to the speech center. (noun) The southern regions of Japan are warm and tropical. (noun) Overfishing occurs mostly in coastal regions

Synonyms: nouns: area, part, location.

## **resident**

Type: adjective, noun

Definitions: (adjective) If you are a resident somewhere, you live or work there. (noun) A resident is somebody who lives in a particular area.

Examples: (adjective) The resident population at the school has grown each year, with over 250 students living there now. (adjective) If you are not a resident of the town, you may not use the town's public facilities without charge. (noun) The local residents like tourism because it creates more jobs for them.

Synonyms: nouns: inhabitant, citizen, dweller. adjectives: local.

## **security**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Security is the people and things that keep you safe. (noun) Security is safety.

Examples: (noun) After the bombing, the airport increased security. (noun) Since the attack, many people here have lost their feeling of security. (noun) Traditionally, Japanese workers had good job security, often having a job for life.

Synonyms: nouns: safety, protection. protection.

## **site**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something is sited somewhere, it was put or built there. (noun) A site is a location or a place.

Examples: (verb) The house is sited on the corner of Portland Street and Langham Street. (noun) The site of the new power station is two miles from the coast.

Synonyms: nouns: location, place, area. verbs: locate.

## **text**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you text someone, you send them a message on their phone. (noun) Text is written language (often academic).

Examples: (verb) Will you text me tomorrow? (noun) The official text did not deny that there was a major corruption scandal. (noun) This text features many interesting arguments.

Synonyms: nouns: document, passage. verbs: message.

## **acquisition**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Acquisition is the act of getting something, often by buying it.

Examples: (noun) Studies of language acquisition show that it's easier for children to learn a language than for adults. (noun) The judge ruled that the acquisition of the company was illegal.

Synonyms: nouns: purchase.

### **appropriate**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you appropriate something, you take it from somebody else and make it your own. (noun) If something is appropriate, it matches the situation.

Examples: (verb) By the end of this year, the total funds the government appropriated from taxes will be nearly \$600 billion. (noun) It is the job of management to look at the problems and take appropriate action. (noun) We suggest ways in which teachers may change their materials to make them more appropriate for bilingual students.

Synonyms: nouns: right, correct, suitable. verbs: obtain, receive.

### **category**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A category is a group of people or things that are the same in some way.

Examples: (noun) Meat is one category of food that people are beginning to eat less of.

Synonyms: nouns: group, division.

### **community**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A community is a group of people living in the same area and having a similar background or similar interests.

Examples: (noun) Within the business community, most people believe that taxes are too high. (noun) Most Libyan policemen were members of the community where they worked.

Synonyms: nouns: group, society, public.

### **conclusion**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A writer or speaker's conclusions are the ideas that they have after thinking about all the important information.

Examples: (noun) In conclusion, I believe that more money should be spent on education if this country is to compete with its neighbors. (noun) The study's main conclusion is that more money will not solve the problem.

Synonyms: nouns: summary.

**construction**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Construction is the way that something is made. (noun) Construction is the act of building something.

Examples: (noun) The stone construction of these buildings keeps them cool in the summer. (noun) The recent downturn in the economy is causing a lot of pain in the construction industry with few new homes being built. (noun) The workers began construction of the new hospital last week.

Synonyms: nouns: building. form, build.

**cultural**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Cultural things are related to art, music, books, etc. (adjective) A cultural background, difference, identity, etc. relates or belongs to a particular group of people.

Examples: (adjective) The new art museum has become the cultural center of the town. (adjective) The difference between the cities are both cultural and economic. (adjective) Teachers should think about the cultural background of their students.

Synonyms: adjectives: native, traditional. artistic.

**element**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An element is one basic kind of substance, such as iron (Fe) oxygen (O) or sodium (Na). (noun) An element is one part of something bigger, such as a plan, an engine, or a business.

Examples: (noun) Water is made up of two elements: Hydrogen and Oxygen. (noun) There are many important elements that make up a successful government.

Synonyms: nouns: part, section, unit.

**feature**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you feature something, you display it as a noticeable and positive part. (noun) A feature is a special or noticeable part of something.

Examples: (verb) Jazz and Blues feature prominently in the magazine. (verb) This restaurant features the most famous chefs in France. (noun) In phones a touchscreen used to be a special feature. Now you can't buy a device without one. (noun) One unusual feature of the town is the river in the middle of mainstreet.

Synonyms: nouns: aspect, highlight. verbs: display.

## **impact**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something impacts you, it has an effect on you. (noun) The impact is the effect of an act, statement, change, etc. (noun) An impact is the act of one object hitting another.

Examples: (verb) The plastic pollution on the beach will impact tourism in the area. (verb) It is not clear yet how violent movies impact the behavior of children. (noun) The environmental impact of burning fossil fuels may be felt for thousands of years. (noun) The report noted that most teachers feel that IT has made little impact on formal education. (noun) Many buildings were destroyed as the plane exploded on impact. (noun) In tests, the driver was unhurt, even in high-speed impacts.

Synonyms: nouns: collision. the effect, change. verbs: affect, change.

## **investment**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) investment is the use of money, time, or effort to make a profit.

Examples: (noun) Buying an old laptop is a bad investment because new technology is better. (noun) The Economic Development Board, set up in 1961 to promote foreign investment in Singapore, has attracted money from around the world.

Synonyms:

## **maintenance**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Maintenance is the process of regularly fixing things and keeping something in good shape.

Examples: (noun) Woodhouses can be a problem because they require regular maintenance. (noun) After 8,000 km, you should take the car in for maintenance.

Synonyms:

## **participation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Participation is the act of joining together with other people to do something.

Examples: (noun) Course participation has steadily increased over the last two years. (noun) After the injury, he was removed from active participation in the war.



Synonyms:

### **potential**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) If something has or shows potential, it will likely be very good in the future. (adjective) A potential customer, benefit, problem, etc. is one that might happen in the future.

Examples: (noun) New organic farming methods have the potential to be more efficient than traditional, non-organic ones. (adjective) To grow, a business must identify potential customers and their needs. (adjective) Realistic goals can then be set to prevent potential problems from becoming actual ones.

Synonyms: adjectives: future, possible. nouns: ability.

### **purchase**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A purchase is a stronghold on something. (noun) A purchase is something that you have bought. (verb) If you purchase something, you buy it.

Examples: (noun) He wasn't able to get a purchase on his bag before it was pulled away from him. (noun) With a building purchase price of £200,000, the total cost of the project would be £1 million. (verb) The larger company purchased all the shares in the smaller company for just under \$900,000.

Synonyms: verbs: buy. grip.

### **regulation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Regulation is the process of controlling something, usually with rules. (noun) A regulation is a rule or control.

Examples: (noun) The government is reducing regulation of the airlines. (noun) The company has recently imposed new safety rules and regulations to reduce accidents.

Synonyms: nouns: rule, directive, guideline. control.

### **resource**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A resource is something that is available and useful.

Examples: (noun) Canada has fewer natural resources, including trees, fish, and oil, than it did in the past. (noun) We don't have enough time and resources to finish the job.

Synonyms:

**seek**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you seek something, you search for it.

Examples: (verb) It's important to seek a job that interests you, rather than doing it just for the money. (verb) You should seek advice from your doctor if you are worried about your health.

Synonyms: verbs: find, look (for), search (for).

**strategy**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A strategy is a planned way to do something.

Examples: (noun) If you plan carefully and have a good strategy, the business is more likely to be successful. (noun) The new government is likely to change the economic strategy because the current one clearly isn't working.

Synonyms: nouns: method.

**traditional**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is traditional, it has been done in the same way for a long time.

Examples: (adjective) It is traditional to give gifts at Christmas time. (adjective) I learned traditional Japanese cooking from my grandmother.

Synonyms: adjectives: conservative, cultural.

**administration**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The administration is the people who run and organize an organization such as a business or government. (noun) The administration is the process of running and organizing an organization such as a business or government.

Examples: (noun) The administration should focus on the needs of the people. (noun) This administration has one of the worst records of any government. (noun) He wanted to go into politics, so he studied public administration at university. (noun) The mayor is responsible for the administration of the town.

Synonyms: organization, government.

**aspect**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An aspect is a view of something, often something non-physical, such as an idea or a problem.

Examples: (noun) One aspect of the problem relates to the difficulty in finding clean water.

(noun) In Chapter 2 we look at processor size. In Chapter 3 we consider other aspects of processor design.

Synonyms: nouns: view, side, part.

## **chapter**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A chapter is a local part of a larger organization. (noun) A chapter is the main division of a book.

Examples: (noun) The Toronto chapter of the Red Cross is collecting blood today. (noun) We read chapter five in the blue textbook.

Synonyms: division.

## **complex**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A complex is a psychologically-based dislike or fear of a particular thing.

(noun) A complex is a group of buildings with a common purpose, such as a university or military base. (adjective) If something is complex, it has lots of parts or pieces or is difficult to understand.

Examples: (noun) My friend developed a complex about having dirt on his hands. (noun)

They work in the office complex next to the park. (adjective) A complex problem that we face today is poverty, especially in Africa. (adjective) He has constructed a complex computer system to translate between any languages.

Synonyms: adjectives: complicated.

## **conduct**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A person's conduct is the way they act or treat others. (verb) If something conducts electricity, it lets the electricity move through or along it. (verb) The way you conduct yourself is the way you act or treat others. (verb) If you conduct music, you stand in front of the musicians and show them how to sing or play. (verb) If you conduct an activity or process, you do it or carry it out.

Examples: (noun) This teacher clearly broke the school's rules for professional conduct.

(noun) Killing a person, for any reason, is a criminal act and such conduct must not be allowed.

(verb) Glass is a good insulator because it will not conduct electricity. (verb) I hope

the children will be able to conduct themselves well at the party. (verb) He conducted the new symphony orchestra. (verb) The university makes sure that research is conducted properly. (verb) The war made it very difficult to conduct business.

Synonyms: verbs: do organize. behave. nouns: behavior, manner.

### **consumer**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A consumer is someone who buys or uses goods or services.

Examples: (noun) Our society has become very consumer-based. (noun) Consumer demand for large cars has dropped with the increase in gasoline prices.

Synonyms: nouns: buyer, the customer.

### **design**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you design something, you plan and show how it will look and work.

(noun) design is how something looks and works.

Examples: (verb) The team was asked to design a new video game controller. (noun) The new ski design made them 4% faster than the old model. (noun) The car company has decided to change their engine design.

Synonyms: nouns: build, style. verbs: plan, prepare, create.

### **equation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An equation is how everything works together to create a situation.

(noun) An equation is a mathematical statement in which both sides are of equal value.

Examples: (noun) Money plays a big part in the political equation. (noun) Using this equation, we can evaluate the effect of increased temperatures on the evaporation of the lake.

Synonyms: situation, circumstance.

### **final**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) The final is the last game or contest. (adjective) The final thing is the last one.

Examples: (noun) Last week Brazil beat Germany in the semi-final. Tonight they play Italy in the final. (adjective) Today is the final day to register for university.

Synonyms: adjectives: last.

**injury**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An injury is a place on a person or animal that is hurt or broken because of a cut, hit, fall, etc.

Examples: (noun) The most common injury among young adults is caused by sporting activities. (noun) She suffered a serious injury to her face and chest in the car crash.

Synonyms: nouns: wound, damage.

**item**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An item is a particular thing that is separate from other things.

Examples: (noun) There are a number of items here that must be studied. (noun) The first item to discuss at today's meeting is the noise from the new road.

Synonyms: nouns: unit, element.

**normal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) When someone is back to normal, they are healthier and no longer sick. (adjective) A normal thing or situation is one that is typical, not special.

Examples: (adjective) I am glad he is back to normal after one week of the flu. (adjective) After the electricity came back on, normal service was resumed.

Synonyms: adjectives: typical, usual, regular.

**perceive**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you perceive something, you believe it or understand it. (verb) If you perceive something, you notice it through one of your senses (you see it, touch it, smell it, hear it, or taste it); to be aware of something.

Examples: (verb) Education is widely perceived as a powerful way to improve the quality of life. (verb) He was unable to perceive any difference at all in the room after the changes.

Synonyms: verbs: notice, see, understand. see, understand.

**previous**

Type: preposition, adjective

Definitions: (preposition) You use previous to refer to a time before something else.

(adjective) If something happened at a previous time, it happened before a particular time.

Examples: (preposition) Four years previous, he had been sick for a month. (preposition) The history of this site previous to the seventeenth century is unknown. (adjective) Last year, we lived in Seoul, but the previous year we were in Moscow.

Synonyms: adjectives: prior, former, past. prepositions: prior.

## **range**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something ranges from X to Y, it includes a number of different things and X and Y are different examples of those. (noun) Something's range is the distance that it can travel. (noun) A range is a group of values between an upper and lower limit. (noun) A range of something is the number of different kinds or types of it.

Examples: (verb) The police had arrested him for crimes that ranged from stealing a book to owning a gun. (noun) The company's newest airplane has a range of 10,556km. (noun) Many car accidents are caused by new drivers in the 17 to 20 age range. (noun) The company sells a wide range of clothes, from socks to hats.

Synonyms: nouns: variety. scope. distance. verbs: vary.

## **relevant**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is relevant, it is connected to a topic in a meaningful way.

Examples: (adjective) Unfortunately, some of the ideas in the essay weren't relevant to the exam's essay task. (adjective) Our schools must aim to increase the quality of education and become more relevant to the needs of young people in modern society.

Synonyms: adjectives: suitable, applicable, appropriate.

## **restrict**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you restrict something, you limit it.

Examples: (verb) The new law restricts the size of the engine in motorbikes to just 250cc. (verb) This room is restricted to company employees only. Other people may not enter.

Synonyms: verbs: limit.

## **select**

Type: adjective, verb

Definitions: (adjective) If something is select it is special in a good way. (verb) If you select something, you choose it.

Examples: (adjective) His skill and efforts took him into the select group of footballers who have scored over 50 League goals for our club. (verb) Students follow a general course in their first year, and in the final year, they select one of three specialist areas of study. Synonyms: verbs: choose, pick. adjectives: special.

### **survey**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you survey people about their thoughts or personal information, you ask a large number of people in a formal way, often using a questionnaire. (verb) If you survey something, you look at it to try to see or understand the whole of it. (noun) A survey is a formal way to gather data by asking questions of people: a questionnaire.

Examples: (verb) She surveyed the residents to find out what they thought of the new town development. (verb) He surveyed the data completely before reaching a conclusion. (noun) The results of a recent survey show that 70% of all respondents think that Singapore is an ideal place for retirement. (noun) The Architects' Journal conducted a survey of its readers to find what were considered the best modern buildings in Britain.

Synonyms: nouns: questionnaire, research. verbs: observe, study. ask.

### **transfer**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A transfer is the act of transferring something from one form or location to another. (verb) If you transfer something, you move it to a different place.

Examples: (noun) International trades involve the transfer of currency from one country to another. (verb) If you learn to be organized in the classroom, then you can transfer that skill to your career later on. (verb) After he became the top salesman he was transferred to the head office.

Synonyms: verbs: move, relocate. nouns: move, relocation.

### **alternative**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) An alternative is something else that you can choose. (adjective) An alternative approach, way, source, etc. is not the usual one.

Examples: (noun) If you can't afford a concert ticket, the alternative is to buy the band's new live album. (noun) The city's shelter for the homeless offers a new alternative to sleeping on the streets. (adjective) An alternative method of fishing includes using a speaker underwater. (adjective) It's important to have some alternative transportation options in case the car breaks down.

Synonyms: adjectives: other, alternate, substitute. nouns: (other) option.

### **compensation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) compensation is money, or something of value, given to somebody who has lost something or been harmed.

Examples: (noun) They are asking for compensation for the damage to their car. (noun) The towns should get compensation if the new factory pollutes the river.

Synonyms: nouns: benefit, repayment, allowance.

### **considerable**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A considerable amount, time, degree, etc. is a fairly large or important one.

Examples: (adjective) The time needed to study the data is considerable. (adjective) Many part-time farmers travelled considerable distances each day to their work.

Synonyms: adjectives: large, important, great.

### **contribution**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A contribution is something that you give or add.

Examples: (noun) The company gave a contribution of \$1000 to each family affected by the oil spill. (noun) Technology to reduce pollution could make a significant contribution to the health of our children.

Synonyms: nouns: offering, addition, donation.

### **core**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The core is the central part of something.

Examples: (noun) The core of the idea is to make more people recycle plastic. (noun) A core group of fans follow the team to every game.

Synonyms: nouns: centre, foundation.

### **criteria**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Criteria are a set of principles that you use to judge something or decide about something.



Examples: (noun) The project proposal does not meet the current criteria for approval.  
(noun) One of the criteria for measuring the success of a democracy is the percentage of people that vote in that society.  
Synonyms: nouns: requirement, test.

## **document**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you document something, you make a record of it, usually in writing.  
(noun) A document is a written record, often official.

Examples: (verb) Wallace documented hundreds of species of insect around Indonesia.  
(verb) It's important for newspaper reporters to be there to document the war. (noun) In March, the government published a document listing the companies which it planned to privatize. (noun) A number of Chinese documents from 1000 BCE was recently discovered.  
Synonyms: nouns: paper, report, record. verbs: record, catalog, detail.

## **ensure**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) To ensure is to make something certain

Examples: (verb) By studying everyday, she ensured her success when she took the test.  
(verb) Their conservation work is great and should ensure the survival of the animals in the area.

Synonyms: verbs: make sure.

## **fund**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you fund something, you give it money for its activities. (noun) An organisation's funds are the money that it has. (noun) A fund is an amount of money kept for a specific purpose.

Examples: (verb) The university will no longer fund research into this drug. (verb) The project is jointly funded by the Government of Canada and the International Red Cross.  
(noun) The sports center closed because of a lack of funds. (noun) The fund-raising campaign has a target of \$100,000.

Synonyms: nouns: finance, backing, support. verbs: finance, back, support.

## **imply**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you imply something, you mean it, but you don't say it directly.

Examples: (verb) It was a mistake of the President to imply that immigrants were not productive members of society. (verb) One purpose of the 'healthy lifestyles' lesson was to imply that the students should exercise more often.

Synonyms: verbs: suggest.

### **interaction**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An interaction is when two or more things affect each other or work together.

Examples: (noun) It is necessary to understand the interactions between the plant and its surroundings. (noun) Poor health can harm older people's participation in everyday life and social interaction.

Synonyms: nouns: interplay, communication.

### **link**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you link two or more things, you make a connection between them.

(noun) A link is a connection between two or more things.

Examples: (verb) A number of computers can be linked together to make a network. (verb)

The country's economy is closely linked to that of its neighbors. (noun) It's easy to see a close link between studying and good grades. (noun) There is a link between the success of a nation and the empowerment of its women.

Synonyms: nouns: connection, join, association. verbs: connect, join, associate.

### **minority**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A minority is an ethnic group that is less than 50% of the population.

(noun) A minority is less than half (50%) of some groups.

Examples: (noun) The minority population of the company has increased since the complaint was made. (noun) Most people agreed, but a small minority were upset by the decision.

Synonyms:

### **partnership**

Type: noun

Definitions: A partnership is two people or groups working together, especially in business.

Examples: If one member of the partnership dies, the other member may have difficulty continuing the business.

Synonyms:

### **proportion**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The proportion is the relationship in size between one part and another.

Examples: (noun) The proportion of water to sugar can be as much as two to one. (noun)

Health care spending is taking up a much larger proportion of the government budget.

Synonyms: nouns: ratio, fraction, percentage.

### **register**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A register is a particular style of language used by a certain group of people or in certain situations. (noun) A register is an official list of names. (verb) If a measuring instrument registers a value, it shows that value. (verb) If you register a complaint, protest, etc. you make your opinion known formally. (verb) If you register someone or something, you put their name on a list.

Examples: (noun) Speeches are usually given in a very formal, almost written register.

(noun) The government is reviewing the national register of births, deaths, and marriages.

(verb) The change was so small that it didn't register. (verb) The thermometer registered

42.5 degrees. (verb) It's important to register a complaint if you are not happy with

something. (verb) Please take a moment to register your software with the company. (verb)

I haven't registered for September classes yet.

Synonyms: verbs: sign up, join, enroll. indicate, show. nouns: list, registry.

### **scheme**

Type: noun

Definitions: A scheme is a plan.

Examples: The new training scheme will be targeted at recent graduates.

Synonyms: plan, arrangement

### **shift**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A shift is the time that workers start and finish work. (noun) A shift is a change. (verb) If something shifts, it moves.

Examples: (noun) Before his accident he frequently worked the night shift. (noun) There has been a major shift in thinking about how to deal with plastic pollution. (verb) The desert sands are constantly shifting. (verb) The talk about crime has shifted from causes to solutions.

Synonyms: verbs: move, alter, change. nouns: move, alteration, change. schedule.

## **task**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you task someone with doing something, you give them that job.

(noun) A task is a specific piece of work.

Examples: (verb) She was tasked with translating all the official documents. (noun) Her task was to translate all the official documents. (noun) Telecommunications systems for hotels now perform many more tasks than just allowing people to make telephone calls.

Synonyms: nouns: job, assignment, function. verbs: entrust.

## **technology**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) technology is the tools, equipment, and activities that come from scientific knowledge.

Examples: (noun) The 1800s saw a gradual development of new farming and transportation technology. (noun) Modern technology such as computers, robots, and wireless communications, can reduce the cost of doing business.

Synonyms:

## **circumstance**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The circumstances surrounding an action or event includes all the information that helps you understand that action or event.

Examples: (noun) Some people are born into very difficult circumstances. (noun) Their circumstances improved after they moved to the countryside.

Synonyms: nouns: situation, condition.

## **component**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A component is one part that connects to other parts.

Examples: (noun) 600 million years ago, oxygen became a major component of the atmosphere. (noun) Exercise is also an important component of a healthy diet.

Synonyms: nouns: element, factor, ingredient.

### **constant**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A constant is a value that doesn't change. (adjective) If something is constant, it doesn't change over time.

Examples: (noun) The Hubble constant concerns the speed of expansion of the universe. (adjective) The rain has been constant all morning. (adjective) There has been constant pressure on the CEO of the company to step down.

Synonyms: adjectives: continual, sustained.

### **convention**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A convention is a large meeting of a specific group or for a specific purpose. (noun) A convention is an international agreement that controls how countries behave. (noun) A convention is a particular way of acting or a particular belief of a group of people.

Examples: (noun) There's a doctor's convention in town this week and all the hotels are full. (noun) In my culture, a convention is to eat raw fish. (noun) This action goes against the European Convention on Human Rights. (noun) There are a set of conventions that every member must observe. (noun) By convention, people in North America drive on the right-hand side of the road.

Synonyms: nouns: custom, habit. pact, treaty, agreement. the meeting, conference.

### **corporate**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) corporate finance, planning, management, etc. is related to business or a company.

Examples: (adjective) There is a big difference between local managers and corporate leaders. (adjective) We have accounts for both individual and corporate clients.

Synonyms: adjectives: business, company.

### **deduction**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) deduction is the amount or process of taking something away, usually money. (noun) A deduction is a process or result of thinking about information to find an answer or opinion.

Examples: (noun) The average worker takes home about \$500 per week after tax and other deductions. (noun) A detective must uncover the murderer by logical deduction from facts.  
Synonyms: nouns: realization.

### **dominant**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is dominant, it is larger, stronger, or more powerful than other things.

Examples: (adjective) Atheism is becoming a dominant idea in many developed countries.

(adjective) In society, the dominant class holds power by taking advantage of the lower classes.

Synonyms: adjectives: strongest, most powerful.

### **exclude**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you exclude someone or something, you keep them out.

Examples: (verb) The rules specifically exclude the use of drugs. (verb) During play time, she was excluded from the group.

Synonyms: verbs: ban, block, reject.

### **illustrate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you illustrate something, you draw a picture of it, or you explain it.

Examples: (verb) As a painter, he was asked to illustrate many book and album covers.

(verb) His speech illustrated the problems of transmigration affecting the country. (verb)

This graph illustrates the change in price.

Synonyms: verbs: display, describe, highlight.

### **initial**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) The initial period, stage, etc. is the first one.

Examples: (adjective) With these cars, the initial cost is high, but you save money in the long run. (adjective) They send most workers to the US after an initial training period of three months.

Synonyms: adjectives: first, primary.

### **justification**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A justification is a reason given by somebody for doing something.

Examples: (noun) Practice in logical thinking is frequently used as justification for teaching

Latin. (noun) There was no justification for continuing this war.

Synonyms: nouns: excuse, explanation.

## **location**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A location is a place or a site.

Examples: (noun) The town is set in a very beautiful location between the mountains.

(noun) When you're opening a new business, the choice of location is very important.

Synonyms: nouns: place, area, site.

## **negative**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A negative number or value is less than zero. (adjective) If someone has a negative attitude, they mainly think about bad things. (adjective) If something is negative, it is harmful, sad, or otherwise not good.

Examples: (adjective) The data shows that the negative values soon become positive.

(adjective) Her negative attitudes were the result of a hard life. (adjective) There are both positives and negatives to the idea that the town needs further development.

Synonyms: adjectives: bad, problematic.

## **philosophy**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A philosophy is a set of beliefs that guide the actions of a group or individual. (noun) philosophy is the study of the nature of existence and truth: how things are and how they should be.

Examples: (noun) His philosophy is that nobody can be blamed for their actions. (noun)

Plato's writings have been used to teach philosophy, logic, maths, and other subjects.

Synonyms:

## **publish**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you publish a book, an article, a song, etc. you make it available for other people to buy, read, listen to, etc.

Examples: (verb) The government published the results on the Internet. (verb) She publishes a monthly magazine. (verb) The study was published in the British Medical Journal.  
Synonyms: verbs: print.

### **reliance**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) To have a reliance on something is to need it to survive.

Examples: (noun) The economy here has a great reliance on tourism. (noun) The country's reliance on foreign aid, mainly from its neighbors, isn't likely to end soon.

Synonyms: nouns: dependence, need.

### **sequence**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A sequence is a part of a movie or a story. (noun) A sequence is a set of things in a specific order.

Examples: (noun) There is a romantic moment in this sequence of the film. (noun) The sequence of feelings is: anger followed by sadness and finally calm. (noun) Unless the data is sent in the correct sequence, it will not be usable.

Synonyms: nouns: series, order, arrangement, segment, part.

### **specify**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you specify something, you say exactly which thing it is.

Examples: (verb) The law needs to specify a penalty, otherwise, people will keep committing the crime. (verb) They organised a meeting, but forgot to specify its location.

Synonyms:

### **technical**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Technical problems, writing, or skills, are related to special knowledge that most people don't have.

Examples: (adjective) A prima ballerina must have great technical knowledge of dance movement. (adjective) Doctors use a lot of technical vocabulary that can be difficult for patients to understand.

Synonyms: adjectives: high-tech, professional, specialised.

### **validity**



Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The validity of evidence, a statement, a reason, etc. is the level to which it is true or reasonable. (noun) The validity of a license, ticket, document, etc. depends on whether it is official and acceptable.

Examples: (noun) The validity of the government's claims has been questioned by the new research. (noun) Due to the doubts about the validity of the evidence presented, the case cannot go forward. (noun) The validity of a passport changes if the wrong person carries it.

Synonyms: truth, accuracy.

### **comment**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you comment on or about something, you say something about it.

(noun) A comment is a short statement about something; usually, it is an opinion.

Examples: (verb) He commented that it was good news. (verb) commenting on the changes in Peru, the president said he would be watching the situation. (noun) Her comments were misunderstood. (noun) It's difficult to make any comments about the case at the moment.

Synonyms: nouns: remark.

### **consent**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you consent to something, you agree to it. (noun) consent is permission to do something.

Examples: (verb) The teacher consented to being interviewed for the university paper.

(noun) The treatment was explained to and understood by the patient before he gave his consent.

Synonyms: nouns: agreement, approval. verbs: agree, comply, accept.

### **constraint**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A constraint is a limit.

Examples: (noun) In poorer countries, there are often tight constraints on women's activities. (noun) Financial constraints have forced hospitals to treat more patients more rapidly.

Synonyms: nouns: restriction, limitation.

### **coordination**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) coordination is the planning or timing of actions so that they work together. (noun) To have coordination is to have muscles in your body that work together.

Examples: (noun) There has been an improvement in coordination of the various government programs to deal with poverty. (noun) Very young children lack the coordination to walk or even to pick up small objects.

Synonyms: organization.

### **correspond**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If two people correspond, they write letters to each other. (verb) If something corresponds to something else, there is a close relationship between them.

Examples: (verb) She corresponded with him for three years before they finally met in 1917. (verb) The scientific model corresponds accurately with the observed data. (verb) The current situation in the country corresponds closely to the situation in Thailand in 1982.

Synonyms: verbs: agree, compare, correlate. communicate.

### **demonstrate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If a group of people demonstrate, they protest something publicly. (verb) If you demonstrate something, you show how to do it or use it. (verb) If you demonstrate something, you show that it is true or that it exists.

Examples: (verb) The factory workers began to demonstrate for safer conditions. (verb) At the sales meeting, she demonstrated the new software. (verb) In this job, you must demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively. (verb) Various studies have clearly demonstrated that very few people have not broken laws.

Synonyms: verbs: show, display, prove, show, display, protest.

### **emphasis**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) emphasis is the giving of particular attention or importance to something.

Examples: (noun) The emphasis should be on the quality of education, not the number of hours spent in school. (noun) Extra emphasis should be placed on providing rural villages with clean water.

Synonyms: nouns: importance, attention, priority.

### **framework**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A framework is the structural supports that a building, vehicle, etc. is built around. (noun) A framework is a collection of basic ideas and organising principles that you can build an argument, a book, a society, etc. around.

Examples: (noun) Very large iron and steel beams provide the framework for the building's central section. (noun) The purpose of the budget is to provide a framework for financial decisions in the future. (noun) The aim of the course is to provide a comprehensive framework for practical and theoretical study in Art and Design.

Synonyms: nouns: structure, foundation. structure.

## **immigration**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Immigration is the movement of people or animals into an area, usually a country.

Examples: (noun) The government wants to tighten immigration controls, but it does not want to be seen as anti-foreign. (noun) Immigration from the Caribbean makes up only 2 percent of all immigrants in the country.

Synonyms: nouns: migration, travel.

## **instance**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) For instance' is a phrase used to present an example. (noun) An instance of something is a time or situation when it happens.

Examples: (noun) There are many ways to live a healthy life. For instance, we can improve our mental and physical health by exercising for 30 minutes every day. (noun) In this particular instance, the computer was the problem, not the user.

Synonyms: nouns: time, case, situation. for example.

## **layer**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you layer something, you place one thing on top of another. (noun) A layer is a level in an organization, idea, or plan. (noun) A layer is a material that covers something.

Examples: (verb) To make the soil more fertile, layer the ground with compost. (noun) The governments' plan to reduce the number of homeless people has many layers. (noun) The company is trying to reduce the number of management layers. (noun) In the north, people

must wear many layers of clothes to stay warm. (noun) In the morning, most of the country was covered by a thin layer of snow.

Synonyms: nouns: cover, coat, sheet. level. verbs: cover, coat, sheet.

### **maximum**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A maximum is the largest or highest value or amount.

Examples: (noun) They pay \$50 a day up to a maximum of \$300 per week. (noun) The maximum number of people the organization accepts is 25.

Synonyms: nouns: upper limit, peak.

### **outcome**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An outcome is the result of a situation or action.

Examples: (noun) The most likely outcome of the war is a broken country with no leader.

(noun) The outcome of the race was different from what most people were expecting.

Synonyms: nouns: result.

### **physical**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A physical thing or activity is related to the body, or something you can touch.

Examples: (adjective) When we look at where someone lives, we have to look at the physical environment (e.g., the amount of green space, transportation, house size, etc.) as well as the social environment. (adjective) The war didn't leave him with any physical injuries, but his mind was badly damaged.

Synonyms: adjectives: material.

### **reaction**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A reaction is an action that happens because of another action.

Examples: (noun) A severe allergic reaction to the drug has killed five Americans. (noun)

When oxygen is added, a chemical reaction begins and heat is released.

Synonyms: nouns: response, reply.

### **remove**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you remove something, you take it out or away.

Examples: (verb) They removed the topic of war from the syllabus. (verb) After he was shot, the doctor removed three bullets from his leg.

Synonyms: verbs: take away, cut out, delete.

## **sex**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A person or animal's sex is male or female. (noun) sex is an act done by a male and a female (in this case there is sometimes an intent to make babies) or with just two men or women.

Examples: (noun) She had not had any male friends during her early life and now found it difficult to talk to members of the opposite sex. (noun) Most men in our survey say they definitely would not have sex with a new partner without using a condom.

Synonyms: nouns: intercourse. gender.

## **sufficient**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is sufficient, it means there is enough or that it is good enough.

Examples: (adjective) The factory was shut down because it didn't meet the necessary and sufficient conditions for safety. (adjective) The gas supplies should be sufficient to last the winter.

Synonyms: adjectives: enough, adequate, acceptable.

## **technique**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A technique is a specialized and skillful way of doing something.

Examples: (noun) The scientists will use a new technique to measure the exact speed of the moon. (noun) It is important for pilots to be taught the right technique for the take-off run.

Synonyms: nouns: method, approach.

## **volume**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A volume is a book, magazine, or other printed material, usually part of a series. (noun) The volume of something is the amount of it.

Examples: (noun) The research can be found in the most recent volume of The Canadian Journal of Language and Linguistics. (noun) The volume of water of a typical shower is

about 43 liters. (noun) Teens listening to their MP3 players at high volume can damage their hearing. (noun) The traffic volume on the highways increased by over 12% last year. Synonyms: nouns: amount, size, quantity. book, edition, publication.

### **access**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you access something, you get information from it, usually using a computer. (noun) If you have access to something, you can use it, look at it, enter it, etc.

Examples: (verb) Users of computers connected to the internet can access images from millions of sources around the world. (verb) The product enables multiple systems to access a single database. (noun) We will seek to provide greater access to personal records held by the government. (noun) As a student, you have access to all our facilities including the library and computers.

Synonyms: nouns: entry. verbs: connect (to), open.

### **apparent**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is apparent, it is easy to see, realize or understand.

Examples: (adjective) The government's apparent lack of concern for the poor is very upsetting. (adjective) They had found many useful ideas, some immediately apparent but others that took more time to think through. (adjective) When she was nine, for no apparent reason, she began to dislike the classes.

Synonyms: adjectives: clear, obvious.

### **attitude**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Your attitude is your feelings and opinions, especially when your actions show how you feel.

Examples: (noun) The attitudes of parents can easily be passed to their children. (noun) A positive attitude can make life a lot easier.

Synonyms: nouns: approach, belief.

### **code**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something is coded, it is written or stored in a code. (noun) A code is a way of storing or sending information, often secretly or in a way that is readable by computers. (noun) A code is a set of rules or laws.

Examples: (verb) The wide variety of proteins in the cells are all coded for by the genes in the nucleus. (verb) The completed computer questionnaires were coded by two people. (noun) In World War II, mathematicians and scientists broke the enemy's secret code. (noun) Children usually learn their parents' moral code.  
Synonyms: nouns: law, rule. cipher.

## **concentration**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Concentration is the ability to focus your attention on something. (noun)

A concentration is a large amount of something in one place or group.

Examples: (noun) The government's concentration should be on helping those in the greatest need. (noun) A clean desk in a quiet place will help students improve concentration. (noun) The growing concentration of people in cities is causing new problems. (noun) The oil sands in Alberta, Canada, contain high concentrations of oil.

Synonyms: nouns: combination, amount. focus, attention.

## **cycle**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A cycle is a number of regular things that happen again and again.

Examples: (noun) The lifecycle of salmon, a river and ocean fish, has 4 stages. (noun)

Although women's monthly cycles vary in length from person to person, the average length is about 28 days.

Synonyms: nouns: phase, course, period.

## **dimension**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A dimension is a direction of measurement in space-time, usually width, depth, and height. (noun) A dimension is a part of a problem, issue, or situation.

Examples: (noun) The dimensions of the football pitch can actually vary quite considerably with the length being anywhere from 90m to 120m. (noun) The baby has added a new dimension to our lives. (noun) We need to consider some of the dimensions of the likely future needs for health care among older people.

Synonyms: nouns: aspect, element. size, scale.

## **error**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An error is a mistake.

Examples: (noun) Don't worry about making errors, you can use them to help you learn.  
(noun) The bank made an error and lost the details of 20 different bank accounts.  
Synonyms: nouns: mistake, fault, problem.

## **grant**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you grant something, you accept that it is true. (verb) If you grant something to someone, you give it to them, usually formally. (noun) A grant is something, usually money, that is given to someone, usually by a government or institution.

Examples: (verb) Yes, I'll grant you that the data is old, but I still think it's useful. (verb) He was granted \$10,000 to continue his research. (verb) The school has granted us permission to use a classroom in the evenings. (noun) I got a \$2,000 government grant to help me go to school. (noun) The professor received a research grant to study weather changes.

Synonyms: nouns: gift, allowance, award. verbs: allow, authorize. accept.

## **implementation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Implementation is the process or result of putting a plan into action.

Examples: (noun) The idea was good but there were many mistakes in the plan's implementation. (noun) Full implementation of the debt relief plans will remove up to \$6 billion from family debt in the country.

Synonyms: nouns: application.

## **integration**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Integration is the act of combining a number of things to work together.

Examples: (noun) We have almost finished the integration of our different ideas. (noun) integration of immigrants into American society has become much more difficult than in the past.

Synonyms: nouns: unification.

## **job**

Type: noun

Definitions: A job is an activity that you do, usually, regularly and for pay.

Examples: Robots are beginning to take over the jobs of humans.

Synonyms: work, employment, activity



**obvious**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is obvious, it is easy to see it, think of it, or understand it.

Examples: (adjective) For obvious reasons, the country has become richer since the discovery of gold in the mountains. (adjective) It is obvious that you can't spend a lot of money and save at the same time.

Synonyms: adjectives: understandable, clear, apparent.

**output**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you output something, you produce it. (noun) Output is what is produced by a worker, machine, computer, etc.

Examples: (verb) The computer output a result that the scientists were not expecting. (noun) Of course, any problems with the program will affect the output. (noun) We have increased our total output from 4,500 to 7,500 barrels per day of oil.

Synonyms: verbs: produce, form, make.

**parameter**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A parameter is a boundary or a limit.

Examples: (noun) Within the parameter of the budget, the freshwater project can only reach a few communities. (noun) The machine should run only within operational parameters; temperature, water flow, etc.

Synonyms: nouns: limit, criteria, specification.

**principal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) The principal thing is the main or most important one.

Examples: (adjective) Presumably most of us work for the same principal reason – in order to live. (adjective) Canada's principal trading partner is the USA.

Synonyms: adjectives: most important, key, main.

**project**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something is projected, it is clearly displayed or it stands out. (verb) If your project, you plan for or estimate something in the future. (noun) A project is a complex job or assignment, often involving research or construction.

Examples: (verb) During the presentation, she projected various graphs on the screen behind her. (verb) This essay will project a modern image of farm workers. (verb) During the flight, the legs of this bird project beyond the tail. (verb) If we project the data into the future, we see that renewable energy will become cheaper than fossil fuels over the next ten years. (noun) The paper summarizes fifty research projects on the relationship between unemployment and crime. (noun) The company is also working on projects to help find training and work experience for some of the country's 8 million street children.

Synonyms: nouns: work, activity, assignment. verbs: plan, calculate, estimate. extend, illustrate.

## **resolution**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Resolution is the power to try even when things are difficult. (noun) A resolution is a personal decision to do something. (noun) Resolution is the amount of detail that you can see in an image. (noun) A resolution is a formal decision, often after a vote. (noun) A resolution is a solution to a disagreement or difficult situation.

Examples: (noun) Her resolution to be honest never weakened. (noun) My New Year's resolution was to quit smoking. (noun) This camera is cheaper, but, of course, the resolution is much lower. (noun) The U.S. may choose to support a Security Council resolution that includes more foreign weapon site inspections. (noun) They came to a resolution after two days of arguing. (noun) The school holds classes in nonviolent conflict resolution.

Synonyms: nouns: answer, decision, conclusion. decision, result, answer, detail, decision, choice, will, strength.

## **statistics**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Statistics is the science of using and understanding those numbers. (noun) Statistics are numbers about information.

Examples: (noun) To do research, it's important to understand simple statistics such as averages and standard deviations. (noun) The government published new unemployment statistics for the month of June. (noun) New crime statistics that show the number of robberies is decreasing.

Synonyms: nouns: data. mathematics.

**subsequent**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is subsequent, it happens after something else.

Examples: (adjective) His first performance was excellent, but in subsequent matches, he looked tired. (adjective) The child began to walk early but subsequent development, such as speech, was unusually late.

Synonyms: adjectives: following, consequent.

**undertake**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you undertake something, you start to do it.

Examples: (verb) Britain has undertaken a review of its aid to countries in Asia. (verb) He is in charge of the research and has undertaken this work largely on his own.

Synonyms: verbs: begin, initiate.

**adequate**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is adequate, it is good enough.

Examples: (adjective) The performance of the new government is adequate, if not great. (adjective) By 1922, the single schoolroom was no longer adequate to meet the needs of the town.

Synonyms: adjectives: enough, acceptable.

**approximate**

Type: verb, adjective

Definitions: (verb) To approximate is to be or become near a value, position, or

characteristic (adjective) An approximate number, length, time, etc. is close to the real one but may not be equal to it.

Examples: (verb) Women's salaries in the company have approximated to male salaries.

(verb) Computers are getting better at the ability to approximate human speech. (adjective) The approximate number of homes affected by the earthquake is over 1000.

Synonyms: adjectives: close, rough, comparative. verbs: approach, estimate.

**attribute**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) An attribute is a part, feature, or characteristic. (verb) If A is attributed to B, A is caused by B.

Examples: (noun) Their system of governance has many positive attributes that we should try to copy. (noun) A good sense of humour is an essential attribute for a doctor to have. (verb) The famous phrase is usually attributed to Winston Churchill, though some believe he never actually said it. (verb) He attributes his success to the love of his parents. Synonyms: verbs: associate, connect. nouns: feature, aspect.

### **commitment**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A commitment is a formal promise or agreement.

Examples: (noun) Police management have kept their commitment to improving community relations. (noun) You don't have to make a firm commitment but we would like to know when you can probably start work.

Synonyms: nouns: obligation, guarantee.

### **conference**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A conference is a meeting. (noun) A conference is a large organised meeting to discuss a particular topic or area.

Examples: (noun) We need to have a private conference to discuss how to collect the research data. (noun) Some of the world's top scientists attended an important conference in 1983, to study the effects of nuclear weapons. (noun) The organisation will be holding a conference on diet, health, and the food industry on 19 March in Barcelona.

Synonyms: nouns: convention, forum, meeting, discussion.

### **debate**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you debate something, you consider its positive and negative points, often by talking with other people in a formal situation such as government. (noun) A debate is an exchange of ideas looking at different sides of an issue.

Examples: (verb) This essay will debate whether sending children to pre-school is beneficial for their development. (verb) The government is planning to debate the issue of legalizing recreational drugs. (noun) There will be a debate in the lecture theatre next week concerning the proposed changes to the university syllabus. (noun) The government's spending programme is the subject of much heated debate.

Synonyms: nouns: discussion, argument. verbs: discuss, argue.

**domestic**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Domestic animals are animals usually kept by humans. (adjective)

Domestic issues relate to issues in the house. (adjective) Domestic issues relate to issues inside one country, not affecting other countries.

Examples: (adjective) Diseases from domestic animals will often kill wild animals. (adjective)

The level of domestic violence against women and children needs to be reduced. (adjective)

He does his domestic chores every day. (adjective) International trade has increased while domestic trade has dropped. (adjective) He believes the public is ready for a change in domestic and foreign policy.

Synonyms: adjectives: internal, national. household, private.

**ethnic**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something that is ethnic describes a person's race or nationality.

Examples: (adjective) The school has students from over 20 different ethnic backgrounds.

(adjective) The Irish are the largest, but least visible, an ethnic minority in Britain.

Synonyms: adjectives: racial, cultural, indigenous.

**hence**

Type: preposition

Definitions: (preposition) hence means from this time. (preposition) We use hence to show that one thing is the result of another.

Examples: (preposition) We shall meet again two months hence. (preposition) There has been a record amount of rain this week, hence many parts of the town are now flooded.

Synonyms: prepositions: therefore, so, thus.

**implication**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An implication is a meaning that can be understood but is not given directly. (noun) An implication is a result that may be expected or predicted.

Examples: (noun) Even if you did not call me a liar, the implication is there. (noun) We must consider the implications of building more coal power plants. (noun) This change has big implications for health planners and for those caring for people with AIDS.

Synonyms: nouns: effect, result. suggestion, connection.

**internal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something that is internal is within or inside something else.

Examples: (adjective) The police are conducting an internal investigation after officers shot two people. (adjective) Grammar is mostly concerned with the internal structure of words and sentences.

Synonyms: adjectives: within, inside, central.

## **label**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you label something, you write information on it or attach information to it. (noun) A label is a brand (mainly for fashion and music companies). (noun) A label is a small sign, usually on something, to tell you about it.

Examples: (verb) The government labeled him as a traitor. (verb) He labelled the tree with its name and date. (noun) Clothing labels should be responsible for the working standards in the factories of the developing countries they get their material from. (noun) There are washing instructions on the label. (noun) Please read the label before using the product.

Synonyms: nouns: marker, description. brand, company. verbs: mark, describe.

## **occupational**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something occupational is related to your job.

Examples: (adjective) The specialised language of certain occupational groups (for example, builders, doctors, lawyers, mechanics, and scientists) is often unknown to other people. (adjective) This industry has some of the highest standards of occupational health and safety.

Synonyms: adjectives: business, work, job.

## **overall**

Type: adverb, adjective

Definitions: (adverb) If you look at something overall, you look at the whole of it. (adjective) An overall effect, strategy, picture, etc., is one that covers everything but may not go into detail.

Examples: (adverb) overall, populations have been rising across the globe. (adverb) Fewer people voted locally, but there was an overall greater response at a national level. (adjective) The overall effect of their best song leaves the listener feeling energetic.

Synonyms: adjectives: complete, general. adverbs: in general.

**phase**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you phase something in, you introduce it step by step. (noun) If things are in phase, they are working, moving, or changing together. (noun) A phase is a stage in a process.

Examples: (verb) We will slowly phase the new teaching methods into our classes so that teachers have time to adapt. (verb) Over the next few years, all farm support was slowly phased out. (noun) When rays of light are in phase, they become brighter. (noun) Teenagers often go through a phase of being attracted to someone of the same sex. (noun) As the war enters its final phase, the role of the UN will probably become more important. (noun) We will look at very basic ideas during the first phase of training.

Synonyms: nouns: period, development, stage. verbs: introduce, add.

**prior**

Type: adjective, preposition

Definitions: (adjective) If something happens prior to something else, it happens before it. (preposition) If something happens prior to something else, it happens before it.

Examples: (adjective) We learned that police had prior knowledge of the attack. (preposition) Prior to 1917, most people had lived on private farms. (preposition) In this recipe, most of the work is actually done prior to cooking.

Synonyms: prepositions: earlier, before, previous.

**promote**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you promote someone or something, you help it to get bigger, higher, or more popular.

Examples: (verb) Remember too that sleepiness is promoted by a warm, quiet environment. (verb) The environment provided by the school promotes the reading development of all students.

Synonyms: verbs: help, advance, benefit.

**retain**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you retain something, you keep it.

Examples: (verb) They joined the group but still managed to retain their independence at the same time. (verb) The company retains the right to change the price at any time.

Synonyms: verbs: hold, have, keep.

**status**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Your status is your level, role, or situation in a group or society.

Examples: (noun) In many countries, the ability to speak English is a sign of high social status. (noun) His status in the company improved are his excellent presentation.

Synonyms: nouns: rank, position.

**sum**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you sum up, you conclude or bring together the main points. (noun)

The sum is the total of adding or subtracting several numbers or amounts. (noun) A sum is an amount of money, usually a large amount.

Examples: (verb) To sum up, the way children are treated has a huge effect on their behavior as adults. (noun) The total output doesn't equal the sum of the inputs because the system is not 100% efficient. (noun) The company had been spending large sums on publicity and advertising.

Synonyms: nouns: amount, total. total. verbs: conclude, summarise.

**annual**

Type: adjective

Definitions: If something is annual, it happens once every year.

Examples: The annual meeting will be held at Bristol University this year.

Synonyms: yearly

**attention**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If you pay attention to something, you focus your mind on it.

Examples: (noun) If you want to succeed in marketing, you need to draw as much attention to your business as possible. (noun) The government should pay more attention to the number of homeless on the streets.

Synonyms: nouns: concentration, focus.

**civil**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If someone is civil, they are polite, often in a formal way. (adjective) If something is civil, it is related to the citizens of a country.



Examples: (adjective) The protesters were civil towards the police. (adjective) The bridge would be one of the largest civil engineering projects in the country. (adjective) One of the most important civil rights is freedom of speech.

Synonyms: adjectives: national, polite, kind, civilized.

## **communication**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Communications are the ways of sending and receiving information.

(noun) Communication is the process of sending and receiving ideas between two or more people.

Examples: (noun) The army is setting up a new communications network to improve how quickly messages can be sent and received. (noun) Communication is important when teams of scientists are conducting similar research. (noun) Teachers must regularly practice their communication skills to make sure students understand them easily.

Synonyms: nouns: connection, contact, conversation.

## **contrast**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you contrast two things, you look for or explain the differences between them. (noun) Contrasts are the differences you find when you compare something or someone.

Examples: (verb) The new data were contrasted with previous data to find an interesting pattern. (verb) It's difficult not to contrast the good things he says with the terrible way he acts. (noun) Married life is a sharp contrast to the life of a single person. (noun) When comparing English and Japanese, there are many contrasts but also a large number of similarities.

Synonyms: nouns: difference, comparison, disagreement. verbs: compare.

## **despite**

Type: preposition

Definitions: (preposition) If X happens despite Y, it is surprising because Y is expected to stop X.

Examples: (preposition) People came to the concert despite all the rain. (preposition) We hope that there will soon be changes despite the fact that the leaders are still the same old people. (preposition) Despite all the problems, people generally believe the project is a success.

Synonyms: prepositions: in spite of, against, although.

**emerge**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If a pattern or picture emerges, it becomes clear. (verb) If you emerge, you come out of something.

Examples: (verb) Details of the operation to transfer the illegal immigrants emerged yesterday. (verb) The terrorists emerged from their hideout in the mountains.

Synonyms: verbs: arise, appear.

**goal**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A goal is something you want to do or be able to do.

Examples: (noun) It's important for young people to have goals in life. (noun) Scientists' ultimate goal is a theory of everything.

Synonyms: nouns: aim, ambition, target.

**hypothesis**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A hypothesis is a guess about what will happen, usually in scientific experiments.

Examples: (noun) The results of the experiment support the hypothesis. (noun) We will test the hypothesis that warming water can cause coral to bleach and die.

Synonyms: nouns: theory, explanation, guess.

**impose**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you impose on someone, you ask or expect them to do something for you that is difficult or inconvenient. (verb) If you impose something on someone, you force it on them, even if they don't want it.

Examples: (verb) I imposed on him by asking him to take me to the airport. (verb) The law imposes on all employers the requirement to provide safety training for their staff. (verb) The government has imposed travel restrictions which will make it harder to enter the country.

Synonyms: verbs: set, demand, enforce.

**investigation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An investigation is a careful look at a crime, problem, etc. to find the truth or a solution.

Examples: (noun) The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. (noun) Researchers were conducting further investigations into the connection between smoking and lung disease.

Synonyms: nouns: analysis, examination.

## **mechanism**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A mechanism is one moving system within a larger, more complex machine or organism. (noun) A mechanism is a way something works

Examples: (noun) The body has a mechanism to bring down blood sugar levels when it gets too high. (noun) This research should help us to understand the mechanisms of memory.

Synonyms: nouns: system, instrument.

## **option**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An option is a choice.

Examples: (noun) Consider your options carefully before you decide which university to go to. (noun) The country give students the option to go to university before joining the army.

Synonyms: nouns: alternative, choice, opportunity.

## **parallel**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) When things have a parallel, they are similar in a specific way. (adjective) When a line is parallel to another line, the two lines do not meet and they are the same distance from each other at every point.

Examples: (noun) There are many parallels in the behavior of the children, even though they come from very different cultures. (adjective) Trains run along parallel rails.

Synonyms: adjectives: side-by-side. nouns: similarity.

## **predict**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you predict something, you say that it will happen before anyone observes it.

Examples: (verb) Darwin's theory predicts that animals will try to maximize the number of children that can be supported in their environment. (verb) It is still difficult to accurately predict the weather more than two days in advance.

Synonyms: verbs: anticipate, forecast.

## **professional**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A professional is a person who is paid for doing their job, sport, art, etc.

(adjective) If something is professional, it is of high quality, from people who are experts.

(adjective) If someone is professional, they are skilled and paid for their job.

Examples: (noun) If your problems are serious, you should get help from a professional.

(adjective) The government has established a new professional body to regulate doctors.

(adjective) The group offers free professional advice on legal matters and housing.

(adjective) After playing amateur tennis for years, he turned professional at the age of 25.

Synonyms: adjectives: skilled, trained, experienced. skillful, (high) quality. nouns: expert, specialist.

## **regime**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A regime is a plan or system. (noun) A regime is a government, especially a bad or illegal one.

Examples: (noun) Under the government's new tax regime, families will be worse off. (noun) Jews were treated terribly under the Nazi regime. (noun) The UN helped end the rule of the military and establish a new regime in the war-torn country.

Synonyms: nouns: government, establishment. system, plan, structure.

## **series**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A series of events, meetings, experiments, etc. is several of them that happen one after the other and are related.

Examples: (noun) The school will be hosting a series of lectures relating to poverty. (noun) There has been a series of changes in the newspaper that began with the new editor.

Synonyms: nouns: order, succession.

## **stress**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you stress a word, part of a word, or a note in music, you make it louder than other words or notes. (verb) If you stress something, you say that it is very important. (noun) Stress is an extra volume that you use in a word or in music. (noun) Stress is extra attention or importance that you put on something. (noun) Stress is physical pressure that gradually can cause things to break (noun) Stress is emotional pressure that makes you worry because things are not going well.

Examples: (verb) You should stress the second syllable of the word 'photography'. (verb) I have repeatedly stressed the importance of hard work, but luck is also helpful. (noun) Put more stress on the first syllable of the word 'photograph'. (noun) Psychology puts stress on the childhood causes of adult problems. (noun) Sitting puts an unnatural stress on the back and shortens the neck. (noun) Plants under stress from lack of water or disease are the most likely to attract problem insects. (noun) Death is a time of great stress for family and friends.

Synonyms: nouns: anxiety, worry. force, weight. force, weight, importance. verbs: emphasize, underline.

## **summary**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A summary is a short explanation of a longer idea, article, story, etc.

Examples: (noun) You can see a summary of the essay's arguments in the final paragraph. (noun) So, in summary, our research shows that exercise is most efficient in the late afternoon.

Synonyms: nouns: outline, review.

## **academic**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) An academic topic, lecture, idea, etc., is one that is connected to education.

Examples: (adjective) There is a lot of political disagreement about global warming, but there is general academic agreement. (adjective) The academic staff at the college generally don't teach during the summer.

Synonyms: adjectives: scholarly, intellectual.

## **amendment**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An amendment is a change to a piece of writing or a statement that corrects or clarifies it; also the process of making this change.

Examples: (noun) He agreed to accept amendments to reduce tax in his new Finance Bill.  
(noun) This law can only be changed by constitutional amendment.  
Synonyms: nouns: correction, modification.

## **challenge**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you challenge somebody, you offer to compete or fight. (verb) If you challenge somebody, you give them something very difficult to do. (noun) A challenge is an offer to compete or fight. (noun) A challenge is something difficult that you want or have to do.

Examples: The company that built the AI challenged the chess master to face their machine. (verb) The job challenges her computer skills. (noun) The president issued a challenge to his critics to appear in a public debate. (noun) If you have spent too long in a job, a move will help you to take on new challenges. (noun) Many churches overseas are struggling to meet the AIDS challenge.

Synonyms: nouns: test, dare, confrontation. verbs: test, confront.

## **conflict**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If two goals, plans, meetings, etc. conflict, they both cannot be achieved, work or be true. (noun) A conflict is when two things are trying to use the same resources at the same time. (noun) A conflict is when two or more people or ideas don't agree.

Examples: (verb) Sorry, the meeting conflicts with my prior plans. (verb) The goal of hiring more workers conflicts with the plan to cut costs. (noun) I'm sorry I can't meet then. I've got a conflict with another meeting. (noun) The two stories examine the conflict between good and evil. (noun) Conflicts may occur in families when the parents have different values. (noun) People have tried to end the conflict, which has caused more than 100 deaths since February, but it hasn't worked.

Synonyms: nouns: fight, struggle, disagreement. verbs: differ, disagree.

## **decline**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A decline happens when the number, quality, slope, or value of something goes down. (verb) If someone declines an offer, they do not accept it. (verb) If something declines, it goes down in number, quality, slope, or value.

Examples: (noun) There continues to be a decline in the number of students studying philosophy. (noun) There was a decline in the percentage, from 56% to 44%. (verb) She was

invited to the awards ceremony, but declined for health reasons. (verb) The percentage declined by 12%, from 56% to 44%. (verb) The number of students studying philosophy continues to decline.

Synonyms: verbs: drop, fall, decrease. reject, refuse. nouns: drop, fall, decrease.

### **enable**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you enable something or someone, you allow it to do something or you help it.

Examples: (verb) The data will not enable the identification of individuals to take place.

(verb) Night or instrument flying enabled us to fly twenty-four hours a day and in poor weather.

Synonyms: verbs: allow, authorise, empower.

### **entity**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An entity is a whole thing, independent from other things, often an institution or something alive.

Examples: (noun) It is very likely that an entity similar to us exists in another part of the universe. (noun) When you start a company, you create a new legal entity. (noun) The idea of church as a separate entity from state is quite new.

Synonyms: nouns: being, body, individual.

### **expansion**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An expansion is a new addition. (noun) Expansion is the act or process of becoming larger.

Examples: (noun) The game expansion adds 20 hours of play time to the original. (noun) The expansion of metals and plastics when heated is well understood.

Synonyms: nouns: growth. extension.

### **facilitate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If A facilitates B, A makes B easier.

Examples: (verb) The structure of an essay should facilitate the reader's comprehension.

(verb) The new education minister hopes to facilitate the development of modern schools.

Synonyms: verbs: assist, help, aid.

## **generation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Generation is the creation of something, often electricity. (noun) A generation is a class or type of object usually developed from an earlier type. (noun) A generation is the average time between one when group of people were born and when their children were born, roughly 20- 30 years. (noun) A generation is all the people or things of about the same age.

Examples: (noun) We need to increase electricity generation to match the growth in population. (noun) The increase in new power generation has not kept up with demand for electricity. (noun) A new generation of personal computers is about to arrive in stores. (noun) During previous generations, travel was not so easy. (noun) My father belonged to a generation of travelers who saw the world before there was a McDonalds on every corner. Synonyms: nouns: era, age, breed. version. creation, production.

## **license**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To license someone or something is to allow – usually in written form – them to do a specific activity. (noun) A license is an official piece of paper that allows you to do something, such as drive, open a business, etc.

Examples: (verb) The church is officially licensed as a charity. (verb) I am licensed to practice law in this state. (noun) You can get a driving license in this country after the age of 17.

Synonyms: nouns: certificate. verbs: authorize, allow, certify.

## **medical**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A medical is a general check by a doctor. (adjective) If something is medical, it concerns physical health and medicine.

Examples: (noun) Annual medical checkups are important if you want to look after your health in older age. (adjective) Often the poor do not go to a doctor because they are unable to pay for medical treatment. (adjective) He was very creative in his teaching, research, and medical practice.

Synonyms:

## **monitor**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you monitor something, you watch or listen to it for problems, changes, etc. (noun) A monitor is a person or group whose job is to watch for problems,



changes, etc. (noun) A monitor is part of a computer or other similar machine, and it looks like a TV.

Examples: (verb) Parents should monitor their children's computer use. (verb) The army was sent in to monitor the police. (noun) During the test, a monitor caught a student copying off another sitting right next to him. (noun) The engineers stood around the monitor making suggestions about how the drawing could be improved.

Synonyms: auditor, invigilator. verbs: watch, check, observe.

## **objective**

Type: adjective, noun

Definitions: (adjective) If something is objective, it is based on facts and things we can see and touch, independent of people's feelings. (noun) An objective is something that you are trying or want to do.

Examples: (adjective) Good newspapers try hard to publish objective stories. (adjective) It is hard to measure the quality of art in an objective way. (noun) Sometimes a team is more successful than an individual in achieving challenging objectives. (noun) The main objective of our visit was to climb Mount Kenya.

Synonyms: nouns: aim, goal, ambition. adjectives: fair, impartial.

## **precise**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is precise it is very accurate

Examples: (adjective) The precise nature of the tax changes has not been decided.

(adjective) Young children are often unable to give a precise definition for words they know very well.

Synonyms: adjectives: exact, accurate, definite.

## **pursue**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you pursue someone or something, you try to reach, catch or get it.

(verb) If you pursue a job or hobby, you do it for a long time.

Examples: (verb) The police pursued the criminal for 3 days before finally catching him.

(verb) The band motivated her to pursue a career in music.

Synonyms: verbs: follow. follow, go after, seek.

## **revenue**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Revenue is the money that a business receives for doing business, and government receives from taxes.

Examples: (noun) The company earned 20% of its revenues from services such as consulting, software and management. (noun) Higher oil prices should raise government revenue by 13%.

Synonyms: nouns: income, profit.

### **substitution**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A substitution is the act of replacing one person or thing with another.

Examples: (noun) They had no extra players, so were unable to make any substitutions.

(noun) The accidental substitution of one medicine for another can be deadly.

Synonyms: nouns: replacement, exchange, swap.

### **target**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To target is to aim at something, usually with a gun. (noun) A target is a goal or objective. (noun) A target is an area to shoot at. It is typically used for practice or to test the accuracy of a gun.

Examples: (verb) As a manager, he ordered his staff to target 50 sales every day. (noun)

People who work in sales are often stressed by unrealistic sales targets. (noun) He is excellent at darts. He frequently hits the centre of the target.

Synonyms: nouns: mark, aim, goal, destination. verbs: aim.

### **version**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A version is something that exists in different forms.

Examples: (noun) The North American version of the car will have a larger engine. (noun)

Tomorrow, the company will release the new version of its software.

Synonyms: nouns: form, adaption.

### **adjustment**

Type: noun

Definitions: An adjustment is a small change.

Examples: If you're gaining weight, you need to make slight adjustments to your food and exercise programme.

Synonyms: alteration, modification

**aware**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If you are aware of something, you know about it.

Examples: (adjective) She was made aware of the problem only after it had been fixed.

(adjective) We should be aware that polyester clothes damage the environment when they are washed.

Synonyms: adjectives: appreciative, mindful.

**clause**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) (grammar) A clause is a group of words that usually includes a subject and a verb. In English, the subject usually comes before the verb. (noun) A clause is a section in a contract or other legal document.

Examples: (noun) In the sentence 'This is the school that I used to go to.', '...that I used to go to.' is an adjective clause because it modifies 'school'. (noun) The author's contract contained a clause giving him creative control over the films.

Synonyms: nouns: article.

**consultation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Consultation is the process of getting advice or opinions from other people.

Examples: (noun) The group announced the price per kilo of grapes after consultation with the growers. (noun) The city went through the planning process with very little public consultation.

Synonyms: nouns: deliberation, dialogue, discussion.

**discretion**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Discretion is the ability to keep a secret. (noun) Discretion is the ability to do something in a way that does not upset people. (noun) Discretion is the ability and power to decide.

Examples: (noun) Her discretion meant that nobody found out the truth before she died.

(noun) The teacher used discretion when talking to his underperforming students. (noun)

The money will be offered at the discretion of the Environmental Health Department.

(noun) The judge made a mistake in exercising his discretion to end the trial early.

Synonyms: nouns: judgement. caution, maturity.

**energy**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Energy is the ability to do work: move, give off heat, give off light, etc.

Examples: (noun) This problem has taken up most of her time and energy for over a year.

(noun) Higher electricity prices should help promote energy efficiency. (noun) Unlike coal or oil, atomic energy production creates little air pollution.

Synonyms: nouns: activity, vitality, spirit.

**equivalent**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) An equivalent is something of equal value or acceptability. (adjective) If two things are equivalent, they are of equal value or acceptability.

Examples: (noun) The cost of living in some countries is so low that families can survive on the equivalent of just \$2 a day. (adjective) Dolphins have very large brains, roughly equivalent to the size of a human brain.

Synonyms: adjectives: same, similar. nouns: equal.

**exposure**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If A has exposure to B, A is not hidden or protected from B.

Examples: (noun) As a child of a Canadian father and Japanese mother, he had exposure to many different viewpoints. (noun) Prolonged exposure to cold and wet may increase the chance of disease.

Synonyms:

**fundamental**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is fundamental, it is basic and important.

Examples: (adjective) There is no more fundamental question than "why are we here?"

(adjective) Respect is fundamental to a strong education system.

Synonyms: adjectives: central, essential.

**image**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you image something, you create an image of it. (noun) An image is the good or bad opinion about someone or something. (noun) An image is something you can see or imagine that looks like the real thing.

Examples: (verb) This is the moon's surface at the Apollo 17 site, imaged by the Apollo 17 astronauts. (noun) We should be trying to create an image of the company as helpful and friendly. (noun) The image in the mirror was not how she saw herself. (noun) The image on the screen reminded him of the town where he grew up.

Synonyms: nouns: picture, appearance, figure. view, idea, impression. verbs: illustrate, photograph.

## **logic**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Logic is a system of careful step by step thoughts or arguments that tries to explain truth.

Examples: (noun) Without logic your arguments will fall apart. (noun) Scientists must use logic to explain the workings of the natural world.

Synonyms: nouns: reason, sense.

## **mental**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Mental health and processes etc. is related to the mind and thinking.

Examples: (adjective) Some diseases can cause severe mental and physical damage to the unborn baby. (adjective) The program helps people deal with drinking, depression and other mental health problems.

Synonyms: adjectives: psychological.

## **network**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you network, you make or use social connections, usually for business purposes. (noun) A network is a group of connections between a number of points.

Examples: (verb) In some jobs, social networking is very important if you want to advance your career. (noun) You can connect to the Internet through a wireless local network system. (noun) We conduct much of our overseas banking business through a network of some 3,500 worldwide branches.

Synonyms: nouns: grid, structure, system. verbs: meet, associate.

## **orientation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An orientation to something is when somebody is first introduced to a place or a machine. (noun) Someone's or something's orientation is the way they face, physically or psychologically.

Examples: (noun) A quick orientation to the software is available for new users. (noun) An arrow is usually used to indicate the orientation of the map. (noun) As homosexuality becomes more accepted, sexual orientation becomes a more common topic.

Synonyms: nouns: position, direction. introduction.

## **prime**

Type: verb, noun, adjective

Definitions: (verb) If you prime something, you get it ready to do something. (noun) The prime is the best part of something. (adjective) If something is prime, it is the best, most important, most suitable, or in some way number one.

Examples: (verb) The coach has primed them for the game. (noun) He was killed in the prime of his life. (adjective) London is a prime example of a multicultural city. (adjective) He was the prime suspect in the murder investigation.

Synonyms: adjectives: main, major. nouns: best. verbs: prepare.

## **ratio**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A ratio is the comparison in size or number between two things.

Examples: (noun) In the engineering department of the university, the ratio of men's jobs to women's is 8 to 1. This needs to be improved. (noun) A low student/teacher ratio improves the quality of education.

Synonyms: nouns: fraction, proportion.

## **stability**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If something has stability, it is constant.

Examples: (noun) Political stability is important for economic growth. (noun) Nowadays, there isn't much stability in marriage; divorce is very common.

Synonyms: nouns: strength, support, security.

## **sustainable**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is sustainable, it can be continued for a long time, especially without using up resources.

Examples: (adjective) The government is trying to balance sustainable development with economic growth. (adjective) The oil-based lifestyle of today is not sustainable.  
Synonyms: adjectives: viable, tenable.

### **transition**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To transition is to move from one place or situation to another. (noun) A transition is a change from one place or situation to another.

Examples: (verb) We need to transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. (verb) Water transitions to ice as the temperature drops below 0 degrees. (noun) We need to make the transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. (noun) The transition from ice to water occurs at 0°C.

Synonyms: nouns: change, evolution, development. verbs: change, evolve, develop.

### **welfare**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Welfare is money paid by the government to poor people. (noun) Someone's welfare is their health, safety, and other things that make them happy.

Examples: (noun) Many people who lose their jobs have to go on welfare until they find new ones. (noun) The government is reviewing the welfare benefits which single parents receive. (noun) It is clear that the issues the environment and animal welfare have become very important recently. (noun) Children need to exercise each day, for both their physical and psychological welfare.

Synonyms: nouns: well-being.

### **alter**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you alter something, you change it, usually in a small way.

Examples: (verb) The company needs to alter the way they do business if they want to increase profits. (verb) The design can be easily altered by selecting new colours, materials, etc.

Synonyms: verbs: change, adjust, modify.

### **capacity**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If someone does something in a particular capacity, they are doing it in that role. (noun) The capacity of a factory or business is how much it can produce. (noun)

The capacity of someone or something to do something is the ability to do it. (noun) The capacity of a container, room, etc. is how much it can hold.

Examples: (noun) Sometimes I make decisions in my capacity as a father that I don't like in my capacity as a husband. (noun) I am not writing to you in my capacity as your doctor, but as a friend. (noun) It will soon be necessary to increase capacity at the Toronto factory to meet Canadian demand for the product. (noun) Since the head injury he has lost his capacity to learn new names. (noun) I was impressed by his energy and capacity for hard work. (noun) The capacity of the bottle is 500 ml.

Synonyms: nouns: volume, size. ability, talent, skill. role.

### **compound**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something is compounded, it is added to. (noun) A compound is a mixture. (noun) A compound is a material made of a number of other materials.

Examples: (verb) Her troubles were compounded by the heavy rain. (noun) The new CD is a compound of North American rock music and Middle Eastern religious songs. (noun) There is a group of gases that do not easily form chemical compounds. (noun) The new chemical compound has far less smell than the original substance.

Synonyms: nouns: combination, mixture.

### **contact**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If one thing contacts another, it touches, meets or communicates with it. (noun) If one thing makes or has contact with another, it touches, meets or communicates with it.

Examples: (verb) You should contact the emergency services if you see a serious accident (noun) Celebrities often wear sunglasses to avoid eye contact with people who might recognise them. (noun) The trains in most major cities are so crowded that everyone has to stand in close contact to everyone else.

Synonyms: nouns: touch, relation. verbs: connect, reach, touch.

### **draft**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If a team drafts someone, it chooses them to play on the team. (verb) If a state drafts someone, it chooses them to be in the military. (verb) If you draft a letter, memo, agreement, etc., you write one that has been or may be edited. (noun) A draft is a



wind that blows inside a building. (noun) A draft is when the military or a sport team chooses its members. (noun) A draft is a piece of writing which has been or may be edited. Examples: (verb) The team drafted her because she was an excellent shooter. (verb) He was drafted when he was 20 and spent two years fighting in France. (verb) You should have the contract drafted by a lawyer. (noun) Close the window! That cold draft is making me sneeze. (noun) Many Americans moved to Canada to avoid the draft during the war. (noun) In the first draft of the story the characters names are all different.  
Synonyms: gust. verbs: write, pen.

### **enforcement**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Enforcement is the act of making people follow a law, rule, or decision. Examples: (noun) Crime is not a problem which can be solved by law enforcement alone. Education is also needed. (noun) There simply hasn't been enough enforcement of the rules during this tournament.  
Synonyms:

### **evolution**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An evolution is a change that happens over time. (noun) Evolution is the process of slow change. It is most used in biology to describe the way living things change. Examples: (noun) Over the last ten years, there has been an evolution in the way we think about this disease. (noun) For the first time, the evolution of some bacteria has been observed. (noun) The theory of evolution is the basis of modern biology.  
Synonyms: change, development, growth.

### **external**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something that is external is not on the inside. Examples: (adjective) There are many influences upon the child external to life in school. (adjective) Both internal and external stairs need to be modified to allow wheelchairs into the building.  
Synonyms: adjectives: outside.

### **generate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you generate something, you create it.

Examples: (verb) They gave away all of the income generated by their songs to charity.  
(verb) 50% of electricity generated in the country is from solar panels and wind turbines.  
Synonyms: verbs: produce, create, develop.

### **liberal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is liberal, it allows for change, flexibility, and free thought.

Examples: (adjective) Some argue that the Church should take a more liberal view of sex.

(adjective) Developed countries are slowly becoming more liberal in the way they view drugs.

Synonyms: adjectives: progressive, flexible, tolerant.

### **marginal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is marginal, it is written in a margin. (adjective) If something is marginal, it is low quality, almost unacceptable. (adjective) If something is marginal, it is not very large, important or central.

Examples: (adjective) I can't read the marginal notes on the side of the page. (adjective) His writing is marginal at best. I don't think he'll pass. (adjective) The number of illnesses related to the common cold has increased this year, but that is only a marginal problem for the country.

Synonyms: adjectives: slight, minor.

### **modify**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If a word, phrase, or clause can modify another, it is an optional word, phrase, or clause that gives more information about the other. (verb) If you modify something, you change it, often only in small ways, and often because you want to use it in a different situation.

Examples: (verb) The adjective "long" can modify many nouns, such as "bridge" in the expression "long bridge". (verb) The program allows the user to modify the design of the house that they want to build. (verb) Both penalties and rewards can be used to modify children's behaviour.

Synonyms: verbs: alter, change, adjust.

### **notion**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A notion is an idea about something.

Examples: (noun) We have to reject this strange notion that some languages are better than others. (noun) The film questions the standard notions of right and wrong.

Synonyms: nouns: idea, belief, understanding.

### **perspective**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A perspective is a way of looking at or thinking about something.

Examples: (noun) Try to think about your arguments from many different perspectives. (noun) The book provides a fresh perspective on the lives of young airmen during the war. Synonyms: nouns: view, aspect, outlook.

### **psychology**

Type: noun

Definitions: Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour.

Examples: Research in sport psychology demonstrates the value of setting difficult goals.

Synonyms:

### **reject**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you reject a person or object, you refuse to care for, or ignore, that person or object. (verb) If you reject an idea or belief, you decide that you do not believe it.

Examples: (verb) I believe it is very sad that people who are infected with AIDS are often rejected by family and friends. (verb) Although English is the most common language, I reject the idea that it is better than other languages.

Synonyms: verbs: dismiss, refuse, deny. deny, dismiss.

### **style**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To style something is to design or change its physical appearance. (noun) A style is a specific look, design, or way of dressing or acting.

Examples: (verb) The building was styled by a very famous architect. (noun) His style of acting is very dramatic. (noun) The styles in fashion magazines are always changing.

Synonyms: nouns: fashion, method, approach.

### **symbolic**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is symbolic, it has or is used as a symbol.

Examples: (adjective) Her problems of debt are symbolic of the problems that many middle class families have nowadays. (adjective) In many religions, the number 3 has a symbolic value.

Synonyms: adjectives: figurative.

## **trend**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something trends in one direction, it generally moves or changes in that direction. (noun) A trend is a general movement or change in one direction.

Examples: (verb) While most fuel prices are trending higher, natural gas prices should go down over the next year. (noun) There seems to be a new trend towards longer, looser clothing. (noun) There is an upward trend in the number of sales of canvas bags.

Synonyms: nouns: movement, direction, tendency. verbs: move, flow.

## **whereas**

Type: preposition

Definitions: (preposition) You use whereas to show a contrast between two things or ideas.

Examples: (preposition) Whereas average temperatures have been increasing, some parts of the world have experienced cooling. (preposition) Many kinds of roses have little or no scent, whereas others are well known for their beautiful smell.

Synonyms: prepositions: although.

## **abstract**

Type: verb, noun, adjective

Definitions: (verb) If you abstract something, you take it out; you remove it. (noun) An abstract is a short text that tells you the main ideas of a longer text, especially of scientific papers; it is a summary of something longer. (adjective) If something is abstract, it is usual non-physical and is difficult to imagine or think about.

Examples: (verb) The book abstracts important historical lessons from the period leading up to war (noun) The abstract of Isaac Newton's laws of gravity may be no more than 150 words. (adjective) The birth of the universe requires some very abstract ideas. (adjective) More abstract ideas like "democracy" are not possible for animals. (adjective) A lot of abstract paintings use strange shapes that many people do not like.

Synonyms: adjectives: complex, philosophical, complex, deep. nouns: summary, introduction. verbs: separate, extract, remove.

**aggregate**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you aggregate something, you put or bring it together. (noun) The aggregate is the number or amount when everything is put together.

Examples: (verb) You shouldn't aggregate the various costs. Look at them individually. (noun) He cycled 200km today, making his aggregate over the two weeks 2785km.

Synonyms: nouns: accumulation, amount, total. verbs: combine, collect.

**attach**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If something is attached to something else, there is a strong connection between them. (verb) If you attach two things together, they should stay together.

Examples: (verb) The promise of more money for the school is attached to better results from the students. (verb) In a shop, the price label is usually attached to the product.

Synonyms: verbs: connect, join, fix.

**brief**

Type: verb, noun, adjective

Definitions: (verb) If you brief someone, you tell them the most important information about something. (noun) You use in brief to show that you will speak or write in a short way. (noun) A brief is a short piece of writing or a short talk. (adjective) If something is brief, it is for a short time.

Examples: (verb) The army general briefed the president on the progress of the plan. (noun) In brief, the results suggest that coffee is not harmful in small amounts. (noun) The main goal of the meeting can be read in the brief. (adjective) Today there will be brief periods of rain.

Synonyms: adjectives: short, small. nouns: summary. verbs: inform, advise, explain.

**cooperative**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A cooperative is a type of business that is owned by the people working there or by its customers. (adjective) If someone is cooperative, they listen and try to help or work with you. (adjective) In a cooperative effort, project, etc., a number of people work together to do something.

Examples: (noun) Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC), a retail cooperative, is Canada's largest supplier of outdoor equipment and has more than two million members. (adjective)

Children usually become more cooperative as they grow up. (adjective) With cooperative effort, we can clean up pollution.

Synonyms: adjectives: joint, unified, coordinated. helpful, responsive, supportive. nouns: co-op.

### **diversity**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Diversity is the property of having many different kinds of things or people.

Examples: (noun) The diversity of people in the city make it an interesting place to live.

(noun) Doctors are finding a greater diversity in the kinds of infections they see.

Synonyms: nouns: variety, assortment.

### **enhance**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you enhance something, you make it bigger or better.

Examples: (verb) Our aim is to enhance the quality of life for the people of this country.

(verb) He can greatly enhance his reputation by winning tonight.

Synonyms: verbs: improve, boost, increase.

### **expert**

Type: adjective, noun

Definitions: (adjective) Expert help is professional help (noun) An expert is a person who knows more, or can do something better, than most people, usually because of special study or practice.

Examples: (adjective) His expert advice helped the company achieve record profits. (noun)

The company has hired an expert in computing to upgrade their software.

Synonyms: nouns: master, specialist. adjectives: professional, skilled, experienced.

### **fee**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A fee is the money you pay for some kinds of services, such as legal advice, education, or club membership.

Examples: (noun) School fees have increased again this year.

Synonyms: nouns: cost, price, bill.

### **gender**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Someone's gender is whether they behave like a boy or girl. This is called masculine or feminine, and not the same as male or female. (noun) A living thing's gender is its sex: male (man, boy), female (woman, girl), both, or neither.

Examples: (noun) His gender was not traditional, he was a very feminine boy. (noun) The effects vary considerably according to such factors as class, race and gender. (noun) here are gender differences in everything from physical size to play style.

Synonyms: nouns: sex.

## **incidence**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The incidence of something is how often it happens.

Examples: (noun) Regular blood pressure checks would reduce the incidence of heart disease and sudden heart attacks. (noun) There is a surprisingly high incidence of theft in book stores.

Synonyms: nouns: frequency.

## **inhibition**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Inhibition is the act of stopping or reducing a process, especially a natural or chemical process. (noun) An inhibition is a feeling that makes you want to avoid (stay away from) something.

Examples: (noun) When there is no sugar, there is inhibition of cell growth. (noun) Some say it is good to ignore our inhibitions and take more risks. (noun) Many of us have inhibitions that make us fear speaking in public.

Synonyms: nouns: shyness, self-consciousness, barrier. blockage, barrier, suppression.

## **instruction**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) instruction is tuition. (noun) An instruction is a command or a step that helps you achieve a goal.

Examples: (noun) The quality of her instruction means that she is very well educated. (noun) They followed instructions from the company to burn the documents that the police were looking for.

Synonyms: nouns: command, demand. guidance, schooling, teaching.

## **lecture**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you lecture someone, you teach them something. (noun) A lecture is a talk about a specific topic. Usually, it is a planned talk and it often lasts a long time.

Examples: (verb) The crowd were lectured on the benefits of drinking water. (noun) There is a lecture on human rights tonight at the university.

Synonyms: nouns: lesson, speech. verbs: teach, address.

## **ministry**

Type: noun

Definitions: A ministry is a government department, such as the ministry of defense.

Examples: The ministry of health needs to build 30 new hospitals to deal with the increase in population.

Synonyms: department

## **nevertheless**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) You use nevertheless to add surprising information or something in contrast to what was already said or written.

Examples: (adverb) The company are seriously over budget. They have nevertheless decided to continue with the project. (adverb) He stopped working as a doctor in 1973.

Nevertheless, he remained active in medical research until his death.

Synonyms: adverbs: nonetheless, however, yet.

## **presumption**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A presumption is a belief that something is true without knowing for sure.

Examples: (noun) Her presumption is that the company will need to cut jobs if it is to survive. (noun) After the news story, the strong presumption of his guilt has changed to a stronger presumption of innocence.

Synonyms: nouns: assumption, belief, hypothesis.

## **reveal**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you reveal something, it was hidden and you show it or make it known.



Examples: (verb) It was revealed yesterday that the president has decided to step down.  
(verb) A new study reveals that car makers have made little or no improvements in fuel economy.

Synonyms: verbs: show, uncover, display.

## **tape**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you tape something, you record it. (noun) Tape is a long thin material, often with glue on one side or used for recording.

Examples: (verb) She was taped saying that she accepted the bribe. (noun) She was on tape saying that she accepted the bribe. (noun) The reporters surrounded the president with their cameras, tape recorders and notebooks.

Synonyms: verbs: record.

## **transport**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you transport something, you carry it from one place to another, usually on a truck, boat, or other large vehicle.

Examples: (verb) One of the most important parts of doing business is transporting your materials from the factory to the shop.

Synonyms: verbs: move, transfer, carry.

## **accurate**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something accurate is correct or exact.

Examples: (adjective) It is important to check whether information you read in newspapers is accurate. (adjective) The essay is accurate when it states that fewer people in the country are in poverty.

Synonyms: adjectives: precise, factual, definite.

## **allocation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Allocation is the act of giving out or sharing something. (noun) An allocation is the amount that is given out or shared.

Examples: (noun) With the new focus on the environment, governments are rethinking their resource allocation plans. (noun) We need to increase the allocation of funds (money) to fix the broken roads.

Synonyms: nouns: distribution, share, ration.

### **author**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you author something, you create a work as its author. (noun) An author is the creator of a work; a writer.

Examples: (verb) When she was young, she authored a book about 21st century morality. (noun) The author of the article believes that we should eat less beef.

Synonyms: nouns: writer, journalist, biographer. verbs: write.

### **capable**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If someone or something is capable of something, they can do it.

Examples: (adjective) Humanity is capable of the most wonderful and terrible things.

(adjective) This system is capable of providing food for about 400 people.

Synonyms: adjectives: able, skilled.

### **discrimination**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Discrimination is the ability to notice differences. (noun) Discrimination is the act of treating someone unfairly just because of their skin colour, religion, sex, etc.

Examples: (noun) If you are colour blind, discrimination between red and green can be difficult. (noun) Even now, there's still too much gender discrimination at the higher levels of big business. Men usually get paid much more.

Synonyms: nouns: bias, bigotry, injustice. judgement, perception.

### **domain**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A domain (name) is a group of internet addresses or URLs that share the same last section. (noun) A domain is a field or area of knowledge or skill, or of where a rule is in force.

Examples: (noun) We own the domain 'ieltstutors.org'. (noun) The copyright is expired and the book is now in the public domain. (noun) The question of whether there is a soul or not is not within the domain of science.

Synonyms: nouns: realm, sphere, territory.

### **estate**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An estate is a large area of land with a large house on it. (noun)

Someone's estate is everything they own, or everything they leave when they die.

Examples: (noun) On the weekend, we went fishing at her country estate. (noun) Because he had no family, he left his estate to the church.

Synonyms: nouns: legacy, inheritance, property. manor.

### **explicit**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is explicit, it is clearly said or shown, not hidden or just suggested.

Examples: (adjective) Sometimes it helps to be more explicit when speaking to children.

(adjective) It is very important that the company write an explicit statement about bonuses in the contract.

Synonyms: adjectives: specific, accurate, certain.

### **flexibility**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If something has flexibility, it is able to bend or change to fit the environment.

Examples: (noun) When practicing yoga, flexibility is very important. (noun) Current technology allows for greater flexibility in how we do our jobs. For example, many of us use the internet to work from home.

Synonyms: nouns: adaptability.

### **ignore**

Type: verb

Definitions: If you ignore someone or something, you don't listen to, look at, or pay attention to them.

Examples: We cannot ignore the damage that plastic is doing to the environment.

Synonyms: avoid, forget, overlook

### **incorporate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) An incorporated company is a corporation. Often written Inc. as part of a company name. (verb) If A incorporates B, B is a part of, or is included in, A.

Examples: (verb) Our company was a partnership for many years, but we incorporated last year. (verb) The new discoveries have been incorporated into the newest edition of the science textbook. (verb) The government should incorporate more sustainable ideas in its energy policy.

Synonyms: verbs: include, combine, absorb.

### **initiative**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An initiative is an effort to start doing something to solve a problem.

(noun) If you have or take the initiative, you are in control and can decide what to do next.

Examples: (noun) The town has no new initiatives to deal with road pollution. (noun) It appears that the army was acting on its own initiative and not on orders from the president. (noun) It's good to see someone take the initiative and start doing something about this problem.

Synonyms: nouns: action, drive ambition.

### **intelligence**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Intelligence is information that a government gets from its spies. (noun) Intelligence is the ability to think clearly and understand easily.

Examples: (noun) US intelligence indicates changes in North Korea's military. (noun) It is difficult to improve intelligence, but spending years in education is the best way. (noun) The school has special classes for student of low intelligence.

Synonyms: nouns: IQ, intellect, wisdom. data, knowledge.

### **migration**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A migration is a large movement, usually of people or animals, to a new living place.

Examples: (noun) Mass migration has increased due to the war. (noun) Every fall, the birds begin their migration from the cold northern areas to the southern regions where they will spend the winter.

Synonyms: nouns: movement, journey.

### **motivation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Someone's motivation is their feeling that they want to do something.

Examples: (noun) There isn't a simple link between pay and employee motivation. (noun) Students' motivation is falling because the lessons are not interesting.  
Synonyms: nouns: ambition, inspiration, desire.

### **overseas**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is overseas, it is in a different country, usually across the ocean.

Examples: (adjective) With the college taking in more overseas students, more attention is being put on language issues. (adjective) After university she went overseas to teach.

Synonyms: adjectives: abroad.

### **rational**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If a person or an argument is rational, it makes sense and is based on good reasons.

Examples: (adjective) Science is more linear, logical and rational than art. (adjective) Use of clean fuels is a healthier and more rational approach to meeting our energy needs.

Synonyms: adjectives: logical, realistic, analytical.

### **scope**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you scope something (out), you look at it carefully. (Usually informal)

(noun) The scope of a book, a law, a duty, etc. is how much it includes or how far it can go.

Examples: (verb) It's important to scope a house out carefully before you rent or buy it.

(noun) This kind of art allows the greatest scope for individual expression. (noun) The small budget has limited the scope of the research.

Synonyms: nouns: range, capacity, sphere.

### **trace**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you trace a line, you draw it. (verb) If you trace something, you follow information to find where it came from or where it went. (noun) A trace is a path that tells you where something came from. (noun) A trace of something is a very small amount, almost too small to find.

Examples: (verb) He traced a line in the sand. (verb) The disease has been traced back to some bad eggs. (verb) The police soon traced the couple's movements and found they had

made a number of telephone calls to Paris. (noun) The detective was able to follow the trace of footprints the thief left behind. (noun) We've found traces of an earlier painting underneath this one.

Synonyms: nouns: element, hint. path. verbs: seek, follow, detect. sketch, copy, outline.

### **underlie**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If A underlies B, A causes B.

Examples: (verb) Poor standards of living often underlie drug use. (verb) Poor education underlies much of our crime and violence.

Synonyms: verbs: govern, determine, cause.

### **acknowledge**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you acknowledge something, you show that you know it is there or that it is true.

Examples: (verb) He left the game in 1984, acknowledged as the best player in the world.

(verb) The government yesterday acknowledged the need for more money.

Synonyms: verbs: recognise, accept, agree.

### **assign**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) To assign is to attribute or sort something into categories. (verb) When you assign a job to someone, you tell them to do it.

Examples: (verb) The rhino has been assigned 'critically endangered' status. (verb) No firm dates can be assigned to this emperor's life. (verb) My old teacher always assigned too much homework.

Synonyms: verbs: appoint, give. attach, designate.

### **bond**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you bond two things, you connect them. (verb) If you bond with someone, you form a special relationship. (noun) A bond is a financial document promising to pay a certain amount of money. These are often bought and sold. (noun) A bond is a connection between two or more things. (noun) A bond is a connection between two people because of love or friendship.

Examples: (verb) The individual carbon atoms in a diamond are bonded together extremely strongly. (verb) Breastfeeding helps the baby bond with its mother. (noun) The new benchmark ten-year government bond yielded 6.3%. (noun) It took her many years to break free of the bond of guilt. (noun) The heat created a bond between the plastic and the metal. (noun) War can often build strong bonds between people who suffered or fought together.

Synonyms: nouns: connection, cord. connection, hold. guarantee, contract. verbs: connect.

## **cite**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you cite people or facts, you write or talk about them to support your point or show where you got your information.

Examples: (verb) Two thirds of the people cited unemployment as the 'main issue' affecting their town.

Synonyms: verbs: reference, quote.

## **display**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you display something, you show it, usually to the public. (noun) A display is a computer screen. (noun) A display is an exhibition, an arrangement, or a show.

Examples: (verb) He displayed a complete lack of patience in the meeting. (verb) The players will display their best skills at tonight's game. (noun) Modern displays have very high resolutions. (noun) The display of Picasso's early work is in the main hall of the gallery.

Synonyms: nouns: act, demonstration, exhibit . monitor, screen. verbs: exhibit, perform, demonstrate.

## **edition**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An edition of a book, computer program, etc. is a copy that has been or will be published with changes or in another form.

Examples: (noun) The new paperback edition of the dictionary is coming out next week.

(noun) It was first published in 1857, with a second slightly amended edition in 1858.

Synonyms: nouns: version, amendment, revision.

## **exceed**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you exceed something, you go beyond (farther than) the limits, beyond the regular level or beyond what is allowed. (verb) If A exceeds B, A is or becomes larger or better than B

Examples: (verb) The amount of carbon dioxide that these cars emit exceeds government limits. (verb) The quality of her essay exceeded my hopes. (verb) The company's 2018 revenue exceeds that of 2017.

Synonyms: verbs: surpass, beat, eclipse. surpass, pass.

## **federal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something that is federal is related to the main country-wide government in a country where there are also state or provincial governments.

Examples: (adjective) While education is a federal issue in countries like Japan, it is more local in countries like Canada or the U.S. (adjective) The federal government has said that it will not increase payments to the provinces.

Synonyms: adjectives: national, domestic.

## **furthermore**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) You use furthermore to add more information to what was already said or written.

Examples: (adverb) Cycling to work is quicker than driving. Furthermore, it's a lot cheaper and is better exercise. (adverb) We believe that the project is possible. Furthermore, we believe that it can be done within a few months.

Synonyms: adverbs: in addition, moreover, additionally.

## **incentive**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An incentive is something that makes you feel like you want to do something.

Examples: (noun) Doctors have a lot of incentive to see many patients and little incentive to spend much time with each one. (noun) The government is cutting taxes to provide incentives for investment.

Synonyms: nouns: encouragement, motivation, reason.

## **index**

Type: verb, noun



Definitions: (verb) If you index something, you make an index for it. (noun) An index shows the level of prices, wages, etc. so you can compare them with those of an earlier date.

(noun) An index is an alphabetical (A to Z) list, usually at the back of a book, where you can find the pages in a book that talk about particular things or words.

Examples: (verb) He indexed the new plant along with the other discoveries he had made on the island. (noun) On Wall Street, the Dow Jones index closed 10 points up at 2,731.23.

(noun) Look in the index to see where the book contains information about artificial intelligence.

Synonyms: verbs: catalogue, arrange, file.

## **input**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you input something (often into a computer) you put it in. (noun) Input is information that is added.

Examples: (verb) If the text has been correctly input to the computer, there should be no problems. (noun) It is important to avoid errors during data input. (noun) Teachers should welcome input about lesson material from their students.

Synonyms: nouns: comment, opinion.

## **interval**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) In music, an interval is the difference in pitch between two notes. (noun) An interval is a distance in space or in time (often as a break or period of rest).

Examples: (noun) On a guitar, each interval is separated by a fret. (noun) There is a ten-minute interval between classes.

Synonyms: nouns: gap, pause, intermission.

## **minimum**

Type: adjective, noun

Definitions: (adjective) If something is minimum, it is the lowest number, size, amount, etc. that exists, that is allowed, or that is possible. (noun) The minimum is the lowest number, size, amount, etc. that exists, that is allowed, or that is possible.

Examples: (adjective) Recycling your waste only requires minimum effort. (noun) A minimum of three workers is needed to do the job.

Synonyms: nouns: lowest (amount). adjectives: least, lowest, minimal.

## **neutral**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If you are neutral, you treat both sides equally.

Examples: (adjective) The referees in international matches are from neutral countries.

(adjective) A judge in a trial must be neutral.

Synonyms: adjectives: unbiased, fair.

### **precede**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) To precede is to come before

Examples: (verb) These yoga exercises should be preceded by taking a deep breath. (verb)

A precedes B in the alphabet.

Synonyms: verbs: predate, go ahead of.

### **recovery**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A recovery is the process of getting something back after it was lost or

taken. (noun) A recovery is the process of getting better after an illness or a problem.

Examples: (noun) They hired a lawyer to help with the recovery of the money. (noun) The

budget is critical to the country's hopes for economic recovery. (noun) Since the power plant was shut down, the nearby forest has made a good recovery.

Synonyms: nouns: comeback, improvement. rescue, restoration.

### **subsidiary**

Type: adjective, noun

Definitions: (adjective) If something is subsidiary, it is connected, but lower in importance, rank, or level, etc. (noun) A subsidiary is a company that is owned by a larger company.

Examples: (adjective) At some point work became subsidiary to music for her. (adjective)

Surprisingly, the subsidiary company became more successful than the parent company.

(noun) This company owns a subsidiary that make different kinds of computer software.

Synonyms: nouns: subordinate, minor. adjectives: subordinate, minor, secondary.

### **transformation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A transformation is a change in the form or shape, often into something completely different.

Examples: (noun) The government has put over one billion dollars into the transformation of the city centre. (noun) She seems to have undergone a total physical transformation – her hair is cut short and she is over 20kg lighter.

Synonyms: nouns: change, conversion.

### **utility**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Something's utility is how useful it is. (noun) A utility is a basic service that come to your house, such as electricity, internet and water.

Examples: (noun) The design was to maximise the utility of the computer as a whole. (noun) Because the government is raising prices, many people will see their electricity utility bill increase.

Synonyms: nouns: service. usefulness.

### **adaptation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An adaptation is a change to fit a different situation or the result of that change, especially when a story goes from book to TV or movie.

Examples: (noun) Over millions of years, there is constant adaptation of animals to fit the changing environment. (noun) He is disabled and requires special adaptations to his home to allow for wheelchair access. (noun) The new film adaptation of the classic book 'The Jungle Book' is very popular.

Synonyms: nouns: adjustment, transformation, modification.

### **aid**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you aid someone, you help them. (noun) An aid is a person or thing that helps you do an activity. (noun) Aid is the help that is given to people, usually by a government or institution.

Examples: (verb) Don't be afraid to ask someone for aid if you are stuck on a question. (noun) If you are blind, you can use a number of aids, such as a cane, a dog, and a talking computer, that make life easier. (noun) The president's aid spoke to the newspapers today. (noun) After the flood the UN sent \$500 million of aid in the form of food, water, tents, and medical supplies.

Synonyms: nouns: help, support, assistance. verbs: help, support, assist.

### **classical**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Classical ideas or styles are those that were very common at a time in the past and sometimes continue into the present.

Examples: (adjective) Classical music is very popular, even though some of it is over 500 years old. (adjective) Classical theories in physics can't explain certain observations, which has led scientists to come up with new theories.

Synonyms: adjectives: classic, historic.

### **confirm**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) To confirm is to make sure that something is correct.

Examples: (verb) Doctors haven't confirmed the cause of death yet. (verb) The results of the study confirm previous research on the topic.

Synonyms: verbs: prove, certify, verify.

### **couple**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you couple two things, you join them together. (noun) A couple is two people that are in a relationship. (noun) A couple is two things that go together.

Examples: (verb) The wheel is coupled to the bike with an oiled screw. (noun) Couples are often healthier than single people, though they tend to put on more weight. (noun) There were a couple of students in the room, waiting to talk to their teacher.

Synonyms: nouns: set, duo, team. duo. verbs: connect, link.

### **deny**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you deny somebody something, you stop them from having or doing it. (verb) If you deny something, you say it didn't happen or isn't true.

Examples: (verb) You shouldn't deny yourself rest if you have worked all day without a break. (verb) There can be no denying that the cobra is an extremely dangerous animal. (verb) We should not deny the damage that smoking does to our health.

Synonyms: verbs: disagree, contradict, reject. refuse, withhold.

### **dynamic**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) The dynamics of a situation or group are the ways in which it can change itself. (adjective) If someone is dynamic, they take charge and get things done; they have a lot of energy. (adjective) If something is dynamic, it is changing, usually quickly.  
Examples: (noun) The ability for people to give feedback to the government is an important dynamic in a democracy. (noun) The dynamics of the doctor-patient relationship are complicated because health is an important topic. (adjective) Picasso obviously had a more forceful and dynamic personality than Braque. (adjective) He was a good worker, but often unnoticed because of his more dynamic coworkers. (adjective) The city centre is very dynamic. There is always something new and interesting happening there. (adjective) Communication is a dynamic process in which the changing situation affects what you say and how you say it.  
Synonyms: adjectives: active, changing, energetic. active, energetic.

## **equipment**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Your equipment is the collection of things that you use to do a job or sport.

Examples: (noun) The soldiers had to carry all their equipment on their backs. (noun) The computer equipment was old and often broke down.

Synonyms: nouns: gear, accessories, apparatus.

## **finite**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A finite clause is one that has a verb in present or past tense or is imperative or subjunctive. (adjective) If something is finite, it has a limit. It doesn't keep going forever.

Examples: (adjective) In the sentence "I want to go to the store", "I want" is a finite verb clause but "to go to the store" is not, because it doesn't say who is doing it: it is not limited to one subject. (adjective) Main clauses are always finite, but subordinate clauses can be finite or non-finite. (adjective) There is a finite amount of energy in the universe. (adjective) This problem has a finite number of correct answers.

Synonyms: adjectives: restricted, definite, limited.

## **grade**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you grade something, you judge how good it is. (noun) A grade is the school year. (noun) A grade is a letter or number that you use to show how good something is. Usually, teachers use it to show how good a student's test or assignment is.

Examples: (verb) After the final exam, the teacher's job was to grade all the papers. (noun) Most Canadian children start grade one when they are six years old and finish grade 12 when they are 18. (noun) This restaurant uses only the highest grade of meat. (noun) He got 97% on his test. It was the top grade in the class.

Synonyms: nouns: category, class, level. verbs: evaluate, rank, classify.

## **identical**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If two or more things are identical, they are exactly the same.

Examples: (adjective) The problems that we face today are in many ways identical to the ones our parents faced when they were young. (adjective) The teachers teach from identical textbooks, but the ways they teach are quite different.

Synonyms: adjectives: equal, exact, alike.

## **innovation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An innovation is something new and original. (noun) Innovation is the process of making something new and original.

Examples: (noun) The number of technical innovations is growing at a faster and faster rate. (noun) Amazon has become one of the biggest companies by coming up with new innovations. (noun) It is important that schools spend more time encouraging innovation.

Synonyms: nouns: creativity, change. modification, addition.

## **isolate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you isolate something, you make it so that it does not or cannot contact certain other things.

Examples: (verb) Britain is isolated from the rest of Europe by the English Channel. (verb) The prisoner was isolated to protect him from attack.

Synonyms: verbs: cut off, confine, remove.

## **paradigm**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A paradigm is an example, model or pattern, especially the most basic or central one. (noun) A paradigm is a system of beliefs, ideas, values, and habits that is a way of thinking about the real world.

Examples: (noun) For fifteen centuries Aristotle remained the paradigm of knowledge itself.

(noun) At the time, this way of thinking was the dominant paradigm for social scientists.

Synonyms: nouns: archetype, model.

## **prohibit**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If something is prohibited, it cannot be done.

Examples: (verb) The use of a password prohibits access to outsiders. (verb) Company policy is to prohibit dogs from entering the store. (verb) The laws were changed to prohibit the use of certain drugs.

Synonyms: verbs: ban, stop, block.

## **release**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A release is something that is let go. (noun) A release is a version of something that is put up for sale or that the public can use. (verb) A company releases something when they let the public start using it. (verb) Someone releases something when they put it out into the world (discharge it). (verb) If someone releases something, they let go of it; they stop holding it and set it free (let it be free).

Examples: (noun) There was a release of young dolphins into the wild this morning. (noun) The film is a brand new release. (verb) They released the new smart phone later than they wanted to. (verb) They released thousands of gallons of polluted water into the river each month. (verb) He was released after two years in prison.

Synonyms: verbs: let go, let out, free. discharge. produce, publish. nouns: product, publication. freeing, liberation.

## **solely**

Type: adverb

Definitions: You use solely to show that somebody or something is the only one.

Examples: It is not good for a country to rely solely on one energy source.

Synonyms: only, alone, exclusively

## **successive**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Successive things follow in order, one after another.

Examples: (adjective) He won the tennis championship in four successive years (2013-2016).

(adjective) Successive governments have refused to make the changes.

Synonyms: adjectives: consecutive, subsequent, following.

## **topic**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A topic is a general idea that someone is speaking (reading, thinking, etc.) about at a specific time.

Examples: (noun) When you're writing an essay, it's important to stay on topic, and not start talking about other things. (noun) The library has books on a wide range of topics.

Synonyms: nouns: theme, subject.

## **unique**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is unique, it is rare, unusual or one of a kind.

Examples: (adjective) Living abroad can lead to unique and important experiences.

(adjective) When the school for the deaf opened, it was unique in Europe.

Synonyms: adjectives: rare, uncommon, special.

## **adult**

Type: noun

Definitions: An adult is a person who is mature (usually age 18 or above).

Examples: At age 18 years, children become adults, allowing them to move out without their parents' consent.

Synonyms: grownup, man, woman

## **channel**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you channel something, you control its movement (typically for liquids).

(noun) A channel is a path that carries or directs flow or movement, especially of TV & radio signals and water.

Examples: (verb) Firefighters channeled the lava away from the house. (noun) The English Channel is between France and England. (noun) He only watches two television news channels.

Synonyms: nouns: pathway, route, tunnel. verbs: direct, guide, carry.



**comprehensive**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is comprehensive, it includes everything that is related.

Examples: (adjective) The syllabus is very comprehensive; it covers everything that a first year student needs to know about African history. (adjective) The essay includes a comprehensive list of problems affecting the environment.

Synonyms: adjectives: complete, thorough.

**contrary**

Type: preposition, adjective, noun

Definitions: (preposition) If an act or idea is contrary to something, it is against it. (adjective)

A contrary view, sentence, etc. is opposite to other ones. (noun) The contrary is the opposite of an idea, sentence, etc.

Examples: (preposition) The president's actions are contrary to the constitution and therefore illegal. (preposition) Contrary to popular belief, Eskimos don't have a huge number of words for 'snow'. (adjective) The contrary view is that space exploration is a waste of money. (noun) Having an ego is not necessarily bad; on the contrary, it is sometimes quite useful. (noun) It is best to believe people are good, at least until the contrary is shown.

Synonyms: nouns: opposite, inverse. adjectives: opposite, reverse, contradictory.

prepositions: opposite.

**decade**

Type: noun

Definitions: A decade is a period of 10 years.

Examples: The 1960s was a decade of great change in North America.

Synonyms:

**differentiation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Differentiation is the process of becoming or making something different. (noun) Differentiation is the process of finding or showing the differences between things.

Examples: (noun) As the cells grow and divide, differentiation takes place. You can begin to see some as muscle cells, some as blood cells, etc. (noun) There should be no differentiation between the way people of different races are treated.

Synonyms: nouns: contrast, distinction.

**eliminate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you eliminate something, you make it go away or disappear, or you kill it.

Examples: (verb) Canada was eliminated in the first round of the world cup. (verb) The recent fixes have eliminated the problems we were having.

Synonyms: verbs: remove, exclude, defeat.

**extract**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you extract something, you take it out of something else. (noun) An extract is something that has been taken out of something else, usually something that it was part of.

Examples: (verb) The roots of the plant extract water from the earth. (verb) Computers are becoming more useful in helping us extract useful information from the data. (noun) The article contains a short extract from his long speech. (noun) Just because a cream contains plant extracts doesn't mean it's good for your skin.

Synonyms: verbs: take, obtain, remove.

**foundation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The foundation of a group, business, country, etc. is the act of starting it. (noun) A foundation is an organisation that collects money to do good things. (noun) The foundation of a building is the solid base that is under it and that supports it. (noun) The foundation of something is the basic ideas or work behind it.

Examples: (noun) The company has double in size every year since its foundation. (noun) The Open Software Foundation has opened up laboratories to test software. (noun) They dug solid foundations, spending a lot of time pouring concrete into four pits. (noun) Her education gave her a solid foundation in all the major subjects. (noun) These early inventions laid the foundations of modern radio technology.

Synonyms: nouns: base, groundwork, support. charity, institute. beginning, creation.

**guarantee**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you guarantee something, you make a formal promise that something will happen or be done. (noun) A guarantee is a formal promise that something will happen or be done.

Examples: (verb) The government couldn't guarantee that there would be enough housing for the immigrants. (verb) The European Convention on Human Rights, guarantees the right to give and receive information. (noun) The plan only operates for five years, with no guarantee of continuation. (noun) Constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech are common in democracies.

Synonyms: nouns: warranty, assurance, contract. verbs: ensure, promise.

## **ideology**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An ideology is the set of beliefs behind a movement, religion, political group, etc.

Examples: (noun) For many years the ideology of the Catholic church had a damaging effect on science. (noun) School lessons reflect clearly the dominant political ideology of their countries.

Synonyms: nouns: beliefs, philosophy, outlook.

## **insert**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) To insert is to put something into something else.

Examples: (verb) When writing, make sure you insert an example to support your argument. (verb) Doctors removed part of his brain and inserted a silver plate.

Synonyms: verbs: put, include, add.

## **media**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Media is plural of medium. A medium is a way of communicating information or art. (noun) The media are the news sources and the people behind them.

Examples: (noun) Companies use music, pictures and other media to sell their products. (noun) The country's media often ignores international news. (noun) The media have been too accepting of the government's arguments.

Synonyms: nouns: news, publishing, communications.

## **phenomenon**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A phenomenon is a fact or event that you can observe (see or hear or sense), especially one that is not fully understood.

Examples: (noun) People have little trust for politicians, but this is not a new phenomenon.  
(noun) Lightning is still not a very well understood phenomenon.  
Synonyms: nouns: wonder, event.

## **publication**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A publication is a book, magazine, paper, song, etc. that has been or will be published. (noun) Publication is the act of making a book or other thing publicly known or available where the public can use it.

Examples: (noun) Women's Strategies from Around the World, is a new publication from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). (noun) This letter is personal and not for publication. (noun) The Report itself and the debate that followed its publication have been useful.

Synonyms: nouns: publishing, broadcasting. book, issue, version.

## **reverse**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) The reverse of something is its opposite. (verb) If you reverse something, you make it act or move in the opposite direction.

Examples: (noun) Many people believe that scientists are often arrogant, but more often the reverse is true. Scientists need to be humble to do their jobs well. (verb) There were many new jobs in the early 90s, but then the cycle was completely reversed, and thousands of people were out of work. (verb) The new president reversed the decision to expand the factory.

Synonyms: verbs: backtrack, retreat. nouns: opposite, inverse, contrary.

## **somewhat**

Type: adverb

Definitions: Somewhat means 'a little', or 'not very'.

Examples: What happens in the classroom can be somewhat different from the lesson plan.

Synonyms: a little, slightly

## **survive**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you survive something, you experience it and you did not die.

Examples: (verb) Some plants can survive the cold arctic winters. (verb) They survived the war but died two years later.

Synonyms: verbs: get through, handle, last.

### **transmission**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Transmission is the sending of something from one place to another, usually something like electricity, a message or a disease.

Examples: (noun) The new communication lines and will be able to support data transmission at speeds four times faster than today. (noun) Washing hands before touching food can prevent the transmission of disease in food and drink.

Synonyms: nouns: communication, broadcast, carrying.

### **visible**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is visible, it can be seen.

Examples: (adjective) This country has an active and highly visible environmental movement. (adjective) Many stars that are not visible in the city are still visible from the countryside.

Synonyms: adjectives: clear, noticeable, obvious.

### **advocate**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you advocate something, you recommend it. (noun) An advocate is someone who recommends something.

Examples: (verb) Many groups advocate the rights of women in developing countries to have an education. (verb) We wish for freedom, but cannot advocate the use of violence. (noun) She is a strong advocate for children's right to education.

Synonyms: nouns: supporter, campaigner, defender. verbs: support, campaign for, defend.

### **chemical**

Type: noun

Definitions: A chemical is a basic substance that is used in or produced by mixing elements or other chemicals.

Examples: When you burn plastics, you put dangerous chemicals into the air.

Synonyms:

**comprise**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If A comprises B, B is part of A

Examples: (verb) The school now comprises 15 classrooms. (verb) China comprises over 1 billion people.

Synonyms: verbs: consist (of), include, contain.

**convert**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A convert is a person who changed their beliefs or religion. (verb) If you convert something, you change it so that it has a different function or form.

Examples: (noun) And we must not discount those who became converts to the new religion. (noun) More and more people are converting to agnosticism – the opinion that we don't have the answers. (verb) The electric engine is extremely efficient at converting electrical energy into movement. (verb) They wanted to convert the room into a study.

Synonyms: verbs: change, adapt, modify. nouns: follower, disciple.

**definite**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Someone is definite if they are sure. They have no doubt about what they're saying.

Examples: (adjective) She was definite that she heard something in the room.

Synonyms: adjectives: clear, exact, sure.

**disposal**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If you have something at your disposal, it is available for you to use.

(noun) Disposal is the act of getting rid of or throwing out something.

Examples: (noun) As it is a rich country, the government has a lot of money at its disposal.

(noun) After a strange package was found, bomb disposal workers were called in. (noun)

There is no long-term plan for nuclear waste disposal.

Synonyms: nouns: removal, clearance.

**empirical**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is empirical, it is based on or can be checked by observation or experience.

Examples: (adjective) There is little empirical evidence that ghosts exist. (adjective) Simply because there is no empirical evidence to support this does not mean it's wrong. It simply means we haven't looked hard enough.

Synonyms: adjectives: practical, factual, observational.

## **file**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you file something, you rub it with a file to make it smooth. (verb) If people file somewhere, they go there in a line. (verb) If you file a complaint, you make an official complaint. (verb) If you file papers or documents, you put them away in an organised way in one place. (noun) A file is a tool with rough sides that you rub against something to make it smooth. (noun) A file is a line of people. (noun) A file is a set of information that can be opened, changed, and saved by a computer program. (noun) A file is a set of papers or records on a specific issue, person, etc.

Examples: (verb) She went to the store for a manicure, to file and polish her nails. (verb) Before the film started, people filed into the cinema. (verb) People are beginning to file complaints about the air quality in the towns where they live. (verb) You should file important documents that the bank sends you. (noun) He used a file to take the sharp edges off the table. (noun) It is polite to make a file as you wait to into the cinema. (noun) Some files cannot be easily shared between Apple and Microsoft computers. (noun) The police already had a detailed file on the suspect.

Synonyms: nouns: directory, folder. data. line, queue. verbs: catalogue, arrange. register, enter. rub down, grind.

## **global**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is global it includes the whole world.

Examples: (adjective) The Olympics and the Soccer World Cup are the two largest global sporting events. (adjective) The weather is changing, and this is not just in one or two places. The change is global.

Synonyms: adjectives: worldwide, universal.

## **hierarchical**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is hierarchical, it has levels, with higher levels being larger, more important, more powerful, etc.

Examples: (adjective) The society was rigidly hierarchical with priests, nobles and slaves, and a highly organised army. (adjective) The rules show the hierarchical structure of the company, with the owners and managers at the top.

Synonyms: adjectives: ranked, ordered.

## **infer**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you infer something, you understand it based on information that is indirect or suggested.

Examples: (verb) From the fingerprints, the police inferred that three people broke into the house. (verb) We can infer from the ancient bones that this animal probably walked on two legs.

Synonyms: verbs: figure out, determine, conclude.

## **intervention**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Intervention is the act of making a change in the way events are happening.

Examples: (noun) Intervention is needed before the two dogs begin to fight. (noun) The government was criticized for its intervention in the war overseas.

Synonyms: nouns: interference, interruption.

## **mode**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A mode is a specific way of doing something.

Examples: (noun) A modern city offers many different modes of transport from bicycle lanes to high speed trains. (noun) The study combines two different research modes: oral history and written history.

Synonyms: nouns: way, method, technique.

## **priority**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If something has or is given priority, it should go before other things.

(noun) A priority is something that is important; you want to do it first or spend more time or money on it than other things.

Examples: (noun) Some say that teachers need to give priority to science over less important subjects. (noun) The Government needs to give a higher priority to the quality of



life of its citizens. (noun) Learning the language is a high priority for all people who move to the country.

Synonyms: nouns: preference, first concern.

### **quotation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A quotation is a report of the cost or value of something. (noun) A quotation is a sentence or phrase that was said by someone and is now being used or referred to by somebody else. Quotations can be from books, movies, speeches, television shows, songs, etc.

Examples: (noun) The quotation for the work needed to repair the car was over \$300.

(noun) Consider the following quotation from Gandhi: 'You must be the change you wish to see in the world.' (noun) This chapter began with a quotation from Monica Furlong.

Synonyms: nouns: quote, citation, excerpt. estimate, price.

### **simulation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A simulation of an event or thing is a model – an artificial (man-made) copy

Examples: (noun) Doctors sometimes learn surgery in a simulation of a real operation.

(noun) Before the scientists landed the pod on the moon, they made a simulation so they would know if it would be successful.

Synonyms: nouns: imitation, copy, reproduction.

### **submit**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you submit to some authority, you accept that they have power over you. (verb) If you submit something, usually a piece of writing, you give it to somebody to be checked or accepted.

Examples: (verb) The government refused to submit to the threat of violence from the terrorists. (verb) Students will submit their application with examples of work already done by March 31. (verb) They submitted their final report together with recommendations to the president.

Synonyms: verbs: present, offer. defer, surrender.

### **thesis**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A thesis is a main idea or argument that is developed or explained.

(noun) A thesis is a long paper that university students at the masters or doctoral level write.

Examples: (noun) His thesis is about where human morality comes from. (noun) She's writing her thesis on the effects of TV on children. (noun) I finished my coursework and have been working on my thesis for about a year now.

Synonyms: nouns: dissertation, belief, hypothesis, theory.

### **ultimately**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) Ultimately indicates the end; when nothing else is left

Examples: (adverb) Ultimately, what you do is your decision alone. (adverb) The events of 1962 ultimately lead to the end of his government.

Synonyms: adverbs: eventually, finally.

### **voluntary**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Voluntary work is work without payment. (adjective) Something that somebody does is voluntary if the person is doing it because they want to do it, not because someone orders them to do it.

Examples: (adjective) Many people do voluntary work to help the homeless in the city.

(adjective) In some countries, children aren't forced to go to school, it is voluntary.

Synonyms: adjectives: optional, free, independent. free.

### **abandon**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you abandon something, you go away from it with no plan to return.

Examples: (verb) Many teens abandon chances of a successful future when they drop out of school. (verb) The government abandons after-school programs when money is tight.

Synonyms: verbs: leave (behind), discard, reject.

### **ambiguous**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is ambiguous, it has more than one possible meaning, state, or explanation.

Examples: (adjective) The result of increasing taxes is ambiguous. (adjective) Don't use ambiguous words if it makes the meaning harder to understand.

Synonyms: adjectives: unclear, vague, questionable.

### **arbitrary**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If a rule, decision, or act is arbitrary, there is no logical reason for it.

Examples: (adjective) The reason he travelled to Nepal wasn't arbitrary. He wanted to see Mt Everest. (adjective) You are protected from arbitrary arrest by police.

Synonyms: adjectives: irrational, random.

### **chart**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you "chart a course" you find out how to get somewhere. (verb) If you chart something, you record it in a chart. (noun) A chart is information that is organised in rows and columns or as a picture.

Examples: (verb) The Vikings charted a course across the northern seas. (verb) The organisation charted the different insect species in the area. (noun) The pie chart illustrates the proportion of people in the country who frequently use social media. (noun) You can write your weight in a diary or on a chart. (noun) This week's bar chart shows the correct figures.

Synonyms: nouns: graph, map, plan. verbs: record, outline. plan.

### **complement**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A complement is something that positively supports something else.

(verb) To complement means to add in a positive way.

Examples: (noun) With his skills, he will be a good complement to our team. (verb) His skills will really complement the team. (verb) The flavors of the pepper and garlic complement each other.

Synonyms: verbs: complete, support. nouns: companion, counterpart.

### **contradiction**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A contradiction is information that disagrees with previously given information.

Examples: (noun) The religious text contains many contradictions. (noun) He says that he was not there that night: that was a contradiction of his previous statement.

Synonyms: nouns: difference, disagreement, inconsistency.

### **denote**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If A denotes B, A is a sign/symbol of B.

Examples: (verb) The end of this sentence is denoted by a full stop. (verb) The term "sales mix" is used to denote the percentage of total sales of each product.

Synonyms: verbs: stand for, mean.

### **displacement**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Displacement is when something is made to move out of its place.

Examples: (noun) The displacement of folk music by western pop music has happened in many countries. (noun) the war has caused the displacement of tens of thousands of people.

Synonyms: nouns: relocation, movement.

### **exhibit**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) An exhibit is something that is shown to others. (verb) You exhibit something when you show it to others.

Examples: (noun) There is a new exhibit at the museum on Chinese history. (verb) As the animal grew older it began to exhibit greater intelligence. (verb) He exhibited the new product to the audience.

Synonyms: verbs: display, show, express. nouns: display, show, model.

### **guideline**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A guideline helps you know where to go or how to do something. (noun) A guideline is a formal suggestion about how something should be done, but it is not a rule.

Examples: (noun) Follow the guidelines to complete the drawing. (noun) New drivers should always try to follow the basic safety guidelines. (noun) The general guidelines for healthy eating usually always stay the same.

Synonyms: nouns: direction, guidance, instruction. direction, guide, marker.

**induce**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you induce something, you make it happen.

Examples: (verb) He was given a drug which would normally induce sleep, but it had no effect on him. (verb) Soft lighting is often used for in restaurants to induce a feeling of relaxation.

Synonyms: verbs: cause, result in, lead to.

**inspection**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) An inspection is a careful look at something, usually for problems.

Examples: (noun) An inspection of the prison is planned for next week. (noun) Before a flight, pilots and mechanics must do a complete inspection of the airplane.

Synonyms: nouns: examination, check, investigation.

**minimise**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you minimise something, you make it as small as possible.

Examples: (verb) We are trying to minimise pollution by using bikes instead of our car. (verb) We should take all steps to minimise the risk of disease.

Synonyms: verbs: decrease, reduce.

**paragraph**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you paragraph something, you break it into paragraphs. (noun) A paragraph is one or more sentences that are written together with no line breaks separating them. Usually they are connected by a single idea.

Examples: (verb) Essays should always be paragraphed to make them easier to read. (noun) A paragraph usually begins with a topic sentence that introduces the paragraph's topic. (noun) The crash was reported in a single paragraph in the Edinburgh Evening News.

Synonyms:

**predominantly**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) predominantly means 'mostly'.

Examples: (adverb) People that support football clubs are predominantly males. (adverb) Her work during this period was predominantly about helping children learning to read.

Synonyms: adverbs: mostly, mainly, largely.

### **random**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If a process is random, every option has an equal chance of happening. (adjective) If something is random, there is no purpose, reason, or pattern.

Examples: (adjective) Banks use random numbers to make codes to keep your computer banking safe and secret. (adjective) If you type random letters, after a billion years you might accidentally write a beautiful story. (adjective) The selection of people for our study was a random process.

Synonyms: adjectives: chance, irregular, arbitrary.

### **revision**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) In the UK, revision is the process of studying something again. (noun) A revision is a piece of writing or plan that has changed or will change. (noun) A revision is a change or edit a to language, a plan, etc.

Examples: (noun) Students often wait until the last minute before doing revision for a test. This is a bad idea. (noun) I need to do more revision for the test. (noun) The software includes the latest revisions, as required by law. (noun) This book needs a lot of revision before it can be published.

Synonyms: nouns: change, rewriting, alteration. review, homework.

### **termination**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Termination is the act of killing something. (noun) Termination is the act of ending something.

Examples: (noun) The country still suffers after the earthquake caused the termination of 300 lives. (noun) Three years after the termination of war in 1945, France was fighting another war in Indo-China. (noun) The company will continue to do business in Asia after termination of the Japan program.

Synonyms: nouns: end, close, expiry.

### **uniform**

Type: adjective, noun

Definitions: (adjective) If something is uniform, there is no variation/change in it. (adjective) If something is uniform, there is no variation in it. (noun) A uniform is clothing that is very similar and worn by a group of people.

Examples: (adjective) There is an almost uniform distribution of galaxies in our area of the universe. (adjective) The increase in grades has been uniform across all subjects except math. (noun) School uniforms are almost always worn in UK schools. (noun) All the young army cadets wore identical uniforms and badges of rank.

Synonyms: nouns: outfit, costume. adjectives: consistent, orderly, constant.

### **virtually**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) Virtually means 'almost but not completely'.

Examples: (adverb) Car theft became so common that private cars virtually disappeared from the area. (adverb) Once you see this film, it is virtually impossible to forget.

Synonyms: adverbs: basically, essentially, nearly.

### **accompany**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If we see one thing accompany something else, it comes or goes with it, or they happen/move together. (verb) If we see one thing accompany something else, they happen/move together.

Examples: (verb) The text accompanying the illustrations is brief but helpful. (verb) An adult must accompany children under 12.

Synonyms: verbs: guide, follow, support.

### **appendix**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Your appendix is a small part of your body that is attached to your large intestine. (noun) An appendix is a part at the back of a book that has extra information.

Examples: (noun) It used to be common for children to die from a burst appendix. (noun) An appendix lists all 221 equations used by the program. (noun) See Appendix B for a list of irregular verbs.

Synonyms: nouns: postscript, addendum.

### **automatically**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) If something happens automatically, it happens without the need for a person to start it or do anything more. (adverb) If something happens automatically, it happens without the need for a person to start it or think about it.

Examples: (adverb) If a man and woman spend time together, you shouldn't automatically assume they're lovers. (adverb) Babies are born automatically able to smile. (adverb) The door closed and locked automatically behind him.

Synonyms: adverbs: spontaneously, naturally.

### **clarity**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Clarity is the quality of being clear.

Examples: (noun) People often dream, with great clarity, of loved ones that they have lost.

(noun) Lack of clarity in the teacher's instructions will cause confusion among the students.

Synonyms: nouns: transparency, certainty, accuracy.

### **conformity**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Conformity is the state of being or becoming similar to other members of a group.

Examples: (noun) The army is there to ensure conformity with the UN resolutions. (noun)

Often the teaching of writing is really the teaching of social conformity: students must write like everyone else. (noun) In high school, students who do not exhibit a high degree of conformity are often not accepted by other students.

Synonyms: nouns: obedience, agreement.

### **crucial**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) When something is crucial, it is very important. It will make a big difference. You cannot succeed without it.

Examples: (adjective) It was a crucial time in the battle when the king dropped his sword.

(adjective) To write a great book, it's crucial to have the person in the book change and develop.

Synonyms: adjectives: central, important, necessary.

### **detect**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you detect something, you use your senses to find or notice it.



Examples: (verb) The chemical has been detected in lakes and rivers, in fish and birds, and in human breast milk. (verb) These animals have a smell that even a human nose can easily detect. (verb) Some insects can detect changes in temperature as small as 0.003 degrees Celsius.

Synonyms: verbs: discover, catch, identify.

### **dramatic**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is dramatic, it is connected with acting and theatre.

(adjective) If something is dramatic, it is large, quick or emotional.

Examples: (adjective) He studied dramatic arts in university. (adjective) In a highly dramatic speech, he brought everyone to support him. (adjective) After the new teacher came, there was a dramatic increase in the test results. (adjective) The increase in foreign students has meant a dramatic change in the number of schools.

Synonyms: adjectives: sudden, breathtaking, powerful.

### **exploitation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Exploitation is the use or treatment of someone or something unfairly, often for profit.

Examples: (noun) Today, most countries have laws against the exploitation of children in factories. (noun) The commercial exploitation of Alaska for oil could lead to serious environmental problems.

Synonyms: nouns: profiteering, using.

### **highlight**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A highlight is a light-coloured area. (noun) A highlight is a particularly good part. (verb) If you highlight something, you make it more noticeable or obvious.

Examples: (noun) She put highlights on her lecture notes to make them easier to read.

(noun) The speech about the future of education was a real highlight for me. (verb)

Remember to highlight your lecture notes to make them easier to read. (verb) It is important to highlight the amount of corruption in the government.

Synonyms: verbs: make clear. nouns: focus, feature, climax.

### **inevitably**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) Something that happens inevitably is something that is sure to happen.

Examples: (adverb) If you practice less, you will inevitably improve at a slower speed.

(adverb) A drop in the number of workers in a country almost inevitably leads to higher wages.

Synonyms: adverbs: surely, unavoidably, necessarily.

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## **nuclear**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is nuclear, it is small and important. (adjective) Nuclear weapons, power, waste, etc. is produced by the collision of more than one nucleus, the central part of an atom.

Examples: (adjective) Most Canadians live in a nuclear family: the husband, wife, and children. (adjective) The US has more nuclear weapons than any other country. Many of them are called atomic bombs. (adjective) In 2010, Japan relied mainly on nuclear power (atomic energy) generation for its energy needs.

Synonyms: central, basic, fundamental.

## **plus**

Type: noun, preposition

Definitions: (noun) A plus is a plus sign: + (noun) A plus is a good thing. (preposition) You use plus after a number to mean “more than” or “over”. (preposition) You use plus when you add numbers or things.

Examples: (noun) You don't have to write the plus in front of positive numbers, but always write the minus in front of negative numbers. (noun) On the plus side, the internet allows us to access almost all of human knowledge. (preposition) The small country has a population of 3 million plus. (preposition) The margin of error is plus or minus one per cent. (preposition) The farm has over 5,000 horses, plus a few cats and dogs.

Synonyms: prepositions: and, extra. nouns: advantage, benefit, bonus.

### **prospect**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you prospect for something valuable, such as gold or oil, you search an area for it. (noun) A prospect is somebody that people think will do well in the future.

(noun) Your prospects are your chances of moving forward in your job or in your life.

(noun) A prospect is what you think will happen in the future.

Examples: (verb) There were many companies prospecting for gold in the early eighties in this country. (noun) At only 17, she is one of India's best badminton prospects. (noun)

People's prospects improved after the end of the war. (noun) Immigrants face the prospect of having to accept unskilled jobs at lower wages. (noun) There's a good prospect of this building being converted into a school.

Synonyms: nouns: expectation, chance, possibility. future, hope. talent. verbs: dig, explore, search.

### **reinforce**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you reinforce something, you make it stronger.

Examples: (verb) Reinforce your arguments with examples and explanations. (verb) The steel is used to reinforce the building's walls.

Synonyms: verbs: strengthen, support.

### **schedule**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you schedule something, you make a plan for when and where it will happen. (noun) A schedule is a plan of things that are happening and the times when they happen.

Examples: (verb) The party was originally scheduled for June 5th. (noun) His doctors told him to cut down on his work schedule. (noun) The meeting was running 10 minutes ahead of schedule.

Synonyms: nouns: plan, timetable, calendar. verbs: arrange, plan, organise.

### **theme**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A theme is a general idea that runs through a conversation, story, group of images, piece of music, etc.

Examples: (noun) Your essay should stick to the theme of the essay task topic. (noun) The American novel focusses on themes of male companionship and confrontation with death.  
Synonyms: nouns: idea, subject, topic.

### **vehicle**

Type: noun

Definitions: A vehicle is something that moves people or things from one place to another, for example: cars, planes, boats, etc.

Examples: Bicycles and wheelchairs are allowed. All other vehicles must stay off the path.

Synonyms: automobile, transport

### **visual**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A visual is something you can see, usually in a special or artistic form.

(adjective) Visual things are those related to sight and seeing.

Examples: (noun) Because he hadn't slept for 4 days, he began having visuals; seeing things that weren't there. (noun) The film's visuals were incredible. (adjective) The visual part of the play was beautiful, but the voices were too quiet.

Synonyms: adjectives: observable. nouns: image, hallucination .

### **accumulation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Accumulation is the process of bringing things together. (noun) An accumulation of something is a number or amount of it that has come together over time.

Examples: (noun) The process of salt accumulation in the soil speeds up under poor watering conditions. (noun) Private investment helped to boost capital accumulation.

(noun) There was an accumulation of dirt on the part of the floor people were walking on.

(noun) The failure to pump leads to an accumulation of blood in the heart.

Synonyms: nouns: build-up, growth, gathering.

### **appreciation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Appreciation is the rise in value of something. (noun) Appreciation is the feeling of being thankful. (noun) An appreciation of something is the ability to see it's value and understand it.

Examples: (noun) The appreciation of the Japanese yen against the US dollar has helped the American automobile industry. (noun) I just wanted to send you this card to show my

appreciation for your kindness last week. (noun) Art appreciation can be learned, but it is very difficult to teach. (noun) The problems may have been due to a lack of appreciation of the different cultures. (noun) He now has a far greater appreciation of dogs and the people who handle them professionally.

Synonyms: nouns: admiration, affection, respect. thankfulness, gratitude, recognition. gain, growth, rise.

## **bias**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you bias something, you unfairly make one result more likely than another. (noun) A bias is a preference in one direction that makes things unequal.

Examples: (verb) The results of the survey are biased because many people lied on the questionnaire. (noun) An education syllabus should not have a political bias. (noun) People often have a bias to like others that look similar to them.

Synonyms: nouns: favouritism, prejudice, unfairness. verbs: distort, influence.

## **commodity**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A commodity is a valuable quality or thing. (noun) A commodity is something that is bought or sold.

Examples: (noun) Hope may become a very rare commodity. (noun) Modern advertising has turned women's bodies into a valuable commodity. (noun) There have been big changes in commodity prices and exchange rates over the past decade. (noun) Corn is one farming commodity that has seen its price drop by 10%.

Synonyms: nouns: possession, asset, product. quality, object.

## **contemporary**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) Somebody's contemporary is a person who lived at or near the same time. (adjective) If something is contemporary it is related to this time (now).

Examples: (noun) Winston Churchill was a contemporary of my grandfather. (adjective) He is a contemporary musician; he includes electronica in his jazz songs.

Synonyms: adjectives: modern, new.

**currency**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If something has currency, it is generally accepted. (noun) A currency is the money from a particular country.

Examples: (noun) The idea that the universe started with a big bang has a lot of currency. (noun) After the war, these new ideas began to gain currency. (noun) Since then the exchange value of the currency has fallen by 78%. (noun) The US dollar is one currency that ended lower against most others in London today.

Synonyms: nouns: money, cash. support.

**deviation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A deviation is difference or movement away from a standard.

Examples: (noun) Some classical music only allows for small deviations from the original style. (noun) There can be no deviation away from the contract.

Synonyms: nouns: change, departure, fluctuation.

**eventually**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) If something will happen eventually, it will happen but it will be in the future, not soon.

Examples: (adverb) Eventually I'll buy a boat and sail around the world. (adverb) I hope that eventually humanity will find peace.

Synonyms: adverbs: finally, one day, someday.

**fluctuation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A fluctuation is when something changes back and forth quickly.

Examples: (noun) Every time a cloud goes past, there is a fluctuation in the amount of sunshine. (noun) The price of wheat stayed the same, but there were a lot of fluctuations in the price of rice.

Synonyms: nouns: variation, change, inconsistency.

**implicit**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A belief that is implicit is complete and without question. (adjective) A meaning that is implicit is understood or given but not directly.

Examples: (adjective) Most religions ask for implicit faith. (adjective) Although students aren't told that they can't talk when the teacher is talking, the rule is implicit. (adjective) In the best stories the end is implicit from the beginning.

Synonyms: adjectives: unspoken, implied, suggested. unshakable, complete.

## **infrastructure**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) The infrastructure is the basic ideas and systems that support an organisation or a project. (noun) A place's infrastructure is the basic public works such as roads, electricity & water supply, and schools, that allow it to function.

Examples: (noun) The hardware-software system provides an infrastructure for messaging applications across the company. (noun) The new bridge will be one of Europe's largest ever infrastructure projects.

Synonyms: nouns: foundation, base, framework.

## **manipulation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Manipulation is the act of using your hands skillfully to move, play or operate something. (noun) Manipulation is the act of controlling someone or something, usually through pressure or in dishonest ways.

Examples: (noun) To build the model, it required careful manipulation of the wood pieces. (noun) Emotional manipulation is quite common in powerful films. (noun) The political manipulation of statistics to confuse people is common.

Synonyms: nouns: control, guidance, use.

## **offset**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) An offset is something that balances (the loss of) something else. (verb) If A offsets B, A balances (the loss of) B.

Examples: (noun) Because the work is dangerous, employees are given an offset of free, high quality health insurance. (verb) Some countries are using green energy to try to offset the damage done by coal to the atmosphere. (verb) The school will provide limited scholarships to offset the cost of tuition.

Synonyms: verbs: balance, equal, cancel out. nouns: compensation.

## **practitioner**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A practitioner is a person who works in a profession or following a particular style or belief, especially related to health care.

Examples: (noun) The book should be useful for new and experienced practitioners of yoga.

(noun) Acupuncture practitioners use fine needles to stimulate specific points of the body.

Synonyms: nouns: professional, expert, doctor.

## **radical**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A radical is a person whose views are very different from most people.

(adjective) A radical idea, policy, etc. is one that is new and different; not standard.

(adjective) A radical change, difference, etc. is very big and important.

Examples: (noun) Much change came from young radicals, overturning the post war consensus, rolling back the state, liberalizing markets, and transforming the political economy.

(noun) Leading radicals have called for a two-hour general strike on Monday.

(adjective) We need to make radical changes if we want to stop global warming. (adjective)

In a totalitarian society there is no more radical emotion than disbelief. (adjective) Many

voices are calling for a more radical move away from the current situation. (adjective) The

plan will not be easy and requires a radical change in the culture of the city.

Synonyms: adjectives: fundamental, profound. revolutionary. nouns: rebel, anarchist.

## **restore**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you restore a state, feeling, or ability that has been lost, you make that possible or normal again.

Examples: (verb) Management has restored the extra vacation time. (verb) The government attempted to restore confidence by announcing tougher laws. (verb) Police were sent to restore order after an attack on May 4.

Synonyms: verbs: return, replace, bring back.

## **tension**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Tension is the state of something when it is too tight. (noun) Tension is hidden anger or fear.

Examples: (noun) There is too much tension in the rope. It might break. (noun) Tensions

between the two countries have been rising. (noun) After the shouting no one said anything, but I could feel the tension in the room.

Synonyms: nouns: discomfort, anxiety, stress. pressure, stress.



**thereby**

Type: preposition

Definitions: (preposition) You use thereby to say why or how something happened.

Examples: (preposition) She quit smoking before the marathon, thereby helping her to achieve a good time. (preposition) Water reflects less light than ice, thereby allowing the oceans to absorb more heat from the sun.

Synonyms: prepositions: so, consequently, as a result.

**via**

Type: preposition

Definitions: You use via to mean the path that something takes when it goes somewhere (the places it goes through before it gets there).

Examples: We can send video, audio and data from any point in the country via satellite.

Synonyms: by, along

**widespread**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is widespread, it happens or exists in many situations or places.

Examples: (adjective) There is a widespread belief that when we are born we are like a blank sheet of paper. This is generally not true. (adjective) This particular bird is only found here, but similar species are very widespread.

Synonyms: adjectives: extensive, broad, common.

**accommodation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Accommodation is the process or result of changing something to fit a particular need or situation. (noun) Accommodation is a place to stay or live.

Examples: (noun) He was very strong minded. He made no accommodation for the opinions of others. (noun) During the 1990s the country tried twice to reach an accommodation with its long time rival. (noun) The hotel provides high quality accommodation, mostly for foreign visitors.

Synonyms: nouns: room, house, hotel. adjustment, compromise.

**assurance**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Assurance is the feeling of self confidence. (noun) An assurance is a strong promise, usually given when the listener has doubts (is unsure).

Examples: (noun) A good politician will speak with absolute assurance. (noun) Despite assurances from the contractor that everything was going well, we still felt nervous. (noun) She had been here before and could give assurance that they were on the right course.

Synonyms: nouns: guarantee, promise. confidence, certainty, security.

## **bulk**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If something bulks, it appears to be big in size. (noun) If you sell/buy something in bulk, you sell/buy a large amount of it; not individually packaged. (noun) Someone or something's bulk is its size or amount, especially if it is large. (noun) The bulk of something is the largest part of it.

Examples: (verb) Animals often bulk when they see a predator to try and scare it away. (noun) The store offers discounts for buying in bulk. (noun) It is becoming common for people to buy in bulk to save money. (noun) A big dog's bulk can help scare away possible criminals. (noun) The great bulk of crime has always involved stealing of one kind or another. (noun) The bulk of the shipment was headed for Toronto.

Synonyms: nouns: majority, main part. weight, amount, volume. verbs: enlarge, expand.

## **coincide**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) Two things coincide with each other if they're both in the same place or happen at the same time.

Examples: (verb) The strong winds coincided with falling temperatures. (verb) The end of one side of a triangle coincides with the end of another side, making a corner.

Synonyms: verbs: coexist, accompany.

## **confine**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If something is confined, it is limited in its actions or its movements.

Examples: (verb) She confined herself to her small house in the forest while she completed her masterpiece. (verb) The disease was confined to a small area in the south district.

Synonyms: verbs: enclose, limit, restrict.

## **device**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A device is a clever way of doing something. (noun) A device is a small machine or tool.

Examples: (noun) The film uses the island as a device to highlight the man's loneliness.

(noun) A metaphor is a useful device to help explain or describe complex ideas. (noun) She has a device in her kitchen for cutting garlic. (noun) Devices such as phones and laptops are becoming thinner and faster.

Synonyms: nouns: instrument, tool, gadget. method, strategy, design.

## **distort**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If something is distorted, its shape or meaning is changed, often in a bad or unnatural way.

Examples: (verb) These import taxes can distort the market. (verb) A small change in wording can completely distort the meaning of the speaker.

Synonyms: verbs: deform, alter, twist.

## **ethical**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is ethical, it is good, not bad or wrong. Often, this is based on formal philosophy. (adjective) An ethical issue, problem, etc. relates to questions of good or bad, right or wrong.

Examples: (adjective) Some argue that it is not ethical to eat meat. (adjective) Religion often tries to answer ethical questions. (adjective) Doctors have to think about both the medical and ethical parts of the problem.

Synonyms: adjectives: moral. righteous, virtuous, humane.

## **incompatible**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Two things are incompatible with each other if they don't fit together or don't work well together.

Examples: (adjective) Stalin's ideas were incompatible with human happiness. (adjective) The husband and wife were not happy together because they were incompatible.

Synonyms: adjectives: contradictory, unsuitable.

## **integral**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Integral parts, elements, etc. belong to a larger whole, often being necessary.

Examples: (adjective) Integral to this research was how the healthy body defends against bacteria. (adjective) The parks and green spaces are an integral part of the city.

Synonyms: adjectives: basic, necessary, essential.

## **mature**

Type: verb, adjective

Definitions: (verb) If something matures, it becomes fully developed. (adjective) If movies, books, etc. are mature, they are meant for adults because they contain violence, sex, etc.

(adjective) If something is mature, it is fully developed. (adjective) Some kinds of food, such as wine, cheese, or fruit are mature when they are ready to eat or drink. (adjective) A living thing is mature if it has stopped growing physically. (adjective) Someone is mature if they act like an adult.

Examples: (verb) These problems have been solved as the technology has matured. (verb) Education has helped her mature into an intelligent young woman. (adjective) Mature films should not be watched by children as they may process what they see in a destructive way. (adjective) Television is a mature technology. (adjective) The mature cheese is a little more expensive. (adjective) A mature female is about 30kg. (adjective) Some believe that most 18 year olds are not mature enough to start university education.

Synonyms: adjectives: adult, grown-up, sophisticated. adult, grown-up. sophisticated, developed, complete. adult, grown-up. verbs: develop, evolve, blossom.

## **military**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A military is armed forces. (adjective) If something is military, it is a characteristic of people in the armed forces.

Examples: (noun) It's not the job of the military to make government policy. (adjective) The country launched a military invasion against its neighbours. (adjective) Sick soldiers go to the military hospital.

Synonyms: adjectives: army, martial, militant. nouns: army, navy, troops.

## **norm**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A norm is the usual situation, amount, level, etc.

Examples: (noun) Many teens find it very important to conform to group norms. (noun) His income is slightly above the norm for someone in his position. (noun) CDs are dying out and MP3s are becoming the norm.

Synonyms: nouns: standard, model, average.

### **portion**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you portion something out, you give parts of it to different people.

(noun) A portion is an amount of food for one person. (noun) A portion is a part of something.

Examples: (verb) They portioned out the water among the survivors. (verb) There is great inequality because the produce of the economy is not portioned out fairly. (noun) You should eat 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day. (noun) A portion of his speech concerned the future of education. (noun) This portion of the city has the highest crime rate.

Synonyms: nouns: part, piece, fraction. serving. verbs: deal, allocate, share.

### **qualitative**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A reason, idea or writing is qualitative if it is about the way something is, or about the thing's qualities, but not about numbers/amounts.

Examples: (adjective) Qualitative differences between advertisements are likely to be far more important than quite large differences in the number of advertisements. (adjective) I have a qualitative idea of what his work is like, but I don't know how much work he's done.

Synonyms: adjectives: subjective.

### **restraint**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A restraint is something that stops people from doing something. (noun) A restraint is a strap or other thing that holds a person in place, like a seatbelt in a car or handcuffs that the police use to hold someone. (noun) Restraint is the quality people show when they don't do something they shouldn't do.

Examples: (noun) Legal restraints are necessary to limit the power of big corporations. (noun) A baby needs the right kind of restraint to ride safely in a car. (noun) He was much older than his brother, so showed restraint when they were play-fighting.

Synonyms: nouns: self-control, caution, discipline. limit, reduction, restriction.

**route**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To route something is to send it on a specific path. (noun) A route is the way from one place or idea to another place or idea.

Examples: (verb) This computer routes email to the main computer. (verb) While the road was being fixed, the workers routed the cars along a different road. (noun) The route between the cities goes through the mountains. (noun) Redistribution of money is one route to fight inequality.

Synonyms: nouns: course, direction, way. verbs: send, transmit, guide.

**subordinate**

Type: verb, noun, adjective

Definitions: (verb) If you subordinate A to B, you give less importance to A and more to B.

(noun) A subordinate is someone who is at a lower position in an organization. (adjective) If something is subordinate, it is less important than something else.

Examples: (verb) When he fell in love, everything else was subordinated to it. (noun) A good manager will talk with their subordinates before making most decisions. (adjective) In society a dominant group often ignores the wishes of subordinate groups. (adjective) Many people believe that keeping our natural world healthy should be subordinate to the health of the economy.

Synonyms: adjectives: lesser, supplementary. nouns: assistant, servant.

**team**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you team two people, groups, or things, you group them to work together. (noun) A team is a group of people who play or work together on the same side.

Examples: (verb) The different organisations teamed together to deal with the problem.

(noun) The operation was performed by an experienced medical team. (noun) She is a member of the coaching team which led them to victory over their rivals.

Synonyms: nouns: group, side. verbs: group, gather, organised.

**unify**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you unify something or a group of things, you bring them together as one.

Examples: (verb) There are many cultural, ethnic, historical, and geographical reasons why the two countries should unify politically. (verb) Music has the ability to unify large groups of people.

Synonyms: verbs: unite, bring together, merge.

### **analogous**

Type: adjective

Definitions: When two things are analogous, they are similar.

Examples: The working class struggle in this country is analogous to what happened recently in South America.

Synonyms: similar, comparable, related

### **attain**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) When you reach or achieve something, you attain it.

Examples: (verb) The level of education that the country has attained is impressive. (verb) After 4 years at university, she attained her degree.

Synonyms: verbs: achieve, accomplish, earn.

### **cease**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you cease something, you stop doing it.

Examples: (verb) When the war began, many companies ceased operations. (verb) I believe parents should instruct their children to cease watching TV after a certain time.

Synonyms: verbs: stop, halt, end.

### **commence**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If something commences, it begins.

Examples: (verb) The school year commenced on Sept. 4. (verb) After a fight against activists, the oil company commenced drilling.

Synonyms: verbs: begin, start.

### **controversy**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) When there is a controversy about something, people strongly disagree about it.

Examples: (noun) There is always a controversy or two on the front page of the newspaper.  
(noun) There's a controversy about whether cars should be allowed to drive in this part of the city.

Synonyms: nouns: debate, dispute, argument.

### **devote**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If someone devotes time or energy to something, they feel that it is important and they spend a lot of time or energy on it.

Examples: (verb) He decided to devote his life to helping people overcome poverty. (verb) She devoted ten years of his life to writing that book.

Synonyms: verbs: commit, dedicate, give.

### **duration**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Duration is the length of time something takes.

Examples: (noun) The duration of this event will be three hours. (noun) In the duration of his speech, ten more people came into the room

Synonyms: nouns: length, period, span.

### **format**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) When something is formatted, it is organised or prepared. (noun) The format of something is the way it is organised.

Examples: (verb) You need to format the hard disk before you can copy those files onto it.

(verb) The essay should be formatted so there is a clear space between each paragraph.

(noun) The essay format usually requires full sentences and separate paragraphs. (noun)

The format of this debate will allow the two speakers to talk for 5 minutes each time.

(noun) The format of the meeting will be quite casual.

Synonyms: nouns: layout, plan, arrangement. verbs: layout, arrange.

### **inherent**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is inherent, it is a part of something that is natural and cannot be separated from it.

Examples: (adjective) Everybody understands the inherent value of education. (adjective)

There may be problems inherent in hiring part-time staff.



Synonyms: adjectives: essential, fundamental, intrinsic.

### **intermediate**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) An intermediate is someone who acts between other people. (adjective) If something is intermediate, it is between other things.

Examples: (noun) He acted as an intermediate to help translate messages between the two groups. (adjective) These sounds represent an intermediate stage between basic animal communication and language. (adjective) Most people who get beyond the beginner language stage get stuck being intermediate. Daily practice is the way to become advanced.

Synonyms: adjectives: in-between, middle. nouns: intermediary, mediator.

### **mediation**

Type: noun

Definitions: Mediation is the process of helping two people or groups who are arguing to come to an agreement.

Examples: Couples often need mediation to help decide who gets what after they divorce.

Synonyms: negotiation, intervention

### **minimal**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) When something is minimal, it is very small or small enough to not be important.

Examples: (adjective) This government is very similar to the old one, so changes will be minimal. (adjective) We had a minimal amount of rain yesterday, so we still need to water the plants.

Synonyms: adjectives: slightest, minimum, basic.

### **overlap**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) An overlap is an amount that two things are in the same place or happen at the same time. (verb) Something overlaps another thing if part of it is 1) on top of, or 2) at the same time as, the other thing.

Examples: (noun) There is an overlap in the styles of the two musicians. (noun) There must be an overlap between the roof tiles to keep the rain out. (verb) The shifts of the two workers (periods of time when they're working) need to overlap so that one worker can tell

the other one what is happening. (verb) The tiles on a roof must overlap to keep the rain out.

Synonyms: verbs: lie over, go beyond.

### **preliminary**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) Something preliminary comes first, helping to introduce or prepare for the main part. (adjective) If something is preliminary, it comes before the main part of something.

Examples: (noun) The meeting will be a preliminary before the guests begin their speeches. (adjective) Preliminary tests show that the new drug may help people with Alzheimer's disease.

Synonyms: adjectives: introductory, initial. nouns: beginning, foundation, opening.

### **refine**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) When people refine a food or other thing, they make it purer. (verb) When someone refines something, they make it better.

Examples: (verb) They take sugar cane and refine it to make white sugar. (verb) We need to refine our ideas of how to protect the environment.

Synonyms: verbs: perfect, clarify, improve. purify, filter, process.

### **revolution**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) When a wheel turns around once it has made a revolution; going in a circle; turning; revolving. (noun) A revolution is a war against the government by the country's own people. (noun) A revolution is a sudden significant change.

Examples: (noun) The hour hand on the clock makes one revolution in twelve hours. (noun) There was a revolution in France in 1789. (noun) In the 1960s, you had the women's revolution, the sexual revolution, and all sorts of change. (noun) The Industrial Revolution began when machines were able to make things quicker and cheaper than people.

Synonyms: nouns: transformation, upheaval. coup, rebellion, uprising. cycle.

### **scenario**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A scenario is a possible or imagined future, often with detailed plans.

Examples: (noun) The worst scenario for people on this village is that they can no longer grow food. (noun) If we can't limit our CO<sub>2</sub> production, then the scenario in which the atmosphere warms by 3-4 degrees is most likely.

Synonyms: nouns: plot, plan, event.

### **supplementary**

Type: adjective

Definitions: If something is supplementary, it is extra; it is not needed, but it is often useful.

Examples: Many immigrants are employed but also feel the need to seek supplementary income because their pay is low.

Synonyms: additional, extra

### **temporary**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something is temporary if it's only for a short time.

Examples: (adjective) A lot of scientific evidence suggests that this warm weather won't be temporary. (adjective) The immigrants were placed in temporary tents while the authorities planned where to take them.

Synonyms: adjectives: brief, short-lived, provisional.

### **violation**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A violation of a rule is an act of breaking the rule: going past the limits of the rule.

Examples: (noun) This violation of our trust cannot be forgiven. (noun) The new finding seems to be in violation of our understanding of physics.

Synonyms: nouns: breach, break, offense.

### **anticipate**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you anticipate something, you think or do something about it before it happens.

Examples: (verb) We do not anticipate any major problems with the new system. (verb) The airport will be expanded to meet anticipated growth in air traffic. (verb) The seasonal changes in temperature are anticipated by birds through the changes of day length.

Synonyms: verbs: expect, predict, prepare for.

**behalf**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If you do something on someone's behalf, you do it for them or as their representative.

Examples: (noun) If you are not there, a family member can make a decision on your behalf. (noun) We give you this award on behalf of a grateful nation.

Synonyms:

**coherence**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Coherence is the property of being connected, especially of ideas.

Examples: (noun) A good essay must have a high degree of coherence across its paragraphs. (noun) We studied loneliness and coherence among Children with learning problems. (noun) Teachers need to help the learner to achieve a genuine sense of coherence across the subjects.

Synonyms: nouns: agreement, consistency, continuity.

**concurrent**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If two things are concurrent, they agree in meaning. (adjective) If two things are concurrent, they happen at the same time.

Examples: (adjective) The police got concurrent stories from five witnesses. (adjective) Concurrent with the war in Iraq was the war in Afghanistan. (adjective) He was given six concurrent three-month jail sentences for the attacks. (adjective) The software can handle up to 500 concurrent users.

Synonyms: adjectives: simultaneous, agreeing, converging.

**conversely**

Type: adverb

Definitions: Conversely is used to say that one idea is the opposite of the other idea.

Examples: The over-confident driver may drive too fast. Conversely the under-confident person may also cause problems by driving too slowly.

Synonyms: on the contrary, however

**diminish**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) When something diminishes it gets smaller or less important.

Examples: (verb) Huge inflation has caused the economy to diminish. (verb) The amount of water in the lake is diminishing because there has been no rain.

Synonyms: verbs: decline, reduce, weaken.

## **erosion**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Erosion is a slow loss of something (often land due to water and wind).

Examples: (noun) Since the new government increased taxation, it has seen the erosion of its support from voters. (noun) Footpath erosion is a significant problem in all the UK's national parks. (noun) Farming increases soil erosion by breaking up soil structure, and reducing the number of plants.

Synonyms: nouns: deterioration, damage.

## **found**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) To found is to start some type of organization or company.

Examples: (verb) The company was founded on the idea that transportation needn't be expensive. (verb) They founded the company in 2003.

Synonyms: verbs: create, establish, launch.

## **insight**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) If you have insight, you have a very good understanding of something; a clear idea about how something works.

Examples: (noun) The documentary gives us an insight into the poor conditions that factory employees work in. (noun) We need to get some insight into the causes of this problem.

Synonyms: nouns: intuition, observation, understanding.

## **manual**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A manual is a book of instructions. (adjective) If something is manual, it is done with the hands or through physical work.

Examples: (noun) Look at the manual before you try to fix the engine. (adjective) One quarter of the accidents at work arise from manual lifting, handling and carrying. (adjective) Unskilled manual workers are the most likely to lose their job when the economy changes.

Synonyms: adjectives: physical, hand-operated. nouns: instructions.

## **medium**

Type: noun, adjective

Definitions: (noun) A medium is an area of artistic expression. (noun) A medium is a person who believes that they can communicate with people who are dead. (noun) A medium is stuff that something moves through. (adjective) A medium amount is an amount that is not small and not large, but in the middle.

Examples: (noun) Music is a medium that allows almost direct communication with our emotions. (noun) He wanted to express his ideas through the medium of dance. (noun) I don't believe those mediums can really hear anything. (noun) Light can go easily through any transparent medium, such as water, glass or air. (noun) Sound waves speed up when they go through the medium of water. (adjective) Would you like a small, medium or large drink?

Synonyms: adjectives: average, fair, normal. nouns: surroundings, conditions, ambience. psychic, clairvoyant. form, style.

## **mutual**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A mutual friend, agreement, etc. is one that is shared between two or more people. (adjective) If two things are mutual, they act in the same way to each other.

Examples: (adjective) Social media networks often expand by finding people who share mutual friends. (adjective) The working relationship between the two men was based on a mutual respect.

Synonyms: adjectives: shared, common.

## **passive**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A passive clause has the natural object as its subject. (adjective) If someone or something is passive, they do not normally respond or take action.

Examples: (adjective) While "she found me" is an active clause, "I was found (by her)" is passive. (adjective) After his injury, he was forced to play a more passive role on the team. (adjective) Watching TV is a much more passive activity than reading.

Synonyms: adjectives: static, inactive.

## **protocol**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A protocol is a rule, guideline, or document about how certain activities are done.

Examples: (noun) The protocols for transporting gas are strict because an accident can be very dangerous. (noun) There is a certain protocol that should be followed when you talk to the queen.

Synonyms: nouns: agreement, rule, obligation.

## **relax**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you relax a rule, you make it less strict. (verb) If you relax, you stop working, worrying, etc., and you rest or have fun.

Examples: (verb) The government relaxed the laws that the people protested against. (verb) If you don't relax your shoulders, you'll have a sore neck. (verb) People come here to relax, have a beer, and talk with friends.

Synonyms: verbs: unwind, sit back. ease, loosen, weaken.

## **rigid**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A rigid idea, belief etc is unable to change. (adjective) Something that is rigid is stiff rather than flexible. It is difficult to bend or break.

Examples: (adjective) The ideas of Buddhism are far less rigid than those of other religions. For this reason, some argue that it is really a philosophy. (adjective) The bridge, being made from steel and concrete, was rigid and strong.

Synonyms: adjectives: stiff, solid. inflexible, strict.

## **sphere**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A sphere is an area of influence or activity. (noun) A sphere is a shape that is round in all directions, like a ball. Every point on a sphere is the same distance from the center of the sphere.

Examples: (noun) Many believe education should only exist in the public sphere, and not be for profit. (noun) Women used to only operate in the domestic (homemaking) sphere while the men did the formal work. There is more balanced now. (noun) A drop of water is often a sphere while it's falling. (noun) The Earth is almost exactly a sphere, but as it spins it is slightly wider in the middle.

Synonyms: nouns: circle, orb. field, realm, scope.

## **suspend**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you suspend an object, you attach it above and hang it down. (verb) If you suspend something, you stop it for a period of time.

Examples: (verb) Two lamps were suspended above the room and gave off a gentle light. (verb) Employees can be suspended or fired for sexually harassing a colleague. (verb) The conversation was temporarily suspended while everyone watched the TV. (verb) The army suspended all operations in the north until the weather changed.

Synonyms: verbs: delay, interrupt, reject. hang, dangle.

## **trigger**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) When a little thing triggers a big thing to happen, it causes it. (noun) A trigger is a little thing that makes something bigger happen. (noun) A trigger is the part of a gun that you push with one finger when you want to make the gun shoot.

Examples: (verb) Those angry words triggered the beginning of the war. (verb) The sound of the helicopter triggered the avalanche. (noun) Smells can be a powerful trigger to recall memories. (noun) The trigger of the avalanche was the helicopter. (noun) I didn't want to make him angry, because he had his finger on the trigger.

Synonyms: cause, reason. verbs: cause, generate, produce.

## **vision**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Vision is being able to think of good ideas for the future. (noun) Vision is being able to see with your eyes.

Examples: (noun) This woman will be a good leader of our company because she has a great vision for the future of our company. (noun) The president needs to create ideas, to create a vision for the country. (noun) It can become difficult for old people to drive as their vision becomes worse.

Synonyms: nouns: eyesight. idea, foresight, imagination.

## **adjacent**

Type: preposition, adjective

Definitions: (preposition) If two things are adjacent to each other, there is nothing in between them. (adjective) If something is adjacent, it is next to something else.

Examples: (preposition) There is one large stand for fans adjacent to the football field. (preposition) The cinema was immediately adjacent to our house, so that every night we could hear the film. (adjective) It's a lovely room, complete with adjacent shower and rest area. (adjective) The house has an adjacent garage.



Synonyms: adjectives: adjoining, beside, touching. prepositions: adjoining, beside, near.

### **collapse**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A collapse is an act of falling down dramatically. (verb) Something collapses when it falls down dramatically.

Examples: (noun) The collapse of the economy 5 years ago means that unemployment is still very high. (noun) The collapse of the bridge means we can't go over the river any longer. (verb) The economy collapsed 5 years ago and still hasn't recovered. (verb) The bridge collapsed, but no one was hurt. (verb) He was so tired, he just collapsed onto that chair.

Synonyms: verbs: fall (apart), break (down). nouns: downfall, breakdown, failure.

### **conceive**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) A woman conceives a baby when she becomes pregnant. (verb)

Someone conceives of an idea when they think of an idea for the first time, an idea that belongs only to them. (verb) If you can conceive of a certain situation, you can imagine it.

Examples: (verb) The baby was conceived on holiday when we went to Niagara Falls. (verb) The invention was conceived by a man named Wilfred James. (verb) The organisation first conceived of the idea of building a deep well near the village last year. (verb) It is difficult to conceive of a world without these beautiful animals. (verb) Can you conceive what life would have been like 1000 years ago?

Synonyms: verbs: understand, believe, visualize. create, design, realise.

### **encounter**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) If you encounter someone, you meet them to play a game or fight a battle. (verb) If you encounter someone, you meet someone, usually unexpectedly. (verb) If you encounter problems, difficulties, etc., you experience them. (noun) An encounter is when two people or groups meet to play a game or fight a battle. (noun) An encounter is a meeting, usually one that you don't expect.

Examples: (verb) If one tribe of chimps encounters another, there will often be a fight. (verb) At night the battle ship encountered enemy planes. (verb) In the store I encountered my teacher. (verb) When he did encounter problems, he always knew how to fix them. (verb) This is the first time the country has encountered drought (no food from lack of rain) in 15 years. (noun) This is the fifth World Cup encounter between these two teams. (noun)

There are nearly daily encounters between the army and protesters. (noun) I had a pleasant encounter yesterday: an old friend of mine visited me. (noun) My job was really the result of a chance encounter with an old friend, now my boss.

Synonyms: nouns: meeting. fight, argument, dispute. verbs: experience, find, run into. meet, find, run into. fight, attack, confront.

### **inclination**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Something has an inclination if it's at an angle (not flat). (noun) Someone has an inclination to do something if the person wants to do it or often does it.

Examples: (noun) The inclination of the road was just enough to make the car roll by itself.

(noun) Most governments have an inclination to hold on to power, even if it damages the country. (noun) Some people have a inclination to always disagree with what you say.

Synonyms: nouns: tendency, impulse, bias. slant, leaning, angle.

### **invoke**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) When someone invokes a rule, they use the rule in a specific situation.

Examples: (verb) We need to invoke protection against deforestation, otherwise we may lose our forests. (verb) The government invoked a rule that allows more migrants into the country during a war.

Synonyms: verbs: call upon, apply, enforce.

### **nonetheless**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) When A is true, and nonetheless B is true, then A doesn't stop B from being true.

Examples: (adverb) The British were very interested in starting talks. Nonetheless, it was the Americans who actually got things organised. (adverb) It's raining, but we're going to eat outside nonetheless.

Synonyms: adverbs: nevertheless, despite, however.

### **ongoing**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Something is ongoing if it's continuing to happen without stopping in one long period of time.

Examples: (adjective) There is an ongoing project in India to help farmers when there is no rain. (adjective) The growth of bones is still ongoing at age 12.

Synonyms: adjectives: continuous, growing, successful.

### **pose**

Type: verb, noun

Definitions: (verb) To pose is to be or create a dangerous situation/problem. (verb) If you pose an idea, you suggest it. (noun) A pose is a position or arrangement, sometimes unusual.

Examples: (verb) The internet poses a problem: How do we separate good information from bad? (verb) Traffic pollution poses a threat to the health of our children. (verb) He posed a philosophical question to the audience: "Where does your knowledge of the outside world come from?" (verb) Many people have posed the idea that school syllabuses should include classes that help students with problems like loneliness and stress. (noun) What kind of pose is best for this photograph? (noun) His arms and legs were crossed. This pose suggested that he was feeling unconfident.

Synonyms: nouns: posture, position. verbs: give, present, suggest. present.

### **straightforward**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If something is straightforward, it is simple. It is easy to understand and easy to know how to do it.

Examples: (adjective) She was a very straightforward person. This is the reason why she was so popular. (adjective) Governance is rarely straightforward because you are trying to please everyone in the country. (adjective) The instructions for how to put this desk together are straightforward.

Synonyms: adjectives: simple, easy, honest.

### **albeit**

Type: preposition

Definitions: (preposition) You use albeit to give more information that weakens earlier information.

Examples: (preposition) Since trade has opened up, the economy is improving, albeit only slowly. (preposition) He won the fight, albeit only just.

Synonyms: prepositions: although, even though, though.

**colleague**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A colleague is a person who works together with another person or who does the same kind of work. In US English this is a co-worker.

Examples: (noun) It's important that colleagues get on well if the company is to succeed.

(noun) I'd like to talk about the new scientific discovery with my colleagues from the other university.

Synonyms: nouns: co-worker, assistant, partner.

**convince**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) To convince is to make someone believe, or feel sure about something.

Examples: (verb) A stubborn person is always very hard to convince. (verb) Some need to be convinced that more money should be spent on education, rather than conflict.

Synonyms: verbs: assure, persuade.

**enormous**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) Enormous means very big.

Examples: (adjective) The damage done by plastics in the oceans is enormous. (adjective)

There are not enough jobs, so the country has enormous unemployment problems.

Synonyms: adjectives: very large, huge, massive.

**integrity**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Integrity is the quality of being whole, not broken. (noun) Integrity is the quality of being honest and of doing only good things.

Examples: (noun) The integrity of his beliefs weakened after the conversation. (noun) We need to test the integrity of the bridge. (noun) She showed integrity when she insisted that she pay for the damage. (noun) It is easier to trust people who have already displayed their integrity.

Synonyms: nouns: honesty, sincerity, virtue. stability, unity, strength.

**levy**

Type: noun, verb

Definitions: (noun) A levy is an extra charge on top of the basic price, usually a tax. (verb) If you levy a charge or a tax, you legally make people pay it.

Examples: (noun) The levy on fuel went up this year. (verb) The government wants to levy a tax on all wood entering the country.

Synonyms: verbs: collect, impose, demand. nouns: tax, fee.

### **notwithstanding**

Type: preposition

Definitions: (preposition) When A happens notwithstanding B, then A happens even if B might stop it from happening at a different time or situation.

Examples: (preposition) Notwithstanding the poor conditions they live in, they seem very happy with life. (preposition) We're going ahead with the event as planned, notwithstanding the heavy rain and wind.

Synonyms: prepositions: despite, although, nevertheless. despite, although, however.

### **panel**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A panel is a group of people who come together at a table to talk or to judge, usually in front of many other people. (noun) A panel is a flat piece of wood or other material, used as part of a wall or on the side of something.

Examples: (noun) I went to listen to a panel talking about using modern technology in the classroom. (noun) The government put a panel together to assess the problems the country will face from climate change. (noun) The house has aluminum panels covering the outside.

Synonyms: committee, group, task force.

### **reluctant**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If you are reluctant to do something, you do not want to do it.

Examples: (adjective) The ease of TV makes people reluctant to read books. (adjective) My son was reluctant to go to school today because he has a test. (adjective) People are often reluctant to break old habits.

Synonyms: adjectives: unenthusiastic, shy, hesitant.

### **undergo**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) If you undergo something, it happens to you; often it is not nice.

Examples: (verb) The bridge is currently undergoing tests to see if it can be reopened. (verb) She had to undergo surgery because of her broken leg. (verb) The country has undergone great changes in the last decade.

Synonyms: verbs: go through, bear, have.

### **assembly**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) Assembly is the act of making something by putting parts together.

(noun) Assembly is the act of people or things coming together. (noun) An assembly is a group of people who come together for an event.

Examples: (noun) We bought a desk, but we didn't know it needed assembly at home.

(noun) It took a few minutes for the assembly of everything he needed to bring with him.

(noun) She stood in front of the assembly and started to talk.

Synonyms: nouns: congregation, group, crowd. construction, building.

### **compile**

Type: verb

Definitions: (verb) Someone compiles some things or ideas when they bring them together into one place.

Examples: (verb) She compiled a good set of books to read about the history of that place.

(verb) I need to compile a list of reasons not to go ahead with the project.

Synonyms: verbs: assemble, collect, gather.

### **depression**

Type: noun

Definitions: (noun) A depression is when the economy slows down over a long period.

(noun) A depression is a low point on a surface. (noun) Depression is when a person's feelings are very sad and unhappy.

Examples: (noun) The business community is worried that the oil problems could lead to a depression. (noun) There was a small depression in the ground where the rock had been.

(noun) Van Gogh suffered from depression for a long time before he killed himself.

Synonyms: nouns: despair, sadness, distress. dip, pit, sink. deflation, recession, slump.

### **forthcoming**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) A person who is forthcoming is someone who tells others what they're thinking. (adjective) An event that is forthcoming is something that will happen soon. It's coming in a short time.

Examples: (adjective) If a politician is not very forthcoming, the people might lose their faith in them. (adjective) I asked him what his plans are for next year but he wasn't very forthcoming. (adjective) The forthcoming publication of his book will help him get status and respect.

Synonyms: adjectives: expected, upcoming, approaching. honest, transparent.

### **intrinsic**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If one thing is intrinsic to another, it is a very important part of it.

Examples: (adjective) Food has intrinsic value, while gold only has value because other people want it. (adjective) Finding a way to stop being angry is intrinsic to the problem of making your life better. (adjective) Being able to think is intrinsic to being human.

Synonyms: adjectives: basic, inherent, underlying.

### **likewise**

Type: adverb

Definitions: (adverb) People say "likewise" to mean that they're saying the same thing someone else just said. (adverb) When someone does something likewise, they do it the same way someone else did it.

Examples: (adverb) "I'm happy to see you!" "Likewise!" (adverb) Elephants migrate (travel) thousands of kilometers. Some butterflies do likewise. (adverb) The country began spending more money on art and music education. Soon after, its neighbours did likewise.

Synonyms: adverbs: also, similarly.

### **odd**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) An odd number is one that does not divide evenly by 2 (e.g., 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, etc.) (adjective) An odd sock, boot, etc. is one without its pair. (adjective) The odd time, problem, etc. is one that happens sometimes, but not often. (adjective) If something is odd, it is not normal and usually you don't like it or don't understand it.

Examples: (adjective) 61, 79 and 103 are all odd numbers. (adjective) The teacher was wearing odd socks; one was red and one was blue. (adjective) I don't really drink, just the odd beer at the weekend. (adjective) The lake is usually flat, except for the odd storm swell.

(adjective) The neighbours thought him very odd, because he would leave his doors open all night. (adjective) She liked him, but there was something odd about the way he spoke. Synonyms: adjectives: strange, unusual, different. rare, infrequent. unmatched, single, uneven.

### **persistent**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) If someone or something is persistent, they continue and do not give up quickly.

Examples: (adjective) Poverty is a persistent problem. (adjective) Many young people who spend time in jail actually become persistent offenders. (adjective) There was a persistent knocking on the door.

Synonyms: adjectives: determined, constant, stubborn.

### **so-called**

Type: adjective

Definitions: (adjective) When someone uses the word “so-called” to talk about something, they mean that other people talk about the thing that way, but they don’t agree.

Examples: (adjective) The so-called businessman went bankrupt (lost their money) 4 times in the last decade. (adjective) When are we going to leave this so-called party? (The person saying this thinks it should not be called a party. Probably they think the party is not fun.)

Synonyms: adjectives: supposed, alleged, self-styled.

### **whereby**

Type: preposition

Definitions: (preposition) Whereby means by which; by that thing.

Examples: (preposition) Learning is the method whereby we improve our minds.

(preposition) We created this app whereby users can develop their vocabulary faster than with other methods.

Synonyms: prepositions: by which, how, through which.

### **although**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: We use although to compare statements that disagree with each other.

Examples: (discourse marker) Average yearly temperatures are increasing, although this winter has been very cold. (discourse marker) Although this winter has been very cold, average yearly temperatures are increasing.



Synonyms: discourse markers: even though, while.

### **consequently**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: We use consequently to show the result of an event.

Examples: (discourse marker) Barcelona is a beautiful city. Consequently, millions of tourists visit it every year. (discourse marker) As plastic builds up in the water, fish often eat it. This, consequently, causes them to become sick.

Synonyms: discourse markers: as a result, therefore.

### **for example**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: For example is used to introduce examples that support an argument.

Examples: Art subjects can help students focus in other classes. For example, one school in England increased the number of art and music lessons students did each week and consequently saw grades increase for all subjects the next year.

Synonyms: for instance, one example is

### **moreover**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: We use moreover to add a statement that agrees with our previous statement.

Examples: (discourse marker) Music is often used to reduce stress. Moreover, it can stimulate the brain to think creatively. (discourse marker) Music is often used to reduce stress. It can, moreover, stimulate the brain to think creatively.

Synonyms: discourse markers: in addition, furthermore, additionally.

### **topic sentence**

Type: essay structure

Definitions: A topic sentence introduces the topic of a body paragraph. It is usually placed at the start of the paragraph.

Examples: This is an example of a topic sentence: Music can aid students in the classroom in three important ways. Example 2: However, there are also two reasons why teachers must be careful when playing music in the classroom.

Synonyms:

### **because**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: Because is used to give the reason behind an event.

Examples: (discourse marker) Insect populations are reducing because of the pollution from the city. (discourse marker) The country's economy has started to improve because the government began spending more money on education in 2005.

Synonyms: discourse markers: due to, since, as.

## **finally**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: Finally is used to introduce the last argument or point.

Examples: I believe the internet can be a powerful learning tool in the classroom for three reasons. First, children are able to... Secondly, the internet can... It is, finally, a great source of lesson material for the teacher. For instance,...

Synonyms: lastly, last of all

## **however**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: We use however to make a statement that disagrees with our previous one.

Examples: (discourse marker) I believe the internet can be a powerful learning tool in the classroom. However, it can be argued that without the proper supervision students may become distracted or find false information. (discourse marker) Music can be used in the classroom to calm students down. However, if the music is too energetic, it may distract children from their work.

Synonyms: discourse markers: in contrast, on the other hand.

## **secondly**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: Secondly is used to introduce the second argument or point.

Examples: I believe the internet can be a powerful learning tool in the classroom for three reasons. First, children are able to... Secondly, the internet can be used autonomously with little guidance from the teacher to allow children to learn how to discover knowledge for themselves. An example of this is...

Synonyms: second, second of all

## **conclusion paragraph**

Type: essay structure

Definitions: A conclusion paragraph summarises the arguments of an essay and often restates the opinion of the writer. It may include a suggestion, warning, or prediction at the end.

Examples: This is an example of a conclusion paragraph: In conclusion, removing all cars from the center of the city will greatly improve tourism, help shops, and the local economy, and improve health by reducing pollution. For these reasons I strongly suggest that the government begins plans to make this a reality.

Synonyms:

### **first**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: First is used to introduce the initial argument or point.

Examples: I believe the internet can be a powerful learning tool in the classroom for three reasons. First, children can use it to access a great variety of interesting information. For example,...

Synonyms: firstly, first of all

### **In conclusion**

Type: discourse marker

Definitions: In conclusion is used to begin the concluding paragraph.

Examples: In conclusion, although the internet can distract and misinform students, with the right supervision it can inspire children to explore interesting topics for themselves. For this reason, I believe...

Synonyms: to conclude, in summary, to summarise

### **thesis statement**

Type: essay structure

Definitions: A thesis statement introduces the purpose of the essay. It is usually placed at the end of the introduction paragraph.

Examples: This is an example of a thesis statement in a one-sided essay: I believe that banning cars from the city center will reduce pollution, improve shop sales and increase tourism. This is an example of a thesis statement in a two-sided essay: This essay will argue that although the internet contains information inappropriate for young students when used with the right guidance it can be a wonderful tool to aid learning and discovery.

Synonyms: