border*verb* (BE NEXT TO)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/bɔː.dər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈbɔːr.dɚ/

**Definition**

[T] **to be next to and have a border with another country**

*Swaziland borders South Africa and Mozambique.*

**bordering** *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/bɔː.dər.ɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈbɔːr.dɚ-/

*bordering countries/counties*

revive*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪˈvaɪv/ [I or T]

**Definition**

**to come or bring something back to life, health, existence, or use**

*to revive someone's hopes/confidence/fortunes*

*My plants revived as soon as I gave them some water.*

*A hot shower and a cup of tea will revive you.*

*Traditional skills are being revived.*

revival*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪˈvaɪ.vəl/

**Definition**

•

[C or U] **when something becomes more active or popular again**

*Recently, there has been some revival****of****(****interest in****) ancient music.*

*An economic/artistic revival is sweeping the country.*

•

[C] **a performance of a play which has not been seen for a long time**

*We're****staging****a revival of a 1950s play.*

•

[C] **a time when interest in religion starts again in a stronger way than before, or a series of meetings organized to encourage this to happen**

gilded*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈgɪl.dɪd/

**Definition**

•

[before noun] **covered with a thin layer of gold or a substance that looks like gold;**[**gilt**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/gilt_1)

*The gilded dome of the cathedral rises above the city.*

•

literary **rich or of a higher social class**

*The story revolves around the gilded****youth****of the 1920s and their glittering lifestyles*

flourish*verb* (SUCCEED)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈflʌr.ɪʃ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈflɝː-/

**Definition**

[I] **to grow or develop successfully**

*My tomatoes are flourishing this summer - it must be the warm weather.*

*Watercolour painting began to flourish in Britain around 1750.*

inarticulate*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌɪn.ɑːˈtɪk.jʊ.lət/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɑːr-/

**Definition**

**unable to express feelings or ideas clearly, or expressed in a way that is difficult to understand**

*When it comes to expressing their emotions, most men are hopelessly inarticulate.*

*His speech was inarticulate and it was obvious he had been drinking.*

**inarticulately** *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌɪn.ɑːˈtɪk.jʊ.lət.li/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɑːr-/

**inarticulacy** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌɪn.ɑːˈtɪk.ʊ.lə.si/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɑːr-/ [U] (also**inarticulateness**)

weep*verb* (CRY)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/wiːp/ (**wept**, **wept**)

**Definition**

[I or T] literary **to cry tears**

*People in the street wept****with****joy when peace was announced.*

*She wept****buckets***(= cried a lot)*when Paul left.*

**weep** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word [S] literary

*It might help you to****have a****good weep.*

weep buckets

UK (US **cry buckets**) informal

**Definition**

**to cry a lot**

*That was such a sad film - I wept buckets at the end of it.*

embrace*verb* (ACCEPT)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪmˈbreɪs/

**Definition**

[T] formal **to accept something enthusiastically**

*This was an opportunity that he would embrace.*

meander*verb* (RIVER/ROAD)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/miˈæn.dər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-dɚ/

**Definition**

[I] **If a river, stream or road meanders, it follows a route which is not straight or direct.**

exuberant*adjective* (PEOPLE)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪgˈzjuː.bər.ənt/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈzuː.bɚ-/

**Definition**

**(especially of people and their behaviour) very energetic**

*Young and exuberant, he symbolises Italy's new vitality.*

**exuberance** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪgˈzjuː.bər.ən*t* s/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈzuː.bɚ-/ [U]

mettle*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈmet.l ̩/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈmet ̬-/ [U]

**Definition**

**ability and determination when competing or doing something difficult**

*The German athletes****showed/proved****their mettle in the final round.*

*The real test of her political mettle came in the May elections.*

idolize*verb*

(UK usually **idolise**) Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈaɪ.dəl.aɪz/ [T]

**Definition**

**to admire and respect someone very much, often too much**

*She idolized her father.*

erstwhile*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈɜːst.waɪl/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈɝːst-/ [before noun] formal

**Definition**

**previous;**[**former**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/former_1)

endanger*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪnˈdeɪn.dʒər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-dʒɚ/ [T]

**Definition**

**to put someone or something at risk or in danger of being harmed, damaged or destroyed**

*He would never do anything to endanger the lives of his children.*

*We must be careful not to do anything that might endanger the economic recovery.*

rigour*noun* (FORCEFULNESS)

UK (US **rigor**) Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈrɪg.ər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚ/ [U]

**Definition**

**forceful or extremely strict obedience of rules**

*They were punished with unusual rigour.*

**the rigours of *sth***

**the unpleasant or severe conditions of something**

*They survived the rigours of the winter.*

aloof*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/əˈluːf/

**Definition**

•

**describes an unfriendly person who refuses to take part in things**

*She seemed rather aloof when in fact she was just shy.*

•

**not interested or involved, usually because you do not approve of what is happening**

*Whatever is happening in the office, she always****remains****aloof.*

*She****kept****herself aloof****from****her husband's business.*

**aloofness** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/əˈluːf.nəs/ [U]

messiah*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/məˈsaɪ.ə/ [S]

**Definition**

**a leader who is believed to have the power to solve the world's problems**

*An ordinary priest, he was hailed by thousands as the new messiah.*

shrewd*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ʃruːd/ approving

**Definition**

**having or based on a clear understanding and good judgment of a situation, resulting in an advantage**

[+ *to* infinitive] *He was shrewd****enough****not****to****take the job when there was the possibility of getting a better one a few months later.*

*She is a shrewd****politician****who wants to avoid offending the electorate unnecessarily.*

*It was a shrewd****move****to buy your house just before property prices started to rise.*

**shrewdly** *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈʃruːd.li/

*She shrewdly predicted the stock market crash.*

**shrewdness** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈʃruːd.nəs/ [U]

defy*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɪˈfaɪ/ [T]

**Definition**

**to refuse to obey a person, decision, law, situation, etc.**

*children openly defying their teachers*

*A few workers have defied the majority decision and gone into work despite the strike.*

*The fact that aircraft don't fall out of the sky always seems to me to defy*(= act against)*the****law****of gravity.*

*A forest fire raging in the south of France is defying*(= is not changed by)*all attempts to control it.*

**defy belief/description/explanation**

**to be extreme or very strange and therefore impossible to believe, describe or explain**

*The chaos at the airport defies description.*

**defy *sb* to do *sth***

**to tell someone to do something that you think will be impossible**

*I defy you to prove your accusations.*

*I defy you to tell where I've painted over the scratch on my car.*

supremacy*noun* (HIGHEST)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/suːˈprem.ə.si/ [U]

**Definition**

**the leading or controlling position**

*The company has begun to challenge the supremacy****of****the current leading manufacturers in the textiles industry.*

*The allies have established****air****supremacy*(= military control of the sky)*.*

confidant*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkɒn.fɪ.dænt/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈkɑːn.fə-/ [C] (female also **confidante**)

**Definition**

**a person you trust and share your feelings and secrets with**

*a****close****confidant*

spearhead*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈspɪə.hed/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈspɪr-/ [T]

**Definition**

**to lead something such as an attack or a course of action**

*British troops spearheaded the invasion.*

*Joe Walker will be spearheading our new marketing initiative.*

indulge*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪnˈdʌldʒ/

**Definition**

•

[I or T] **to allow yourself or another person to have something enjoyable, especially more than is good for you**

*The soccer fans indulged their patriotism, waving flags and singing songs.*

[R] *I love champagne but I don't often indulge myself.*

*We took a deliberate decision to indulge****in****a little nostalgia.*

•

[T] **to give someone anything they want and not to mind if they behave badly**

*My aunt indulges the children dreadfully.*

pliable*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈplaɪ.ə.bl ̩/

**Definition**

•

**A pliable substance bends easily without breaking or cracking**

*Some kinds of plastic become pliable if they're heated.*

•

often disapproving **A pliable person is easily influenced and controlled by other people**

*He wanted a sweet, pliable, obedient wife.*

**pliability** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌplaɪ.əˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ə.t ̬i/ [U]

merely*adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈmɪə.li/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈmɪr-/

**Definition**

**used to emphasize that you mean exactly what you are saying and nothing more**

*I wasn't complaining, I merely****said****that I was tired.*

*The medicine won't cure her - it merely stops the pain.*

alleviate*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/əˈliː.vi.eɪt/ [T] formal

**Definition**

**to make something bad such as pain or problems less severe**

*The drugs did nothing to alleviate her pain/suffering.*

**alleviation** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/əˌliː.viˈeɪ.ʃən/ [U]

*the alleviation of poverty*

erode*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈrəʊd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈroʊd/ [I or T]

**Definition**

•

**to rub or be rubbed away gradually**

*Wind and rain have eroded the statues into shapeless lumps of stone.*

*The cliffs are eroding several feet a year.*

•

**to slowly reduce or destroy**

*His behaviour over the last few months has eroded my confidence in his judgment.*

**erosion** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈrəʊ.ʒən/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈroʊ-/ [U]

***soil/coastal****erosion*

whip*noun* (DEVICE FOR HITTING)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/wɪp/

**Definition**

[C] **a piece of leather or rope which is fastened to a stick, used for hitting animals or people**

*She lashed the horses mercilessly with her long whip.*

*The lion-tamer****cracked****his whip.*

confiscate*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkɒn.fɪ.skeɪt/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈkɑːn-/ [T]

**Definition**

**to take a possession away from someone when you have the right to do so, usually as a punishment and often for a limited period, after which it is returned to the owner**

*Miss Edwards has confiscated my comics till the end of term!*

*His passport was confiscated by the police to prevent him from leaving the country.*

**confiscation** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌkɒn.fɪˈskeɪ.ʃən/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˌkɑːn-/ [C or U]

*There was a record number of confiscations by customs officers last year.*

desire*verb* (WANT)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɪˈzaɪər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈzaɪr/ [T not continuous] formal

**Definition**

**to want something, especially strongly**

*I desire only to be left in peace.*

*The hotel had everything you could possibly desire.*

*What does her Ladyship desire me****to****do/desire****of****me?*

[+ *to* infinitive] *The President desires****to****meet the new Prime Minister.*

concede*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/kənˈsiːd/

**Definition**

•

[T] **to admit, often unwillingly, that something is true**

[+ (*that*)] *The Government has conceded****(that)****the new tax policy has been a disaster.*

[+ speech] *"Well okay, perhaps I was a little hard on her, " he conceded.*

See also: [**concession**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/concession_1)

•

[T] **to allow someone to have something, even though you do not want to**

*The president is not expected to concede these reforms.*

*He is not willing to concede any of his power/authority.*

*Britain conceded*(= allowed)*independence****to****India in 1947.*

•

[I or T] **to admit that you have lost in a competition**

*He kept on arguing and wouldn't concede****defeat****.*

*She conceded even before all the votes had been counted.*

**concede a goal/point**

**to fail to stop an opposing team or person from winning a point or game**

*The team conceded two goals (****to****the other side) in the first five minutes of the game.*

persuade*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/pəˈsweɪd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/pɚ-/ [T]

**Definition**

**to make someone do or believe something by giving them a good reason to do it or by talking to them and making them believe it**

*If she doesn't want to go, nothing you can say will persuade her.*

[+ (*that*)] *It's no use trying to persuade him****(that)****you're innocent.*

[+ *to* infinitive] *He is trying to persuade local and foreign businesses****to****invest in the project.*

*Using a bunch of bananas, the zoo-keeper persuaded the monkey back into its cage.*

formal *The first priority is to persuade the management****of****the urgency of this matter.*

*Her legal advisers persuaded her****into/out of****mentioning*(= to mention/not to mention)*the names of the people involved in the robbery.*

courtesy*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkɜː.tə.si/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈkɝː.t ̬ə-/ [C or U]

**Definition**

**polite behaviour, or a polite action or remark**

*You might get on better with your parents if you showed them some courtesy.*

[+ *to* infinitive] *He could at least have had the courtesy****to****say sorry.*

*The President welcomed the Queen with the usual courtesies.*

**(by) courtesy of**

•

**by permission of**

*Phil Collins appears on the album courtesy of Virgin Records.*

•

**because of**

*Did the Conservatives win courtesy of the division of the opposition vote between Labour and the Liberal Democrats?*

brink*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/brɪŋk/ [S]

**Definition**

•

**the point where a new or different situation is about to begin**

*Extreme stress had driven him to****the****brink****of****a nervous breakdown.*

*Scientists are****on the****brink****of***(= extremely close to)*a major new discovery.*

•

literary **the edge of a cliff or other high area**

*She was standing right****on the****brink****of****the gorge.*

adversary*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈæd.və.sər.i/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈæd.vɚ.ser-/ [C] formal

**Definition**

**an enemy**

*He saw her as his main adversary within the company.*

precariously*adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/prɪˈkeə.ri.ə.sli/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈker.i-/

**Definition**

**in a way that is likely to fall, be damaged, fail, etc**

*Her suitcase was precariously****balanced****on the tiny luggage rack above her head.*

*He lived rather precariously from one day to the next, never knowing where his next meal was coming from*

*.*

ostensible*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɒsˈten*t* .sɪ.bl ̩/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ɑːˈsten*t* -/ [before noun] formal

**Definition**

**appearing or claiming to be one thing when it is really something else**

*Their ostensible goal was to clean up government corruption, but their real aim was to unseat the government.*

**ostensibly** *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɒsˈten*t* .sɪ.bli/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ɑːˈsten*t* -/

*He has spent the past three months in Florida, ostensibly for medical treatment, but in actual fact to avoid prosecution for a series of notorious armed robberies.*

evoke*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈvəʊk/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈvoʊk/ [T]

**Definition**

**to make someone remember something or feel an emotion**

*That smell always evokes memories of my old school.*

*a detergent designed to evoke the fresh smell of summer meadows*

**evocation** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌiː.və*ʊ* ˈkeɪ.ʃən/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˌev.ə-/ [C or U]

disproportionate*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌdɪs.prəˈpɔː.ʃən.ət/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈpɔːr-/

**Definition**

**too large or too small in comparison to something else, or not deserving its importance or influence**

*There are a disproportionate****number****of girls in the class.*

*The country's great influence in the world is disproportionate****to****its relatively small size.*

**disproportion** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌdɪs.prəˈpɔː.ʃən/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈpɔːr-/ [U]formal

**disproportionately** *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌdɪs.prəˈpɔː.ʃən.ət.li/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈpɔːr-/

waver*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈweɪ.vər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-vɚ/ [I]

**Definition**

•

**to lose strength, determination or purpose, especially temporarily**

*I'm afraid my concentration began to waver as lunch approached.*

*He has never wavered****in****his support for the leader.*

•

**If you waver between two possibilities, you cannot decide which of them to choose or you keep choosing one way and then the other**

*"What are you having?" "Er, I'm wavering****between****the fish soup and the mushroom tart."*

**wavering** *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈweɪ.vər.ɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-vɚ-/

*It's the party's last attempt to persuade some of the nation's wavering voters to support them.*

jostle*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdʒɒs.l ̩/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈdʒɑː.sl ̩/ [I or T]

**Definition**

**to knock or push roughly against someone in order to move past them or get more space when you are in a crowd of people**

*As we came into the arena, we were jostled by fans pushing their way towards the stage.*

*Photographers jostled and shoved to get a better view of the royal couple.*

**jostling** *noun*

Click to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdʒɒs.lɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈdʒɑː.slɪŋ/ [U]

**jostling** *adjective*

Click to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdʒɒs.lɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈdʒɑː.slɪŋ/

clamp*verb* (FASTEN)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/klæmp/

**Definition**

[T usually + adverb or preposition] **to fasten two things together, using a clamp**

*Clamp the two pieces of wood****(together)****for 15 minutes.*

[T] mainly UK **If the police or another person in authority clamps a vehicle, they fix a metal device to one of its wheels, usually because it is parked illegally. The device is usually only removed when the owner pays an amount of money**

*When I finally got back, I found my car had been clamped.*

fortress*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈfɔː.trəs/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈfɔːr-/ [C]

**Definition**

**a large strong building or group of buildings which can be defended from attack**

veritable*adjective*

Click to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈver.ɪ.tə.bl ̩/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ə.t ̬ə-/ [before noun]**efinition**

**used to describe something as another, more exciting, interesting or unusual thing, as a way of emphasizing its character**

*My garden had become****a****veritable jungle by the time I came back from holiday.*

*The normally sober menswear department is set to become****a****veritable kaleidoscope of colour this season.*

**veritably** *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈver.ɪ.tə.bli/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ə.t ̬ə-/

precinct*noun* (SHOPPING AREA)

Click to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈpriː.sɪŋ*k* t/

**Definition**

[C] UK **part of a city or a town in which vehicles are not allowed and which is used for a special purpose, especially shopping**

unprecedented*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ʌnˈpres.ɪ.den.tɪd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-t ̬ɪd/

**Definition**

**never having happened or existed in the past**

*This century has witnessed environmental destruction****on an****unprecedented****scale****.*

clutch*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/klʌtʃ/ [I or T]

**Definition**

**to take or try to take hold of something tightly, usually in fear, worry or pain**

*Silent and pale, she clutched****(onto)****her mother's hand.*

*Clutching the money****to****his chest, he hurried to the bank.*

*He collapsed, clutching his stomach.*

led*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/led/

**Definition**

past simple and past participle of [**lead**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/lead_1)

paragon*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈpær.ə.gən/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈper.ə.gɑːn/ [C]

**Definition**

**a person or thing that is perfect or has an extremely large amount of a particular good characteristic**

*In the novel, Constanza is a paragon****of****virtue.*

elope*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈləʊp/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈloʊp/ [I]

**Definition**

**to leave home secretly in order to get married without the permission of parents**

*She eloped****with****an Army officer.*

**elopement** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈləʊp.mənt/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈloʊp-/ [C]

crusade*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/kruːˈseɪd/ [I]

**Definition**

**to make an effort to achieve something which you believe in strongly**

*She crusaded****against****sex and violence on television.*

**crusader** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/kruːˈseɪ.dər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-dɚ/ [C]

*He caught the public imagination as a crusader****against****corruption.*

worship*verb* (RELIGION)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈwɜː.ʃɪp/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈwɝː-/ (**-pp-** or US ALSO **-p-**)

**Definition**

•

[T] **to have or show a strong feeling of respect and admiration for God or a god**

*In the various regions of India, Hindus worship different gods and observe different religious festivals.*

•

[I] **to go to a religious ceremony**

*They work for the same company, socialise together and worship in the same mosque.*

*The poll showed that over 40% of Americans worship on a weekly basis.*

dawn*verb* (BEGIN)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɔːn/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/dɑːn/ [I]

**Definition**

**If a day or period of time dawns, it begins**

*He left the house just as the day was dawning.*

*As 1990 dawned, few people could have predicted the dramatic changes that were to take place in eastern Europe during that year.*

derail*verb* (TRAIN)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌdiːˈreɪl/

**Definition**

[I or T] **If a train derails or is derailed, it comes off the railway tracks.**

**derailment** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌdiːˈreɪl.mənt/ [C or U]

austerity*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɔːˈster.ɪ.ti/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈɑː.ster.ɪ.t ̬i/

**Definition**

•

[C or U] **the condition or policy of living without things that are not necessary and without comfort, with limited money or goods, or a practice, habit or experience that is typical of this**

*The wartime austerity of my early years prepared me for later hardships.*

*The austerities of life in a small rural community were not what I was used to.*

•

[U] **the quality of being austere in appearance or manner**

reconciliation*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌrek.ənˌsɪl.iˈeɪ.ʃən/

**Definition**

•

[C or U] **when two people or groups of people become friendly again after they have argued**

*It took hours of negotiations to bring about a reconciliation****between****the two sides.*

•

[U] **the process of making two opposite beliefs, ideas or situations agree**

noose*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/nuːs/

**Definition**

•

[C] **one end of a rope tied to form a circle which can be tightened round something such as a person's neck to hang (= kill) them**

*They put him on the back of a horse and looped a noose around his neck.*

•

[S] **a serious problem or limit**

*The noose of poverty was****tightening***(= becoming more serious)*daily.*

cushion*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkʊʃ.ən/ [C]

**Definition**

**a bag made of cloth, plastic or leather which is filled with soft material, often has an attractive cover, and is used especially on chairs for sitting or leaning on**

*She sank back****against/into****the cushions.*

See also: [**pincushion**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/pincushion)

**cushion of air**

specialized **a layer of air often used to support a machine or vehicle**

*A hovercraft travels on a cushion of air.*

paralysed*adjective*

UK (US **paralyzed**) Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈpær.əl.aɪzd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈper-/

**Definition**

**unable to move or act**

*The accident left her paralysed****from****the waist down.*

*The government seems paralysed****by/with****indecision.*

*She was paralysed****with****fear.*

implication*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌɪm.plɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/

**Definition**

•

[C or U] **when you seem to suggest something without saying it directly**

[+ *that*] *From what she said, the implication was****that****they were splitting up.*

*She accused the party and,****by****implication, its leader too.*

•

[C usually plural] **the effect that an action or decision will have on something else in the future**

*The company is cutting back its spending and I wonder what the implications will be****for****our department.*

*What are the implications****of****the new law?*

•

[U] **when you suggest or show that someone is involved in a crime**

*The case depended upon his implication of his co-workers in the fraud.*

culprit*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkʌl.prɪt/ [C]

**Definition**

•

**someone who has done something wrong**

*Police hope the public will help them to find the culprits.*

•

**a fact or situation that is the reason for something bad happening**

*Children in this country are getting much too fat, and sugar and sweets are the main culprits.*

**myth**

noun ( ANCIENT STORY ) /m??/ n Definition

[C or U] an ancient story or set of stories, especially explaining in a literary way the early history of a group of people or about natural events and facts ancient myths

The children enjoyed the stories about the gods and goddesses of Greek and Roman myth.

Most societies have their own creation myths.

**shattering**

adjective /'?æt.?r.??//'?æt ?.?-/ adj Definition

making you feel extremely tired

It was a shattering schedule - seven meetings in two days.

unravel

verb ( CLOTH ) /?n'ræv.?l/ v (-ll- or US USUALLY -l-) Definition

[I or T] If a piece of woollen or woven cloth, a knot, or a mass of thread unravels, it separates into a single

thread, and if you unravel it, you separate it into a single thread

You'd better mend that hole before the whole sweater starts to unravel.

I had to unravel one of the sleeves because I realised I'd knitted it too small.

edifice

noun /'ed.?.f?s/ n [C] formal Definition

• a large building, especially a splendid one

The town hall is the only edifice surviving from the fifteenth century.

• a system which has been established for a long time

It looks as if the whole political edifice of the country is about to collapse.

crumble

verb /'kr?m.bl ?/ v Definition

• [I or T] to break, or cause something to break, into small pieces

She nervously crumbled the bread between her fingers.

The cliffs on which the houses are built are starting to crumble.

• [I] to become weaker in strength or influence

Support for the government is crumbling.

energize/?energise

?(?UK ? usually ?energise?)??/'en.?.d?a?z/?/-?-/ ? verb? ?[?T?]? ?

?

?›? ?to make someone feel energetic or eager

I felt very energized after my holiday.

pie?

??/pa?/ ? noun? ?[?C? or U?]? ?

?

?A? ?a type of food made with meat, vegetables or fruit covered in pastry and baked

Would you like some more pork pie?

humble?

??/'h?m.bl ?/ ? adjective? ?

?

?›? ?not proud or not believing that you are important

He's very humble about his success.?

formal ? ?Please accept our humble apologies? for the error.

In my humble opinion? (= ?I want to emphasize that I think that)? we should never have bought the car in the first

place.

?›? ?poor or of a low social rank

Even when she became rich and famous, she never forgot her humble background.?

?›? ?ordinary; not special or very important

At that time she was just a humble mechanic.?

humorous ? ?Welcome to our humble abode? (= ?our home)?.

casualty?

??/'kæ?.ju.?l.ti/ ? noun? ? INJURED ??

?A? ?[?C?]? ?a person injured or killed in a serious accident or war

The train was derailed but there were no casualties, police said.?

The rebels suffered heavy? casualties.

defer?

to delay something until a later time; to postpone?

My bank has agreed to defer the repayments? on my loan while I'm still a student.

Can we defer making? a decision until next week

abrupt?

??/?'br?pt/ ? adjective? ? SUDDEN ??

?A? ?describes something that is sudden and unexpected, and often unpleasant

an abrupt change/movement?

Our conversation came to an abrupt end? when George burst into the room.

The road ended in an abrupt (= ?sudden and very steep)? slope down to the sea.

consensus?

a generally accepted opinion or decision among a group of people

The general? consensus in the office is that he's useless at his job.

Could we reach? a consensus on? this matter? Let's take a vote.

spanner?

?/'spæn.?r?/?/-?/ ? noun? ?[?C?]? ?UK ? (?US ? ?wrench?) ?

?

?›? ?a metal tool with a shaped end, used to turn nuts? and bolts?

an open-ended/adjustable/ring spanner?

upbeat?

??/?p'bi?t/, /'-/ ? adjective? ?informal ?

?

?›? ?full of hope, happiness and good feelings

Live music and a parade set an upbeat mood for the official opening.?

Opposite?: downbeat

heartened?

??/'h??.t??nd/?/'h??r.t ???nd/ ? adjective? ?[?after verb?]? ?

?

?›? ?feeling happier and more positive about something

I was heartened to? hear reports that the tickets for the show were selling well.

We all felt heartened by the news.

bout

noun ( SHORT PERIOD ) /ba?t/ n [C] Definition

a short period of illness or involvement in an activity

She had a bout of flu over Christmas.

He suffered from periodic bouts of insanity.

a drinking bout (= short period of drinking a lot of alcohol)

residual

adjective /r?'z?d.ju.?l//-'z?d?-/ adj Definition

remaining after most of something has gone

I still felt some residual bitterness ten years after my divorce.

obvious

adjective /ˈɒb.vi.əs//ˈɑːb-/

Definition

clear; easy to see, recognize or understand

[+ (that)] It's obvious (that) she doesn't like him.

They have a small child so for obvious reasons they need money.

I know you don't like her, but do you have to make it so obvious?

Am I stating the obvious (= saying what everyone already knows)?

There is no obvious solution.

evangelist

noun /ɪˈvæn.dʒə.lɪst/ [C]

Definition

a person who tries to persuade people to become Christians, often by travelling around and organizing religious

meetings

See also: televangelist

evangelistic adjective /ɪˌvæn.dʒəˈlɪs.tɪk/

hostess

noun /ˈhəʊ.stes//ˈhoʊ.stɪs/ [C]

Definition

• a woman who has guests

• a woman who entertains customers, especially men, at a nightclub

gracious

adjective ( PLEASANT ) /ˈgreɪ.ʃəs/

Definition

behaving in a pleasant, polite, calm way

a gracious smile

He was gracious enough to thank me.

The losing team were gracious in defeat.

graciously adverb /ˈgreɪ.ʃə.sli/

graciousness noun /ˈgreɪ.ʃə.snəs/ [U]

hysteria

noun /hɪˈstɪə.ri.ə//-ˈstɪr.i-/ [U]

Definition

extreme fear, excitement, anger, etc. which cannot be controlled

One woman, close to hysteria, grabbed my arm.

Tabloid hysteria about the murders has increased public fears.

mass hysteria

dither*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdɪð.ər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚ/ [I] disapproving

**Definition**

**to be unable to make a decision about doing something**

*Stop dithering and choose which one you want!*

*She's still dithering****over****whether to accept the job she's just been offered.*

**ditherer** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdɪð.ə.rər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚ.ɚ/ [C]

**dithery** *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdɪð.ə.ri/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚ.i/

throes*plural noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/θrəʊz/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/θroʊz/

**Definition**

**in the throes of *sth***

**experiencing or doing something which is difficult, unpleasant or painful**

*The country is presently in the throes of the worst recession since the Second World War.*

*He's in the throes of a mid-life crisis which makes him rather difficult to live with.*

normality*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/nɔːˈmæl.ə.ti/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/nɔːrˈmæl.ə.t ̬i/ [U] (US also **normalcy**)

**Definition**

**the state of being normal**

*Now that the civil war is over, relative normality has returned to the south of the country.*

daunting*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdɔːn.tɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈdɑːn.t ̬ɪŋ/

**Definition**

**making you feel slightly frightened or worried about your ability to achieve something**

*In spite of unification, the country was still faced with the daunting prospect of overcoming four decades of division.*

mud-slinging*noun*

(also  **mudslinging**) Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈmʌdˌslɪŋ.ɪŋ/ [U]

**Definition**

**when you say insulting or unfair things about someone, especially to try to damage their reputation**

stare*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/steər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ster/ [I or T]

**Definition**

**to look for a long time with the eyes wide open, especially when surprised, frightened or thinking**

*Don't stare****at****people like that, it's rude.*

*Chuck sat quietly for hours staring into the distance, thinking of what might have been.*

*During the press conference, each boxer tried to stare the other****down****/UK also****out***(= force the other to look away by continual staring)*.*

**staring** *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈsteə.rɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈster.ɪŋ/

babel*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈbeɪ.bəl/ [S] formal

**Definition**

**a state of confusion caused by many people talking at the same time or using different languages**

*a babel****of****voices.*

perspective*noun* ( THOUGHT )

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/pəˈspek.tɪv/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/pɚˈspek-/

[C] **a particular way of considering something**

*Her attitude lends a fresh perspective to the subject.*

*He writes****from****a Marxist perspective.*

*Because of its geographical position, Germany's perspective****on****the situation in Eastern Europe is rather different from Britain's.*

**get/keep *sth* in perspective**

**to think about a situation or problem in a wise and reasonable way**

*You must keep things in perspective - the overall situation isn't really that bad.*

**put *sth* in(to) perspective**

**to compare something to other things so that it can be accurately and fairly judged**

*Total investments for this year reached £53 million, and, to put this into perspective, investments this year were double those made in 2001.*

staggered*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈstæg.əd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚd/ [after noun]

**Definition**

**very shocked or surprised**

*I was staggered****at****the prices.*

lump sum*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word [C usually singular]

**Definition**

**a sum of money that is paid in one large amount on one occasion**

*Her divorce settlement included a lump sum****of****$2 million.*

impasse*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/æmˈpæs/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈɪm.pæs/ [U]

**Definition**

**a situation in which further development is impossible**

*The dispute had****reached****an impasse, as neither side would compromise.*

impasse*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/æmˈpæs/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈɪm.pæs/ [U]

**Definition**

**a situation in which further development is impossible**

*The dispute had****reached****an impasse, as neither side would compromise.*

immense*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈmen*t* s/

**Definition**

•

**extremely large in size or degree**

*immense wealth/value*

*They spent an immense****amount****of time getting the engine into perfect condition.*

•

slang **extremely good**

*He's an immense goalkeeper.*

stalemate*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈsteɪl.meɪt/ [C or U]

**Definition**

•

**a situation in which neither group involved in an argument can win or get an advantage and no action can be taken**

*Tomorrow's meeting between the two leaders is expected to****break****a diplomatic stalemate that has lasted for ten years.*

*Despite long discussions, the workers and the management remain****locked in****stalemate.*

•

**in chess, a position in which one player is unable to move, but their king is not being attacked, which means that neither of the two players wins**

Compare: [**checkmate**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/checkmate)

limp*verb* (PERSON/ANIMAL)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/lɪmp/

**Definition**

[I] **to walk slowly and with difficulty because of having an injured or painful leg or foot**

*Three minutes into the match, Jackson limped off the pitch with a serious ankle injury.*

viability*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌvaɪ.əˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ə.t ̬i/ [U]

**Definition**

•

**ability to work as intended or to succeed**

*Rising costs are threatening the viability****of****many businesses.*

•

specialized **ability to continue to exist or develop as a living being**

*As the world population of Hawaiian geese has shrunk to very small numbers, the bird's continuing viability is in doubt.*

eager*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈiː.gər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-gɚ/

**Definition**

**wanting very much to do or have something, especially something interesting or enjoyable**

*the children's eager faces*

[+ *to* infinitive] *She sounded very eager****to****meet you.*

*They crowded round the spokesperson, eager****for****any news.*

**eagerly** *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈiː.gə.li/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-gɚ-/

*an eagerly****awaited****announcement*

**eagerness** *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈiː.gə.nəs/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-gɚ-/ [U often + *to*infinitive]

resumption*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪˈzʌm*p* .ʃən/ [S or U]

**Definition**

**the start of something again after it has stopped**

*The president called for an immediate ceasefire and****a****resumption****of****negotiations between the two sides.*

beleaguered*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/bɪˈliː.gəd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-gɚd/

**Definition**

•

**troubled by someone or a situation**

*The arrival of the fresh medical supplies was a welcome sight for the beleaguered doctors working in the refugee camps.*

•

**surrounded by an army**

*The occupants of the beleaguered city had no means of escape.*

monetize

monetize: listen to British English pronunciationmonetize: listen to American pronunciation /ˈmɒnətaɪz/ *verb* [T] (UK also **monetise**)

**Definition**

**›** FINANCE **to change something into money of equal value:**

**monetize an asset/a debt** *Monetizing debt is a complicated investment few understand.*

**›** FINANCE, MARKETING **to cause something to earn money:**

*We can monetize website traffic by showing advertisements.*

lying*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈlaɪ.ɪŋ/

**Definition**

present participle of [**lie**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/lie_1)

denim*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈden.ɪm/ [U]

**Definition**

**a thick strong cotton cloth, often blue in colour, used especially for making jeans**

*a denim jacket and jeans*

**denims**

UK informal **clothes made of denim**

*He's usually in denims.*

wardrobe*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈwɔː.drəʊb/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈwɔːr.droʊb/

**Definition**

•

[C or U] **a tall cupboard in which you hang your clothes, or all of the clothes that a person owns**

*She was showing me her new****built-in****/UK****fitted****wardrobes.*

*I sometimes feel that my summer wardrobe is rather lacking*(= I don't have many clothes for summer)*.*

•

[U] **a department in a theatre, film company, etc. that is in charge of the clothes that the actors wear on stage, making certain that they are clean, repairing them and sometimes making them**

*He's in charge of wardrobe at the local amateur theatre.*

regret*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪˈgret/ [C or U]

**Definition**

**a feeling of sadness about something sad or wrong or about a mistake that you have made, and a wish that it could have been different and better**

*I left school at 16, but I've had a great life and I****have no****regrets.*

*The manager expressed deep regret****at/for****the number of staff reductions.*

*We think,****much to****our regret*(= and we are very sorry about this)*, that we will not be able to visit you next year.*

**send *(sb)* *your* regrets**

**to send a polite message that you cannot go to a party, etc**

*We did have an invitation, but we had to send Graham our regrets.*

terribly*adverb* (VERY BADLY)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈter.ə.bli/

**Definition**

**very badly**

*I slept terribly last night.*

sentence*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈsen.tən*t* s/ [T] legal

**Definition**

**to decide and say officially what a punishment will be**

*He was sentenced****to****life imprisonment.*

exaggeration*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪgˌzædʒ.əˈreɪ.ʃən/ [C or U]

**Definition**

**when someone makes something seem larger, more important, better or worse than it really is**

*Sal reckons over sixty people were there but I think that's a slight exaggeration.*

[+ *to* infinitive] ***It****would be****no****exaggeration****to****say that her work has saved lives.*

writ*noun* (DOCUMENT)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪt/

**Definition**

[C] legal **a legal document from a court of law which tells someone that they will be involved in a legal process and explains to them what they must do**

*There have been at least seven writs****issued against****him for late payment of bills.*

*She has****served****a writ****for****libel****on****the newspaper*(= She has delivered it to them officially)*.*

devotion*noun* (LOYALTY)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɪˈvəʊ.ʃən/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈvoʊ-/ [U]

**Definition**

**loyalty and love or care for someone or something**

*He inspired respect and devotion from his pupils.*

*She will be remembered for her selfless/unstinting devotion****to****the cause.*

soar*verb* (RISE QUICKLY)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/sɔːr/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/sɔːr/

**Definition**

•

[I usually + adverb or preposition] **to rise very quickly to a high level**

*All night long fireworks soared into the sky.*

*Temperatures will soar into the eighties over the weekend say the weather forecasters.*

*House prices had soared a further twenty per cent.*

•

[T] **to reach a great height**

*The highest peak in the range soars 15 771 feet into the sky.*

**soaring** *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈsɔː.rɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈsɔːr.ɪŋ/

# expedite*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈek.spə.daɪt/ [T] formal

## Definition

**to cause to be done more quickly; to hurry**

*Something needs to be done to expedite the process.*

# ploy*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/plɔɪ/ [C]

## Definition

**something that is done or said in order to get an advantage, often dishonestly**

*There are various ploys we can****use****if necessary.*

[+ *to* infinitive] *He only said he had a meeting as a ploy****to****get her to leave.*

# belief*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/bɪˈliːf/ [C or S or U]

## Definition

**the feeling of being certain that something exists or is true**

*All non-violent religious and political beliefs should be respected equally.*

[+ *that* ] *It is my (firm) belief that nuclear weapons are immoral.*

*His belief****in****God gave him hope during difficult times.*

*Recent revelations about corruption have****shaken****many people's belief****in***(= caused people to have doubts about)*the police.*

*He called at her house****in the****belief****that***(= confident that)*she would lend him the money.*

**beyond belief**

**too bad, good, difficult, etc. to be imagined**

*The brutality of the murders was beyond belief.*

# languish*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈlæŋ.gwɪʃ/ [I]

## Definition

**to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation, often for a long time**

*After languishing****in obscurity****for many years, her early novels have recently been rediscovered.*

*He has been languishing****in jail****for the past twenty years.*

*The ruling party is languishing****in****third place in the opinion polls.*

# mess*noun* (PROBLEMS)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/mes/

## Definition

•

[S] **a situation that is full of problems**

*She said that her life was a mess.*

*I****got****myself****into a****mess by telling a lie.*

*The company's finances are****in a****mess.*

•

[S] **a person whose life is full of problems they cannot deal with**

*After the divorce he was a real mess and drinking too much.*

**make a mess of sth**(also **mess sth up**)

**to do something badly or spoil something**

*I've made a real mess of my exams.*

# mess-up*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈmes.ʌp/ [C usually singular] informal

## Definition

**something which has been done badly**

*He made a real mess-up of the sales figures.*

# sulk*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/sʌlk/ [I] disapproving

## Definition

**to be silent and refuse to smile or be pleasant to people because you are angry about something that they have done**

*He's sulking in a corner somewhere because I wouldn't let him have a second bar of chocolate.*

# revolt*verb* (FIGHT)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪˈvəʊlt/, /-ˈvɒlt/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈvoʊlt/

## Definition

[I] **If a large number of people revolt, they refuse to be controlled or ruled, and take often violent action against authority**

*The people revolted****against****foreign rule and established their own government.*

# mollify*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈmɒl.ɪ.faɪ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈmɑː.lɪ-/ [T]

## Definition

**to make someone less angry or upset**

*I tried to mollify her by giving her flowers.*

# deserted*adjective* (EMPTY)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɪˈzɜː.tɪd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈzɝː.t ̬ɪd/

## Definition

**If a place is deserted, there are no people in it**

*a deserted building/street*

*The coastal resorts are deserted*(= do not have many visitors)*in winter.*

# reel*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪəl/ [I]

## Definition

•

**to walk, moving from side to side, looking like you are going to fall**

*At closing time he reeled out of the pub and fell down on the pavement.*

*She hit him so hard that he reeled backwards.*

•

**If the place where you are reels, what you are looking at seems to go round and round in front of you**

*A stone hit his head and the street reeled before his eyes.*

•

**If you reel, or your mind or brain reels, you feel very confused or shocked and unable to act**

*We were reeling (****in****amazement/shock/delight, etc.)****from/with****the news that we had won all that money.*

# queer*adjective* (HOMOSEXUAL)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/kwɪər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/kwɪr/

## Definition

offensive **(especially of a man) homosexual**

# anguish*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈæŋ.gwɪʃ/ [U]

## Definition

**extreme unhappiness caused by physical or mental suffering**

*His anguish****at****the outcome of the court case was very clear.*

***In****her anguish she forgot to leave a message.*

# anguished *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈæŋ.gwɪʃt/

*an anguished cry*

# snafu*noun*

Click to hear the US pronunciation of this word/snæˈfuː/ [C] US informal

## Definition

**a situation in which nothing has happened as planned**

*The company isn't wholly to blame for the snafu.*

*A single snafu*(= serious mistake)*by an airline can leave a lasting impression on travelers.*

# fawn over/on sb*phrasal verb*

disapproving

## Definition

**to praise someone too much and give them a lot of attention which is not sincere in order to get a positive reaction**

*I hate waiters who fawn over you.*

# fawning *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/fɔː.nɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/fɑː-/ disapproving

*a fawning young man*

# adulation*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌæd.jʊˈleɪ.ʃən/ [U]

## Definition

**very great admiration or praise for someone, especially when it is more than is deserved**

*Minelli is a born performer - she loves the excitement and she loves the adulation.*

# adulatory *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌæd.jʊˈleɪ.tər.i/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈædʒ.əl.ə.tɔː.ri/formal

*I found myself irritated by the adulatory*(= showing too much admiration)*tone of her biography.*

# derision*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɪˈrɪʒ.ən/ [U] formal

## Definition

**when someone or something is laughed at and considered stupid or of no value**

*They treated his suggestion****with****derision.*

*Her speech was met with****hoots/howls of****derision.*

# indeed*adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪnˈdiːd/

## Definition

•

**really or certainly, often used to emphasize something**

*Indeed, it could be the worst environmental disaster in Western Europe this century.*

*Evidence suggests that errors may indeed be occurring.*

*We live in strange times indeed.*

mainly UK *Many people are****very****poor indeed.*

•

**used to express that something is correct**

*"Is this your dog?" "It is indeed."/"Indeed it is."*

*Yes, I did indeed say that.*

•

**used to add some extra information which develops or supports something you have just said**

*For such creatures, speed is not important - indeed it is counterproductive.*

*I am happy, indeed proud, to be associated with this project.*

# bleak*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/bliːk/

## Definition

•

**If weather or a place is bleak, it is cold, empty and not welcoming or attractive**

*The house stands on a bleak, windswept moor.*

•

**If a situation is bleak, there is little or no hope for the future**

*The economic****outlook****is bleak.*

# bleakness *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈbliːk.nəs/ [U]

# prima facie*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌpraɪ.məˈfeɪ.ʃi/ [before noun] formal or legal

## Definition

**at first sight (= based on what seems to be the truth when first seen or heard)**

*There is prima facie****evidence****that he was involved in the fraud.*

*For millions of Americans witnessing the event, it was a prima facie****case****of police brutality.*

# nexus*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈnek.səs/ [C usually singular] formal

## Definition

**an important connection between the parts of a system or a group of things**

*Times Square is the nexus of the New York subway.*

# bearded*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈbɪə.dɪd/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈbɪr.dɪd/

## Definition

**with a beard**

*A thin, bearded man sat opposite me on the train.*

# staunch*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/stɔːntʃ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/stɑːntʃ/

## Definition

**always loyal in supporting a person, organization or set of beliefs or opinions**

*a staunch friend and ally*

*He gained a reputation as being a staunch****defender/supporter****of civil rights.*

# oft*adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɒft/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ɑːft/ old use or formal

## Definition

**often**

*that oft-****repeated****cliché, 'Time heals'*

# sputter*verb* (SOUND)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈspʌt.ər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈspʌt ̬.ɚ/

## Definition

[I or T] **to make several quick explosive sounds**

*The car sputtered once or twice and then stopped.*

# sputter *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈspʌt.ər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈspʌ.ɚ/ [C]

# free*verb* (NOT IN PRISON)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/friː/

## Definition

[T] **to allow someone to leave a prison or place where they have been kept**

*After a ten-hour siege the gunman agreed to free the hostages.*

*Anti-vivisectionists last night freed a number of animals****from****a laboratory.*

# pessimistic*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌpes.ɪˈmɪs.tɪk/

## Definition

**thinking that bad things are more likely to happen or emphasizing the bad part of a situation**

*The tone of the meeting was very pessimistic.*

*The doctors are pessimistic*(= not hopeful)***about****his chances of recovery.*

# pessimistically *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌpes.ɪˈmɪs.tɪ.kli/

# absorption*noun* (TAKING IN)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/əbˈzɔːp.ʃən/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈzɔːrp-/ [U]

## Definition

**the process of taking something into another substance**

*Some poisonous gases can enter the body by absorption through the skin.*

# affirmative*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/əˈfɜː.mə.tɪv/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈfɝː.mə.t ̬ɪv/

## Definition

**relating to a statement that shows agreement or says 'yes'**

*an affirmative answer/response*

Opposite: [**negative**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/negative_1)

# affirmatively *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/əˈfɜː.mə.tɪv.li/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈfɝː.mə.t ̬ɪv-/

*She answered affirmatively.*

# palatable*adjective* (TASTE)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈpæl.ə.tə.bl ̩/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-t ̬ə-/

## Definition

formal **describes food or drink that has a pleasant taste**

*a very palatable wine*

*The meal was barely palatable.*

Opposite: [**unpalatable**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/unpalatable)

# chubby*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈtʃʌb.i/

## Definition

**(especially of children) fat in a pleasant and attractive way**

*chubby legs*

*chubby cheeks*

# cheek*noun* (FACE)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/tʃiːk/

## Definition

[C] **the soft part of your face which is below your eye and between your mouth and ear**

*The tears ran down her cheeks.*

*rosy cheeks*

*He embraced her, kissing her on both cheeks.*

# chiselled*adjective*

(US usually **chiseled**) Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈtʃɪz.əld/

## Definition

**(of a man's face or features) strong and sharp, in an attractive way**

*She brought with her a young man with finely chiselled****features****.*

**flab**  (flhttp://img.tfd.com/hm/GIF/abreve.gifb)

*n.*

Soft fatty body tissue.

unsightly or unwanted fat on the body; flabbiness

 loose or flaccid body fat

# *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/weɪst/ [C]

## Definition

•

**the part of the body above and slightly narrower than the hips**

*a small/narrow/tiny/large/thick waist*

*These trousers are a bit tight around my waist.*

•

**the part of a piece of clothing that goes around or covers the area between the hips and the ribs**

*The skirt had an elasticated waist.*

# rib*noun* (BONE)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/rɪb/

## Definition

•

[C] **a bone that curves round from your back to your chest**

*My son broke a rib when he fell off a ladder.*

•

[C or U] **a piece of meat taken from this part of an animal**

*He cooked rib of lamb for Sunday lunch.*

See also: [**spare ribs**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/spare-ribs)

•

[C] **one of the curved pieces of metal or wood which support the structure of a boat or roof**

# puffy*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈpʌf.i/

## Definition

**If the skin around your eyes is puffy, it is slightly swollen**

*His eyes were still puffy with sleep.*

# lycopene*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈlaɪ.kəʊ .piːn/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-koʊ-/ [U]

## Definition

**a substance in tomatoes and some other red fruits that may prevent some types of cancer**

# defy*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɪˈfaɪ/ [T]

## Definition

**to refuse to obey a person, decision, law, situation, etc.**

*children openly defying their teachers*

*A few workers have defied the majority decision and gone into work despite the strike.*

*The fact that aircraft don't fall out of the sky always seems to me to defy*(= act against)*the****law****of gravity.*

*A forest fire raging in the south of France is defying*(= is not changed by)*all attempts to control it.*

**defy belief/description/explanation**

**to be extreme or very strange and therefore impossible to believe, describe or explain**

*The chaos at the airport defies description.*

**defy sb to do sth**

**to tell someone to do something that you think will be impossible**

*I defy you to prove your accusations.*

*I defy you to tell where I've painted over the scratch on my car.*

# ingredient*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪnˈgriː.di.ənt/ [C]

## Definition

•

**a food that is used with other foods in the preparation of a particular dish**

*The****list of****ingredients included 250g of almonds.*

•

**one of the parts of something successful**

*Trust is a vital ingredient in a successful marriage.*

# lustrous*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈlʌs.trəs/

## Definition

**very shiny**

*long lustrous hair*

# lustrously *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈlʌs.trə.sli/

# blend*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/blend/ [C]

## Definition

**a mixture of different things or styles**

*a rich blend of the finest coffee beans*

*Their music is a blend of jazz and African rhythms.*

# antagonize*verb*

(UK usually **antagonise**) Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ænˈtæg.ə.naɪz/ [T]

## Definition

**to make someone dislike you or feel opposed to you**

*It's a very delicate situation and I've no wish to antagonize him.*

# flatter*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈflæt.ər /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈflæt ̬.ɚ/ [T]

## Definition

•

**to praise someone in order to make them feel attractive or important, sometimes in a way that is not sincere**

*I knew he was only flattering me because he wanted to borrow some money.*

**flatter yourself**

**to believe something good about yourself although it might not be true**

[+ *that* ] *Clive flatters himself****that****he's an excellent speaker.*

**flatter to deceive**

**to give the appearance of being better than the true situation**

*I suspect these statistics flatter to deceive.*

**be/feel flattered**

**to feel very pleased and proud because someone has said good things about you or has made you feel important**

*She was flattered by his attention.*

*They were flattered****to****be invited to dinner by the mayor.*

*We felt flattered****that****so many people came to our party.*

•

**to make someone look more attractive than usual**

*That new hairstyle really flatters her.*

*Short skirts don't flatter me at all.*

# lull*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/lʌl/ [T]

## Definition

**to cause someone to feel calm or to feel as if they want to sleep**

*The motion of the car almost lulled her****to sleep****.*

# confer*verb* (TALK)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/kənˈfɜːr /http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ˈfɝː/ (**-rr-**)

## Definition

[I] **to exchange ideas on a particular subject, often in order to reach a decision on what action to take**

*I should like some time to confer****with****my lawyer.*

# injunction*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪnˈdʒʌŋk.ʃən/ [C]

## Definition

**an official order given by a court of law, usually to stop someone from doing something**

[+ *to* infinitive] *The court has****issued****an injunction****to****prevent the airline from increasing its prices.*

[+ *-ing* verb] *She is****seeking****an injunction bann****ing****the newspaper from publishing the photographs.*

# lapse*noun* (FAILURE)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/læps/

## Definition

[C] **a temporary failure**

*a lapse****of****concentration*

*The management's decision to ignore the safety warnings demonstrated a remarkable lapse****of****judgment.*

*a****memory****lapse*

# anonymity*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌæn.ɒnˈɪm.ɪ.ti/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-əˈnɪm.ə.t ̬i/ [U]

## Definition

**when someone's name is not given or known**

*The police have reassured witnesses who may be afraid to come forward that they will be guaranteed anonymity.*

# illicit*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈlɪs.ɪt/

## Definition

**illegal or disapproved of by society**

*illicit drugs such as cocaine and cannabis*

*the illicit trade in stolen vehicles*

*an illicit love affair*

# illicitly *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈlɪs.ɪt.li/

# culminate*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkʌl.mɪ.neɪt/

## Definition

**culminate in/with sth**

**If an event or series of events culminates in something, it ends with it, having developed until it reaches this point**

*My arguments with the boss got worse and worse, and it all culminated in my deciding to change jobs.*

*Their many years of research have finally culminated in a cure for the disease.*

# culmination *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌkʌl.mɪˈneɪ.ʃən/ [U]

*Winning first prize was****the****culmination****of****years of practice and hard work.*

# forgo*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/fɔːˈgəʊ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/fɔːrˈgoʊ/ [T] (**forgoing**, **forwent**, **forgone**)(also **forego**) formal

## Definition

**to not have or do something enjoyable**

*I shall have to forgo****the pleasure of****seeing you this week.*

# prominent*adjective* (FAMOUS)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈprɒm.ɪ.nənt/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈprɑː.mə-/

## Definition

**very well known and important**

*a prominent Democrat*

*a prominent member of the Saudi royal family*

*The government should be playing a more prominent role in promoting human rights.*

# prominently *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈprɒm.ɪ.nənt.li/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈprɑː.mɪ-/

# trolley*noun* (FOR CARRYING)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈtrɒl.i/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈtrɑː.li/ [C] (plural **trolleys** or**trollies**)

## Definition

•

UK (US **cart**) **a small vehicle with two or four wheels that you push or pull to transport large or heavy objects on**

*a shopping trolley*

*The hospital is so overcrowded that some patients are being treated on trolleys in the corridors.*

*Why will****supermarket****trolleys never move in the direction that you push them in?*

•

UK (US **cart**) **a table on four small wheels with one or more shelves under it which is used for serving food or drinks**

*Betty almost ran me over with her****tea****trolley as I was walking into the office!*

*Every thirty minutes or so the flight attendant would****wheel****the****drinks****trolley down the aisle.*

# deference*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈdef.ər.ənt s/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚ-/ [U] formal

## Definition

**respect and politeness**

*He****treats****her****with****such deference.*

*She covered her head****out of/in****deference****to***(= because of a polite respect for)*Muslim custom.*

# prejudice*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈpredʒ.ʊ.dɪs/ [C or U]

## Definition

**an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially when formed without enough thought or knowledge**

*Laws against****racial****prejudice must be strictly enforced.*

[+ *that*] *The campaign aims to dispel the prejudice****that****AIDS is confined to the homosexual community.*

*He claims that prejudice****against****homosexuals would cease overnight if all the gay stars in the country were honest about their sexuality.*

**without prejudice to sth**formal or legal

**If a decision or action is made without prejudice to a right or claim, it is made without having an effect on that right or claim**

*My client accepts the formal apology without prejudice to any further legal action she may decide to take.*

# requisite*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈrek.wɪ.zɪt/ [before noun] formal

## Definition

**necessary; needed for a particular purpose**

*He lacked the requisite****skills****for the job.*

*The requisite****number****of countries have now ratified the convention.*

# irretrievable*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌɪr.ɪˈtriː.və.bl ̩/

## Definition

**impossible to correct or return to a previously existing situation or condition**

*I agree things look difficult, but the situation is far from irretrievable.*

*The couple separated on the grounds of irretrievable****breakdown****(of their marriage).*

# irretrievably *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌɪr.ɪˈtriː.və.bli/

*irretrievably damaged/lost*

# alimony*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈæl.ɪ.mə.ni/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-moʊ-/ [U]

## Definition

**a regular amount of money that a court of law orders a person, usually a man, to pay to their partner after a divorce (= legal ending of a marriage)**

# hushed*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/hʌʃt/

## Definition

**quiet**

*She stood up to address a hushed courtroom.*

*People still speak in hushed****tones***(= very quietly)*of the murders.*

# simmer*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈsɪm.ər/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚ/

## Definition

•

[I or T] **to cook something liquid, or something with liquid in it, at a temperature slightly below boiling**

*Leave the vegetables to simmer for a few minutes.*

•

[I] **If a disagreement or negative emotion simmers, it grows slowly stronger over a period of time and could become more serious at any moment**

*The strike has been simmering for weeks.*

*She's been simmering****with****resentment ever since the meeting.*

# simmer *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word [S]

*Bring the potatoes to a simmer.*

# intricate*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈɪn.trɪ.kət/

## Definition

**having a lot of small parts or details that are arranged in a complicated way and are therefore sometimes difficult to understand, solve or produce**

*The watch mechanism is extremely intricate and very difficult to repair.*

*Police officers uncovered an intricate****web****of deceit.*

# intricately *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈɪn.trɪ.kət.li/

*an intricately engraved pendant*

# scrap*verb* (THROW AWAY)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/skræp/ (**-pp-**)

## Definition

•

[T] **to not continue with a system or plan**

*They're considering scrapping the tax and raising the money in other ways.*

*We scrapped our****plans****for a trip to France.*

•

[T] **to get rid of something which is no longer useful or wanted, often using its parts in new ways**

*Hundreds of nuclear weapons have been scrapped.*

# poised*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/pɔɪzd/

## Definition

•

[after verb] **describes an object or a part of your body that is completely still but ready to move at any moment**

*My pencil was poised over the page, ready to take down her words.*

•

[after verb] **ready to do a particular thing at any moment**

[+ *to* infinitive] *The company is poised****to****launch its new advertising campaign.*

*The military forces are poised****for****attack.*

# sanctity*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈsæŋk.tɪ.ti/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-tə.t ̬i/

## Definition

**the sanctity of human life/marriage, etc.**

**when something is very important and deserves respect**

[U] **the quality of being holy**

# deliberate*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/dɪˈlɪb.ər.ət/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/-ɚ-/

## Definition

•

**(often of something bad) intentional or planned**

*a deliberate attack/insult/lie*

*We made a deliberate decision to live apart for a while.*

•

**describes a movement, action or thought which is done carefully without hurrying**

# lieutenant*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/lefˈten.ənt/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/luː-/ [C]

## Definition

**(the title of) an officer of middle rank in the armed forces**

*first/second lieutenant*

# immune*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ɪˈmjuːn/

## Definition

•

**protected against a particular disease by particular substances in the blood**

*Most people who've had chicken pox once are immune****to****it for the rest of their lives.*

*He seems to be immune****to****colds - he just never gets them.*

•

[after verb] **not affected or upset by a particular type of behaviour or emotion**

*The press had criticised her so often that in the end she had become immune (****to****it).*

•

[after verb] **not able to be punished or damaged by something**

*Journalists, he insisted, must be immune*(= protected)***from****prosecution.*

# scorching*adjective* *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈskɔː.tʃɪŋ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈskɔːr-/ (also **scorching hot**)

## Definition

**very hot**

*a scorching summer day*

*It was scorching****hot****inside the greenhouse.*

# spite*noun* (DESPITE)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/spaɪt/

## Definition

**in spite of sth**

**(used before one fact that makes another fact surprising) despite**

*In spite of his injury, Ricardo will play in Saturday's match.*

**in spite of yourself**

**used when you do something which you do not intend to do and which you are trying not to do**

# adverse*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈæd.vɜːs/, /-ˈ-/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ædˈvɝːs/ [before noun]

## Definition

**having a negative or harmful effect on something**

*The match has been cancelled due to adverse****weather conditions****.*

*They received a lot of adverse****publicity/criticism****about the changes.*

*So far the drug is thought not to have any adverse****effects****.*

# adversely

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈæd.vɜː.sli/, /-ˈ-/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ædˈvɝː-/

*A lot of companies have been adversely*(= in a harmful way)***affected****by the recession.*

# mankind*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/mænˈkaɪnd/ [U] (also **humankind**)

## Definition

**the whole of the human race, including both men and women**

*Mankind has always been obsessed by power.*

Compare: [**womankind**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/womankind)

# baffle*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈbæf.l ̩/ [T]

## Definition

**to cause someone to be completely unable to understand or explain something**

*She was****completely****baffled****by****his strange behaviour.*

# bafflement *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈbæf.l ̩.mənt/ [U]

# baffling *adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈbæf.lɪŋ/

*I found what he was saying completely baffling.*

# flawless*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈflɔː.ləs/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈflɑː-/

## Definition

**perfect or without mistakes**

*a flawless complexion*

*a flawless performance*

# flawlessly *adverb*

Click to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈflɔː.ləs.li/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈflɑː-/



# uneven*adjective* (NOT EVEN)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ʌnˈiː.vən/

## Definition

**not level, equal, flat or continuous**

*Take care when you walk on that path - the paving stones are rather uneven.*

*There is an uneven distribution of wealth across the country from the north to the south.*

*The contest was very uneven - the other team was far stronger than us.*

# unevenly *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ʌnˈiː.vən.li/

# unevenness *noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ʌnˈiː.vən.nəs/ [U]

# stumble*verb* (WALK)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈstʌm.bl ̩/

## Definition

•

[I] **to step awkwardly while walking or running and fall or begin to fall**

*Running along the beach, she stumbled****on****a log and fell on the sand.*

*In the final straight Meyers stumbled, and although he didn't fall it was enough to lose him first place.*

•

[I usually + adverb or preposition] **to walk in a way which does not seem controlled**

*We could hear her stumbling****about/around****the bedroom in the dark.*

*He pulled on his clothes and stumbled****into****the kitchen.*

# pore*noun*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/pɔːr/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/pɔːr/ [C]

## Definition

**a very small hole in the skin of people or other animals, or a similar hole on the surface of plants or rocks**

*Sweat passes through the pores and cools the body down.*

*Pimples form when pores become blocked with dirt.*

# nourish*verb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈnʌr.ɪʃ/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈnɝː-/ [T]

## Definition

•

**to provide people or living things with food in order to make them grow and keep them healthy**

*Children need plenty of good fresh food to nourish them.*

*She looks happy and well nourished.*

*This cream is supposed to help nourish your skin.*

•

formal **If you nourish a feeling, belief or plan, you think about it a lot and encourage it**

*Lisa has long nourished the hope of becoming a famous writer.*

# conscious*adjective* (NOTICING)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkɒn.t ʃəs/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈkɑːn-/

## Definition

**be conscious of sth/sb**

**to notice that a particular thing or person exists or is present**

*The tooth doesn't exactly hurt, but I'm conscious of it*(= I can feel it)*all the time.*

[+ *-ing* verb] *I think she's very conscious of be****ing****the only person in the office who didn't have a university education.*

[+ *that* ] *He gradually became conscious (of the fact)****that****everyone else was wearing a suit.*

See also: [**subconscious**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/subconscious_2)

# consciously *adverb*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈkɒn.t ʃə.sli/http://dictionary.cambridge.org/external/images/ussymbol.png/ˈkɑːn-/

# essence*noun* (IMPORTANCE)

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˈes.ənt s/

## Definition

[S or U] **the basic or most important idea or quality of something**

*The essence of his argument was that education should continue throughout life.*

*Yet change is the very essence of life.*

**in essence**formal

**relating to the most important characteristics or ideas of something**

*In essence, both sides agree on the issue.*

**be of the essence**formal

**to be the most important thing**

*In any of these discussions, of course, honesty is of the essence.*

*Time is of the essence.*

# self-confessed*adjective*

Click to hear the UK pronunciation of this wordClick to hear the US pronunciation of this word/ˌself.kənˈfest/ [before noun]

## Definition

**admitting to having a characteristic which is considered to be bad or not acceptable**

*New evidence from a self-confessed****liar****was not enough to justify a retrial.*

*a self-confessed gambler/alcoholic*