

finished

Sex trafficking is human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

double-cross

/ˌdʌblˈkɒs/

verb

deceive or betray (a person with whom one is supposedly cooperating).

"he begins to consider double-crossing his boss"

minging

/ˈmɪŋɪŋ/

adjectiveinformal•British

foul-smelling.

very bad or unpleasant.

"the weather was minging"

dinky<sup>1</sup>

adjectiveinformal

1.

British

(of an object or place) attractively small and neat.

"a dinky little restaurant"

toytown

/ˈtɔɪtaʊn/

adjective

adjective: toy-town

resembling a quaint or miniature replica of something.

"below you, far away, was a single toytown rooftop"

having no real value, substance, or merit.

"toytown tunes, daft haircuts, and even dafter trousers"

snaffle

/ˈsnæfl/

noun

(on a bridle) a simple bit, typically a jointed one, used with a single set of reins.

verbinformal•British

take (something) for oneself, typically quickly or without permission.

"shall we snaffle some of Bernard's sherry?"

"Shiver me timbers" (or "shiver my timbers" in Standard English) is an exclamation in the form of a mock oath usually attributed to the speech of pirates in works of fiction.

bonny

/ˈbɒni/

adjective Scottish•Northern English

attractive or beautiful.

"a bonny lass"

wonky1

/ˈwɒŋki/

adjective informal

not straight; crooked or askew.

"you have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth"

mackintosh

/ˈmak(ɪ)ntɒʃ/

noun British

a full-length waterproof coat.

jetty

/ˈdʒɛti/

noun

a landing stage or small pier at which boats can dock or be moored.

"Ben jumped ashore and tied the rowboat up to the small wooden jetty"

moor2

/mʊə,mɔː/

verb

make fast (a boat) by attaching it by cable or rope to the shore or to an anchor.

"twenty or so fishing boats were moored to the pierside"

trawl

/trɔːl/

verb

1.

fish with a trawl net or seine.

"the boats trawled for flounder"

pull out

phrasal verb of pull

1.

(of a vehicle) move out from the side of the road, or from its normal position in order to overtake.

"as he turned the corner a police car pulled out in front of him"

take the edge off

phrase of edge

reduce the intensity or effect of (something unpleasant or severe).

"the tablets will take the edge off the pain"

Have an apple - it'll take the edge off your hunger.

His apology took the edge off her anger.

clomp

/klɒmp/

verb

walk with a heavy tread.

"she clomped down the steps"

mingler

/'mɪŋglə, 'mɪŋgələ/

noun

a person who engages easily with others at social functions.

"she played hostess, matchmaker and chief mingler"

demure

/dɪ'mjʊə, dɪ'mjɔː/

adjective

reserved, modest, and shy (typically used of a woman).

"a demure young lady"

A mobile phone top-up is where you add credit to your mobile number so that you can make calls, text or access the internet.

top-up

an additional or extra amount or payment that restores something to the level that is required.

"they will miss out on hundreds of pounds worth of pension top-ups"

a quantity of a drink that refills a partly full glass or cup.

"he headed back to the bar for a top-up"

posterity

/pɒ'sterɪti/

noun

all future generations of people.

"the victims' names are recorded for posterity"

gristle

/'grɪsl/

noun

cartilage, especially when found as tough inedible tissue in meat.

cartilage

/'kɑːtɪlɪdʒ/

noun

firm, flexible connective tissue found in various forms in the larynx and respiratory tract, in structures such as the external ear, and in the articulating surfaces of joints. It is more widespread in the infant skeleton, being replaced by bone during growth.

allude

/əˈl(j)uːd/

verb

suggest or call attention to indirectly; hint at.

"she had a way of alluding to Jean but never saying her name"

alack

/əˈlæk/

exclamation archaic

used to express regret or dismay.

wicker

/ˈwɪkə/

noun

pliable twigs, typically of willow, plaited or woven to make items such as furniture and baskets.

"a wicker chair"

sluice

/sluːs/

noun

1.

a sliding gate or other device for controlling the flow of water, especially one in a lock gate.

"the water gushed through the sluices"

2.

an act of rinsing or showering with water.

"a sluice with cold water"

ancillary

/anˈsɪləri/

adjective

providing necessary support to the primary activities or operation of an organization, system, etc.

"ancillary staff"

spurious

/ˈspjʊəriəs/

adjective

not being what it purports to be; false or fake.

"separating authentic and spurious claims"

scruple

/ˈskruːpl/

1.

a feeling of doubt or hesitation with regard to the morality or propriety of a course of action.

"I had no scruples about eavesdropping"

fraught

/frɔ:t/

adjective

1.

(of a situation or course of action) filled with or likely to result in (something undesirable).

"marketing any new product is fraught with danger"

omniscient

/ɒm'nɪʃɪənt/

knowing everything.

"a third-person omniscient narrator"

plenary

/'pli:n(ə)ri/

adjective

1.

(of a meeting) to be attended by all participants at a conference or assembly, who otherwise meet in smaller groups.

"the House is expected to bring the legislative procedures bill to a plenary meeting"

tenacious

adjective

tending to keep a firm hold of something; clinging or adhering closely.

"a tenacious grip"

epoch

/'i:pɒk, 'ɛpɒk/

noun

a particular period of time in history or a person's life.

"the Victorian epoch"

tonic

/'tɒnɪk/

noun

1.

a medicinal substance taken to give a feeling of vigour or well-being.

effervescent

/,ɛfə'vesnt/

adjective

1.

(of a liquid) giving off bubbles; fizzy.

"an effervescent mixture of cheap wine, fruit flavours, sugar, and carbon dioxide"

gubernatorial

/,gu:bənə'tɔ:riəl/

adjective

relating to a governor, particularly that of a state in the US.

"a gubernatorial election"

bear down

move directly towards someone or something in a purposeful or intimidating manner.

"at a canter they bore down on the mass of men ahead"

lackadaisical /ˌlækəˈdeɪzɪkəl/

adjective

lacking enthusiasm and determination; carelessly lazy.

"taking a lackadaisical approach can jeopardize the success of a project"

funk /fʌŋk/

British

a state of great fear or panic.

"are you in a blue funk about running out of things to say?"

indulgent

/ɪnˈdʌldʒ(ə)nt/

adjective

having or indicating a readiness or over-readiness to be generous to or lenient with someone.

"indulgent parents"

self-indulgent.

"sheer indulgent nostalgia"

armistice

/ˈɑːmɪstɪs/

noun

an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time; a truce.

redress

/rɪˈdres/

verb

1.

remedy or set right (an undesirable or unfair situation).

"the power to redress the grievances of our citizens"

demarcation

/ˌdiːmɑːˈkeɪʃn/

noun

the action of fixing the boundary or limits of something.

"the demarcation of the maritime border"

asylum

/əˈsʌɪləm/

noun

1.

the protection granted by a state to someone who has left their home country as a political refugee.

"she applied for asylum and was granted refugee status"

espouse

/ɪˈspaʊz, ɛˈspaʊz/

verb

1.

adopt or support (a cause, belief, or way of life).

"she espoused the causes of justice and freedom for all"

archaic

marry.

"Edward had espoused the lady Grey"

libel

/ˈlɪbl/

noun

1.

Law

a published false statement that is damaging to a person's reputation; a written defamation.

"he was found guilty of a libel on a Liverpool inspector of taxes"

assert

/əˈsɜ:t/

verb

state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully.

"the company asserts that the cuts will not affect development"

abet

/əˈbɛt/

verb

encourage or assist (someone) to do something wrong, in particular to commit a crime.

"he was not guilty of murder but was guilty of aiding and abetting others"

hysterectomy

/ˌhɪstəˈrɛktəmi/

noun

a surgical operation to remove all or part of the uterus.

"she had to have a hysterectomy"

passenger

/ˈpas(ɪ)n(d)ʒə/

noun

a traveller on a public or private conveyance other than the driver, pilot, or crew.

"more than 50 passengers escaped injury when a train was derailed"

pallid

/ˈpəlɪd/

adjective

1.

(of a person's face) pale, typically because of poor health.

"his face, with its wrinkled, pallid complexion"

lacking vigour or intensity; insipid.

"a pallid ray of winter sun"

excise<sup>1</sup>

/ˈɛksaɪz/

noun

a tax levied on certain goods and commodities produced or sold within a country and on licences granted for certain activities.

"the rate of excise duty on spirits"

renal

/ˈriːnəl/

adjective technical

relating to the kidneys.

"renal failure"

penchant

/ˈpɒʃɒ̃/

noun

a strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something.

"he has a penchant for adopting stray dogs"

penchant

/ˈpɒʃɒ̃/

noun

a strong or habitual liking for something or tendency to do something.

"he has a penchant for adopting stray dogs"

conformity

/kənˈfɔːmɪti/

noun

compliance with standards, rules, or laws.

"conformity to regulations"

conform

/kənˈfɔːm/

verb

comply with rules, standards, or laws.

"the kitchen does not conform to hygiene regulations"

laconic



/lə'kɒnɪk/

adjective

(of a person, speech, or style of writing) using very few words.

"his laconic reply suggested a lack of interest in the topic"

figment

/'fɪgm(ə)nt/

noun

a thing that someone believes to be real but that exists only in their imagination.

"it really was Ross and not a figment of her overheated imagination"

genteel

/dʒɛn'ti:l/

adjective

characterized by exaggerated or affected politeness, refinement, or respectability.

"her genteel upbringing"

inexorable

/ɪn'ɛks(ə)rəb(ə)l/

adjective

impossible to stop or prevent.

"the seemingly inexorable march of new technology"

(of a person) impossible to persuade; unrelenting.

"the doctors were inexorable, and there was nothing to be done"

"too hip" was a phrase I heard in the late 1970's, early 1980's (I think my mom even had a Too Hip bumper sticker on her car). Hip was just another word for cool/smart. So this guy (is it James Woods?) is saying he's too cool to be caught in this situation.

hip to

idiom

informal

: aware of (something)

He's hip to what's going on in the jazz world.

cataclysm

/'kætəklɪz(ə)m/

noun

a large-scale and violent event in the natural world.

"the cataclysm at the end of the Cretaceous Period"

a sudden violent political or social upheaval.

"the cataclysm of the First World War"

Vacillate and Oscillate are synonyms of each other but there is slight difference

To Vacillate means to sway unsteadily from one side to other , stagger , to waffle , to blow hot and cold

To Oscillate means to swing back and forth especially with regular rhythm.

derision

/dɪˈrɪʒn/

noun

contemptuous ridicule or mockery.

"my stories were greeted with derision and disbelief"

vendetta

/vɛnˈdɛtə/

noun

a blood feud in which the family of a murdered person seeks vengeance on the murderer or the murderer's family.

feud

/fjuːd/

noun

a prolonged and bitter quarrel or dispute.

"his long-standing feud with Universal Pictures"

matrimony

/ˈmatrɪməni/

noun

the state of being married; marriage.

"the joys of matrimony"

harness

/ˈhɑːnɪs/

control and make use of (natural resources), especially to produce energy.

"attempts to harness solar energy"

disparity

/dɪˈspɑːti/

noun

a difference in level or treatment, especially one that is seen as unfair.

"economic disparities between different regions of the country"

aloof

/əˈluːf/

adjective

not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant.

"they were courteous but faintly aloof"

derisive

/dɪˈrɪsɪv, dɪˈrɪzɪv/

adjective

expressing contempt or ridicule.

"he gave a harsh, derisive laugh"

onus

/ˈəʊnəs/

noun

something that is one's duty or responsibility.

"the onus is on you to show that you have suffered loss"

inundate

/ˈɪnʌndeɪt/

verb

1.

overwhelm (someone) with things or people to be dealt with.

"we've been inundated with complaints from listeners"

conspire

/kənˈspɪə/

verb

make secret plans jointly to commit an unlawful or harmful act.

"they conspired against him"

nictate

/nɪkˈteɪt/

verb

blink.

"the lid of her left eye began to nictate"

vacillate

/ˈvæsɪleɪt, ˈvæsɪlət/

verb

waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive.

"I vacillated between teaching and journalism"

connive

/kəˈnɪv/

verb

secretly allow (something immoral, illegal, or harmful) to occur.

"I did not connive in the production of these documents"

acerbic

/əˈsəːbɪk/

adjective

1.

(especially of a comment or style of speaking) sharp and forthright.

"his acerbic wit"

abate

/əˈbeɪt/

verb

(of something unpleasant or severe) become less intense or widespread.

"the storm suddenly abated"

surly

/ˈsɜːli/

adjective

bad-tempered and unfriendly.

"the porter left with a surly expression"

succour

/ˈsʌkə/

assistance and support in times of hardship and distress.

"the wounded had little chance of succour"

expedite

/ˈɛkspɪdɪt/

verb

make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.

"he promised to expedite economic reforms"

perfunctory

/pəˈfʌŋ(k)t(ə)ri/

adjective

(of an action) carried out without real interest, feeling, or effort.

"he gave a perfunctory nod"

exploit

noun

/ˈɛksplɔɪt/

1.

a bold or daring feat.

"despite a series of colourful exploits, his agents obtained little intelligence of value"

plebiscite

/ˈplɛbɪsɪt, ˈplɛbɪsɪt/

noun

the direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question such as a change in the constitution.

"the administration will hold a plebiscite for the approval of constitutional reforms"

dissent

/dɪˈsɛnt/

noun

the holding or expression of opinions at variance with those commonly or officially held.

"there was no dissent from this view"

stark

/stɑ:k/

adjective

1.

severe or bare in appearance or outline.

"the ridge formed a stark silhouette against the sky"

complete; sheer.

"he came running back in stark terror"

compendium

/kəm'pendiəm/

noun

a collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject, especially in a book or other publication.

"an invaluable compendium of useful information about language"

acclaim

/ə'kleɪm/

verb

praise enthusiastically and publicly.

"the conference was acclaimed as a considerable success"

propitious

/prə'pɪʃəs/

adjective

giving or indicating a good chance of success; favourable.

"the timing for such a meeting seemed propitious"

spring tide

a tide in the sea when there is the greatest difference between how high the water is at high tide and how high it is at low tide

renege

/ri'ni:g,ri'neɪg/

verb

go back on a promise, undertaking, or contract.

"they have reneged on their promises to us"

auspicious

/ɔ:'spɪʃəs/

adjective

conducive to success; favourable.

"it was not the most auspicious moment to hold an election"

cataclysm

/'katəklɪz(ə)m/

noun

a large-scale and violent event in the natural world.

"the cataclysm at the end of the Cretaceous Period"

play up

phrasal verb of play

1.

emphasize or exaggerate the extent or importance of something.

"the mystery surrounding his death was played up by the media"

informal•British

(of a child) misbehave.

"I hadn't had much sleep—the kids had been playing up"

tantamount

/ˈtʌntəmaʊnt/

adjective

equivalent in seriousness to; virtually the same as.

"the resignations were tantamount to an admission of guilt"

champ at the bit

in British English

or chafe at the bit

informal

to be impatient to start work, a journey, etc

I'd say "to chafe at" is a bit formal and perhaps a bit old-fashioned. I don't think you'll hear it often in ordinary speech. I myself might say,

He was annoyed at his superior's fussy behaviour. or

He was frustrated by his superior's fussy behaviour.

chafe

/tʃeɪf/

verb

1.

(with reference to a part of the body) make or become sore by rubbing against something.

"the collar chafed his neck"

foray

/ˈfɒreɪ/

noun

a sudden attack or incursion into enemy territory, especially to obtain something; a raid.

"the garrison made a foray against Richard's camp"

wind (something) down /waɪnd/

to end gradually or in stages, or to cause something to do this:

The government intends to wind the scheme down in the spring.

Unfortunately, the party was just winding down as we got there.

If a business or organisation winds down, or if someone winds it down, the amount of work it does is gradually reduced until it closes completely:

They're winding down their operations abroad because they're losing money.

flesh out

: to provide more information about (something) : to make (something) more complete by adding details

You need to flesh out your plan with more details.

She fleshes out the characters in her novels very well.

skirt

/skɜ:t/

go round or past the edge of.

"he did not go through the city but skirted it"

cater to someone/something

to satisfy a need or to provide what is wanted or needed by a particular person or group:

Internet shopping caters to every conceivable need.

bars that cater to the lucrative tourist trade

adherent

/əd'hiərənt/

noun

someone who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas.

"he was a strong adherent of monetarism"

ragtag

/'ragtag/

adjective

untidy, disorganized, or incongruously varied in character.

"a ragtag group of idealists"

textile

/'tekstʌl/

noun

1.

a type of cloth or woven fabric.

"a fascinating range of pottery, jewellery, and textiles"

pore<sup>2</sup>

/pɔ:/

be absorbed in reading or studying (something).

"I spent hours poring over cookery books"

A few years ago, when I was 22, I had an abortion.

palaeontologist

/pəliən'tələdʒɪst,peɪliən'tələdʒɪst/

noun

noun: paleontologist

a person who studies or is an expert in the branch of science concerned with fossil animals and plants.

If you feel centred, you feel calm, confident, and in control of your emotions.

I'm trying to be more centred, and not fall apart when I go through difficult things.

anything but

not at all (used for emphasis).

"this grisly ending is anything but sentimental"

do up

fasten something.

"Kate did up her jacket"

manhandle

/ˈmanhandl/

verb

move (a heavy object) by hand with great effort.

"men used to manhandle the piano down the stairs"

capitulate

/kəˈpɪtʃuleɪt/

verb

cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; yield.

"the patriots had to capitulate to the enemy forces"

cave1

/keɪv/

capitulate or submit under pressure; cave in.

"he caved because his position had become untenable"

pull oneself together

phrase of pull

recover control of one's emotions.

"you've got to pull yourself together and find a job"

bassinet

/ˌbasiˈnɛt/

noun

a child's wicker cradle.

ovulate

/ˈɒvjʊleɪt/

verb

discharge ova or ovules from the ovary.

"women who ovulate but cannot conceive"



jog

/dʒɒg/

a slight push or nudge.

"he gave her a jog with his elbow"

supplant

/sə'plɑ:nt/

verb

supersede and replace.

"domestic production has been supplanted by imports and jobs have been lost"

The term "tin foil" survives in the English language as a term for the newer aluminium foil. Tin foil is less malleable than aluminium foil and tends to give a slight tin taste to food wrapped in it. Tin foil has been supplanted by aluminium and other materials for wrapping food.

Why do most people refer to aluminum foil as "tin" foil? I have never seen a roll of true tin foil. Is "tin" just a nickname in this situation?

offing

/'ɒfɪŋ/

noun

the more distant part of the sea in view.

in the offing

Add to word list

likely to happen soon:

With an election in the offing, the prime minister is keen to maintain his popularity.

On the one hand I love to watch baseball, but I don't like to play it.

The photographers started taking pictures when the President's car came in sight.

Everything was in order.

To the point: This phrase emphasizes directness and relevance. It means something is focused and avoids unnecessary details.

On point: This phrase emphasizes accuracy, precision, and appropriateness. It means something is exactly right or perfectly suited to the situation.

Something that is to the point is relevant to the subject that you are discussing, or expressed neatly without wasting words or time.

Mr. Baker was smiling and to the point.

The description which he had been given was brief and to the point.

baleful

/'beɪlf(ʊ)l/

adjective

threatening harm; menacing.

"Bill shot a baleful glance in her direction"

officious

/ə'fɪʃəs/

adjective

assertive of authority in a domineering way, especially with regard to trivial matters.

"the security people were very officious"

intrusively enthusiastic in offering help or advice; interfering.

"an officious bystander"

accrue

/ə'kru:/

verb

(of a benefit or sum of money) be received by someone in regular or increasing amounts over time.

"financial benefits will accrue from restructuring"

spurt

/spɜ:t/

verb

1.

gush out in a sudden and forceful stream.

"he cut his finger, and blood spurted over the sliced potatoes"

glut

/glʌt/

noun

an excessively abundant supply of something.

"there is a glut of cars on the market"

ascertain

/,asə'teɪn/

allay

/ə'leɪ/

verb

diminish or put at rest (fear, suspicion, or worry).

"the report attempted to educate the public and allay fears"

contend

/kən'tend/

verb

1.

struggle to surmount (a difficulty).

"she had to contend with his uncertain temper"

Homo sapiens  
/ˌhəʊməʊ ˈsapiɛnz/

vanquish  
/ˈvɒŋkwɪʃ/  
verbliterary  
defeat thoroughly.  
"he successfully vanquished his rival"

aberrant  
/əˈberənt/  
adjective  
departing from an accepted standard.  
"this somewhat aberrant behaviour requires an explanation"

invoke  
/ɪnˈvəʊk/  
verb  
1.  
call on (a deity or spirit) in prayer, as a witness, or for inspiration.  
cite or appeal to (someone or something) as an authority for an action or in support of an argument.  
"the antiquated defence of insanity is rarely invoked in England"

attaboy /ˈatəbɔɪ/  
an informal expression of encouragement or admiration to a man or boy.

assiduous /əˈsɪdjʊəs/ I. adjective showing great care and perseverance • she was assiduous in pointing out every feature.

avowed /əˈvaʊd/ adjective — [attrib.] 1. that has been asserted, admitted, or stated publicly  
• an avowed atheist • they came to power with the avowed aim of promoting religious toleration.

regimen  
/ˈredʒɪmən/  
noun  
1.  
a prescribed course of medical treatment, diet, or exercise for the promotion or restoration of health.  
"a regimen of one or two injections per day"

stringent  
/ˈstrɪŋ(d)ʒ(ə)nt/  
adjective  
(of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting.  
"stringent guidelines on air pollution"

contingency

/kən'tɪn(d)ʒ(ə)nsi/

noun

a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

"a detailed contract which attempts to provide for all possible contingencies"

frivolous

/'frɪvələs/

adjective

not having any serious purpose or value.

"frivolous ribbons and lacy frills"

idyll

/'ɪd(ɪ)l, 'ʌɪd(ɪ)l/

noun

an extremely happy, peaceful, or picturesque period or situation, typically an idealized or unsustainable one.

"the rural idyll remains strongly evocative in most industrialized societies"

a short description in verse or prose of a picturesque scene or incident, especially in rustic life.

draw on

phrasal verb of draw

1.

use one's experience, talents, or skills as a resource.

"Sue has a lot of past experience to draw on"

(of a period of time) pass by and approach its end.

"he remembered sitting in silence with his grandmother as evening drew on"

I'm not sure I can explain both words individually, but to "draw on" or "make use of" basically means the same when used in conjunction with "knowledge," or "initiative."

I guess "draw" means "pull" in this case, as in "pull out your knowledge (from your brain)."

Use your initiative. Try to do "it" by yourself. Try not to ask for help.

conjure

/'kʌn(d)ʒə/

verb

1.

cause (a spirit or ghost) to appear by means of a magic ritual.

"they hoped to conjure up the spirit of their dead friend"

call (an image) to the mind.

"she had forgotten how to conjure up the image of her mother's face"

suffrage

/'sʌfrɪdʒ/

noun

1.

the right to vote in political elections.  
"universal adult suffrage"

franchise  
/'frʌn(t)ʃʌɪz/  
the right to vote in public elections.  
"the franchise was limited to Estonian citizens"

impeach  
/ɪm'pi:tʃ/  
verb  
1.  
(especially in the US) charge (the holder of a public office) with misconduct.

compendium  
/kəm'pendiəm/  
noun  
a collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject, especially in a book or other publication.  
"an invaluable compendium of useful information about language"

encroach  
/ɪn'krəʊtʃ, ɛn'krəʊtʃ/  
verb  
intrude on (a person's territory, rights, personal life, etc.).  
"rather than encroach on his privacy she might have kept to her room"

Flashed  
To expose one's private body parts to the public  
I got flashed by some guy on my way to the office.

patissier  
/pə'tɪsɪɪr/  
noun  
a maker or seller of pastries and cakes.

A pastry chef or pâtissier (pronounced [pa.ti.sje]; feminine pâtissière, pronounced [pa.ti.sjɛʁ]) is a station chef in a professional kitchen, skilled in the making of pastries, desserts, breads and other baked goods.

I'm weak!  
An expression from Virginia Beach, VA that means the person is entertained, amused or hysterical.

paparazzo  
/,papə'ratsəʊ/  
noun  
plural noun: paparazzi

a freelance photographer who pursues celebrities to get photographs of them.  
"she inclined her head graciously, permitting the paparazzi to photograph her"

flap

/flap/

informal

a state of agitation; a panic.

"your Gran was in a flap, worrying she'd put her foot in it"

gristle

/'grɪsl/

noun

cartilage, especially when found as tough inedible tissue in meat.

warble<sup>1</sup>

/'wɔːbl/

verb

(of a bird) sing softly and with a succession of constantly changing notes.

"larks were warbling in the trees"

on the wind

in British English

nautical

as near as possible to the direction from which the wind is blowing

Which wind did you blow in on?"

blow in

phrasal verb of blow

informal

arrive casually and unannounced.

"sometimes he would blow in unexpectedly and say hello"

spare rooms

countable noun B1+

A spare room is a bedroom which is kept especially for visitors to sleep in.

She is now sleeping in the spare room and just wants us to be friends.

fit to bust

informal

with great energy.

"they laughed fit to bust"

section

/'sɛkʃn/

British

commit (someone) compulsorily to a psychiatric hospital in accordance with a section of a mental health act.

"should she be sectioned and forced back into hospital?"

altercation

/ˌɒltəˈkeɪʃn/

noun

a noisy argument or disagreement, especially in public.

"I had an altercation with the ticket collector"

'run-in noun [countable]

an argument or disagreement, especially with someone in an official position

run-in with

Michael got drunk and had a run-in with the police.

run-in

British : the final part of a race or racetrack

2

: altercation, quarrel

3

: something inserted as a substantial addition in copy or typeset matter

I find "on the ward" more normal when referring to people working there, but "in the ward" more usual in the context of patients:

- There are generally four nurses on Ward C, but we're one short today.

- I was lucky to be in a very quiet ward.

When it comes to fixing stuff, John has a crapon of knowledge, but he knows nothing about driving carefully.

darned if I know spoken informal

used to emphasize that you do not know something

loco2

/ˈləʊkəʊ/

adjective informal

adjective: loco

insane; crazy.

"the fame and success made him go loco"

for shizzle

phrase of shizzle

informal•US

for sure; definitely.

"gonna be a great game for shizzle!"

sizzle

/ˈsɪzl/

verb

1.

(of food) make a hissing sound when frying or cooking.

"the bacon began to sizzle in the pan"

shizzle

noun informal•US

used as a euphemism for 'shit' in various senses and phrases.

"this shizzle is givin' me a straight-up headache"

all there informal

in full possession of one's mental faculties.

"he's not quite all there"

adulterate

verb

/əˈdʌltəreɪt/

render (something) poorer in quality by adding another substance.

"the brewer is said to adulterate his beer"

The word All is used as an adjective ( determiner) , Adverb and pronoun .

In the phrase ' All this ' all functions as a determiner and this denotes ' Amount ' as a demonstrative pronoun . E.g.

All this ( milk) is adulterated .

So , the structure All this is correct .

In the second structure ' All of this ' all functions as a pronoun and indicates something uncountable . E.g.

All of this ( milk ) is not polluted .

Therefore , the arrangement ' All of this ' is also correct .

prime2

/praɪm/

make (something) ready for use or action.

prepare (a firearm or explosive device) for firing or detonation.

"he grabbed a gun from a nearby wall and primed it"

prepare (someone) for a situation, typically by supplying them with relevant information.

"the sentries had been primed to admit him without challenge"

enchilada

/ˌɛntʃɪˈlɑːdə/

noun



a tortilla served with chilli sauce and a filling of meat or cheese.

whole enchilada, Slang. the entirety of something, especially something impressive or outstanding:

She has a job with money, prestige, and satisfaction—the whole enchilada.

collage

/ˈkɒlɑːʒ, kəˈlɑːʒ/

The Bay of Pigs Invasion (Spanish: Invasión de Bahía de Cochinos, sometimes called Invasión de Playa Girón or Batalla de Playa Girón after the Playa Girón) was a failed military landing operation on the southwestern coast of Cuba in 1961 by the United States of America and the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front (DRF)

thick

British English informal a thick person is stupid

He's a nice guy, but he's a bit thick.

(as) thick as two short planks (=very stupid)

tee up

place the ball on a tee ready to make the first stroke of the round or hole.

"he had not missed a par as he teed up for the last hole"

(especially in soccer) place or move the ball into position to be struck.

"he teed up the ball for a shot on goal"

To put someone or something into a position of readiness for some imminent action. In this usage, a noun or pronoun can be used between "tee" and "up."

Senators from both political parties helped tee up the legislation, with a vote expected as early as Tuesday.

The reduction of interest rates by the federal reserve has teed the economy up for explosive growth in the coming year.

The mayor's statement teed up his opponent for a barrage of scathing accusations.

low-slung

adjective

1.

lower in height or closer to the ground than usual.

"a low-slung Mercedes with blacked-out windows"

2.

(of clothes, especially trousers) cut to fit low on the hips rather than the waist.

"a pair of low-slung jeans"

sling<sup>1</sup>

/slɪŋ/

suspend or arrange (something), especially with a strap or straps, so that it hangs loosely in a particular position.

"a hammock was slung between two trees"

nip (plural nips)

(slang, vulgar) A nipple, usually of a woman.

cum<sup>1</sup>

/kʌm/

preposition

combined with; also used as (used to describe things with a dual nature or function).

"a study-cum-bedroom"

Advanced level qualifications (known as A levels) are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training, or work.

clip<sup>1</sup>

/klɪp/

a metal holder containing cartridges for an automatic firearm.

"he shot twice, but his clip was empty"

Cable knitting is a style of knitting in which textures of crossing layers are achieved by permuting stitches.

squiggle

/ˈskwɪɡl/

noun

a short line that curls and loops in an irregular way.

"some prescriptions are a series of meaningless squiggles"

verbNorth American

wriggle; squirm.

"a thin worm that squiggled in his palm"

yowl

/jaʊl/

noun

a loud wailing cry, especially one of pain or distress.

lash out

phrasal verb of lash

1.

hit or kick out at someone or something.

"the woman had lashed out in fear"

say

/seɪ/

exclamationinformal•North American

exclamation: say

used to express surprise or to draw attention to a remark or question.

"say, did you notice any blood?"

contraption /kən'træpʃən/

noun [countable]

a piece of equipment or machinery that looks funny, strange, and unlikely to work well  
a bizarre contraption

Strut - Structural Stair Support Post

A strut is a structural support post that's used to hold something or provide additional reinforcement. It's common to find struts used in floors and roof framing.

Year by year" and "year on year" have different meanings and uses

Year by year

Means something happens gradually over time, rather than all at once.

Year on year

Also known as "year-over-year" (YOY), this is a financial comparison method that evaluates two or more events on an annual basis.

bluster

/'blʌstə/

Learn to pronounce

verb

1.

talk in a loud, aggressive, or indignant way with little effect.

"you threaten and bluster, but won't carry it through"

(of a storm, wind, or rain) blow or beat fiercely and noisily.

"a winter gale blustered against the sides of the house"

Barbed wire, also known as barb wire, is a type of steel fencing wire constructed with sharp edges or points arranged at intervals along the strands.

top off

phrasal verb of top

1.

finish something in a memorable or notable way.

"the festivities were topped off with the awarding of prizes"

2.

informal•US

fill up a partly full tank with fuel.

"check the fluid reservoir and top it off if necessary"

prise

/praɪz/

verb

use force in order to move, move apart, or open (something).

"I tried to prise Joe's fingers away from the stick"

prise something out of somebody (also prise something from somebody) phrasal verb  
to get something such as information or money from someone when they do not want to give it to you

I more or less had to prise it out of him.

give someone the slip

phrase of slip

informal

evade or escape from someone.

"we gave them the slip at the station"

The robber took to the rooftops, and that's how he gave the police the slip.

He raced around the corner and managed to give his bully the slip.

vulgar

/ˈvʌlgə/

spunk

/spʌŋk/

noun

1.

informal

courage and determination.

"she's got no spunk, or she'd have left him long ago"

vulgar slang•British

semen.

spunked

to waste or lose something ie money

i just spunked all my money on the fruit machines

be as pure as the driven snow

to be morally completely good:

How dare he criticize me for having an affair? He's not exactly as pure as the driven snow himself.

a cool million/hundred thousand etc

informal a surprisingly large amount of money

He earns a cool half million every year.

bow-legged

/ˌbəʊˈlɛɡɪd/

adjective

having legs that curve outwards at the knee.

"being stricken with rickets as a child accounted for her bow-legged gait"

cling

/kɪŋ/

adhere or stick firmly or closely to; be hard to part or remove from.

"the smell of smoke clung to their clothes"

rock2

/rɒk/

informal

wear (a garment) or affect (an attitude or style), especially in a confident or flamboyant way.

"she was rocking a clingy little leopard-skin number"

A fedora (/fəˈdɔːrə/)[1] is a hat with a soft brim and indented crown.

jackboot

/ˈdʒakbuːt/

noun

a large leather military boot reaching to the knee.

used as a symbol of cruel or authoritarian behaviour or rule.

loony bin

nouninformal

a home or hospital for people with mental illnesses.

"he's an obvious candidate for the loony bin"

have (something) on (one)

1. To have incriminating or unfavorable proof against one, as for some crime, wrongdoing, or misbehavior.

Go to the police, for all I care! You don't have anything on me!

If we want to nail him for fraud, we'll need to have more on him than a few questionable phone calls.

2. To have a particular advantage over one.

You may think you can beat me, but I've got 10 years' experience on you.

3. To currently be in possession of something.

Hey, do you have a pen on you? I need to write this down.

Yeah, I have a tissue on me.

"She has a few inches on me" means that she is taller than the speaker by a few inches. It's a common way to express a small height difference between two people.

fright

/frʌɪt/

noun

a sudden intense feeling of fear.

"I jumped up in fright"

The fight-or-flight or the fight-flight-freeze-or-fawn[1] (also called hyperarousal or the acute stress response) is a physiological reaction that occurs in response to a perceived harmful event, attack, or threat to survival.

nippy

/ˈnɪpi/

British

able to move quickly; nimble.

"a very nippy scrum half"

(of the weather) chilly.

"it's a bit nippy this morning"

bearing

/ˈbɛːrɪŋ/

a person's way of standing or moving.

"a man of precise military bearing"

the direction or position of something, or the direction of movement, relative to a fixed point.

It is usually measured in degrees, typically with magnetic north as zero.

"the Point is on a bearing of 015°"

get/find your bearings

to discover your exact position:

The road system was so complicated that we had to stop to get our bearings several times.

To get your bearings, remember that the river runs almost directly west.

He stopped running and looked around to get his bearings.

She found her bearings by looking at the stars.

to succeed in becoming familiar with a new situation:

It takes a while to get your bearings when you start a new job.

This is yet another burden for new teachers who are still trying to get their bearings in the classroom.

The country is struggling to find its bearings after decades of authoritarian rule.

After a tentative start, the orchestra soon found its bearings and delivered a stirring performance.

Once they found their bearings, some of the prisoners began to develop creative ways of coping.

scuff

/skʌf/

verb

scrape or brush the surface of (a shoe or other object) against something.

"I accidentally scuffed the heel of one shoe on a paving stone"

scuffle

/ˈskʌfl/

noun

1.

a short, confused fight or struggle at close quarters.

"there were minor scuffles with police"

devil-may-care

adjective

cheerful and reckless.

"light-hearted, devil-may-care young pilots"

To "get all up in something" is relatively recent slang (no more than 15 years old), and should probably not be used in any formal context. Roughly translated it means "to get extremely (possibly uncomfortably) close to something or someone".

She was getting all up in his face, shouting, "You'd better stop messing around and start treating me right!"

In pop culture, a grill (most commonly referred to as grills or grillz), also known as fronts or golds, is a type of dental jewelry worn over the teeth.

grill<sup>1</sup>

/grɪl/

(colloquial) A type of jewelry worn on the front teeth.

Synonyms: fronts, golds

(colloquial, by extension) The front teeth regarded collectively.

in tow

phrase of tow

1.

being towed by another vehicle or boat.

"his boat was taken in tow by a trawler"

2.

accompanying or following someone.

"trying to shop with three children in tow is no joke"

get-up

noun informal

noun: getup

a style or arrangement of dress, especially an elaborate or unusual one.

"her ridiculous Cossack's get-up"

oddball

/'ɒdʒɔːl/

informal

noun

a strange or eccentric person.

"she was seen as a bit of an oddball"

peer pressure

noun

influence from members of one's peer group.

"his behaviour was affected by drink and peer pressure"

naivete

/nɑːɪ'v(ɪ)teɪ, nɑːɪ'v(ɪ)teɪ/

noun

lack of experience, wisdom, or judgement; naivety.

"his greatest fault was his political naïveté"  
innocence or unsophistication.  
"some of the material is laughable in its naïveté"

If a place is hemmed in by mountains or by other places, it is surrounded by them.  
Manchester is hemmed in by greenbelt countryside and by housing and industrial areas. [be V-ed P + by]  
The brick path to the door was hemmed in on either side by tall, unkempt boxwood hedges.  
[be V-ed P by n]

nosh (noun)  
a snack, a tidbit, a "bite", a small portion  
Anything eaten between meals and, presumably, in small quantity.

thunk  
non-standard or humorous past and past participle of think.  
"who would've thunk it?"

place/put stock in  
idiom  
US  
: to have confidence or faith in someone or something  
He placed/put a lot of stock in her ability to get the job done.  
I don't put much stock in the rumours.  
I'm willing to put some stock in these polls since they've been accurate before.

hardbound  
adjective  
hard·bound 'hɑrd-,baʊnd  
: hardcover

half measures  
an action or policy that is not forceful or decisive enough.  
"there are no half measures with this company"

get out  
succeed in uttering, publishing, or releasing something.  
"we're keen to get a record out"  
informal•British  
succeed in solving or finishing a puzzle or mathematical problem.  
"I've got it out! I've got the answer to the slow neutron business"

be no oil painting  
idiom UK humorous  
Add to word list  
to not be attractive:  
She's no oil painting but she's got an attractive personality.



let rip

phrase of rip

informal

do something vigorously or without restraint.

"the brass sections let rip with sheer gusto"

express oneself vehemently or angrily.

"Charlie felt he had suffered enough insults and suddenly let rip"

Opposite lock, also commonly known as countersteer, is a colloquial term used to mean the steering associated with the deliberate use of oversteer to turn a vehicle rapidly without losing momentum.

colander

/ˈkʌləndə/

noun

a perforated bowl used to strain off liquid from food after washing or cooking.

look down one's nose at

idiom

: to think of or treat (someone or something) as unimportant or not worthy of respect

She looked down her nose at her neighbors.

writers who look down their noses at popular culture

sum up

express a concise idea of the nature or character of someone or something.

"selfish—that summed her up"

arsenal

/ˈɑːsən(ə)/

an array of resources available for a certain purpose.

"we have an arsenal of computers at our disposal"

mental

/ˈmentl/

informal•British

mad; insane.

"I think he was a little worried that I might be mental"

She is badly off.

lightning in a bottle (uncountable)

(idiomatic) That which one seeks in attempting a difficult or challenging feat.

(idiomatic) A very difficult, unlikely or lucky achievement or period of success.

(idiomatic) Ephemeral state or atmosphere, as at a startup company or artistic group.

antics

/ˈantɪks/

noun

foolish, outrageous, or amusing behaviour.

"the antics of our political parties"

trundle

/ˈtrʌndl/

verb

(with reference to a wheeled vehicle or its occupants) move or cause to move slowly and heavily.

"ten vintage cars trundled past"

rave<sup>1</sup>

verb

1.

talk incoherently, as if one were delirious or mad.

"Nancy's having hysterics and raving about a ghost"

slip road

/ˈslɪp rəʊd/

noun British

a road entering or leaving a motorway or dual carriageway.

weave<sup>2</sup> /wi:v/

twist and turn from side to side while moving somewhere in order to avoid obstructions.

"he had to weave his way through the crowds"

ho bag

It's a combination of "whore" (or "ho") + "douche bag" meant to be an insult to a female.

frolic

/ˈfrɒlɪk/

verb

play or move about in a cheerful and lively way.

"Edward frolicked on the sand"

limbic system

a complex system of nerves and networks in the brain, involving several areas near the edge of the cortex concerned with instinct and mood. It controls the basic emotions (fear, pleasure, anger) and drives (hunger, sex, dominance, care of offspring).

a window into/on

idiom

: something that makes it possible to see or understand something clearly

This knowledge opens a window into your opponent's mind.

The book gives the reader a window on war.

contraption

/kənˈtrəpʃn/

noun

a machine or device that appears strange or unnecessarily complicated, and often badly made or unsafe.

"repairing stereos and making contraptions out of spare electronic bits"

count against phrasal verb

count against somebody | count something against somebody

to be considered or to consider something as a disadvantage in someone

For that job, her lack of experience may count against her.

He has a criminal record, but we hope that prospective employers won't count it against him.

wang /wæŋ/

(transitive) To batter; to clobber; to conk.

(transitive) To throw hard.

judder

/ˈdʒʌdə/

British

verb

(especially of something mechanical) shake and vibrate rapidly and with force.

"the steering wheel juddered in his hand"

career /kəˈrɪə/

move swiftly and in an uncontrolled way.

"the coach careered across the road and went through a hedge"

congest

/kənˈdʒɛst/

verb

1.

crowd (a road or place) so as to hinder or prevent freedom of movement.

"uncontrolled development will congest our streets"

articulated lorry

noun [ C ] UK

uk /ɑːˈtrɪk.jə.leɪ.tɪd ˈlɒr.i/

a large vehicle that consists of two or more parts that bend where they are joined in order to help the vehicle turn corners:

An articulated lorry has overturned on the southbound carriageway, shedding its load.

You need a special licence to drive an articulated lorry.

tack<sup>1</sup>

/tak/

Sailing

change course by turning a boat's head into and through the wind.

"their boat was now downwind and they had to tack"

arduous /'ɑ:dʒʊəs/ I. adjective involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring • an arduous journey.

oesophagus /ɪ'sɒfəɡəs / <US> esophagus I. noun the part of the alimentary canal which connects the throat to the stomach. In humans and other vertebrates it is a muscular tube lined with mucous membrane.

epidural

/,ɛpɪ'dʒʊərəl/

an epidural anaesthetic, used especially in childbirth to produce loss of sensation below the waist.

Many of my friends get eczema in the summer when it's humid

eczema

/'ɛks(ɪ)mə/

noun

a medical condition in which patches of skin become rough and inflamed with blisters which cause itching and bleeding.

benign

/bɪ'nɪn/

adjective

1.

gentle and kindly.

"his benign but firm manner"

listless

/'lɪs(t)lɪs/

adjective

(of a person or their manner) lacking energy or enthusiasm.

"bouts of listless depression"

list /lɪst/

archaic

verb

want; like.

"let them think what they list"

noun

noun: list

desire or inclination.

"I have little list to write"

I've been having palpitations in my chest lately.

Patient copayment

co-payment

nounUS

noun: copayment

a contribution made by an insured person towards the cost of medical treatment or other services.

"patients bear large deductibles, ever-increasing health insurance premiums, and higher co-payments"

bashful

/ˈbʌʃf(ʊ)l/

adjective

reluctant to draw attention to oneself; shy.

"everything you need to know but have been too bashful to ask"

eviction

/ɪˈvɪkʃn/

noun

the action of expelling someone from a property; expulsion.

"the forced eviction of residents"

pram1

/pram/

nounBritish

a four-wheeled carriage for a baby, pushed by a person on foot.

anchorage point

a point to which something such as the straps securing a child seat can be safely attached

Central locking is a system that allows you to simultaneously lock or unlock all the doors of a vehicle, as well as the liftgate or luggage compartment lid.

schlurp (plural schlurps)

A slurping sound.

double back

phrasal verb of double

go back in the direction one has come.

"he had to double back to collect them"

A sash window or hung sash window is made of one or more movable panels, or

"sashes".[A] The individual sashes are traditionally paned windows, but can now contain an individual sheet (or sheets, in the case of double glazing) of glass.

linoleum

/lɪˈnəʊliəm/

noun

a material consisting of a canvas backing thickly coated with a preparation of linseed oil and powdered cork, used especially as a floor covering.

shellshock

a condition with psychological and psychosomatic symptoms resulting from exposure to active warfare, first identified in soldiers undergoing bombardment in the trenches in the First World War. Shell shock would now be regarded as a form of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"in July 1917 he was sent to Craiglockhart War Hospital, suffering from shell shock"

a state or feeling of severe shock or surprise.

"investors' shell shock seems to be wearing off"

piggy in the middle

phrase of middle

British

a game in which two people attempt to throw a ball to each other without a third person in the middle catching it.

a person who is placed in an awkward situation between two others.

"I don't want to be piggy in the middle between Guido and Silvia"

back up

move or drive backwards.

"she backed up until she found herself against the wall"

explain the background of a situation or return to an earlier point in an account.

"I know it's a complicated story, so let me back up a little"

knock the stuffing out of

phrase of stuffing

informal

severely impair the confidence or strength of (someone).

"rebuffs and power struggles knocked the stuffing out of him"

whelk1

/wɛlk/

noun

a predatory marine mollusc with a heavy pointed spiral shell, some kinds of which are edible.

have something up your sleeve

to have secret plans or ideas:

If I know Mark he'll have one or two tricks up his sleeve.

mofo

/ 'məʊfəʊ /

noun

slang.

short for motherfucker

mush3

/mʊʃ/

noun informal•British

noun: mush; plural noun: mushes

a person's mouth or face.

"he always had a chewed cigar in his mush"

(British, slang, chiefly Northern England, Australia) The face.

raptor

/ˈraptə/

noun

1.

a bird of prey, e.g. an eagle or hawk.

My mother was given an IV.

He was put on an IV drip.

I was given an I.V. of fluids to prevent dehydration

gurney

/ˈgəːni/

nounNorth American

a wheeled stretcher used for transporting hospital patients.

He killed the cop (most probably was drunk out of his eyeballs at the time) while he was speeding

When someone has your best interest at heart, it means they genuinely care about your well-being and prioritize your needs and desires.

Back to Earth with a Bump is a space storybook for children about a boy named Hal who goes on an adventure to find the missing Sun.

propriety

/prəˈprɪəti/

noun

conformity to conventionally accepted standards of behaviour or morals.

"he always behaved with the utmost propriety"

I'm afraid of heights.

rub off (on/onto somebody)

(of personal qualities, behaviour, opinions, etc.) to become part of a person's character as a result of that person spending time with somebody who has those qualities, etc.

Her sense of fun has rubbed off on her children.

Let's hope some of his good luck rubs off on me!

keep it together

To remain calm, composed, and self-possessed, especially despite or in the midst of some trouble or difficulty.

I had a really hard time keeping it together after my wife died.

I don't know how she keeps it together with so many different responsibilities to manage.

work (one's) way up

To start at humble or modest beginnings, but rising in position, importance, or influence through hard work and determination.

Just look at Johnson if you need proof: He started in the mail room, but worked his way up to one of the top lawyers at the firm.

She worked her way up from a small one-woman online business to a media empire that employs thousands around the globe.

slammer

/ˈslamə/

noun

1.

informal

prison.

"if he had lived, he'd be in the slammer today"

disinterested /dɪsˈɪnt(ə)rɪstɪd/ I. adjective 1. not influenced by considerations of personal advantage • a banker is under an obligation to give disinterested advice.

prosthetic

/prɒsˈθetɪk/

adjective

1.

denoting an artificial body part, such as a limb, a heart, or a breast implant.

"she has learnt to walk again using prosthetic legs"

clamber

/ˈklambə/

verb

climb or move in an awkward and laborious way, typically using both hands and feet.

"I clambered out of the trench"

if /ɪf/

despite being (used before an adjective or adverb to introduce a contrast).

"she was honest, if a little brutal"

chicanery

/ʃɪˈkeɪn(ə)rɪ/

noun

the use of deception or subterfuge to achieve one's purpose.

"storylines packed with political chicanery"



Spilled oil has washed up on beaches behind the wreck.

If something is washed up on a piece of land, it is carried by a river or sea and left there.  
Thousands of herring and crab are washed up on the beaches during every storm.  
The fossils appear to be an early form of seaweed washed up on a beach. [VERB-ed PARTICLE]

washed up

/wɒʃt 'ʌp/

adjective

1.

deposited by the tide on a shore.

"washed-up jellyfish"

2.

informal

(of a person) no longer effective or successful.

"a washed-up actress"

consummate

verb

/'kɒns(j)ʊmeɪt/

make (a marriage or relationship) complete by having sexual intercourse.

"they did not consummate their marriage until months after it took place"

adjective

/'kɒns(j)ʊmət, kən'sʌmət/

showing great skill and flair.

"she dressed with consummate elegance"

pathos

/'peɪθɒs/

noun

a quality that evokes pity or sadness.

"the actor injects his customary humour and pathos into the role"

upright

/'ʌpraɪt/

grandiose

/'grændɪəʊs/

adjective

impressive and imposing in appearance or style, especially pretentiously so.

"the court's grandiose facade"

charlatan

/'ʃɑ:lət(ə)n/

noun

a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill.

"a self-confessed con artist and charlatan"

clairvoyance

/kleɪˈvɔɪəns/

full of hot air

(idiomatic) Talking a lot, especially without saying anything of value or meaning.

Did the salesman tell you anything new, or was he just full of hot air?

The law of averages is the commonly held belief that a particular outcome or event will, over certain periods of time, occur at a frequency that is similar to its probability.

fib

/fɪb/

noun

a lie, typically an unimportant one.

"why did you tell him such a dreadful fib?"

dilute

/dɪˈl(j)uːt, dɪˈl(j)uːt/

verb

make (a liquid) thinner or weaker by adding water or another solvent to it.

"bleach can be diluted with cold water"

ensue

/ɪnˈsjuː, ɛnˈsjuː/

verb

happen or occur afterwards or as a result.

"the difficulties which ensued from their commitment to Cuba"

If you put someone on the spot, you cause them embarrassment or difficulty by forcing them at that moment to answer a difficult question or make an important decision:

Mira rather put the boss on the spot by asking him when he was going to give us a pay rise.

fret<sup>1</sup>

/fret/

verb

1.

be constantly or visibly anxious.

"she fretted about the cost of groceries"

silly

/ˈsɪli/

used to convey that an activity or process has been engaged in to such a degree that someone is no longer capable of thinking or acting sensibly.

"he often drank himself silly"

contingency

/kən'tɪn(d)ʒ(ə)nsi/

noun

a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

"a detailed contract which attempts to provide for all possible contingencies"

If something poses a problem or a danger, it is the cause of that problem or danger.

tuft

/tʌft/

noun

a bunch or collection of threads, grass, hair, etc., held or growing together at the base.

"scrubby tufts of grass"

pallor

/'palə/

noun

an unhealthy pale appearance.

"the deathlike pallor of his face"

shunt

/ʃʌnt/

verb

1.

push or pull (a train or part of a train) from the main line to a siding or from one line of rails to another.

"their train had been shunted into a siding"

bestial

/'bestɪəl, 'bestɪl/

adjective

of or like an animal or animals.

"Darwin's revelations about our bestial beginnings"

pariah

/pə'riːə/

noun

1.

an outcast.

"they were treated as social pariahs"

"Different to" is used more in British English than in American English, but it's not incorrect in American English. Also correct is "different than," which is used more in American English. Both dialects seem to use "different from" more than the other two options.

eschew

/ɪs'tʃuː, ɛs'tʃuː/

verb

deliberately avoid using; abstain from.

"he appealed to the crowd to eschew violence"

come what may

whatever happens:

I shall be there tonight come what may.

It's always good to know that, come what may, your job is safe.

You would be better off staying here tonight.

rebuke

/rɪˈbjuːk/

verb

express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions.

"she had rebuked him for drinking too much"

maim

/meɪm/

verb

wound or injure (a person or animal) so that part of the body is permanently damaged.

"100,000 soldiers were killed or maimed"

posthumously

/ˈpɒstʃʊməsli/

adverb

after the death of the originator.

"a number of songs were posthumously published in 1924"

dash

/dæʃ/

a small quantity of a liquid added to something else.

"whisky with a dash of soda"

a small amount of a quality that adds piquancy or distinctiveness to something else.

"a casual atmosphere with a dash of sophistication"

antithesis

/ænˈtɪθɪsɪs/

noun

1.

a person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else.

"love is the antithesis of selfishness"

fanfare

/ˈfænfɜː/

noun

a short ceremonial tune or flourish played on brass instruments, typically to introduce something or someone important.

"a specially composed fanfare announced the arrival of the Duchess"

tavern

/ˈtavn/

nounarchaic

an inn or pub.

"he had spent some time in a nearby tavern and was drunk"

qualm

/kwɑ:m/

noun

an uneasy feeling of doubt, worry, or fear, especially about one's own conduct; a misgiving.

"military regimes generally have no qualms about controlling the press"

misgiving

/mɪsˈɡɪvɪŋ/

noun

plural noun: misgivings

a feeling of doubt or apprehension about the outcome or consequences of something.

"we have misgivings about the way the campaign is being run"

reprisal

/rɪˈprɪzəl/

noun

an act of retaliation.

"three youths died in the reprisals which followed"

excursion

/ɪkˈskɜːʃn, ɛkˈskɜːʃn/

a short journey or trip, especially one taken as a leisure activity.

"an excursion to London Zoo"

protégé

/ˈprɒtɪʒeɪ/

noun

noun: protégée; noun: protegee

a person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person.

"Ruskin submitted his protégé's name for election"

incarnation

/ˌɪnkɑːˈneɪʃn/

noun

1.

a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or quality.

"Rama was Vishnu's incarnation on earth"

[countable] a person who represents a particular quality, for example, in human form

abate

/əˈbeɪt/

verb

(of something unpleasant or severe) become less intense or widespread.

"the storm suddenly abated"

tumbledown

/ˈtʌmbldaʊn/

adjective

(of a building or other structure) falling or fallen into ruin; dilapidated.

"tumbledown cottages"

jubilant

/ˌdʒuːbɪˈleɪʃn/

noun

a feeling of great happiness and triumph.

"unbelievable scenes of jubilation"

prudent

/ˈpruːd(ə)nt/

adjective

acting with or showing care and thought for the future.

"no prudent money manager would authorize a loan without first knowing its purpose"

itinerant

/ˌɪtɪnərənt, ɪˈtɪnərənt/

adjective

travelling from place to place.

"itinerant traders"

corporeal

/kɔːˈpɔːriəl/

adjective

relating to a person's body, especially as opposed to their spirit.

"he was frank about his corporeal appetites"

having a body.

"a corporeal God"

crumpet

/ˈkrʌmpɪt/

noun

1.

a thick, flat, savoury cake with a soft, porous texture, made from a yeast mixture cooked on a griddle and eaten toasted and buttered.

uproot

/ˌʌpˈruːt/

move (someone) from their home or a familiar location.

"my father travelled constantly and uprooted his family several times"

recrimination

/rɪˌkrɪmɪˈneɪʃn/

an accusation in response to one from someone else.

"there are no tears, no recriminations"

parrot

/ˈparət/

verb

repeat mechanically.

"encouraging students to parrot back information"

tramp

/tramp/

a person who travels from place to place on foot in search of work or as a vagrant or beggar.

dent

/dɛnt/

have an adverse effect on; diminish.

"this neither deterred him nor dented his enthusiasm"

gloom

/glu:m/

noun

1.

partial or total darkness.

"he strained his eyes peering into the gloom"

groom

/gru:m/

verb

1.

brush and clean the coat of (a horse, dog, or other animal).

"the horses were groomed and taken to shows"

bear down

phrasal verb of bear

1.

move directly towards someone or something in a purposeful or intimidating manner.

"at a canter they bore down on the mass of men ahead"

(of a woman in labour) increase pressure within the abdomen by contracting the abdominal muscles and holding the breath, in order to push the baby out.

vicious

/ˈvɪʃəs/

adjective

1.

deliberately cruel or violent.

"a vicious assault"

wotcha<sup>1</sup>

/ˈwɒtʃə/

exclamation informal • British

exclamation: wotcher

used as a friendly or humorous greeting.

"wotcha, Dunc—thanks for turning out"

phial

/ˈfɪəl/

noun

a small cylindrical glass bottle, typically used for medical samples or for potions or medicines.

"a phial of blood"

take/need a cold shower

used humorously to say that someone is sexually excited and the cold water will stop them feeling that way

\$7/\$50/25¢ etc a pop

American English spoken used when each of something costs a particular amount of money  
Tickets for the show are a hundred bucks a pop.

"A pop" isn't one definable thing, it's just whatever the person is talking about in this context.  
Saying "20 bucks a pop" is just another (very casual) way to say "They're \$20 each."

roughhouse

informal • North American

verb

/ˈrʌfhaʊs/

act in a boisterous, violent manner.

"they roughhouse on street corners"

handle (someone) roughly or violently.

"he had them roughhoused by his servants"

ta'en /teɪn/

Alternative form of taken

isolate

verb

/ˈɪsəleɪt/

stretch

/stretʃ/

informal



a period of time spent in prison.  
"a four-year stretch for tax fraud"

arduous  
/'ɑ:dʒʊəs/  
adjective  
involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring.  
"an arduous journey"

unequivocally  
/ˌʌniˈkwɪvəkli/  
adverb  
in a way that leaves no doubt.  
"we unequivocally condemn any violence in the protest"

antics  
/'æntɪks/  
noun  
foolish, outrageous, or amusing behaviour.  
"the antics of our political parties"

accolade  
/'ækəleɪd, ˌækə'leɪd/  
noun  
1.  
an award or privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit.  
"the hotel has won numerous accolades"  
a touch on a person's shoulders with a sword at the bestowing of a knighthood.

stewardship  
/'stjuːədʃɪp/  
noun  
the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property.  
"the funding and stewardship of the NHS"

sparse  
/'spɑːs/  
adjective  
thinly dispersed or scattered.  
"areas of sparse population"

If you are beside yourself with a particular feeling or emotion, it is so strong that it makes you almost out of control:  
He was beside himself with grief when she died.

bereave  
/'biːriːv/  
verb

be deprived of a close relation or friend through their death.  
"she had recently been bereaved"

reave

/ri:v/

verb

carry out raids in order to plunder.

"the strong could reave and steal"

rob (a person or place) of something by force.

"reft of a crown, he yet may share the feast"

steal (something).

harbour

/'hɑ:bə/

keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one's mind, especially secretly.

"she started to harbour doubts about the wisdom of their journey"

outfit

/'aʊtfɪt/

informal

a group of people undertaking a particular activity together, especially a group of musicians, a team, or a business concern.

"an obscure 1970s country rock outfit"

caveat

/'kævɪət/

noun

a warning or proviso of specific stipulations, conditions, or limitations.

"there are a number of caveats which concern the validity of the assessment results"

flush<sup>2</sup>

/flʌʃ/

completely level or even with another surface.

"the gates are flush with the adjoining fencing"

(of printed text) not indented or protruding.

"each line is flush with the left-hand margin"

(of a door) having a smooth surface, without indented or protruding panels or mouldings.

2.

informal

having plenty of something, especially money.

"the banks are flush with funds"

lateral

/'læt(ə)rəl/

adjective

1.

of, at, towards, or from the side or sides.

"the plant takes up water through its lateral roots"

takeaway

/ˈteɪkəweɪ/

noun

1.

British

a restaurant or shop selling cooked food to be eaten elsewhere.

"a fast-food takeaway"

2.

a key fact, point, or idea to be remembered, typically one emerging from a discussion or meeting.

"the main takeaway for me is that we need to continue to communicate all the things we're doing for our customers"

rundown

noun

/ˈrʌndaʊn/

1.

an analysis or summary of something by a knowledgeable person.

"he gave his teammates a rundown on the opposition"

takeaway

a main message or piece of information that you learn from something you hear or read:

takeaway from The takeaway from the conference was how competitive the tourism industry has become.

takeaway point At the end of the class, the teacher gives us the takeaway points.

facet

/ˈfæsɪt, ˈfaset/

noun

1.

one side of something many-sided, especially of a cut gem.

"a blue and green jewel that shines from a million facets"

determinant

/dɪˈtɜːmɪnənt/

noun

1.

a factor which decisively affects the nature or outcome of something.

"pure force of will was the main determinant of his success"

renege

/rɪˈniːg, rɪˈneɪg/

verb

go back on a promise, undertaking, or contract.

"they have reneged on their promises to us"

induct

/ɪnˈdʌkt/

verb

1.

admit (someone) formally to a post or organisation.

"arrangements for inducting new members to an organisation"

oblivious

/əˈblɪvɪəs/

adjective

not aware of or concerned about what is happening around one.

"she became absorbed, oblivious to the passage of time"

close-minded

adjective

having or showing rigid opinions or a narrow outlook.

"close-minded condemnation of people he knows nothing about"

close quarters

noun

a situation of being very or uncomfortably close to someone or something.

"living in close quarters with people"

bomboclat

A Jamaican expression meant to convey shock or surprise

"I won \$50,000 in the lotto!"

"BOMBOCLAT!"

cast iron

a type of hard iron that will not bend easily and is made into shapes by being poured into a mould when melted

vacillate

/ˈvæsɪleɪt, ˈvæsɪlət/

verb

waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive.

"I vacillated between teaching and journalism"

She's a dreamer and a romantic by temperament.

Katz is known as the more fiery in temperament, Banks the cooler.

temperament

/ˈtɛmpərəm(ə)nt/

noun

1.

a person's or animal's nature, especially as it permanently affects their behaviour.

"she had an artistic temperament"

She's a dreamer and a romantic by temperament.

flaunt

/flɔːnt/

verb

display (something) ostentatiously, especially in order to provoke envy or admiration or to show defiance.

"newly rich consumers eager to flaunt their prosperity"

ostentatious

/ˌɒstənˈteɪʃəs/

adjective

characterised by pretentious or showy display; designed to impress.

"a simple design that is glamorous without being ostentatious"

austere

/ɔːˈstiə,əˈstiə/

adjective

severe or strict in manner or attitude.

"he was an austere man, with a rigidly puritanical outlook"

quail<sup>2</sup>

/kweɪl/

feel or show fear or apprehension.

"she quailed at his heartless words"

cot<sup>1</sup>

/kɒt/

noun British

a small bed with high barred sides for a baby or very young child.

"he should be put back into his cot to sleep"

parish

/ˈpærɪʃ/

noun

(in the Christian Church) a small administrative district typically having its own church and a priest or pastor.

"a parish church"

smite

/smɪt/

verb

past participle: smitten

1.

literary

strike with a firm blow.

"he smites the water with his sword"

2.

be strongly attracted to someone or something.

"she was smitten with the boy"

manse

/mans/

noun

a house provided for a minister of certain Christian Churches, especially the Scottish Presbyterian Church.

mar

/mɑː/

verb

impair the quality or appearance of; spoil.

"violence marred a number of New Year celebrations"

burgeon

/'bɜːdʒ(ə)n/

verb

begin to grow or increase rapidly; flourish.

"the city's suburbs have burgeoned, sprawling out from the centre"

gigolo /' (d)ʒɪɡələʊ/

noun

a young man paid or financially supported by a woman, typically an older woman, to be her escort or lover.

stiff /stɪf/

cheat (someone) out of something, especially money.

"several workers were stiffed out of their pay"

wad up

To crumple something into a small lump or ball (i.e., a "wad"). A noun or pronoun can be used between "wad" and "up."

My heart sank when I saw him wad the note up and toss it on the ground.

Don't just wad up your papers and stuff them in your bag—put them in a folder or something, for crying out loud!

inference

/'ɪnf(ə)rəns/

noun

a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning.

"researchers are entrusted with drawing inferences from the data"

off-colour adjective

informal  
slightly ill:  
I'm feeling a bit off-colour today.

(SEXUAL)

Off-colour remarks or jokes about sex are about sex and are slightly shocking.

uppity  
/'ʌpɪti/  
adjective informal  
self-important; arrogant.  
"an uppity MP and his lady wife"

well versed /,wel 'vɜːst/  
well versed in something having a lot of knowledge about something, or skill at something  
She is well versed in the art of persuasion.

kosher  
/'kəʊʃə/  
adjective  
1.  
(of food, or premises in which food is sold, cooked, or eaten) satisfying the requirements of Jewish law.  
"a kosher kitchen"

doobie  
noun  
doo·bie 'dü-bē  
slang  
: a marijuana cigarette : joint

hefty  
adjective  
1.  
large and heavy.  
"a hefty young chap"

To live a fast life means to be reckless. To be spontaneous to the point of never thinking anything through to the end before doing it.

counterfeit  
/'kaʊntəfɪt, 'kaʊntəfi:t/

attest  
/ə'test/  
verb

1.

provide or serve as clear evidence of.

"his status is attested by his becoming an alderman"

2.

historical

enrol as ready for military service.

"unfortunately for him, he attested"

declare that something exists or is the case.

"I can attest to his tremendous energy"

witness or certify formally.

"the witnesses must attest and sign the will in the testator's presence"

snarky

/ˈsnɑːki/

adjective informal•North American

critical or mocking in an indirect or sarcastic way.

"snarky remarks"

bad-tempered or irritable.

"Bobby's always a bit snarky before his nap"

supple

/ˈsʌp(ə)l/

adjective

bending and moving easily and gracefully; flexible.

"her supple fingers"

of all

phrase of of

denoting the least likely or expected example.

"Jordan, of all people, committed a flagrant foul"

I didn't expect that he would come to our department of all places.

Of all dresses, why did she choose that one? It's too flashy and doesn't suit her at all.

I can't believe a typhoon is coming this weekend, of all times! I was really looking forward to my trip to Okinawa!

to one's name

idiom

: belonging to one

I haven't a dollar/dime/penny to my name.

She has more than 20 novels to her name.

Vehicle booting is a parking enforcement technique in which a large metal wheel clamp is secured onto one of the car's wheels.



culminate  
/'kʌlmɪneɪt/  
verb

1.  
reach a climax or point of highest development.  
"weeks of violence culminated in the brutal murder of a magistrate"

Similar:  
come to a climax  
come to a crescendo  
come to a head  
reach a finale

irreparable  
/ɪ'rep(ə)rəbl/  
adjective  
(of an injury or loss) impossible to rectify or repair.  
"they were doing irreparable damage to my heart and lungs"

-o  
suffix  
suffix: -o  
forming chiefly informal or slang variants or derivatives such as beano, wino.

act out  
perform a narrative as if it were a play; translate something into action.  
"students were encouraged to act out the stories"

2.  
North American  
behave badly, especially when unhappy or stressed.  
"many children who act out while awaiting placement in a healthcare facility end up in juvenile detention"

frizzy  
/'frɪzi/  
adjective  
formed of a mass of small, tight curls.  
"frizzy red hair"

Premenstrual syndrome (PMS)

titillate  
/'tɪtɪleɪt/  
verb  
arouse (someone) to interest or mild excitement, especially through sexually suggestive images or words.  
"the press are paid to titillate the public"

amenable

/əˈmi:nəbl/

adjective

open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled.

"parents who have amenable children"

capable of being acted upon in a particular way; susceptible.

"cardiac failure not amenable to medical treatment"

stand off

1.

move or keep away.

"the women stood off at a slight distance"

2.

dated•British

discharge a worker temporarily or permanently because of a shortage of work.

"the firm stood off the workers and closed the factory"

blunderbuss

/ˈblʌndəbʌs/

noun

1.

historical

a short large-bored gun firing balls or slugs.

2.

an action or way of doing something regarded as lacking in subtlety and precision.

"economists resort too quickly to the blunderbuss of regulation"

with flying colours

phrase of flying

with distinction.

"Sylvia had passed her exams with flying colours"

cutlery

/ˈkʌtləri/

noun

knives, forks, and spoons used for eating or serving food.

North American

cutting utensils, especially knives for cutting food.

hosiery

/ˈhəʊz(ɪ)əri/

noun

stockings, socks, and tights collectively.

She took a particular interest in town planning, historic buildings, and the environment.

flume

/flu:m/

an artificial channel conveying water, typically used for transporting logs or timber.

a winding tubular water slide or chute at a swimming pool or amusement park.

on short notice

idiom US (UK at short notice)

only a short time before something happens:

I can't cancel my plans on such short notice.

cutlass /'kʌtləs/

noun

a short sword with a slightly curved blade, formerly used by sailors.

concert verb /kən'sə:t/

arrange (something) by mutual agreement or coordination.

"they started meeting regularly to concert their parliamentary tactics"

deplore

/dɪ'plɔ:/

verb

feel or express strong disapproval of (something).

"we deplore all violence"

perverse

/pə'veəs/

adjective

1.

showing a deliberate and obstinate desire to behave in a way that is unreasonable or unacceptable.

"Kate's perverse decision not to cooperate held good"

contrary to the accepted or expected standard or practice.

"in two general elections the outcome was quite perverse"

onward /'ɒnwəd/

adverb

adverb: onwards

in a continuing forward direction; ahead.

"she stumbled onward"

forward in time.

"the period from 1969 onward"

so as to make progress or become more successful.

"the business moved onward and upward"

manifest<sup>1</sup>

/'mænɪfɛst/

(of an ailment) become apparent through the appearance of symptoms.

"a disorder that usually manifests in middle age"

sit up and take notice

to show interest or surprise:

She sat up and took notice when she heard he was getting married.

incongruous

/ɪnˈkɒŋgrʊəs/

adjective

not in harmony or keeping with the surroundings or other aspects of something.

"the duffel coat looked incongruous with the black dress she wore underneath"

leprechaun

/ˈlɛprɪkɔːn/

(in Irish folklore) a small, mischievous sprite.

Pewter (/ˈpjʊːtər/) is a malleable metal alloy consisting of tin (85–99%), antimony (approximately 5–10%), copper (2%), bismuth, and sometimes silver.

province

/ˈprɒvɪns/

an area of special knowledge, interest, or responsibility.

"she knew little about wine—that had been her father's province"

procure

/prəˈkjʊə, prəˈkjɔː/

verb

1.

obtain (something), especially with care or effort.

"food procured for the rebels"

libation

/lɪˈbeɪʃn/

noun

plural noun: libations

a drink poured out as an offering to a deity.

"he poured the libation of rum on the ground"

a drink.

"tequila is a favourite libation throughout the West"

arch-

/ɑːtʃ/

combining form

prefix: arch-

chief; principal.

"archbishop"

cachet

/ˈkæʃeɪ/

noun

1.

the state of being respected or admired; prestige.

"no other shipping company had quite the cachet of Cunard"

a distinguishing mark or seal.

"special cachets are applied to cards sold at the stands"

antithesis

/an' tiθiːsɪs/

noun

1.

a person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else.

"love is the antithesis of selfishness"

precedent

noun

/'preʃɪd(ə)nt/

an earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances.

"there are substantial precedents for using interactive media in training"

angst

/aŋ(k)st/

noun

a feeling of deep anxiety or dread, typically an unfocused one about the human condition or the state of the world in general.

"the existential angst of the middle classes"

man up

phrasal verb of man

informal

be brave or tough enough to deal with a difficult or unpleasant situation.

"you just have to man up and take it"

I was wondering when he would man up and marry that girl he knocked up.

You need to man up and confront your boss about her behavior.

Hey son, man up, okay? There will be time for tears later.

If you are "fighting with" someone, it tends to imply a verbal, non-physical altercation. It can even be like a cold war, in which you're unhappy with each other but not actively doing anything about it.

On the other hand, if you're "fighting" someone, it is usually a physical fight (punching each other, for example).

meek

/mi:k/

adjective

quiet, gentle, and easily imposed on; submissive.

"she brought her meek little husband along"

placid

/ˈplɑːsɪd/

adjective

not easily upset or excited.

"a placid, contented man"

erstwhile

/ˈɜːstwaɪl/

adjective

former.

"the erstwhile president of the company"

venue

/ˈvenjuː/

noun

the place where something happens, especially an organized event such as a concert, conference, or sports competition.

"the club is the city's main venue for live music"

Law

the jurisdiction within which a criminal or civil case may or must be heard.

in store

1.

in a safe place while not being used or displayed.

"items held in store"

2.

coming in the future; about to happen.

"he did not yet know what lay in store for him"

Voldemort had nothing worse in store for him than to remain in post and teach pure- and half-bloods.

subjugate

/ˈsʌbdʒʊgeɪt/

verb

bring under domination or control, especially by conquest.

"the invaders had soon subjugated most of the population"

gusto

/ˈɡʌstəʊ/

noun

1.

enjoyment and enthusiasm in doing something.

"Hawkins tucked into his breakfast with gusto"

wheedle

/ˈwiːdl/

verb

use flattery or coaxing in order to persuade someone to do something or give one something.

"she wheedled her way on to the guest list"

picket

/ˈpɪkɪt/

noun

1.

a person or group of people who stand outside a workplace or other venue as a protest or to try to persuade others not to enter during a strike.

"forty pickets were arrested"

induce

/ɪnˈdjuːs/

verb

1.

succeed in persuading or leading (someone) to do something.

"the pickets induced many workers to stay away"

hoodwink

/ˈhʊdwiŋk/

verb

deceive or trick.

"staff were hoodwinked into thinking the cucumber was a sawn-off shotgun"

commandeer

/kəməˈndiə/

officially take possession or control of (something), especially for military purposes.

"a nearby house had been commandeered by the army"

duress

/djuˈres, ˈdjʊəɪs/

noun

threats, violence, constraints, or other action used to coerce someone into doing something against their will or uninhabited or better judgement.

"confessions extracted under duress"

squat

/skwɒt/

unlawfully occupy an building or settle on a piece of land.

"eight families are squatting in the house"

rapt

/rapt/

adjective

1.

completely fascinated or absorbed by what one is seeing or hearing.

"a rapt teenage audience"

Until now travel had always been a fraught affair.

fraught

/frɔ:t/

adjective

1.

(of a situation or course of action) filled with or likely to result in (something undesirable).

"marketing any new product is fraught with danger"

tender2

/'tendə/

offer or present (something) formally.

"he tendered his resignation as leader"

disjointed

/dis'dʒɔɪntɪd/

adjective

lacking a coherent sequence or connection.

"piecing together disjointed fragments of information"

jubilant

/'dʒu:bɪlənt/

adjective

feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph.

"a large number of jubilant fans ran on to the pitch"

crony

/'krəʊni/

noun informal • often derogatory

a close friend or companion.

"he went gambling with his cronies"

privy

/'prɪvi/

adjective

1.

sharing in the knowledge of (something secret or private).

"he was no longer privy to her innermost thoughts"

privy to something allowed to know about something secret  
She was not privy to any information contained in the letters.

ensuing



/ɪnˈsjuːɪŋ, ɛnˈsjuːɪŋ/

adjective

occurring afterwards or as a result.

"there were repeated clashes in the ensuing days"

ensue

/ɪnˈsjuː, ɛnˈsjuː/

verb

happen or occur afterwards or as a result.

"the difficulties which ensued from their commitment to Cuba"

thrall

/θrɔːl/

noun

1.

literary

the state of being in someone's power, or of having great power over someone.

"the town in thrall to a villain"

vindicate

/ˈvɪndɪkeɪt/

verb

clear (someone) of blame or suspicion.

"hospital staff were vindicated by the inquest verdict"

show or prove to be right, reasonable, or justified.

"more sober views were vindicated by events"

protégé

/ˈprɒtɪʒeɪ/

noun

a person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person.

"Ruskin submitted his protégé's name for election"

assuage

/əˈswɛɪdʒ/

verb

make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense.

"the letter assuaged the fears of most members"

flair

/fleɪ/

noun

1.

a special or instinctive aptitude or ability for doing something well.

"she had a flair for languages"

name-dropper

a person who enjoys name-dropping (= talking about famous people that they have met):  
He is a constant name-dropper, but that's because those names are the only people he knows.

"You don't know her like I do," said Camille, in the usual way of name-droppers.

revel

/ˈreɪl/

verb

gerund or present participle: revelling

enjoy oneself in a lively and noisy way, especially with drinking and dancing.

"they spent the evening revelling with their guests"

militant

/ˈmɪlɪt(ə)nt/

adjective

favouring confrontational or violent methods in support of a political or social cause.

"the army are in conflict with militant groups"

fall back

move or turn back; retreat.

"the enemy fell back into a defensive position"

sneak up (on someone)

to approach someone quietly and surprise that person:

Overton sneaked up behind Brown and knocked the ball out of bounds.

If an event or day sneaks up on you, it arrives before you are ready for it.

Who do you think's going to come?

cut back

to do less of something, or use something in smaller amounts, especially money:

With orders down, many companies are cutting back.

We are trying to cut back on travel costs.

The firm has cut back hours at its factory.

doofus

/ˈduːfəs/

noun informal • North American

a stupid person.

"a doofus who paid an inflated price for a tatty house"

goatee

/ˌɡəʊˈtiː/

noun

plural noun: goatees

a small pointed beard like that of a goat.

dote

/dəʊt/

verb

gerund or present participle: doting

1.

be extremely and uncritically fond of.

"she doted on her two young children"

notwithstanding

/ˌnɒtwɪðˈstændɪŋ, ˌnɒtwɪθˈstændɪŋ/

preposition

in spite of.

"notwithstanding the evidence, the consensus is that the jury will not reach a verdict"

"Pose a risk" is an idiom that means something is the cause of a problem or danger. For example, "The recent rise in housing prices poses a major risk to the domestic economy".

wreak

/ri:k/

verb

cause (a large amount of damage or harm).

"torrential rainstorms wreaked havoc yesterday"

contend

/kənˈtend/

verb

1.

struggle to surmount (a difficulty).

"she had to contend with his uncertain temper"

steep2

/sti:p/

soak (food or tea) in water or other liquid so as to extract its flavour or to soften it.

"the chillies are steeped in olive oil"

valiant

/ˈvæliənt/

adjective

possessing or showing courage or determination.

"she made a valiant effort to hold her anger in check"

fervent

/ˈfɜ:v(ə)nt/

adjective

1.

having or displaying a passionate intensity.

"a fervent supporter of the revolution"

inalienable

/ɪnˈeɪliənəbl/

adjective

not subject to being taken away from or given away by the possessor.

"the shareholders have the inalienable right to dismiss directors"

statute

/ˈstatju:t/

noun

a written law passed by a legislative body.

"the Act consolidated statutes dealing with non-fatal offences"

acquit

/əˈkwɪt/

verb

1.

free (someone) from a criminal charge by a verdict of not guilty.

"she was acquitted on all counts"

conduct oneself or perform in a specified way.

"the goalkeeper acquitted himself well"

skittle

/ˈskɪtl/

noun

1.

a game played with wooden pins, typically nine in number, set up at the end of an alley to be bowled down with a wooden ball or disc.

2.

a pin used in the game of skittles.

bog

/bɒg/

noun

1.

an area of wet muddy ground that is too soft to support a heavy body.

"a peat bog"

oust

/aʊst/

verb

drive out or expel (someone) from a position or place.

"the reformists were ousted from power"

contract

noun

/ˈkɒntrəkt/

catch or develop (a disease or infectious agent).

"three people contracted a killer virus"

consternation

/ˌkɒnstəˈneɪʃn/

noun

a feeling of anxiety or dismay, typically at something unexpected.

"to her consternation her car wouldn't start"

consternate

/ˈkɒnstəneɪt/

fill (someone) with anxiety.

"the letter consternated me and flung me into a depression"

hardliner

/ˌhɑːdˈlaɪnə/

noun

noun: hard-liner

a member of a group, typically a political group, who adheres uncompromisingly to a set of ideas or policies.

"neither hardliners nor reformers would be likely to want him as their leader"